



ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester

Bhichai Rattakul, International President 2002-2003



Bulletin #35

www.rotary7450.org/westchester

March 27, 2003

This Week's Program: March 27, 2003

Classification Talks

Speakers: Bill Burke and Andrew LaRosa

arranged by John Kehner

Next Week's Program: April 3, 2003

Wilmington Blue Rocks

Speaker: David Brown

arranged by Jack Wintermute

MINUTES by Faith Woodward

After opening the meeting with the singing of "America," Charlie Bradford led the invocation for this time of war with the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi.

Mike Alfonsi introduced Visiting Rotarians Bill Hicks (WE-GO), Florence Miller (GWC Sunrise), John Saling (GWC Sunrise), and Fred Kemmerley (Lake Marion, SC).

Guests introduced were Ulrich Kabunda by Grant Woods, Santo Federico by Joe Polito, Susan _____ by "Reds" Johns, and Bill Lockhard and Jim Ferrier by John Olszewski.

Birthday best wishes were offered to Bill Eaton by Lance Knauth and to Jack Wintermute by Jim Gasho. Jim opened the floor for lobbing insults at the king of invectives. There were several including one from John Saling who stated that he felt he had finally arrived when Jim hurled insults his way.

Carol Metzker presented the club with a banner from the Rotary Club of Bangalore Jayanagar in India. She also announced that our exchange student, Gustavo, now residing at the Metzker house, is selling pizza kits to pay his way to the prom.

Bill Winters suggested we attend the auction for the Collegium Charter School on April 5th to raise funds for their new building. Tickets are \$20.

Sue Casso promoted our Rotary Auction on May 3rd at 6 PM. She invited all to consider being a sponsor for the booklet. Ads range from \$40 for a business card size to \$250 for a full page.

Mike Steinberger announced that the American Red Cross needs blood. Opportunities to donate are: Mar. 24 at St. Maximillian Kolbe Church 2-7 Pm; Mar. 25 at First United Methodist Church 1:30-7 PM; Mar 37 at A. Duie Pyle 1:30-7 PM; Mar 26-28 , Apr. 3 and 5 at the W.C. Donor Center on Gay St 1-7 :45 PM.

Scott Scrivner was pleased to tell us about the Chili Cook-Off on Sunday Oct. 5 12-5 PM with proceeds going to the Polio Eradication Fund. Two blocks of both Gay and Church Sts. will be closed off for this great event. With sixty teams projected for competition between businesses, even the

International Chili society will be there! There will be entertainment and children's events as well.

John Olszewski announced the final outstanding results of the fruit sale that can be found on our web site, on the sign-in table, or on a flyer with a Votary mailing. Thanks were extended to all for a great job but especially to John Olszewski for leading such a successful campaign. A \$13,200 check was presented to Bill Lockhard and Jim Ferrier for CHAD.

President Carl announced that all future meetings would start at 12:25 PM and conclude at 1:20 PM.

Proceeds from the Pot of Gold will be going to the W C Library and Dave Biffen pulled the \$25 winning ticket for Martha Carson-Gentry.

SPEAKERS REVIEW by Bill Badnaruk

GARY HEWITT introduced today's speaker as "a woman who takes action, and gets things done." - Our own MARTHA CARSON GENTRY. As you probably know Martha has been collecting computers and books to send to Ghana. Today she recounted the odyssey that became of that effort.

At a dinner party about 2 years ago MARTHA was offered an introduction to a bono fied African Queen from the nation of Ghana on Africa's west coast. Intrigued, she accepted and learned that Her Highness was currently a student at Cheyney Univ. taking classes at W.C.U.. Ghana had been an English colony for over 115 years so language was no barrier and shortly MARTHA invited Mama (the Queen) to her house where they began to hit it off and quickly became "good friends". she learned that as Queen, Mama had jurisdiction over all the women in her particular realm which is comparable to a state and is comprised of about 64 villages. (The King has jurisdiction over all the men.)

MARTHA was soon to learn that Ghana, like most of Equatorial Africa, is not a wealthy nation, and that English titled books were in need for the schools. Martha gathered up about 30 boxes of books when she suggested that a few computers might be nice too. So she contacted Steve Quigley and found out what she had to do to get WCU's old computers when the up-graded. In all she garnered 24 computers, printers, and

all the necessary cables. so far the cost was about \$0, but the next task as shipping it all to Ghana by ship via New York. Our club pony-ed up \$500, and Martha raised the remainder of the funds herself, and finally the books and computers were on their way.

The school was so grateful that Martha was invited to speak at Graduation shortly after the computers arrived and were installed, so Martha was off to Africa where she endured a 4 hour long Graduation ceremony in the hot equatorial sun. She showed parts of a video of the event where there was much dancing, handshakes, speeches, and hugging. The graduates were replete in caps and gowns just like here in the U.S.! Included in the video was a tour of the new computer lab that we learned was dedicated to Martha's daughter, Allison. Previously the school had only one computer. Now they have 24 practically new ones housed in a brand new building, all because of the drive and generosity of an exceptional woman who personifies the spirit of Rotary. Good job MARTHA!

In the Q and A session Martha related that she was made an Elder in the tribe and given the title of "Duchess" as well. That's another program you don't want to miss! She also related that 'Brain Drain' is also a problem in Ghana where opportunity is so limited. Most of the brighter students who go abroad to be educated do not return. As a small reward for her efforts, Martha was presented with a Paul Harris Fellowship by CAROL HANSEN.

Martha's next project: To raise about \$5000 in order to build a Bakery in the village in Ghana. Currently there is no such facility nearby so the locals must purchase their bread from another village some distance away. The bakery would become a regional industry in an area where there is none. We look foreword to helping you Martha!

Fruit Sale Wrap Up Fruit Czar John Olszewski

Go to our website to see the results:
<http://www.rotary7450.org/westchester>
Click on Fruit Sale Photos and
enjoy pictures of distribution day
Click on Final Standings to see
the winning teams
and individual contributors

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 3- Spring Auction @ William Bunch Auctions
May 20 - W.C.Community Night at the Blue Rocks
June 2 District 7450 Golf Outing
June 5 - Rotary Club of West Chester in the Cafe @
the Blue Rocks.

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Thomas Gibson, Asst. District Governor Area 8
Robert Poole, III, M.D., P.D.G. 1980-1981

EXCHANGE STUDENT

Gustavo Giacomini - Palhoca, Brazil
Hosts:
Carol and Eric Metzker -
1109 Forsyth Lane, West Chester, PA 19382
610-793-4286

Unionville High School

ROAMING ROTARIANS

Carol Metzker, Rotary Bangalore Jayanagar

"HOW TO GET IN TOUCH"

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