



Lend a Hand



# ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester

Jonathan Majiyabe, International President 2003-2004

**Bulletin #16**

**www.WestChesterRotary.us**

**October 23, 2003**

<p>This Week's Program: October 23,2003  Vocational Service Program  Speaker: Sean Reynolds, Chester County  Leadership Connection  Arranged by John Schwab</p>	<p>Next Week's Program: October 30,2003  Classification Talks  Speakers: Marie Holland and Jim Lees  Arranged by John Kehner</p>
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## MINUTES by Eric Metzker

Invocation: Carl Werner.

Visiting Rotarians introduced by John: John Saling, WC Sunrise; Pam Gupta, Exton/ Frazer.

Guests: Carol Metzker introduced Joan, a realtor. Geoff Baker introduced Sachie, our exchange student. President Charles introduced Jeannie, responsible for Chili cook off marketing. John Hall introduced David Mayola (sp?), Annalie reintroduced her friend Phoebe Kitson-Davis, and Steve Founds introduced Peter Masak (Adrienne's husband) and friend Mike Levchuk.

Birthdays celebrated: Joe Polito congratulated John Hall and Bob Poole congratulated Paul Woodruff.

### Announcements:

Trash pickup – 8:30 meeting, 10/25 at WEGO [Sunrise?] pancake breakfast at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Route 202.

Can-Drive -10/28 meeting at 7 pm. See Terry McGrath for details.

Geoff Baker read a letter from our Rotarian student ambassador who recounted her travails with trying to get a certified

translation (from the Latin) of her Yale diploma. She finally had success when she received the certified translation with its official seal from the Vatican.

We recognized Jeannie McGinn for her huge support in marketing for the Chili Cook off – Thanks Jeannie!

## SPEAKERS REVIEW by Cathy Palmquist

Ken Hickman presented the program on Brian's Run, one of our club's oldest and most successful community activities. He gave a very interesting review of the event for those who are unfamiliar or unsure of what the event is and also as a refresher for longtime Rotarians.

The race is in its 26<sup>th</sup> year. "Not bad for what was originally billed as a one time event!" he explained. Ken showed a video of the race, which was prepared by David Block, a beneficiary of the race, who is legally blind!

Brain's Run began in 1978 as a response to a tragic accident in which Brian Bratcher, a local quarterback, broke his neck and suffered a spinal cord injury in a freak accident. After 8 months in Jefferson Hospital, realizing he would never walk again, Brian decided he must move on with his life.

Friends came up with the idea of the race to

help with the expenses that were not covered by insurance. Seeing all the people who came to support him at that first race brought tears to his eyes, he said. Brian felt he shouldn't be the sole beneficiary of this growing, annual community event. "It was not only financially helpful to me but supportive in so many ways," he says. Since that first race, over half a million dollars have been raised to help many individuals. Many who have benefited have also participated in the race, like the "runner" who had lost a leg, yet competed and finished the race.

The annual run has been a unique event sponsored by West Chester University and many community organizations and runners worldwide who continue to participate. It's truly a neighbors helping neighbors event, said Ken, combining compassion, unity and giving. The funds have helped bridge the gaps between what insurance pays and the actual expenses that families incur. The funds have provided all kinds of help to families, such as assistive devices for the disabled, funds for disabled kids to go to camp, the purchase of vans, even a fence for a yard to enable a disabled youngster to play outside in safety.

Ken explained Brian's Run is entering a new phase, which will require Rotary to step up its efforts. WCU is pulling back some of its financial support due to budgetary constraints so Rotary will need to help even more. Ken urged Rotarians to help increase participation of runners in the different events saying that growing numbers attract donors "Rotarians need to be ambassadors to help get more folks into the race." said Ken. Duncan Smith is heading the fundraising efforts this year and Ken urged all to give \$100 or more to support Brian's Run. Also, Ken urged Rotarians, so inclined, to run, following the example set by our own enthusiastic member, Jim Gasho.

## EXCHANGE STUDENTS

**Sachie Koizumi**, from Japan,  
staying with Mr & Mrs Jay Johnson,  
1105 Daniel Davis Lane, W C, PA 19380,  
**610-793-2575(H), 800-441-7048 Ext 20507**

### Meeting address

[www.Rotaryclubone.org](http://www.Rotaryclubone.org)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct. 25 Trash pick up  
Oct. 28 Canned Food Drive

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – THE ROTARY CLUB OF WEST CHESTER - DISTRICT 7450

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John H. Grant, District Governor  
Betty Ann Flynn, Asst. District Governor Area  
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**Robert Poole, III, M.D., P.D.G. 1980-1981**

### "HOW TO GET IN TOUCH"

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