



ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester, District 7450

John Kenny, International President 2009-2010

Bulletin #11 www.WestChesterRotary.us September 10, 2009

This Week's Program: September 10, 2009
Speaker: Joe Walsh, Head Football Coach
Warrior Football at Henderson HS
Arranged by Dave Biffen

Next Week's Program: September 17, 2009
Speaker: Warren Callaway
Classification Talk
Arranged by Sue Casso Rogers

MINUTES by Sue Casso Rogers

President **Dave Rayburn** rang the bell promptly at 12:30. **Charles Streitweiser** offered an appropriate invocation. Our lone visiting Rotarian was our very own John Saling.

Guests joining us today were both with **Bill Ronayne** - Tom Mann of Taylor Rentals and Bill's executive assistant, Megan McGinn.

President Dave noted that an opinion piece in the Daily Local News was rather negative toward the Kennedy family. He pointed out that regardless of your stance on any issue "before you criticize, walk a mile in their shoes. Then, at least, when you do criticize, you are a mile away and you are holding their shoes." (yuk, yuk)

Condolences were expressed to long time member **Irvie Hoffman** on the death of his wife, Sally.

Charlie Lyddane extended birthday greetings to our resident cyclist, **Bob Connolly**. **Bryan Brockson** extended birthday greetings to **Linda Hicks** thanking her for her hard work on the newly revamped college scholarship program.

Happy bucks were offered by **Geoff Baker** for the 9 newly arrived Exchange Students who had a great weekend at the YMCA. On Oct 8 there will be a skeet shooting contest to provide scholarships for outbound American students. **Jeannie McGinn**, quarters in hand, was happy to announce that her interns, Megan and Jackie, had received paid internships in Charlotte, NC and Manhattan, NY and they both enjoyed visiting our club. **Pat Barron** was happy to be back to Rotary after a hiatus and had several stories to share: he enjoyed a dinner with Mikhail Gorbechov's chief economic advisor, he spoke at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France which is headquartered in Brussels, and he finished with a week in Paris celebrating his 40th wedding

anniversary! New member **Winnie Stroup** was happy because she was very moved by **Terry McGrath's** appeal for food for the Salvation Army food bank so she dropped off some diapers to the Salvation Army. Her sister followed up by writing a letter in the East High School newspaper regarding the need for donations. **Bob Connolly** was happy that his daughter is attending Roanoke College and had her first soccer game.

Frank Helms announced that we have an opening in the Rotary Reader's program to read every other Tuesday morning at the West Chester Academy of Learning. **Sue Casso Rogers** announced that this is the last day for Chili polo shirt orders. A.G. **Gary Hess** has Rotary theme logo pins for anyone who would like them. **Jeannie McGinn** announced that we have 50 teams for the Chili Cook-Off and reminded us to talk with our favorite restaurants and encourage them to join in, the cut off is Sept 16. See **John Schwab** for details about the License required by the Board of Health. There is a big article in the Chester County Cuisines and Nightlife magazine about the cook off written with the assistance of Mary Bingham. The Cook Off commercial is running on cable. Great job **Jeannie** for all the terrific publicity we receive for the Cook Off.

SPEAKER REVIEW by Elizabeth Guman

Dave Biffen introduced the program with a list of local weeds. He then introduced Pat McGrail who leads a dedicated group of volunteers who work wonders with these weeds. Pat is a long-time volunteer and workshop leader for the Brandywine River Museum's Critter program, where they make ornaments and figures from natural ingredients, and sell them to raise money for the museum. This tradition started a few years after the museum opened and has grown to a significant fundraiser with a national reputation.

Pat set the stage with some history of the museum.

In 1967 a group of Chadds Ford citizens were concerned about how the development that was happening would affect the future of their area. They purchased the Hoffman's Mill at an auction which was rumored to be purchased and turned into an oil refinery. They spent a few years carefully restoring the building and then opened the Museum. During the holidays they put a Christmas tree in the foyer and since the environment was one of their concerns, they started the tradition of decorating the tree with only natural materials. A few years later someone got a group together to make ornaments from the natural materials. Museum goers loved the ornaments and began asking if they were for sale. Thus the annual Critter sale began.

There were lots of examples of Critters which illustrated the amazing use of natural materials. The snowmen's snow was from blended eggshells (they ask a local restaurant to save egg shells for a weekend.) The black sections of the soccer ball come from dried banana peels. The hats of the men in the barbershop quartet are made from birch bark (that is sent from her son in New England) that is soaked and peeled. We also saw Mother Goose, panda bears, and elf taking home a Christmas tree and many more.

The Critter-making starts in March and ends as the sale starts the first weekend in December. Last year the volunteers made 9000 ornaments/figures. They run workshops every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9-12 in a building next to the museum (where 4 rooms are full of storage of natural materials!) The proceeds from last year were over \$100,000 (maybe we should switch from the Fruit Sale and Chili Cookoff!).

The program finished with **Bob Frame** auctioning off a beautiful angel made from Martinia Pod (sp?). **Joe Polito** won the auction and the proceeds (\$30) went to the food cupboard.

EXCHANGE STUDENT

We are co-sponsors for:

Amedea Garella – Italy

Host Parents: Dave Breen and Cyndi Skripak
229 Forest Avenue Elkins Park, PA 19027
Home: 215-885-5195 Cyndi: 215-316-1431

THANK YOU

Copies of the Votary are provided by **Mac Neilon** of Penn Office Products.

SAVE THE DATE

Oct 8 Benefit for Rotary Youth Exchange

Oct 11 Chili Cook Off

Check out the Rotary Calendar of events at

<http://www.westchesterrotary.us/clubcalendar.htm>

Add events: calendar@westchesterrotary.us

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE BENEFIT

A Charity Sporting Clays Tournament will be held

October 8, 2009

at M & M Hunting Preserve

2 Winslow Road

Pennsville, NJ.

Proceeds benefit the Harry C. Rosenberg Scholarship for Rotary Youth Exchange For more information contact:

MelanieSmith@suretybond.com or 610-688-9100



THE ROTARY CLUB BOARD of DIRECTORS

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District 7450

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

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Committee Members: Pat Barron, Matt Bradley, Sue Casso, Victoria Dow, Elizabeth Guman, Wendy Hoffman, Charlie Lyddane, Fran Luft, Cathy Palmquist, Joe Polito, and Mark Sammarone (Web site)