



ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester, District 7450
Gary C.K. Huang, International President 2014-2015
Bulletin #44 www.WestChesterRotary.us May 21, 2015

This Week's Program: May 21, 2015
Student Recognition Day

Next Week's Program: May 28, 2015
Speaker: Matt Kalos
Battle of Paoli

MINUTES by Fran Luft

President Rob called the meeting to order. **Phyllis Dunn** gave an inspirational invocation. We had one lone visiting Rotarian, **Jeff Brown** from Concordville. **Matt Holliday** introduced his guest, Allison Mel Royer.

Andy Keen is accepting donations for shelter boxes for Nepal which has sustained an earthquake and aftershocks. The Rotary Foundation is accepting monetary donations for the current year until the end of the month.

Tamara Minnick announced that the Rotary Club is assisting Act of Faith by collecting individually wrapped rolls of paper towels. **Steve Quigley** told us our Rotary club is participating in a golf challenge with the Kennett-Longwood club on Monday, June 9th. **Debra Sparre** is in need of committee members to help plan a Rotary outing.

Jim Gasho wished **Joanne Tadeo** a happy birthday.

Happy Dollars: **Katie Martin** is happy as she just returned from vacation in Italy. She also attended the district assembly with **Sue Casso Rogers**. **Matt Holliday** is happy that he has tickets you can purchase for Up on the Roof. **Carol Hanson** is happy about the ticket for the Hello dolly performance and that the Barclay Friends' golf tournament will be held Monday June 8th. **Bruce Beadle** is happy as he is sitting at a table with all women. Terri Richie appreciated the floral arrangement she received after her surgery. **Jeff Brown** is happy about the 2015 gala at the Melton Center May 16th. **Glen Reyburn** is happy about the leadership training she attended. **Catherine Friedman** is happy that Friends Association is having a training and leadership program for high school or middle school youth. **Bill Winters** is happy that it is baseball season. **Paul Woodruff** is happy about the skill of his surgeon.

Katie Martin announced that Saturday May 16th rotary club will be doing clean- up work at the home of **Joanne Tadeo** from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. **Glen Sweet** announce that rotary auction items are needed for the Presidential Gala. The Annual Presidential and Board of Directors Induction and Silent Auction will be held Thursday, June 25th from 6p.m. – 9 p.m. at Oakbourne Mansion. Tickets are \$60 per person including dinner, wine a beer. Please RSVP to **Katie Martin** by June 15th. **Rob Malone** announced W.C. Rotary Give 20% Day will be held June 2nd at the Iron Hill Brewery. 20% of the proceeds will go to Rotary for the Polio Plus Campaign. Coupons are need for this event. You should make reservations. **Mickey Hall** announced that the Fruit Sale will be back next year. We need all Rotarians to participate. **President Rob** gave **Christine Wildauer** and **Mickey Hall** certificates in appreciation for their work on this project.

50/50 winner today was **Joe Fratoni**.

SPEAKERS REVIEW by Helen Flanders

Glen Reyburn introduced Mary Beth Drobish the founder of the Barn at Spring Brook Farm. The Barn at Spring Brook Farm is a non-profit that hosts animal assisted activities for children with disabilities.

Mary Beth began her talk with an update on the township issues they have been addressing. She said that a neighbor that wanted her to go out of business contacted Pocopson Township. The result was a two-year ordeal of the Farm trying to meet Township requirements. At a cost of more than \$100,000, Mary Beth added a bathroom, exit signs and a walkway that brought her up to code. After these improvements and some changes in the number of children they can serve, Mary Beth was happy to tell us the problems are resolved and the Farm will continue to function.

Mary Beth founded the Barn at Spring Brook Farm a few years after husband died in 2003. She has been open for nine years and in that time has served more than 4,500 kids. Some come weekly for individual programs to meet their needs. Others arrive on school Field Trips. And many attend Camp Geronimo, the summer day camp that now serves 16 children per week for six weeks every year. These programs run on a one-to-one volunteer to child ratio.

The program started out serving children with physical disabilities but it soon expanded to include children on the autism spectrum. Now, 70% of the children they serve fall on that spectrum. The Farm funds children-in-need through their financial assistance program. In the beginning, Mary Beth covered the costs but as the program grew, she began fundraising. The camp costs \$350 per week and requests for assistance are up this year. Some of the people they have helped included an unemployed, deaf mom of a deaf, autistic seven year old boy and a single mom with an autistic son and disabled mother at home.

Mary Beth introduced Emily Ford, the new executive director. That day was only her third day on the job! She then invited Rotary club members to visit individually or in small groups. Please call ahead. In a final Q and A, Mary Beth noted that transportation is provided for students in Chester County but kids from other counties are still welcome to attend. There was actually a dad from another county that took a week's vacation every year so his daughter could attend the summer camp. A Rotarian asked Mary Beth if she felt that Pocopson was trying to drive her out of business. Mary Beth diplomatically said that they may have gone beyond what they were elected to do during the process. She mentioned that she was grateful for all of the community support she received during the ordeal. She noted that she has forgiven her neighbor and that the Farm will now be stronger and better than ever. The last question was about Mary Beth's business background. Where did she learn to run a non-profit? Her reply was, "I don't have any business background. My business is with God."

CONDOLENCES

It is with sorrow that we learned of the passing of
Al Filano, President 1995-6
Funeral arrangements have not yet been announced.

THANK YOU

Copies of the Votary are provided today by
Matt Holliday for
State Representative Dan Truitt

ROTARY AT THE BLUE ROCKS

The 22nd Annual
West Chester Rotary Night with the
Wilmington Blue Rocks
Thursday, May 21, 2015 5:30 to ?

FORMER PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Irvie Hoffman
1250 Abrams Road, Apt. 253
Dallas, TX 75214

SAVE THE DATE

May 16 Clean up at Joanne Tadeo's property
May 21 WC Rotary at the Blue Rocks
June 2 Iron Hill donates 20% between
5-7 PM to Polio Plus
June 9 Kennett Club Golf Challenge
June 25 Induction of New Officers and
Presidential Gala @ Oakbourne

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, Rob Feenan; President-Elect, Katie Martin;
Vice-President, Bob Rogers; Past President, John Schwab;
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.

Doug Blazey, District Governor
Bronwyn Martin, Assistant District 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:
Judi Bell Webmaster@WestChesterRotary.us
Committee Members: Laura Aloisio, Rachel Barakat,
Pat Barron, Helen Flanders, Elizabeth Guman,
Mickey Hall, Gary Hess, Matt Holliday, Jim Kammerer,
Laura House Kelly, Fran Luft, Cathy Palmquist,
Winnie Stroup, Glen Sweet, Marjorie Wentz