

Rotary Club of West Chester Quarterly Outreach. **December 15, 2023**



Recent Club Events

The Rotary Club of West Chester took center stage in a series of events, epitomizing a commitment to service. Inclusion in the orientation for West Chester University (WCU) students showcased the club's pride in extending a warm welcome to newcomers. Mayor Lillian DeBaptiste and Miss West Chester University added an official touch to this significant occasion.

In a philanthropic feat, 15 District 7450 Rotarians descended a Philadelphia building, participating in the annual rappelling event benefiting the Philadelphia Outward Bound School. Dennis Wallace initiated Rotary's involvement in this adrenaline-pumping fundraiser in 2015. He and 3 other Rotarians scaled the vertical climb this year.

The Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet honored Rotarian Sue Casso Rogers as the 2023 Outstanding Citizen of the Year and recognized Blue Dog Printing and Design, founded by Rotarians Bill and Debi Friedmann, as the 2023 Business of the Year.

At the WCU Volunteer Fair, Rotary's mission



Upcoming Club Events

Holidays provide multiple activities for Rotarians!

Thanksgiving brings members together for an informal “Tuesday before Thanksgiving Day” gathering at a local pub to get in the mood for the holidays. Many will also volunteer to help decorate the downtown; others help as parade marshals.
Club members will again support the Stockings for Soldiers project as we have done for a number of years. We no longer help sew the stockings, but we still donate hundreds of small items from food and candy to personal items for the stockings that will be distributed to our military worldwide.
Another longtime tradition at Christmas time is our ringing of the bells at Shop Rite and the Amish Market for the Salvation Army. This year, our volunteers will don new aprons that indicate we are Rotarians supporting the Salvation Army bell ringing! An added bonus is that those who volunteer at the Amish Market can purchase tasty goodies offered inside the market after their shift.

And, of course, we always look forward to gathering together, including our spouses, for our annual holiday party. This year’s party will be held at the West Chester Golf and Country Club where we meet weekly for our lunchtime meetings.

and upcoming events took the spotlight, with alums and Rotarians Austin Aimone and Corey Cahill leading the charge.

The Chili Pepper Drop, a novel addition to the Chili Cook-off realized a generous donation to the Community Warehouse Project of Chester County. The 21st Rotary Chili Cook-off exemplified Rotarians' unwavering commitment to service above self.





Club Member Personality

Meet Catherine (Cathy) Palmquist, a truly remarkable woman. Born in Evanston, Illinois, she moved as a child with her family to southern California. Inspired by her grandfather, a minister, Cathy got her degree in religious philosophy. She met her husband, Dick, at UC Berkeley. They tended to live in more rural areas where Dick, an entomologist, worked with farmers to help them rid their crops of invasive insects. They primarily lived in Fresno, CA, Yuma, AZ, and Clinton, Mississippi before moving to Pennsylvania.

Many of Cathy's career positions came about because of her excellent writing skills. She was a computer programmer in Fresno. When they moved to Arizona, she became a reporter and photographer at the Yuma Daily Sun, and then became an editor.

Her interest in civil rights throughout her lifetime led to her appointment by President Reagan to the State Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights in both Arizona and Mississippi.

In 1988, Cathy and Dick settled in West





A Bit of Club History

In December of 1977, The Rotary Club of West Chester began the tradition of ringing the bells for the Salvation Army. As we tended to do, we started a four-way competition with the local Kiwanis, Lions and Exchange Clubs to see which group could raise the most funds. In early January, we received a letter from Salvation Army Captain Donald Osmond announcing that our Rotary Club raised $226.98, but alas, came in second to the Kiwanis who bested us by less than $6.

In March, it was announced that the club had 20 Paul Harris Fellows. Just like today, a PHF is awarded when a Rotarian gives a total of $1000 to the RI Foundation. In 2021, RI asks that each club give an average of $100/ member. In 1977 that figure was $20/member. President Leslie Schramm was happy to report that our club's average was $20.23 per member.

In the summer of 1978, a 15-year-old Henderson High School Football player named Brian Batcher suffered a severe spinal cord injury during a scrimmage. The Rotary Club of West Chester decided to help. Led by Past President Dr. Robert Poole, Brian's Run was established. The Club hoped to raise $500 to help the young man's family with medical bills. 2,000 runners showed up and the event raised over $20,000! While this 10K run was only intended to be a one-time event, it became apparent that it

Chester where she became Executive Director of the Anne Frank Institute in Philadelphia. After that, she accepted a position as Executive Director at the YWCA of Chester County. She is also an active, lifelong member of the American Association of University Women, the League of Women Voters, and a 30 year member of our Rotary Club.

Cathy and Dick have been married over 60 years and are the proud parents of Heidi, a microbiologist, Todd, a freelance graphic designer/photographer, and one grandson.

A lifetime of achievements, we fellow Rotarians salute Cathy Palmquist.

could be successful if held annually. By 1979, Brian felt that he had benefited enough and asked that future proceed go to others in the community with similar challenges. For many years, Brian's Run was managed by the Rotary Club and it is still in operation today and is considered one of the top 5 races in the Philadelphia area. Sadly, Brian Batcher passed away in October of 2019. He was a fixture at every race for over 40 years.



Cocktail of the Quarter

"Cheers"

So many cocktails carry unique and sometimes unverifiable origin stories that you'd be hard pressed to find a cocktail that doesn't have one. The story of the spicy Negroni is a case in point. The legend is that Count Camillo Negroni went into his favorite watering hole, the Casoni Bar in Florence in 1919 and asked for a little more kick in his usual drink, the Americano. That drink consists of Campari, Vermouth and soda water, so the barman obliged by swapping out the water for Gin and the Negroni was born. The sharp, bitter taste of Campari, an Italian aperitif, gives the drink its distinct flavor as well as its bright red color. The Negroni is an acquired taste, and if you find it too bitter (many do) alter the proportions to favor more gin than Campari; you can double or even triple the gin portion – Count Negroni won't



Spotlight on One of our Non-Profits

Chester County's Children, Inc.

Chester County's Children is one of the recipients of a recent grant from the Community Philanthropic Committee on behalf of the Rotary Club of West Chester. Chester County's Children provides financial aid for families in crisis, and children up to age 21 who are living in foster care.

Chester County's Children believes that no child should miss out on childhood opportunities due to financial hardship. Chester County's Children provides things that other state and county resources don't allow for such as opportunities to go to summer camp. Chester County's Children also can provide for unforeseen medical expenses,

mind. Here is the classic formula, which calls for equal parts of the three ingredients:

The Negroni
1 oz Gin
1 oz Campari liqueur
1 oz sweet Vermouth
Stir with ice, then serve over fresh ice in an old fashioned glass.

food, utilities, furniture, clothing, helping families with housing and transportation. Chester County's Children works closely with Chester County Children Youth and Families (DCYF).

Unlike other non-profits, Chester County's Children does not have paid staff. A volunteer board of directors chairs the organization, which functions without paid staff, and with minimal administration costs. The biggest impact to at-risk youth is providing summer camp experiences. In addition to donations, Chester County's Children welcomes volunteers. See their website for further information (https://chestercountyschildren.org/).

Rotary club member, Bill Friedmann, is on the board, and is a past president of Chester County's Children.

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!

Visit our Website

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

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