

ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester

District 7450

www.WestChesterRotary.us

Week # 21 November 20, 2025

CLUB MEETING ~ November 13, 2025

Minutes by Susan Shirley

The meeting was opened by **President Kyle Rheiner**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Tom Rowland**

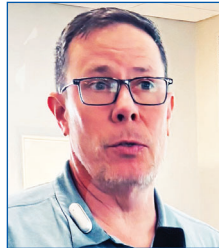
An invocation was offered by **Chuck Heckenberger**

GUESTS

Laurie and **Sean Ryan, Dimeji Gisanrin**, soon to be inducted and **Till O'Brien**

PROJECT C.U.R.E.

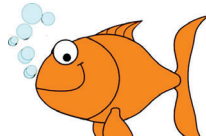
Steve Bayles discussed Project C.U.R.E., which is an effort to sort and distribute medical supplies to those in need, presenting working on helping Jamaica to recover after the storm. There are several distribution centers across the U.S.



GRATEFUL GOLDFISH

Kyle Rheiner – grateful for his new Ted Lasso t-shirt from **Ernest Zlotolow**

Steve Bayles – attended the District Action Plan Workshop to see what new ideas could be used for our WC Rotary. He is happy to report that we are doing all the right things; e.g. establishing committees, etc. Steve is going to start visiting different Chester County Rotary Clubs.



Glenda Brion – Thankful for veterans and all they do for the country. Also thanked everyone who attended the “fabulous” Community Warehouse Dance Event on Wednesday night. It was a well-attended, uplifting experience.

Mark Sammarone – grateful for celebrating his 25th year with Arthur Hall Insurance. He’s had a great run. Kyle later addressed the fact that after meeting Mark through joining Rotary, he was offered a job and has now also been with Arthur Hall for five years. Gary Hess was grateful to have attended the Crystal River Florida annual Stone Crab Jam.



Mike Louis is grateful for the help he’s received as President-Elect.

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TODAY’S PROGRAM ~ November 20
Club Business - New Member Inductions
Classification Talk ~ Jeremy Rhoads

NEXT WEEK ~ November 27

No meeting - Happy Thanksgiving

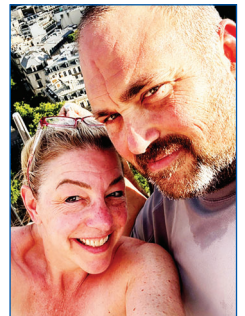


~ NOVEMBER 13 PROGRAM ~

Bill Friedmann

Trip to Normandy, France and Germany

After reading that once men reach his age (50), they either get intently into smoking or World War II – Bill became a history buff and this summer made a trip to Europe with wife Debi to see many World War II places he has read about.



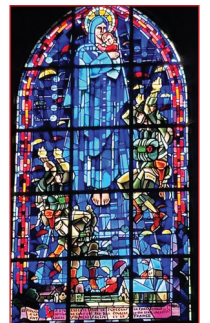
Starting in Paris (nothing to do with World War II, but enjoyed by his wife), he and Debi visited the Louvre, the Arc de Triomphe and the Pere-Lachaise cemetery, the resting place of poets and artists of Paris, along with Jim Morrison. They then drove to Normandy in fishing village, Port en Bessin, on English Channel. All villages had bunkers on hills.

WORLD WAR II -

1939 - Germany invaded Poland, France and Britain declared war on Germany. 1941 - Pearl Harbor, and Hitler declared war on U.S. bringing us into the war. June 6, 1944 - Allied forces landed on Normandy beaches. Utah and Omaha attacked by American soldiers, Gold Juno and Sworn were taken by Canada and England.

Bill and Debi visited Utah Beach, where they now train racehorses, and saw a statue of Dick Winters and visited the church in Sainte-Mere-Eglise where a stain-glass window, commissioned in 1969, depicted the day paratroopers landed, with one getting stuck on the steeple.

