



**SERVICE Above Self**

# ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester

Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar, International President 2005-2006

**Bulletin #43**

**www.WestChesterRotary.us**

**May 4, 2006**

**This Week's Program: May 4, 2006  
To be announced**

**Next Week's Program: May 11, 2006  
To be announced**

**MINUTES by Fran Luft**

**SPEAKERS REVIEW by Cathy Palmquist**

**President Gary** opened the meeting. **Katie Walker** gave the invocation about family bonds.

Visiting Rotarians were Robert Bradford, Dick Fritz, John Sailing, Joe Cunne, and Marilyn Berry. Guests included Conchetta, Robert Wittman, Amy Quinn and Annalie Korengel Lorgus had her son Riley in attendance.

Happy Bucks: **Paula Ott** (Riley- Easter eggs), **Katie Walker** (10 grand club event raised \$21,000, Mac and Shelly won money), **Charlie Lyddane**(Twin Valley, Kennett Longwood Club helping to underwrite water project), **Sue Casso** (At the Rotary information breakfast **Shannon Royer** asked why the wheel- it means civilization/ movement-in 1923 the wheel was adapted as the official Rotary emblem), **Carol Metzker** (**Eric** and girls are fine after morning car accident- **Carol Hanson** gave assistance), **Annalie Korengel Lorgus** (**Joe Della Vecchia** will find out May 8<sup>th</sup> if he has cancer and congratulations to **Trish Kotsay** for Secretary Day), **Andrew Stump** (**Joe Polito** first Chili cook-off sponsor), **John Saling** (his attendance record passes **Jeff Sommers**'), **Steve Karp** (attended a wedding officiated by **Steve Godsall -Myers**) Marilyn Berry (son received order of arrow), **Terry McGrath** (Paula fine after accident).

Announcements: **Jack Wintermute** announced tickets are still available for the May 11<sup>th</sup> Blue Rocks game. See **Ken Hickman** for tickets. **Dave Woods** announced that nominations are being accepted for Vocational Service Award. See Dave. **Dick Yoder** announced that the blood drive will be held May 4<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. at Penn Wood Elementary school. **Adrienne Masak** announced that Sebastian won his tennis match and will be playing Friday at 1 p.m. She will send an email with details.

**Mark Sammarone** received support for the club to help with the CCH May Fest on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up to assist.

Riley pulled the winning 50/50 ticket. **Carl Werner** was this week's winner.

**Bill Bunch** introduced FBI agent, Robert Wittman, by telling about working with Bob to return stolen art to Bavaria that Bill had received to auction.

Bob, an FBI agent for 18 years, all in the Philadelphia area, is a member of the FBI Art Crime Team and talked about the FBI's Art Theft Program. When most people think of the FBI, they think of terrorists and kidnapping. However, art theft is the fourth largest crime in the world. While it is not the largest program of the FBI, it does involve about \$4 billion in stolen art and archeological artifacts per year. The United States is the biggest consumer of art and artifacts; Americans are big on collections. Art theft has grown due to items coming out of Iraq that are sold and the money sent back to terrorists.

There are 12 agents nationwide on the team, who coordinate the work through 56 field offices nationwide. The agents were trained in 2005 at the Barnes and the Philadelphia Museum of Art specifically to handle art crime. Art theft is 85% internal, just robberies and rarely violent, usually involves international smuggling and is all about money. Most art thieves are men; Bob has only seen one woman in 18 years of service.

He told about several cases, including the stealing of a long rifle and three swords from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in 1997. The items were stolen by a Society maintenance man and sold to an electrician who had seen the items while he was doing work at the Society. When the FBI confronted the electrician, they found 250 stolen items for which the maintenance man had received just \$7,000. The men spent 4 years in jail.

Bob urged collectors to be careful of their collections and take pictures of them individually, so the photos show what is unique about them. For example, since there are numerous coins, you have to show how your coin(s) are distinctive or the FBI cannot return them if they are recovered.

He told about a tomb in Peru that contained more gold than found in King Tut's tomb and about a backflap (piece of body armor) that thieves tried to get into the U.S. A "sting" was set up by the FBI with the smugglers and when they actually met for the

buy, the smuggler turned out to be a Peruvian diplomat.

