



# ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester

Wilfrid J. Williams, International President 2007-2008

Bulletin #31 [www.WestChesterRotary.us](http://www.WestChesterRotary.us) February 14, 2008

**This Week's Program: February 14, 2008**  
**Colorectal & Skin Cancer Prevention**  
**Speaker: Katie Knuffer**  
**Arranged by Dave Rayburn**

**Next Week's Program: February 21, 2008**  
**Student of the Month & Interact Update**  
**Speaker: Rick Dunlap**  
**Arranged by John Messersmith**

## **MINUTES by Fran Luft**

**President Gary** rang the bell and Bill Hess gave the invocation - the 1934 original Serenity Prayer. **President Gary** repeated several times that his joke was not an ethnic joke. It was about a man drinking, getting drunk and crawling home. His wife said, the next morning. You were drunk last night. The man said how do you know. She responded you left your wheelchair at the bar.

Guests today: **Pat Barron** introduced Eileen McQuinn and **Mark Sammarone** introduced Gary Altonen. Visiting Rotarians included Steve McFalls, Don Barr and Tim Walsh. Birthday greetings were extended to **Brian Mitchell** by **Concetta Schiattarella**. **Charlie Lyddane** wished **Carl Werner** a happy birthday, **Elizabeth Guman** extended birthday greetings to **Becky Cacace** and **Cathy Palmquist** wished **Fran Luft** a happy birthday.

Happy Bucks: **Joe Polito** (St Joe's basketball victory); **Bob Poole** (improved from walker to cane); **Becky Cacace** (weekend in Atlantic City); **Mac Neilon** (Giants); **Dave Wood** (daughter dancing in Penn State dance marathon); **Jeannie McGinn** (Super bowl).

Announcements: Checks are still being accepted for the Rotary Foundation. We would like 100% participation. **Joe Paiva** is improving. Please keep him in your prayers. **Ken Hickman** had hip replacement surgery. He is doing well and will be back at Rotary in the near future. The GSE team will be here in April. The Rotary Club has agreed to help out the family **Katie Decker** spoke about last week. The decision was to give \$1,000 in gift

cards. **Bob Rodgers** announced that the adhoc committee will meet next week at 11 a.m. Committee members are **Carl Werner, Bob Frame, Charlie Lyddane, Joe Polito, Don Stonestrom, Jim Gasho, Geoff Baker, and Linda Hicks**. Please Sell, Sell, Sell fruit for the Fruit Sale. All packets have been sent out. The white slip goes to Rotary, yellow to pick up fruit, and the pink slip is extra. We make \$9.00 per case. Last day for fruit orders is Thursday, February 28th. **Charlie Lyddane** said that there is a problem (fighting) in Kenya. Hopfully we will have enough money for a matching grant.

50/50- Eileen Mc Quinn pulled the winning ticket- the winner today: **Joe Cunnane**.

## **SPEAKERS REVIEW by Faith Woodward**

VR Steve McFalls introduced our speaker Bud Bruton who had been a Second Lieutenant in the Army. Having also been an East Brandywine Township Supervisor, Bud is President of Bruton Financial Advisors and employs his four sons.

Bud entitled his presentation, "Who Would Have Thought Returning to the DMZ Would Bring Me Peace?"

In 1968, Bud graduated from flight school. Leaving behind one child and a pregnant wife, but went to Vietnam assigned to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Division. He flew an FAC right at treetop level over the DMZ in a fighter plane hunting for the North Vietnamese Army and swore he would never return to Vietnam.

The North Vietnamese were respected warriors who never ran as Bud flew over in his FAC. The one year that Bud spent in Vietnam is still fresh memory and plays a

major role in his life. Some returning veterans have adjusted well and others are haunted with continual conflict. The divorce rate for vets is high. Of the 75 men from his unit, only 3 are still married. (Bud has been married for 41 years.) No one wanted to talk about Vietnam with him but his buddies who also flew there. The "Band of Brothers" are still his best friends.

In 2002, Bud felt drawn to return to Vietnam with the Veterans' Vietnam Restoration Project whose mission is to build housing for the Vietnamese who lost limbs during the war and from land mines afterwards. He went to his old area of operation in Dong Ha and built houses for both the North and South Vietnamese. With this project, the Vietnamese do the work and the Americans provide the materials. It costs \$1,500 for a home.

Agent Orange has left a landscape that looks like the moon. During the war it smelled of burning fuel and human waste. Now Bud was won over by the natural beauty of the country and the heroic actions of the Vietnamese people. He was welcomed by friendly people and actually worked with the people he had shot at and he at them. In Quang Tri Province, the largest industry is in scrap metal because of all that remains from the war. Children still pick up live CBUs (like hand grenades).

The horrible memory of war has been erased from Bud and he has found a beautiful countryside and happy people in Vietnam. He has forgiven those who shot at him. It was important and helpful for him to go back. Wearing a bracelet that daily reminds him of his experience, he has returned to Vietnam four times. He challenged other vets to return to work on a project with the hope of returning to a new life. Going back can be a healing event. Bud challenged our club to support return trips for other veterans.

### THANK YOU

Copies of the Votary are provided at our meeting by **Mac Neilon** of Penn Office Products.

### NOTICE

The following person has been proposed for membership and has indicated his desire to become a member:

**Adam Gdowik:** Sales Associate at Comstar Technologies; Classification: Business-Sales; Sponsor: **Joseph Polito**

If no written objections are received by the Club Secretary within three (3) days of this notice a date will be set for his induction.

### EXCHANGE STUDENTS

**Bjoern Brauner** (Germany) Henderson HS  
Host Family: Christina Ellis & Andrew Sitkoff  
852 Chandlee Dr. West Chester  
610-692-4917

*Bert Volger* 610-793-1708(H) 484-459-9023(C)

**Andrea Kogoj** (Italy) Unionville HS  
Host Family: Marc and Rachel Bevis  
110 Merrymet Farm Dr. Kennett Square  
610-444-0324(H) 610-563-0443(C)

*Joe Polito* 610-692-8123(H) 610-431-3090(W)

### SAVE THE DATE

Feb 29 Fruit orders due  
Mar 8 Fruit Pick up  
Apr 25 District Conference  
Oct 5 Chili Cook Off

Check out the Rotary Calendar of events at  
<http://www.westchesterrotary.us/clubcalendar.htm>  
Add events: [calendar@westchesterrotary.us](mailto:calendar@westchesterrotary.us)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS -THE ROTARY CLUB

President, Gary Hess; President-Elect, Steve Karp; Vice-President, Dave Rayburn; Past President, Gary Hewitt; Secretary, Patricia Kotsay; Treasurer, Rob Feenan; Sergeant At Arms, Bob Crow; Directors-at-Large: Rich Kauffman, Adrienne Masak-Rozier, Terry McGrath, John Messersmith, John Olszewski, Bob Rogers, Bill Ronayne, Mark Sammarone Russell deFuria, District Governor Dede Carruthers, Ass't District Governor Robert Poole, III, M.D., P. D.G. 1980-1981

### HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Votary Committee: Faith Woodward, Publisher. 610-918-3432 [fwood@bf.kendal.org](mailto:fwood@bf.kendal.org) Mark Sammarone, Vice-Chair and Web site maintenance. Committee Members: Pat Barron, Bruce Beadle (Web site), Matt Bradley, Sue Casso, Victoria Dow, Elizabeth Guman, Charlie Lyddane, Fran Luft, Eric Metzker, Paula Ott, Cathy Palmquist, and Joe Polito