



ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester, District 7450
Gary C.K. Huang, International President 2014-2015

Bulletin #43 www.WestChesterRotary.us May 14, 2015

This Week's Program: May 14, 2015
Speaker: Mary Beth Drobish, Founder of
The Barn at Spring Brook Farm

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

MINUTES by Elizabeth Guman

President Rob called the meeting to order. **Craig Kalemjian** offered the invocation, centered on the 4-Way Test.

Visiting Rotarian: **Jeff Brown** from the Concordville club was visiting today.

Guests: **Stuart Brooks** introduced his guest, David Reinfeld who is the acting director of the Historical Society while Rob is on leave. And **Mac Neilon's** guest, his daughter Allison, received a rousing welcome home from the club.

President Rob made a special announcement about Rotary's aid effort in Nepal. He told us that we've already contributed to the relief effort through our contribution to Rotary International and their work with Shelter Box. He reminded us that if we wanted the opportunity to contribute further to the Rotary effort we recently received an email on how to do that. He explained that he doesn't feel we should be solicited for contributions at our lunch meetings and that the announcement is intended for those who want an avenue to provide more support to Nepal through an organization they can trust. Rotary is certainly one of those. He did remind us that we do have an obligation to an annual donation to Rotary International and encouraged us to fulfill that commitment for this year if we haven't already. **Andy Keen** is the lead from our club on Rotary's efforts in Nepal. **Paul Woodruff** spoke of his visit to Nepal and the definite need for aid that the country would be facing now, given what he learned from his previous trip.

Birthdays: **Steve Quigley** wished **Carol Hanson** a happy birthday. **Sue Casso Rogers** wished **Michelle Venema** a happy birthday.

Happy Bucks: **Dan Cosgrove** is happy that his son just made Seaman Apprentice for the Coast Guard. He is also happy that Dave's Automotive helped get his son's car fixed for the trip to Tennessee. **Jeff Brown** encouraged us to attend the Melton Center's celebration/fundraiser this Saturday at 8pm (tickets \$20). **Carol Hanson** would be happy

if someone could use her ticket that she purchased for the upcoming Hello Dolly show – she now cannot go. **Steve Quigley** is happy that the Senior Center's Great Race is Saturday and that 30 kids from the Chester County Family Academy will be participating. **Rick Murray** is happy that the 17th Annual Chester County Valor Bowl will be on May 28 as part of the Chester County Special Olympics. **Don Kohler** is happy that the Victory Brew Company opened in Kennett Square. **Matt Holliday** is happy that Up on the Roof is happening on June 6 (last year they sold out – get your tickets now!) and that this weekend is **Catherine Friedman's** concert for the Friends Association. **Bruce Beadle** is happy that he is alive – he was enroute to Nepal when the earthquake happened! **Laura Alosio** is happy that her daughter is starting dental hygiene school at Harcum. She is also happy that she played her first golf game – and loved it! **Bob Poole** is happy that his youngest grandchild has graduated from college – last one to graduate!

Announcements: **Bob Frame** announced that the Blue Rocks game is May 21. He also announced that **Irvin Hoffman** had moved to Texas to live near his daughter and now is in Assisted Living. We'd like to send him some notes to let him know we are thinking of him (see address on next page). **Mac Neilon** announced that we'll be working at **Joanne Tadeo's** next Saturday from 10-1. **Linda Hicks** announced that the local Rotary youth programs are collecting paper towels for Act in Faith. If you want to support that effort, bring in single wrapped rolls of paper towels. The goal is 1,000 rolls by the end of June! **Steve Quigley** announced the golf challenge with Longwood will be June 9 at 1:30 – see Steve if interested. **Laura Alosio** updated us on the Chili Cook off: 13 sponsors with \$31k collected so far!! **Glen Sweet** announced that she's leading the silent auction for the President's Gala on June 25 at Oakbourne and asked us to start thinking about it now. **President Rob** announced that on June 2 Iron

Hill will donate 20% of dinner proceeds to Polio Plus – so plan on dinner out now!

50/50: The winner was our visiting Rotarian, **David Wood**. The Pot of Gold recipient will be the St. Agnes Dayroom.

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

SPEAKERS REVIEW by Faith Woodward

David Walter, Treasurer of the West Chester Railroad Heritage Association, described the two railroads that were built in West Chester in 1832. One built from Exton by the Darlington faction and the other from Media by the Everhart faction. These two lines did not connect until one bought the other and connected them.

He followed the history of the railroads throughout the years. One particularly interesting fact was that of a woman, Mary Miles, who filed a suit for not being allowed to sit anywhere she wanted to when the railroad insisted she sit in the “Colored” section. Finally in 1867 the laws were changed that there was no longer a “Colored” section at all.

Dave informed us that West Chester grew from about 3,000 people to 8,000 people by the end of the century. Twenty trains were running each day. At that time West Chester had companies who relied on railroad transport such as Hoopes and Darlington Wagon Works, Sharpless Cream separators, and Hoopes Brothers and Thomas’ Nursery.

With the invention of the auto and trucking, train use decreased so much that by 1986 SEPTA stopped all service. One half billion dollars would be needed to resume railroad traffic to West Chester.

Professor Frank from Swarthmore continued with a power point presentation mentioning the use of actual railroads in the Underground Railroad. One boxcar with a load of wood had a trapdoor that was used to hide slaves. The railroad was the largest employer in its heyday. Former slaves often provided the labor force.

The railroad played an important part in the emancipation of woman since they could travel alone knowing there were conductors and bathrooms on board! One ad for the Lackawanna Railroad boasted that it burned anthracite coal that kept women’s white dresses clean.

In 1997 a company of volunteers started to operate the railroad to West Chester again although the tracks and right-of-way still belong to SEPTA. They plan to have a stop at Tee It Up Golf. The train can be hired for special events like weddings and birthday parties. Boxcar Brewery rents the railroad and has beer, barbecue, and a band. All aboard!

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 ?
Please see **Jack Wintermute** for tickets.
Make \$37 checks payable to
The Rotary Club of West Chester

SAVE THE DATE

May 13	Board Meeting@ WCASC –All invited
May 16	Clean up at Joanne Tadeo’s property
May 21	WC Rotary at the Blue Rocks
May 25	Induction of New Officers
June 2	Iron Hill donates 20% between 5-7 PM to Polio Plus
June 9	Kennett Club Golf Challenge

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