



**SERVICE Above Self**

# ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester

Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar, International President 2005-2006

**Bulletin #38**

**www.WestChesterRotary.us**

**March 30, 2006**

**This Week's Program: March 30, 2006**  
**Chris Kemple, General Manager and**  
**Kevin Linton, Group Sales Executive**  
**Wilmington Blue Rocks**  
**Arranged by Jack Wintermute**

**Next Week's Program: April 6, 2006**  
**To be announced**

### **MINUTES by Fran Luft**

Today's Rotary meeting was held at Westtown School. **President Gary** opened the meeting. **Bill Ronayne** gave the invocation.

**Christina Combee** introduced the lone visiting Rotarian- Bill Schaeffer from Newtown Square.

Guests included Tom Downing, Charlie Lyddane's wife, Bob Zimmerman, Dr. Mike Johnson, Dick Yoder's twin granddaughters, Don Stonestrom's wife, Dottie Spenser, Carolyn Mayo- Winham, Lucille Gilter, Mary Brooks, David Eldridge, Jay Carroll, Phil Getter, Debra Pew,, Christina Lisi, Ronni Montgomery, and Bob Connolly's wife.

Announcements: **Steve Quigley** announced that the West Chester Area Senior Center will have its **GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION** Saturday, March 25, 2006 at 2 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

**Chuck Hawkins** announced that the Fruit Sales are about even with last years sales. You may pick up your fruit at A.Duie Pyle warehouse Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> of March from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**Adrienne Masak** announced that that the Youth Exchange Committee would like to host another student. We need to be able to provide housing before this can indeed take place.

### **SPEAKER'S REVIEW by Cathy Palmquist**

Rotarians were treated to two interesting programs after enjoying a sumptuous lunch and warm welcome on our annual "field trip" to Westtown School.

**Charlie Lyddane** introduced his friend Dr. Johnson, with whom he has worked for the past few years to get medical supplies, books and other items to Kenya.

Dr. Johnson is a board-certified trauma surgeon and was in private practice in the

Philadelphia area, when he heard God's call and made his first trip to Zaire in 1986. That two-week trip prompted him and his wife to move their family to that region. They have been in Kenya since 1990, coming back from time to time "to reconnect with our family here, to recover and laugh and smile."

When he first went to Kenya he worked as a general surgeon in a hospital, but realized there is more to life than doing surgery. He started a ministry to prisoners and a library in one of the hospitals. "It's so easy to get into a comfortable position of being indispensable," he said, "but we were not meeting the underlying issues of poverty and basic needs and we wanted to help people become more self sufficient."

So the Johnsons went to Nairobi where they worked with street families and children. The situation, however, became too risky so they went to the slums, which were deplorable. Children were escaping from the slums to the streets of Nairobi to beg for food and money. Dr. Johnson began providing health care in the slums and orphanages. "If you want to change a nation, you must start with the children," he said. Speaking Swahili they could communicate with the children in their own language. This work lead to the ministry he calls, **The Least of These**, an orphanage project that reaches over 1,200 orphans providing them medicines and medical care, clothing and other basics.

Out of that ministry grew his second project, **A Prepared Place**, designed "to give the children hope right here and right now," but also a future, by putting them in Christian homes in rural Kenya. About 6 members of our club, one of 10 Rotary clubs, are working with him to secure funds from various sources for this

project. He also works with a Rotary club in Kenya and has been able to bring 15 Sudanese doctors to a hospital in Nairobi to improve their skills. Dr. Johnson closed by thanking our club for partnering with him and his family.

Our host at Westtown, Rotarian **Bob Connolly**, also talked about children, but "children in a different place from what Dr. Johnson spoke about." Bob gave a brief history, noting that Westtown School is over 200 years old and was founded by Quakers to provide a "guarded education and refuge from city life" (Philadelphia). In 1795 there were 20 boys and 20 girls in the first class. It was unusual for girls to receive education in the 1700s, but illustrates the Quaker philosophy of education for girls and boys. Today, about 21 percent of the 800 students are Quakers, with about 400 in high school, 165 in middle school and 235 in lower school.

Bob told the story of *The Giant*, the large painting hanging in the dining hall that was painted by N.C Wyeth in 1923 as a tribute to former student, William Engel. Then, Bob began to tell us a "toy story," titled **From Sleds to Slinkies**.

Samuel L. Allen, a student at Westtown for only a year, loved to go sledding at Westtown. In his adult life, he started a business to improve the efficiency of planting seeds. He provided a dining room, auditorium, medical clinic and benefit plans for his employees, which was unusual in those days. Because employees would return to the farms in the planting season, he wanted to develop products that would keep them at the plant year around. So, due to his love of sledding while at Westtown school, he invented the Flexible Flyer. (Bob noted that Diane Allen, former television newscaster and now a New Jersey senator, is related to Samuel Allen.)

In addition to Allen, former student Richard Jones and his partner were converting old commercial vessels to ships during the war and a spring from a piece of equipment fell off a desk and bounced. That was the beginning of the popular toy, named "slinky". Their company sold over 100 million slinkies in the first 10 years of production. The slinky is the Pennsylvania state toy. Bob showed a mounted half of the original spring that started the slinky.

These stories about former students illustrate part of the mission of Westtown School, which is to develop the potential that is inside of each child, he said.

### SAVE THE DATE

Mar 25 Fruit Distribution  
Mar 25 Interact Club Battle of the Band  
May 13 Brighter Futures Work Day

### LOST AND FOUND

Soft, blue-gray scarf found at our Rotary meeting at Westtown School Please contact the Metzkers.

### EXCHANGE STUDENTS

**Virginie Bregeon** (France) Henderson  
Host Family – Ellen and Mark Morun  
416 Crislena Lane 19380 610-344-0205

**Sebastian Velez**(Ecuador) East HS  
Host Family - Steve and Catherine Burtch  
170 William Penn Blvd 19382  
610-399-1258

### YOUTH EXCHANGE

At present we need homes for three female students, from Brazil, Germany and the Czech Republic respectively, with seven more students yet to be processed. The sooner we can get homes for these students, the sooner we can get them the information they need, in order to get visa's, etc. Please contact **Adrienne Masak** at 610 738-9792, or email [adimasak@hotmail.com](mailto:adimasak@hotmail.com), for further information, or if you know of a possible host family.

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

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Bob Lankin, District Governor  
Robert Poole, III, M.D., P. D.G. 1980-1981

### HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

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