



ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester, District 7450
K.R. Ravindran, International President 2015-2016
Bulletin #23 www.WestChesterRotary.us December 10, 2015

This Week's Program: December 10, 2015
Speakers: Kathy Grensburg and Gary Graham
Vet Rehab Program at Thorncroft Equestrian Center

Next Week's Program: December 17, 2015
Chester County Family Academy
Holiday Music

MINUTES by Cathy Palmquist

Club President Katie Martin opened the meeting and called on **Catherine Friedman** to give the invocation. Catherine shared a Rotary invocation.

In addition to John Saling, there was a visiting Rotarian from the Longwood Club and a third visiting Rotarian. **Sue Casso Rogers** kicked off guest introductions by introducing Pat Runyan, who George Tratenburg suggested visit us. **Michelle Venema's** guest was Barbara Bolton, **Tom Mann**, introduced Susan Campbell, executive director of Philadelphia's Ronald McDonald House, and our guest speaker, and **Winnie Stroup** introduced her daughter Cynthia's biological sister, who helped with our warm coats drive.

President Katie did some catching up on Rotarians of the Month, introducing **Mickey Hall** as October's recipient, who has already begun preparing for her term as president in two years, the November recipient was not at the meeting, and the December Rotarian of the month went to **Steve Founds** and **Phyllis Dunn** for taking over the Rotary Foundation campaign for three years!

For Throwback Thursday, **President Katie** cited **Tim Walsh**, who was given the Orville Redenbacher Award at the Sergeant of Arms Awards event. She then gave a rundown of upcoming dates, noting there is no meeting on Dec. 24th. There being no meeting on the 24th, she asked members to contribute what they would have spent that day at Rotary by putting contributions in the holiday box at the back of the room, which will go to the Albino boys project in Tanzania.

Dave Biffen kicked off Happy Bucks by noting that the cadaver dog, who visited a couple of meetings ago, did not stop at the "old guys" table. **Matt**

Holliday announced the Holiday Home Tour on Saturday to benefit the West Chester Library, and **Don Kohler** was happy to have spent last weekend at the Philadelphia Convention Center where his daughter won awards at the Irish dance event by placing in the high 20s out of 60 participants. **Faith Woodward** was happy to announce that **Carol Hanson** came through Tuesday's surgery just fine and is at home recovering. **Sue Flynn** was happy to remind members about the Family Academy children's holiday program at our club on December 17th, and she is still accepting donations for the Shop with the Sheriff program. **Catherine Friedman** was happy about the help from **Deb Sparre** with buying a new home and selling their old one, and also to remind members that the Friends Assn. charity ball coming up on Saturday has provisions for those who want to participate in the silent auction on-line. Another happy report was that a local Interact Club has raised enough funds to participate in the wreath laying in Washington D.C., and another Interact Club has been making blankets.

Ron Ginns had the pleasure, for the second year in a row, of wishing **Jim Kammerer** a happy birthday, and **Matt Holliday** wished birthday greetings to **Matt Biffen**. **Mac Neilon** announced that our club will be getting in on the end of a Habitat project on Saturday, Jan. 9th. All that is left to do is paint, and only 10 people are needed between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. **Mac** thinks it might be possible to split the time up so more than 10 people can help. See him if you can participate. **Sue Casso Rogers** reminded us of the Rotary holiday party at Lisa and **Tom Mann's** home on Sunday afternoon, and **Rachel Barakat** said there is only one opening left from 3 – 4 p.m. on Dec. 12th to ring the bells for the Salvation Army.

Phyllis Dunn won the 50/50, but missed the queen.

SPEAKERS' REVIEW by Winnie Stroup

Tom Mann shared with the club the time that his young daughter was paralyzed and hospitalized at CHOP. Ronald McDonald House provided a safe space for his family during that time and that's how he met Susan Campbell, Executive Director. He introduced Susan as a West Chester native, so much so that she had been delivered by **Doctor Poole**.

