



ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester, District 7450

John Kenny, International President 2009-2010

Bulletin #36 www.WestChesterRotary.us March 18, 2010

This Week's Program: March 18, 2010
Rotary Day
Arranged by President Dave

Next Week's Program: March 25, 2010
Speaker: Chris Kemple?
Blue Rocks
Arranged by Jack Wintermute

MINUTES by Faith Woodward

President Dave opened our meeting in the Rare Book Room at West Chester University. Not one to miss an opportunity to tickle the ivories of a Steinway grand, **Faith Woodward** led the group in a rousing rendition of "America" that drew applause!

Steve Founds recited an Irish prayer with a mischievous Irish twist and then gave a more serious invocation.

Mac Neilon introduced Visiting Rotarians John Saling, Govinda Malya, and Russell Sinclair.

Guests in attendance were with **Jeannie McGinn**, **Sue Greenberg** (Husband Sy), **Dick Yoder** (adorable granddaughters Stephanie and Katie), and **Chuck Swope** (Greg Halvorsen and Mike DellaVecchia)

John Schwab wished a Happy Birthday to **Pam Costanzi**.

Happy Bucks: **Kevin Quinn** (new job at Citadel), **Pam Costanzi** (The Hickman ground breaking March 17 now that the Hazlett building has been razed. **Former Mayor Dick Yoder** and **Mayor Carolyn Comitta** will be speaking) **Wendy Hoffman** (Last Friday put her house on the market and **Bob Frame** sold it the same day), **Carolyn Comitta** (She is the Honorary Chair of the WCU Integrative Health Conference on Mar. 26 and 27. Olivia Newton-John will be speaking and presenting a concert. Carolyn has raffle tickets for a Honda).

President Dave announced that a Group Study Exchange from Greece hosted by the Sunrise Club will be arriving the third week of May. **Terry**

McGrath has volunteered to house a visitor and we need one other host.

Christina McCawley reminded us that it is time for Honorary Rotarian nominations. Chris has the forms for nominations of non-Rotarians.

Elizabeth Guman and **Cristina Combee** instructed us on how to get last minute orders of fruit either by e-mail or on the web site. March 14 was the deadline. Our goal was to exceed last years' sales. As of this meeting, only 53 Rotarians had participated whereas last year's total was 87. Distribution will be Saturday, March 20. Please sign-up to help!

Bob Frame described the upcoming Shoot-Out event at Target Master that will be coming up in mid April. The cost will be \$50-60 for 1 hour of instruction for anyone 13 years or older. Dinner afterwards will be at McKenzie Brew Pub.

SPEAKERS REVIEW by Gary Hess

President Dave introduced club member **Frank Helms** as our speaker du jour. Frank started by thanking **Mel Josephs** for arranging the room and the catering. Well done Mel! No doubt the English department was consulted in the naming of the buffet items: fire roasted corn; honey kissed chicken. Frank started by telling us that the Philips Autographed Book Collection was only one of several different book collections owned by WCU. I'll go out on a limb and venture that this collection is the most elegantly housed, as the room is extraordinary.

This particular book collection was the handiwork of George Morris Philips, who was Principal (i.e. President) of the West Chester State Normal School from 1881 – 1920. Morris was born in 1851 at Atglen, Chester County. In 1873 he joined the

faculty of the West Chester State Normal School and taught mathematics until he resigned in 1878 to teach at Lewisburg University (Bucknell). In 1881 he returned to West Chester as Principal of the Normal School and held that office until his death in 1920.

To say Philips was an avid collector of autographed books would be an understatement. Indeed, at the time of his death, he had assembled the largest collection of autographed books in the world. Ninety years later, this collection still ranks among the largest in the world. Philips bequeathed this behemoth to his son, who wisely gave them to the University. Since dusty boxes in a dirty basement would not be a suitable home, the school held a fundraiser to house this impressive collection, resulting in the room in which we met. The collection has been added to over time by the English Department and from various donors.

Many of Philips' books were signed by guest lecturers at the school, but he had other techniques for securing autographs. Philips would send a copy of the book to the author along with wrapping paper, postage and twine, thereby virtually ensuring himself of success. When the book came back, Philips affixed the postage stamps in each book. Frank regaled us with some interesting anecdotes involving crusty authors, unforgiveable misspellings, shipwrecked books, and one episode where he shortchanged the author on postage. Sending Jack London a copy of *Call of the Wild*, Philips miscalculated on the return postage, to which London responded, "this book cost me 11 cents and no end of trouble." Philips was especially proud of his autograph from President Taft, who signed a book in Philips own chair and desk.

Frank finished up with a final story. He was doing a presentation to the Afro-English class, and was asked by a student whether there were any books by Frederick Douglas. Helms checked the card catalogue and found a book by Douglas. Pulling the book off the shelf, a piece of paper fell out. It was a note from Philips saying that this book was signed by Douglas after doing a lecture at WCU, which was the last public address Douglas gave before he died.

Many thanks to **Frank Helms** and the University for hosting us.

THANK YOU

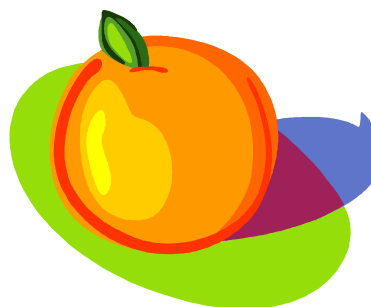
Copies of the Votary are provided today by
Shauna Yeldell of Fulton Bank.

SAVE THE DATE

Mar 20

Pick up fruit

Check out the Rotary Calendar of events at
<http://www.westchesterrotary.us/clubcalendar.htm>
Add events: calendar@westchesterrotary.us



EXCHANGE STUDENT

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

THE ROTARY CLUB BOARD of DIRECTORS

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HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

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