



ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester

Wilfrid J. Williams, International President 2007-2008

Bulletin #41 www.WestChesterRotary.us April 24, 2008

This Week's Program: April 24, 2008

**Inductions of Adam Gdowik and
Shauna Yeldell by Sue Casso**

Arranged by Noel Stanek

Young Adult Community Conferencing

**Speakers: Bridget Carroll and
Christina Valocchi**

Arranged by Judge Gwenn Knapp

Next Week's Program: May 1, 2008

Blood Lab

Speaker: Pete Thompson

Arranged by Cristina Combee

MINUTES by Cathy Palmquist

Prior to **President Gary Hess** opening the meeting, it was nice to have **Faith Woodward** back at the keyboard. We may not be exceptional singers, but we sing the national anthem with enthusiasm and heart. For the invocation, **Bill Hess** read the words to a well-known hymn and then gave a blessing.

George Trajtenberg from the Sunrise Club (a former member of our club) was our visiting Rotarian. George attended to hear his son, **Eric**, give his classification talk as a new member of our club. Guests included **Mark Sammarone's** daughter; **John Schwab** introduced T.L. Epps and **Mac Neilon** introduced Mike DeBarr. **President Gary** accepted a Rotary banner from the Iowa City Club from **Pat Barron**, and **Joe Polito** gave a brief overview of **Michele Parent's** life before wishing her a Happy Birthday.

President Gary kicked off announcements by thanking the many club members who helped in various ways when the Group Study Exchange team was here recently from Italy. Helpers included **Steve Quigley**, **Michele Parent**, **Charlie Lyddane**, **Craig Kalemjian**, **Bill Winters**, **Gary Hewitt** and our resident Italian celebrity, **Joe Polito**.

President Gary announced there will be a celebration in Philadelphia May 3rd to commemorate the 20th anniversary of women in Rotary. Cost is \$45; see **President Gary** for details.

In recognition of Gundaker Foundation month, **President Gary** read a letter from Guy Gundaker, one of the founders of the Foundation. Written in the 1930s, Gundaker sent a letter of resignation to his Philadelphia club because of their discrimination against Jews interested in membership. The club subsequently changed their

bylaws to welcome Jews into membership and Gundaker rejoined the club.

David Wood announced that the Vocational Service Award nomination forms are available. He explained the criteria for nominations and encouraged members to nominate a non-Rotarian for the honor and return the completed forms to him.

Matt Bradley reminded members that applications for the Community Philanthropic Grants are due by May 15th, just one month away.

Greg Radford announced the Brighter Future program will operate a bit differently this year than previously. Because our club is working on a house with Habitat for Humanity, Greg's committee will recruit youth and new members to work on our Habitat house. Dates for Brighter Future to work are May 17th (nearly filled) and June 28th.

David Wood won the 50/50 but missed the queen.

SPEAKERS REVIEW by Paula Ott

Classification talk – Eric Trajtenberg

Eric Trajtenberg is a young lawyer and solo practitioner in West Chester. Yes, he is the son of Dr. George Trajtenberg, and said he is constantly being told by people he meets that his "father was inside" them and is then offered to see their scar.

He attended Westtown School and graduated from East High School. After graduating from Muhlenberg with a degree in psychology, he decided to change fields and study law at NYU and Villanova, where he graduated in 2006. That same month, he married his wife, who grew up in Long Island and is apparently adjusting to Chester County living.

Eric's first job out of law school was clerking for a Montgomery County judge who spent most of his time playing golf—fortunately, you wouldn't find that to be true of Chester County judges!

We are pleased Eric chose to return to the West Chester area and join Rotary. I think he will find that his degree in psychology will help him with his family court and criminal defense cases.

Eric's birthday was April 14th, and because we were remiss in not acknowledging it earlier in the meeting, the members sang Happy Birthday to him at the conclusion of his speech.

Reclassification talk – Paul Woodruff.

Paul's life has been so busy, that he could not finish his speech in the time allotted.

He and his wife were from Michigan and moved to Chester County when he came to work for Roy F. Weston, an environmental engineering firm. After 13 years, he and Weston parted company. It was a difficult time for him, as he had no job and six children, but he turned that situation into a multi-million dollar company, ERM, which he started in 1977. When he sold his interest in 2001, ERM was the largest environmental consulting firm in the world, with 125 offices in 40 countries.

Paul did not retire, but has refocused his time on three companies, a remedial engineering company that creates such products as fireplace logs from coffee grounds, a company that is building continuing care retirement communities (locally, Whiteland Village), and a marine/condominium project in Michigan at the oldest continuously operating marina in that state.

He has given generously of his time to charitable organizations, such as United Way, Community V olunteers in Medicine, and Paoli Presbyterian, where his wife, an ordained minister, is a pastoral associate.

In 1994, ERM created a charitable foundation which was instrumental in our Rotary project of providing a water treatment for Las Animas, Mexico. Paul continues to be on the board of this Foundation, which is more recently partnering with Rotary in a water project in Kenya.

Our club is indeed fortunate to have a member with such vision, knowledge and desire to address the environmental issues facing our world.

THANK YOU

Copies of the Votary are provided at our meeting by **Sue Casso** of Custom Printing and Promotions.

Nominations - Open Board Seat Election

The following candidates have been nominated to fill an open Board seat for the 2008-2009 Rotary year:

Bruce Beadle

Bob Rogers

A club election will be held at the meeting on May 1.

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

Apr 25 District Conference
May 15 Community Grant Applications due
May 17 CCH May Fest @ Goshen Fair Gnds
May 21 Rotary at the Blue Rocks
June 12 Blood Drive

Oct 5 Chili Cook Off

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

THE ROTARY CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 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, Paula Ott, Cathy Palmquist, and Joe Polito