

Rotary Club of West Chester Quarterly Outreach - Fall 2025

Recent Club Events



September brought good news, great company, and a few surprise guests. Our club was officially crowned *Best Non-Profit Float* in the 2024 Christmas Parade by the Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce! The award was presented at the Chamber's "Christmas in July" celebration at 9 Prime, where float co-chairs Michelle Venema and Andrew Stump accepted the honor with a dozen proud Rotarians. Outgoing president Catherine Friedman and new president Kyle Rheiner shared the spotlight—joined by Santa himself, proving even July can be festive.

Our club also presented its very first Partner Awards, recognizing longtime allies in community service. At the West Chester Golf and Country Club, Catherine Friedman honored Board President Joe Dugan for the club's unwavering commitment to excellence and service. At another luncheon, the *Daily Local News* was recognized, with Bill Rettew accepting the award—camera in hand and humility intact. Communications Committee members Cathy Palmquist and Jeff Cantwell applauded DLN's ongoing role in spotlighting Rotary's work.

Adding service to celebration, members rolled up their sleeves for Pedals for Progress, a new partner that supports economic development through bicycle recycling. Together, we prepared 43 bikes for shipment to Guatemala—proof that a little elbow grease and a lot of heart can spark global change.

From floats to frames, partners to pedals, September has kept our wheels turning and spirits lifted.

Written by Rita Brouwer-Ancher

Upcoming Club Events



Moving into fall, Rotarians will be active in club and community activities.
We'll participate in the West Chester Restaurant Festival, West Chester University Career Fair, and the Chili Cook-off! Even though we no longer host the Cook-off, we will have a booth, hand out chili samples, and provide Rotary information. Look for our colorful tent, stop by to meet some Rotarians, and learn how we help people locally and internationally!

Under the leadership of our new president, Kyle Rheiner, one of the goals of our strategic plan this year is to work with other West Chester area Rotary Clubs. One of the first activities is the collection of book bags/back packs and school supplies for needy students in the West Chester Area School District (WCASD). We will participate in this effort with the Greater West Chester Sunrise Rotary Club, and the Rotary Passport Club of West Chester.

We will donate $1,000 to help pay for items collected by C.U.R. E. to be sent to Ukraine. Also we have plans for more golfing, a Murder Mystery Dinner, speed networking with fellow Rotarians, a visit from our District Governor, the presentation of our *third* Community Partner Award to a local, supportive business, and of course, our popular holiday party.

Written by Cathy Palmquist



Club Member Personality

Short Biography: Miranda Reilly

Miranda Reilly grew up in Delaware County before moving with her family to Oxford, PA in 2008. The oldest of four siblings, she graduated from Oxford Area High School and later earned her degree from the University of Delaware. While completing her studies, she began working at SERVPRO, where she discovered her passion for helping people rebuild after unexpected disasters.

Her career at SERVPRO has shaped her values of compassion, resilience, and problem-solving—qualities she carries into her service with Rotary. Encouraged by her boss, Miranda joined the Rotary Club of West Chester in May 2023. She quickly became an active member and now serves on the Board. For her, Rotary is about pride, inspiration, and gratitude: learning from others, giving back to the community, and contributing to meaningful change.

One of Miranda's favorite projects has been cleaning and mulching Marshall Square Park, a place she visits often with her dog, making the work personally rewarding. She also frequently volunteers with the Community Warehouse Project and looks forward to supporting President Kyle Rheiner's focus on youth.
Outside of Rotary, Miranda enjoys walking her dog, staying active, spending time with family and friends, and singing karaoke. She values balance and mental health, living by the philosophy: "You only live once—make the most of it, and treat others how you would like to be treated."

Written by Anne Driscoll



This is not an actual photo of the event

A Bit of Club History

On June 23, 1970, the Rotary Club of West Chester launched its 50th Anniversary Committee, chaired by Ossie Spellman and supported by 53 members. Divided into six subcommittees—General Arrangements, Program, Anniversary Booklet, Special Project, Publicity, and Finance—the group spent a year preparing for a milestone celebration.

