



Lend a Hand



# ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester

Jonathan Majiyabe, International President 2003-2004

Bulletin #27

[www.WestChesterRotary.us](http://www.WestChesterRotary.us)

January 29, 2004

**This Week's Program: January 29, 2004**  
**19<sup>th</sup> C. Heritage, 21<sup>st</sup> C. Learning Center**  
**West Chester Public Library**  
**Speaker: Victoria Dow**  
**Arranged by Victoria Dow**

**Next Week's Program: February 5, 2004**  
**Making a Difference in Ghana**  
**Speaker: Martha Carson-Gentry**  
**Arranged by Gary Hewitt**

### MINUTES by Cathy Palmquist

President Charles called the meeting to order at 12:30. Mike Steinberg gave a thoughtful invocation.

Shamus Lavin introduced visiting Rotarians, John Saling, Bill Hicks and Bob Thomas. Guests introduced were Bill Reilly, Phoebe Kitson-Davis, Michele Parent, Elsa Zukin, Scott Zukin, Elizabeth Guman and Christine Warren.

Fruit czar Geoff Baker and trusty mascot Ted Bear gave an update on the fruit sale. Geoff noted that individuals wishing to make monetary donations should make their checks out to the Greater West Chester Rotary Foundation, which has been set up to handle tax-deductible donations to Rotary. Geoff emphasized that those picking up fruit **must** present a yellow slip – “no yellow slip, no fruit!” he said. He closed his pep talk reminding everyone to “sell fruit!!”

Debbie Ellenberg asked birthday recipients, Jim Dow, Bob Poole and Bill Ronayne to stand while club members sang “Happy Birthday” to them.

Annalie Lorgus asked for a show of hands of members who would be interested in attending a family spaghetti dinner in the near future.

Bob Poole announced he had submitted a letter to the editor of the Rotary magazine and wondered if the editor would have the courage to run it.

Linda Hicks announced that the RYLA Committee (Rotary Youth Leadership Assn.), would be sending two candidates to the RYLA meeting this year, one being Bob Poole's granddaughter.

Linda then gave an inspiring message

regarding Rotary projects, prior to the induction of four new members. “Get involved, get to know us!” she urged them. Charlie Lyddan, formerly a Rotarian in Schenectady NY and sponsored by Paul Woodruff, was introduced by Duke Evans, Elizabeth Guman was introduced by Chelle Venema and Matt Schwab and Clint Wiggins were introduced by Irvie Hoffman. Linda also gave Irvie special recognition, citing how his sponsorship through the years has generated over 50 Rotary members into this club.

Mike Alfonsi briefly discussed a special project of the Membership Task Force, which will be to run two focus groups, headed by Dave Rayburn, to strengthen member retention.

Elsa Zukin drew the 50/50 ticket winner, Michele Parent; Michele was unable to locate the queen to win the larger pot.

### SPEAKERS REVIEW by Eric Metzker

Today's program consisted of Inductions and Classifications Talks, favorite topics for this growing and active club.

**Inductions** Linda Hicks inducted four new members - 2 sponsored by Irv Hoffman, Clint Wiggins and Matt Schwab; Michelle Venema sponsored Elizabeth Guman; and Duke introduced Charlie Lyddane who is sponsored by Paul Woodruff. All are welcome! And we look forward to knowing you better through our lunches, activities and your classifications talks.

**Classification Talks** arranged by John Kehner Today we were treated to the stories of 3 of our newer members: Frank Helms, Maj. Susan Stinson and Stan Zukin.

Frank Helms spent the bulk of his career in the

library of the West Chester University – not just reading but eventually becoming the director! As director, Frank oversaw the growth of the library from 78,000 volumes to over 500,000 and from 648 magazines to over 3,000.

Born on a farm on the Winterthur estate, Frank is a local son who graduated from the University of Delaware in biology with an eye toward teaching. A short stint as a student teacher sent Frank on his way to finding a different outlet for his talents. His work in the Science library led him to pursue both an MS and PhD. Changes and ultimately the loss of his key advisor led Frank to West Chester and ultimately to his long career working in and directing the library services.

Frank has 2 sons, enjoys antique collecting and sales and includes in his favorite moments the view in Yosemite at daybreak and that moment when the lights go down in the theater when the show is about to start.

Major Susan Stinson summed up her approach to life and career with a telling quote: "Your life is a gift from God. What you do with your life is a gift to God." With that she noted that the Salvation Army is her life.

Born in Plattsburg, NY where it is regularly F 25-30 below at this time of year, she had many aspirations. Her relatives had doubts about whether she would survive at birth. As she grew, her plans ranged from raising thoroughbred horses for racing, through thoughts of psychology and law, yet none of these were to be her chosen path. In 1970, when attending a Salvation Army service she was reminded of a promise she made at the age of 7 to dedicate her life to God. She found the Salvation Army and thus embarked on a career to keep that promise.

Maj. Stinson met her husband in the Salvation Army, has been married 33 years and has 2 boys.

Stan Zukin's Hebrew name means Son of Solomon, is the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation of Russian Jewish immigrants and capped his own introduction with a commitment to help the Salvation Army beat their contribution level of last year (as mentioned in the previous classification talk by Maj. Stinson).

Stan's grandfather was his greatest influence – quotes included : "Pay your bills and pay your employees and if you want to be the boss you need to earn a living". Stan noted wryly that perhaps this wasn't a hard and fast rule since his grandfather earned a living yet his grandmother

was the boss.

Stan's career ranged from working for his grandfather to becoming a pharmacist and eventually turning his pharmacy into more of a general store. Upon retirement, Stan endeavored to buy properties in West Chester that nobody apparently wanted. This has led over time to his quip that he's not really working, he's just playing a game of Monopoly on Gay and High streets.

Stan has two sons and a daughter and today's presentation was attended by his wife Elsa and one of his sons. Stan dedicated the presentation to Elsa, whom he introduced as being his best friend since he was 12.

## **ROTARY INFORMATION**

### **From "THE ROTARIAN"**

More than half of Rotarians worldwide are served by one of the 31 RI regional magazines. These publications, produced independently by local Rotarians, have a combined circulation of 750,000, and are distributed in 127 countries in 24 languages.

## **EXCHANGE STUDENT**

**Sachie Koizumi**, from Japan

Host family: Mr & Mrs Jay Johnson

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

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

## **"HOW TO GET IN TOUCH"**

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