Enjoyed his visit to Pointe du Hoc – hundred-foot cliffs, scaled by Rudders Rangers on D-Day, which is the home of a monument. He also explored a bomb crater.



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Grateful Goldfish continued

Carol Hanson – grateful for all the fun she had as a dancing queen and thanks Glenda who did a fabulous job putting together the event to sustain the Community Warehouse Project

Miranda Reilly – Thanks everyone for being chosen as Rotarian of the Month at our last meeting; thanks veterans; and addressed the fact she will need help with the Christmas parade float. A sign-up sheet was passed around to volunteer to walk, hold our banner, and to decorate on December 1, 2 and 3.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The club Dine Around event needs a few more chefs – name drawing will occur next week

Communications Committee Chair **Jeff Cantwell** directed members to next week’s *News You Can Use* for directions on helping to build the club’s social media presence.

Shellia Coleman will be collecting any baked goods we provide next Thursday for the residents of **Safe Harbor**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 25th – Tuesday Before Thanksgiving Happy Hour at Side Bar

Kate Martin gave us a head’s up that sign-up sheets for **Ringling of the Bells on December 13th** are available. They are going to be held at the ShopRite and the Amish Market.

WCU MENTORING

Jennifer Rossi Long, Sr. Director of the West Chester University Career Center and club Vocational Service Chair **Tom Rowlands** outlined **WCU Ram Nation** – a flash mentoring platform where students and alumni can identify and connect with different partners in the community. It is focused on connection, trying to get students to access a needed network professionally. They provide mock interviews, job shadowing. Through Rotary Passport Club, Rotarians can participate. **Tom Rowlands** has been a mentor on the platform for three years. He is contacted by five to eight students per year and has found it to be rewarding. It can also help to market the Rotary with younger members of the community to help Rotary grow.



TRIFECTA DRAWING

Wonby **Steve Bayles**, \$40 pot, \$13 to Steve, who pulled the Six of Hearts

Friedmann continued

At Omaha Beach they visited the American cemetery which houses the graves of Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., the only general to land on the beaches on D-Day, and his brother, who died during WWI.



Mulberry Harbor, part of Gold Beach, had temporary harbors to receive supplies for American soldiers once per month.

In Bastogne they tried airborne beer, which is served in helmets in honor of a soldier who brought beer to a friend in the hospital in his helmet and toured the Bastogne Barracks and military foxholes.

They next visited the Town of Foy, Luxembourg cemetery, where General Patton is buried.

In Munich, Germany, they visited the Hofbrauhaus, where Nazi party started and they saw a nearby concentration camp. On their final day, they visited Eagle’s Nest, Hitler’s bunker in Bavaria – now turned into a restaurant.

Bill tied-in movies you have perhaps seen: *Band of Brothers*, *Saving Private Ryan* and *The Longest Day*.

In closing, Bill cited President Ronald Reagan’s 1984 moving speech on the 40th anniversary of D-Day, while visiting Pointe-Du-Hoc, “Strengthened by their courage, heartened by their valor and borne by their memory, let us continue to stand for the ideals for which they lived and died.”

BOARD of DIRECTORS 2025-2026

- President Kyle Rheiner
- President-Elect Mike Louis
- Vice President Steve Bayles
- Treasurer Diana Liberi
- Secretary Sue Casso Rogers
- Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Rogers
- Immediate Past President Catherine Friedman
- Directors-at-Large Rita Brouwer-Ancher, Glenda Brion, Jeff Cantwell, Sue Flynn, Chuck Heckenberger, Phil McFadden, Nathan Miller, Miranda Reilly, Jeff Spencer
- District Governor, District 7450 Jan Biros (Phoenixville)
- P.D.G. ’13-14 District 7450 Charles Streitwieser
- P.D.G. ’12-13 District 7510 Dwight Leeper

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Votary Committee: Anne Driscoll, Joe Driscoll, Brian Fahey, Randy Lindel, Mike Louis, Matt McKeon

Photography: Anne Driscoll, Jeff Cantwell, Miranda Reilly

Votary@westchesterrotdary.us