



Lend a Hand



ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester

Jonathan Majiyabe, International President 2003-2004

Bulletin #43

www.WestChesterRotary.us

May 20, 2004

This Week's Program: May 20, 2004
Honorary Rotarians & Vocational Service
-Martha Carson-Gentry
Youth Awards - John Schwab

Next Week's Program: May 27, 2004
Classification Talks
Speakers: Pugin and Chaya Scott
Arranged by Tom Varley

MINUTES by Cathy Palmquist

President Charles opened the meeting and **Eric Metzker** gave a short but thoughtful invocation.

Adrienne Masak began the welcoming of visitors by introducing Sachie Koizumi, our exchange student from Japan. **Dave Wood** introduced his wife and son, Drew LaRosa introduced his office administrator, **Duke Evans** introduced a friend from First Financial Bank, **Alice Thomas** introduced the guidance counselor from Henderson High School and the mother of one of our RYLA honorees, and **Bob Poole** introduced his son-in-law and granddaughter.

President Charles and Sachie exchanged Rotary Club banners, with Sachie presenting a banners from the Tokyo Club and Taiwan.

Faith Woodward presented birthday greetings to **Carol Hanson** by singing a song she wrote based on Carol's passion for her work.

Gary Hess reminded members of the upcoming Gundaker theater party in Media. He also reminded members that the Gundaker spring fundraiser is still accepting donations and, to date, donations have exceeded the total donated last year! Charles added that the board had pledged an additional \$1,000 to Gundaker at their meeting.

Linda Hicks introduced the two students, sponsored by our club, who attended the Rotary Leadership Youth Awards (RYLA) weekend conference. She relayed the extensive activities of Brittany Graham of Henderson High School and Rebecca Eppelman of Great Valley High School who were chosen to attend. Becky (granddaughter of Bob Poole) and Brittany told about their experience at the RYLA conference, learning leadership and teamwork, about the

Patriot Act and the "Culture Walk." They thanked the club for providing them the experience.

Chaya Scott then introduced the two students chosen to receive our club's Youth Leadership Awards, David Wood III and Emeleah Erb. Their high school guidance counselors nominated them. On behalf of our club, Chaya presented each student a leadership award certificate and a gift certificate to the Chester County Book Company.

Bob Frame, in the absence of **Jack Wintermute**, reminded members of our Annual Rotary Club Blue Rocks event on Thursday, June 3.

Bob Struble, representing the Environmental Committee, invited members to sign up and help put disks on West Chester storm drains at 9 a.m. Saturday.

Geoff Baker, fruit sale chairman, read a letter of appreciation from Goodwill Fire Co. for our donation of over \$12,000 and the \$2,000 donation from the Greater West Chester Sunrise Club.

Joe Polito invited club members, especially those with pick-up trucks, to help bring in and plant trees at the firehouse on May 22. He will try to arrange a visit to the firehouse on June 3 when we hold our club meeting at Chester County CARES and support their fundraising, Hunger Awareness Day, luncheon. The firehouse is located nearby.

Charles reminded club members that host families are still needed for exchange students next year.

Jean Oakes won the 50/50. However, her drawing of a second card, prompted by pulling the Joker, did not yield the Queen and over \$600 in the big pot.

SPEAKERS REVIEW by Eric Metzker

Nearing the end of her stay in our area, Sachie Koizumi treated us to insights about her and her experiences in the US. Sachie, who comes from Tokyo, Japan, is the oldest of 3 children and is staying with the Johnson family. She has had the unique experience of sharing her host family with another exchange student, Tanvi Bhiwapurkar. Sachie says, "Tanvi has become my sister" during their time together. They both have attended Unionville High School for nearly nine months.

Sachie's main preoccupations at this point are studying for SATs and getting ready for the prom. She is considering studying International Affairs in college. She hopes to study for a year or two in Japan and then return and possibly attend Penn State.

With both parents having come to the US to study, Sachie had an easy time of imagining herself coming to the US as part of Rotary Student Exchange. Her parents studied international law for several years and tell many happy stories of their time in the US.

During her time here, Sachie traveled to many places with Rotary Exchange and with club members. Trips included New York City, Baltimore and Washington, DC. Geoff Baker took her on her coldest trip (and one of the most exciting, apparently) to see the Army/Navy football game. Adrienne Masak, Sachie's counselor took Sachie on a family vacation to North Carolina (much warmer!). Of these experiences, she says she will never forget them nor the people she met.

Sachie noted that the experience "will grow you up", which she addressed to our student guests who participated in the Rotary Youth Leadership Award program. As proof, Sachie says she is most proud of having spent the whole year apart from her family. Her only contact was email and postal mail – she didn't call because there is a 14 hour difference in time zones.

When asked what she would tell people when she returns to Japan, Sachie said she would emphasize how nice people are and how giving so many people were during her stay. She said she would tell them not to believe what they see on television about people from the US being so self-centered and unfriendly.

Sachie extended her sincere thanks to the Rotary Club of West Chester, Rotary Student Exchange, her host family and all who made her feel welcome.

SPECIAL MEETING JUNE 3

Don't forget that if you have tickets, next week's meeting is at
Chester County Cares
540 E. Union St., Suite L
West Chester
Facilities for Rain or Shine
Time: 11:30-2:00

EXCHANGE STUDENT

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

SAVE THE DATE

May 20	West Chester Community Night at the Blue Rocks
June 3	Rotary noon meeting at Chester County Cares 540 E. Union St. WC
June 3	WC Rotary at the Blue Rocks
June 21	District 7450 Golf Outing
June 28	Rotary/Lions Golf Outing
July 21	Rotary Night at the Phillies
Sept. 26	International Student Picnic @ West Chester University

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“HOW TO GET IN TOUCH”

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