The big night arrived on April 24, 1971, at Penn Oaks Country Club. President J. Irvie Hoffman welcomed dignitaries and Rotarians from across the region, while Sam Gangshaw took on double duty as Master of Ceremonies and "Fine Master." Guests were treated to lively 1920s-era tunes from the "Snairator" Orchestra, arranged by member Steve Elinsky. A memorable moment came when Les Schramm presented *Those Were the Days*, honoring the club's first 50 years. With spirits high, Rotarians and their Rotary Annes closed the evening by dancing to the sounds of a big band.

Of the club's 23 charter members from 1921, six were still living in 1971. Remarkably, two—Sam Cloud and Rudy Lorgus—remained active participants. (The club's first president, Alger Whitcraft, had passed away in 1968.)

Looking ahead, the celebration also foreshadowed the future: by 2021, longtime members Dr. Poole, Jack Wintermute, and Mayor DeBaptiste would still be serving, extending the club's proud legacy of service across a full century.

Written by Bill Friedmann



Cocktail of the Quarter
by Chet G. Peterman

"Cheers"

The Whiskey Sour is one of the oldest and most enduring cocktails in American history. Its origins can be traced back to the mid-19th century, with the first printed recipe appearing in 1862 in Jerry Thomas's Bartender's Guide, the first known cocktail book. Sailors in earlier centuries often mixed citrus juice with spirits to prevent scurvy, and this practice likely influenced the development of the Whiskey Sour. Over time, it became a staple in bars across the United States, cherished for its balance of sweet, sour, and strong flavors.

At its core, the Whiskey Sour is a simple drink built on three classic elements: whiskey, citrus, and sugar. Traditionally, bourbon is the whiskey of choice because of its rich, caramel notes, though rye whiskey offers a spicier variation. The drink is often elevated by the addition of egg white, which gives it a silky texture and a foamy top, though this is optional.
Ingredients:

- 2 oz bourbon whiskey
- ¾ oz freshly squeezed lemon juice
- ½ oz simple syrup
- Optional: ½ oz egg white
- Garnish: maraschino cherry and orange slice

Method: Combine whiskey, lemon juice, syrup, and egg white (if using) in a shaker. Dry shake without ice, then add ice and shake again. Strain into a rocks glass over fresh ice, garnish, and serve.



Non Profit of the Quarter

Parish Hall Kitchen
Parish Hall Kitchen (PHK) is a non-profit whose mission is to feed neighbors, empower lives and nourish the community. It was established in 2017 to address food insecurity. PHK offers nutritious meals, culinary art and food service training, and the Meals To-Go program. Its three programs are modeled after the ideals of the Church of the Holy Trinity's Friday Night Supper.

Founded by the Holy Trinity in West Chester where the program is located, PHK provides a Trinity Catering program and prepares food for parish events. Its goal is "To serve God and the community."

Trinity Restaurant Training (TRT) provides job training to people who are un- or underemployed, and is a professional 8-week culinary training course. The training includes knife skills, stocks, sauces and soups, as well as pasta making, eggs and dairy, dry and moist cooking methods, baking and plate presentation.

Trainees are hired by the "parent" non-profit corporation, and paid for the course work. Employees, trainees and graduates are offered the opportunity to work with Trinity Catering, at parish events in the church, and to host engaging community events like Quizzo, designed for fun and comradery.

Parish Hall Kitchen has received grants from the Community Philanthropic Committee (CPC) on behalf of the Rotary Club of West Chester.

Written by Cathy Palmquist

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

First: The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

Second: High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

Third: The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

Fourth: The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

Rotarian Code of Conduct

As a Rotarian, I will

1. Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life
2. Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect
3. Use my professional skills through Rotary to: mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world
4. Avoid behaviors that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians
5. Help maintain a harassment-free environment in Rotary meetings, events and activities, report any suspected harassment, and help ensure non-retaliation to those individuals that report harassment.

The West Chester Rotary Club
meets weekly on Thursday @noon
at the West Chester Country Club.
Visitors are always welcome.
Join us for lunch and see what we're all about!

westchesterrotary.us/

The following members of the Rotary Club of West Chester contributed to this newsletter: Cathy Palmquist, Anne Driscoll, Bill Friedmann, Howard Sundwall, Rita Brouwer-Ancher, and Jeff Cantwell