He also told about an original copy of the Bill of Rights that was secured just two years ago after having been stolen and traveling underground for over 200 years. It turned out to be North Carolina's copy of the Bill of Rights. He said that looting in Iraq amounts to about \$100 million a year and over 10,000 original archeological sites in Iraq have been robbed. There is a ban on bringing anything from Iraq or Iran or Saudi Arabia into the U.S. The real loss is not the item as much as it is that removing the item destroys the archeological site and thus the history of the people and times.

Bob was also involved in the return of a \$35 million Rembrandt, dating from 1630, that was stolen in Sweden. The painting was part of a \$42 million theft, which included two Renoirs as well the Rembrandt. Bob said there is a great deal of cooperation between the FBI and other law enforcement agencies in other countries.

### GUNDAKER

The annual **Gundaker Foundation** fund-raising campaign is now underway, and the responses have been excellent! Already, **nearly 25% of our club members have stepped up and made a contribution.**

The Gundaker Foundation is the local foundation of our District, and has supported programs that benefit local clubs and individuals for over forty years. **Your support is extremely important to the ongoing success of the foundation.**

If you have not yet had a chance to do so, you can make out a check to "The Gundaker Foundation," and give it to me at our Thursday meeting, or mail it to Gary Hess at: 34 West Miner Street, West Chester, PA 19382.

### EXCHANGE STUDENTS

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

**Sebastian Velez** (Ecuador) East HS  
[cuencanito@hotmail.com](mailto:cuencanito@hotmail.com)  
Host Family - Steve and Catherine Burtch  
170 William Penn Blvd 19382  
610-399-1258

### HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Rotary Voluntary Committee: Faith Woodward,  
Publisher. Work: 610-918-3432 Home: 610-692-  
5411 Fax: 610-918-3404 e-mail:  
[fwood@bf.kendal.org](mailto:fwood@bf.kendal.org).

Mark Sammarone, Vice-Chair and Web site  
maintenance. Committee Members: Elizabeth  
Guman, Seamus Lavin (Web site), Fran Luft, Eric  
Metzker, Cathy Palmquist, and Joe Polito

### NEW MEMBERS

The following persons have been proposed for membership and have indicated their desire to become members:

**Shannon Royer**, Classification: Government, Sponsor: Steve Quigley

**Amy Quinne** Classification: bank/branch manager  
Sponsor: Annalie Lorgus

Written objections must be received by the Club Secretary within ten (10) days of this notice. Otherwise, a date will be set for their inductions.

### BLOOD DRIVE

Just a reminder that the West Chester Rotary Club will "piggy-back" with the Westtown Goshen and Sunrise Rotary Clubs in a joint Blood Drive. Donations will be at the Penn Wood Elementary School on May 4th between 12:30 PM and 6:30 PM. Rotarians can "sign-up" directly at [www.pleasegiveblood.org/sponsor.html?sponsorcode=7e37](http://www.pleasegiveblood.org/sponsor.html?sponsorcode=7e37) user ID wc rotaries, password blood drive....

Or, for those who wish, or may not feel comfortable with your computer skills, call Lisa H. Balch at Home (610-399-1190), or work (610-399-1983) and she will 'sign-you-up' directly.

Penn Wood Elementary School is on Johnny's Way near The Westtown School.

Thanks again to all who can give. Please don't forget to ask your non-Rotarian neighbors, family members and/or work mates.

### SAVE THE DATE

May 4	Blood Drive
May 11	Rotary Night @ the Blue Rocks
May 20	Rotary helps @ CCH May Fest
June 10	Brighter Futures Work Day

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

P. Gary Hewitt, President; Annalie Korengel-Lorgus, President-Elect; Gary Hess, Vice-President; Steve Quigley, Past President; Patricia Kotsay, Secretary; Victoria Dow, Assistant Secretary; M. Robert Clarke, Treasurer; Steve Karp, Sergeant At Arms; Mike Alfonsi, Assistant Sergeant At Arms. Board Members: Vic Abdala, Bob Frame, Joe Hamel, Rich Kaufmann, Carol Metzker, Bill Ronayne, and Joanne Tadeo.

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