



**Make Dreams Real**

**Bulletin #9**

# ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester

Dong Kurn Lee, International President 2008-2009

[www.WestChesterRotary.us](http://www.WestChesterRotary.us)

**September 4, 2008**

**This Week's Program: September 4, 2008**

**Best Seat in the House**

**Speaker: Dan Wheeler**

**Arranged by Dave Biffen**

**Next Week's Program: September 11, 2008**

**To be announced**

## **MINUTES by Sue Casso Rogers**

**President Steve** rang the bell promptly at 12:30. **Gary Hess** delivered an inspiring "Gentleman's" creed. **Sue Casso Rogers** reminded that Chili Cook Off golf style shirts can be purchased until Sept 4. Contact Sue for further information. John Schwab asked for volunteers to help work with the cooking teams at the Chili Cook Off. **President Steve** reminded us to review the list for new Rotary badges and make sure our classifications are correct. Steve also read a thank you note from the Viet Nam Restoration Project to which our club made a donation.

All set to move quickly into the program, **President Steve** was reminded that he missed most of the agenda for the meeting! So we backed up and introduced visitors, Arnita Smith, Lloyd Roach and Sue Karr all in the "pipeline" for membership. **Jeannie McGinn** introduced her intern, Ashley Miller, who is working for McGinn Marketing Works and also helping out with the Chili Cook Off. Ashley is President of the National Communications Honor Society. **Mark Sammarone** introduced his "favorite daughter," Chelsea. There were no visiting Rotarians.

Happy Bucks were given by **John O.** for his #6 grandchild, **Charlie Lyddane** who is alone for 8 days while his wife is away (seemed like 8 was too many and he is looking for a happy medium), **Ed Malet** who is happy that his son is returning to Brown University, running track, has a 3.0 GPA and is looking forward to returning to college, by **Elizabeth Guman** (a bittersweet happy buck) for taking her youngest son to college, by **Becky Cacase** whose daughter is versed in wildlife terms knowing that a monkey is not just a monkey but a pigmy marmaset (if you watch the TV show, Diego, you know what that means), by **Dave Biffen** who is continually amazed at the skills of **Dr. Terry McGrath** who keeps Dave's wife's dog alive, by **Don Stonestrom** whose grandson in Palo Alto, CA should receive a degree in

skateboarding but is attending CA State University at Sonoma, by **Irvie Hoffman** who will not be at Rotary next week as he is picking up his wife, Sally, and bringing her home from Barclay Friends (he was grateful for the good care at Barclay), a second time by Charlie for not having to pay tuition this fall, by **Terry McGrath** who is happy to have formed a steel band with a young protégé, Dante Bucci (sp?), and they have a permanent stage at the folk festival, by **Gary Hess** who, after 17 years paying school taxes, finally has a child in the district, by **Phoebe Kitson** for the first day of school for her 1st & 5th graders and finally by **Mac Neilon** who was happy for a great time at the Casso/Rogers house for the Rotary Dinner put up in the auction. Whew! Lots of happy Rotarians!

The 50-50 was won by **Joe Cunane**.

## **SPEAKERS REVIEW by Faith Woodward**

**Dave Biffen** introduced our speaker, John Poth, noting his 30 years of service in our area to those with low vision and blindness.

John had several reader screens on display. Presented in 1995, his first model magnified reading but the equipment has changed dramatically since then. Fourteen million Americans have low vision (corrected to 20/70). Eight years ago there were three companies manufacturing "readers" and now there are 15. Most of John's clients are seniors with Macular Degeneration (deterioration of the retina). Some clients are even youngsters as young as 10 years old most of whom adapt very well and are at the top of their classes.

The Telesensory product from eight years ago was a black and white, manual focus reader with capability for reverse polarity (either black print on white or white print on black). This reader with a 14" screen cost \$1600.

Most readers now have flat LCD screens and the cost has gone way down. His next model from 2008 had a screen that was 22", auto focus,

color, brightness levels, and could change colors for \$3500. People don't want a lot of knobs and so the models have been simplified.

These products can change people's lives. Students or travelers can get a unit that is portable for \$2800. It is compact, uses a battery, and is easy to use.

Unfortunately, no insurance coverage is available for these products. One could hire a lawyer and force Medicare to pay. Those who have met with success have still had their cases appealed by Medicare. If one is under 18, Blindness and Visual Services and Intermediate Units can help defray costs.

His 12" screen model could project onto a board for a classroom and a 4" screen hand-held model is for use at grocery stores or restaurants costing \$795.

Most units can plug into a computer screen and can thereby blow up the print size. The view is of a split screen in this case.

The Sara (Scanning and Reading Appliance) includes a scanner and screen for \$2,800. (The original one by Xerox in 1970 was \$200,000). It has voice instruction (**Geoff Baker** was pleased that even a British accent could be chosen). It will read aloud while the text is printed on the screen but it is usually used only for the audio feature. Hand-written items and bank statements cannot be read by this equipment. Even if entered into the machine upside down or sideways, it can still read the document correctly.

*My Reader* is available for \$5,000 and it scans documents and resizes them on the screen.

"Readers" are available to the public at the West Chester Area Senior Center and the West Chester Public Library. John's demonstration helped us appreciate our being able to read any document and to understand some of the challenges for those who cannot.

### SAVE THE DATE

Sept 20 Habitat for Humanity work day



Oct 18 Charter Night for the West Chester  
Downtown "Fridays" Rotary Club  
Check out the Rotary Calendar of events at  
<http://www.westchesterrotary.us/clubcalendar.htm>  
Add events: [calendar@westchesterrotary.us](mailto:calendar@westchesterrotary.us)

### THANK YOU

Copies of the Volary are provided at our meeting by **Bob Frame** of Caldwell Banker Preferred-Exton.

### EXCHANGE STUDENT

Anri (pronounced Anli) Izui at Henderson HS  
Hosts :Mark and Ellen Morun  
416 Chrislena Lane West Chester 19380  
610-344-0205

### NOTICE

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

**Susan Karr**, Office Manager Buckley, Brion, McGuire, Morris & Sommer, LLP; Classification: Office Management; Sponsor: **Bill Ronayne**

**Lloyd Bankson Roach**; President/Owner Brandywine Radio; Classification: Media Management – Radio; Sponsor: **Bill Ronayne**

**Arnita Smith**; Sales-National Account Representative Technisource, a subsidiary of Spherion; Classification: Technology;

Sponsor: **Shauna Yeldell**

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

### CHILI WRISTBANDS ON SALE 3/\$25

call Bill Ronayne at 610-692-3900

### THE ROTARY CLUB BOARD of DIRECTORS

President, Steve Karp; President-Elect, Dave Rayburn; Vice-President, Bill Ronayne; Past President, Gary Hess; Secretary, Patricia Kotsay; Treasurer, Rob Feenan; Sergeant At Arms, Katie Decker; Directors-at-Large: Rich Kauffman, Adrienne Masak-Rozier, Terry McGrath, John Messersmith, Bob Rogers, Bill Ronayne, Mark Sammarone

Joel Chesney, District Governor

Samantha Kranyak-Ramsey, Ass't District Governor

Robert Poole, III, M.D., P. D.G. 1980-1981

### HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

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