Susan remembered **Tom** and Lisa **Mann** well from their stay at Ronald McDonald House and has become good friends with the family especially now that Tom serves on the board. She didn't always live in the Philadelphia area. A volunteer job driving the Ronald McDonald House van was pivotal when she moved back searching for a new career. Realizing that she wanted to make a difference and be on the front lines lead to her first staff job at RM House.

Opened in 1974, Philadelphia established the first Ronald McDonald House now serves as the model for over 350 Houses in 38 countries. At the time, Eagles tight end Fred and his wife Fran Hill's daughter, Kim was battling childhood leukemia. Thanks to Leonard Tose, then owner of the Philadelphia Eagles, the team received his undivided support to continue raising funds to help benefit local area hospitals. The Eagles pledged \$1,000,000 to the oncology department at CHOP. Dr. Audrey Evans, pediatric oncologist at CHOP recognized the need for a home for families while their child was being treated. Dr. Evans told Jimmy Murray, co founder and then president of the Eagles of her vision. Jimmy approached Elkman Advertising and came up with an idea that a quarter from every McDonald's Shamrock Shake sold in the Philadelphia region would go towards the purchase of a House located by Dr. Audrey Evans in exchange for naming rights. Today Ronald McDonald Charities contributes approximately 10% of operating expenses. The remaining 90% is donated by individuals and corporations.

Families come from all over PA and worldwide. They are charged \$15 a night, but never turned away if they can't pay even that nominal amount. Dinner is served nightly in addition to hot breakfast on the weekends. Currently there are two Ronald McDonald Houses, two Ronald McDonald Family Rooms at CHOP, a Hospitality Kiosk at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, and a Ronald McDonald Camp. Over 3000 families had to be turned away in 2014 for lack of space. A vision for a new facility is being drafted to increase capacity significantly.

Susan encouraged us to consider volunteering. Van drivers are still needed to shuttle from the houses to the hospitals etc. Dinners are prepared and served by volunteers and there are many other opportunities to make a difference.

FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following is the proposed Board for 2016-2017:

President- **Bob Rogers**

Past President - **Katie Martin**

President Elect – **Mickey Hall**

Vice President – **Bill Friedmann**

Secretary – **Sue Casso Rogers**

Treasurer – **Tim Walsh**

Sergeant at Arms – **Brad Abel**

Directors at Large - **Laura Alosio, Dave Barkasy,**

Judi Bell, Cristina Combee, Linda Hicks, Jim

Smith, Andrew Stump, Michelle Venema, Ernest

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THANK YOU

Copies of the Votary are provided today by
Mac Neilon of Penn Office Products

SAVE THE DATE

Dec 12 Ringing the bells for Salvation Army
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, Katie Martin; President-Elect, Bob Rogers;
Vice-President,; Past President, Rob Feenan;
Secretary, Sue Casso Rogers; Treasurer, Tim Walsh;
Sergeant-at-Arms, Bill Friedmann; Directors-at-Large:
Dave Barkasy, Judi Bell, Cristina Combee, Linda
Hicks, Matt Holliday, Jim Smith, Debra Sparre,
Marjorie Wentz, Denise Wine.

Chad Rosenberg, District Governor

Bronwyn Martin, Assistant Governor

Charles Streitwieser, P. D.G. '13-14 District 7450

Robert Poole, P.D.G. '80-'81 District 7450

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Votary Committee: Chair, Faith Woodward, 610-918-3432; Votary@westchesterrotary.us Web site:
Webmaster@WestChesterRotary.us Judi Bell.
Committee Members: Rachel Barakat, Pat Barron,
Chris Feryo, Elizabeth Guman, Gary Hess, Matt
Holliday, Jim Kammerer, Laura House Kelly, Fran
Luft, Cathy Palmquist, Winnie Stroup, Glen Sweet,
Marjorie Wentz