



ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester

Bhichai Rattakul, International President 2002-2003



Bulletin #39

www.rotary7450.org/westchester

April 24, 2003

This Week's Program: April 24, 2003

Tom Brokow Nightly News

**Speaker: Maralyn Glefsky, Production Manager
arranged by Linda Hicks**

Next Week's Program: May 1, 2003

Guardianship Monitoring

**Patricia Filippini, Jean Gardner, and John Dean
arranged by Paula Ott**

SPEAKERS REVIEW by Faith Woodward

Paul Woodruff introduced Derrick Pitts, Chief Astronomer for the Franklin Institute. Derrick is a Philadelphia native of national fame speaking regularly on W XPN and WHHY. He has been with the Franklin Institute for 25 years.

Derrick urged us to visit the Franklin Institute. It is different now.

The Fels Planetarium is 175 years old and in 1930 was first established at its present location. Before Hubble's discovery of new galaxies consisting of billions of stars, planetariums were developed to interpret the night sky to the general public. The dome, having a 65' diameter, was the largest of the time and is the second oldest in the country.

The star projector in the center of the room resembles an ant. Created by Zeiss, it contains a 1,000 watt bulb inside a sphere. The light from the bulb passes through star plates and is very accurate in its depiction of the night sky.

Why don't we see as many stars in the sky as we did in our youth? The lighting of all our cities, especially here in the east coast, detracts from the light of the stars. Children can really see what the sky looks like only at planetariums.

Was there a universe before ours? We have no way of knowing since we have no data. This is not to say nothing was there. The estimate of the number of galaxies is about 50 million. One can look to any degree of the sky and find a galaxy. There are 250 to 400

billion stars per galaxy. Since the sun is 93 million miles away, that translates to 8 light minutes. Jupiter is 40 light minutes away. To reach the Andromeda Galaxy takes 3 million light years. The edge of the measurable universe is 13.8 billion light years away!

Objects at a greater distance are moving away at faster speeds roughly 33% of the speed of light. The universe is expanding at incredible speeds. As it expands, galaxies, stars, etc. are created. The theory is that this speed will slow down and begin the crush in on itself. But there seems to be a force in the galaxy that is pushing things apart. Albert Einstein felt this disproved his theory of expansion. 50 years later we discovered there is indeed a force pushing everything apart. A force equal to 15% of its mass is required to keep the universe expanding. It will expand forever.

Bending of light occurs when it passes through different temperatures. Telescopes with the aid of computers can get rid of the distortion. Now the Hubble telescope is almost obsolete.

NASA is focusing on solar systems. The next planet to be explored will be Mars. All the other planets are not conducive to visits either because they are either too hot, have no place to land, or have excessive pressure in the surrounding atmospheres. The search will be for water and life. We have examined the surface of Mars, the fluvial erosion and the riverbeds: a geologist's paradise. There is water locked beneath the permafrost in artesian fashion. Mars is still volcanically active making it an exciting place to explore.

We are always searching for life in the universe. Are we alone? If not, will they destroy us? Frank Drake at Cornell University has developed an equation for life to exist. Only a fraction of the galaxies have potential for life as we know it. We have no evidence available yet. Listening to the universe, we have heard no other life. If there is no other life than that on our planet and humans are dominant, that means we are the pinnacle, we are special. Why don't we behave as if we are the pinnacle?

This delightful, well-presented program should have enticed everyone to come to the Franklin Institute. Come rent the new planetarium and enjoy this state-of-the art facility in our own backyard.

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 1 - 11:30 a.m. Polio Eradication Committee meeting

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.

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

Carl Werner, President; Charles Streitwieser, President-Elect; Steve Quigley, Vice-President; Jeffrey R. Sommer, Past President; Jim Gasho/Amos E. Bassett, Jr., Secretary, M. Robert Clarke, Treasurer; Steve Karp/Annalie Lorgus, Sergeant At Arms; Phil Sacks, Assistant Sergeant At Arms; John Hall, Gary Hewitt, Carol Hanson, Ken Hickman, John Olszewski, John Schwab, and Michelle Venema

Dan Guyon, District Governor

Thomas Gibson, Asst. District Governor Area 8

Robert Poole, III, M.D., P.D.G. 1980-1981

EXCHANGE STUDENT

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

NEW MEMBERS PROPOSED

The following persons have been proposed for membership and have indicated their desire to become a member. They are:

Major Susan Stinson-Salvation Army Pastor; Classification: Organizations/Religious Ministry; Sponsored by Howard John Jr.

Frank Helms -West Chester University Library Director; Classification: Education-University/Librarian; Sponsored by Christina McCawley.

Written objections must be received by Club Secretary within ten (10) days of this notice otherwise a date will be set for their induction

VISITING ROTARIANS

John Saling GWC Sunrise
V.J. Theodorides GWC Sunrise

ROAMING ROTARIANS

Judith Ray St. Louis, MO
Craig Scott Sanibel-Captiva, FL

CHECK US OUT ON LINE

www.rotary7450.org/westchester

“HOW TO GET IN TOUCH”

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