

Rotary Club of West Chester Quarterly Outreach - Spring 2025

Recent Club Events



The West Chester Rotary Club continues to make a significant impact in our community! We were thrilled to take first place in the non-profit division of the West Chester Christmas Parade, thanks to the outstanding leadership of Andrew Stump and Michelle Venema. This event was a fantastic opportunity to showcase our club's dedication to service and community spirit.

We kicked off the holiday season with our annual pre-Thanksgiving celebration at the Side Bar in West Chester. This cherished tradition brings members together for an evening of camaraderie, fun, and gratitude before the holiday rush.

Another seasonal highlight was the Chili Cook-Off, which successfully transitioned to a new format. While our role has evolved, the Rotary Club remains a committed supporter, ensuring this beloved event continues to thrive. Our dedication to service also extends to our partnership with Fiorenza's Food For Friends (F4), as we work together to fight hunger and support those in need.

We are especially proud to celebrate Mac Neilon, the recipient of the Citizen of the Year Award from the West Chester Chamber of Commerce. His dedication to our community exemplifies the true spirit of Rotary.

As we move through 2025, the West Chester Rotary Club remains steadfast in our mission of Service Above Self.

Written by Rita Brouwer-Ancher

Upcoming Club Events



Moving into spring, there are multiple activities for Rotarians and friends coming up!

Our members are always looking for opportunities to help, be visible and take part in activities in the greater community. They will work in local parks, man tables/booths at music festivals, the annual Restaurant Festival, Melton Center Community Day, West Chester University Career Fair, and of course the annual fall Chili Cook-off. Even though we are no longer the hosts of the Cook-off, we still sponsor a booth and hand out chili samples, and also have a booth with Rotary information and swag.

Ongoing is our monthly assistance at the Community Warehouse, where we assist this important non-profit with collecting and organizing donated furniture and household items. We assist veterans, and those coming from shelters and referred by other agencies, to move into affordable housing. Continuing monthly, Rotarians will gather in relaxed and informal gatherings at members' homes for socializing. This is a new activity that was started in 2024, and already four or five members have graciously opened their homes.

New in 2025 will be the quarterly recognition of area businesses that have provided assistance of some kind to our club and/or activities. Watch for and support these businesses that, like Rotary, make an impact in our community.

Written by Cathy Palmquist



Club Member Personality

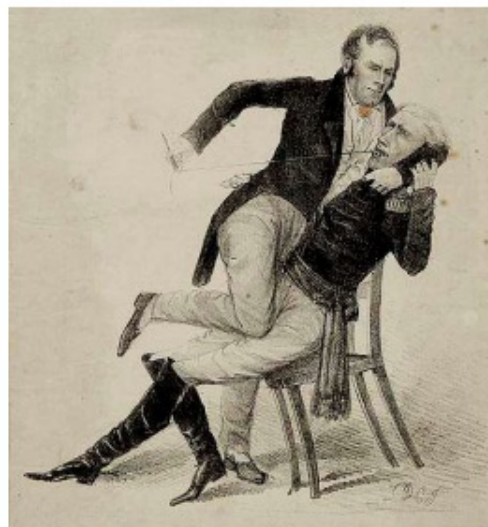
Carol Hanson grew up in the vibrant community of Strafford-Berwyn as the eldest of five in a close-knit family. With two outgoing parents, she developed a deep love for people and strong social skills. A serious illness in high school, overcome with the care of a dedicated medical team, inspired her passion for nursing and a lifelong commitment to helping others.

After earning her nursing degree, Carol began her career in pediatrics before transitioning to psychiatric care, where she earned a BS in Psychology and rose to Director of Nursing Education. She later completed an MBA in Health Care Administration and, in 1987, joined Kendal Corporation. By 1991, she became Executive Director of Barclay Friends, serving with distinction until her retirement in 2017.

A Rotarian since 1992, Carol has made a lasting impact through the Youth Exchange program, International Services, and the Eastern Caribbean Literacy project, providing 235,000+ children with books. She has served on numerous boards and chaired key Rotary initiatives. Honored with the Rotary Foundation District Service Award and named "Woman in Health," she embodies Rotary's values.

Beyond Rotary, Carol enjoys sailing the Chesapeake with her husband, Dennis, traveling, and gardening. Thank you, Carol, for your unwavering service!

Written by Anne Driscoll



A Bit of Club History

The 1998-99 Rotary year began like all others for our 127 members, but quickly broke down into a year-long power struggle between the executive branch and the press culminating in the April 1st impeachment trial of President Jim Gasho. Early in the term, Votary Editor and now Judge Jeff Sommer began unearthing irregularities in the administration. Early headlines in the Votary included "Gasho Presidency Leads to El Nino and Global Warming", "Casso Offered Immunity in Exchange for Testimony" and "Did We Even Have a Meeting?"

Alleging lousy jokes and poor time-management at the start of weekly meetings, Sommers accused President Gasho of pilfering dozens of birthday pens, growing a funny looking beard and not showing up at the club's annual picnic. In the end, despite the strong attack put forth by prosecutor Jack Wintermute, the club voted to acquit President Jim, and his beleaguered advocate Joe "Objection Overruled" Polito in the April Fools day trial of 1999.

In addition to these shenanigans, the Rotary Club of West Chester Continued to thrive. That year, Carol Hanson and Patti Jefferies ran the fruit sale. We sold 952 cases benefiting First West Chester Fire Company. Steve Quigley arranged a work day for Habitat for Humanity and Brian's Run celebrated its 25th year. The Borough of West Chester prepared to celebrate its bicentennial and Rotarians were all over the event.

Written by Bill Friedmann



Cocktail of the Quarter

by Howard Sundwall

"Cheers"

Whenever I think I've uncovered the origin story of a cocktail, I do a little more digging to verify it, and sure enough I find multiple conflicting versions. The Cosmopolitan is no exception. There's a story of a bartender in Miami creating one in 1985. Then there's a cocktail book from 1934 with another recipe called Cosmopolitan. One cocktail blog lists five different celebrity bartenders (yes, that's a thing) who have claimed the origin story. I could go on. But there's no disputing that the drink became famous from the sitcom, *Sex and the City*, in which Carrie and company ordered Cosmos whenever the opportunity presented itself (which was often). Because of this, the cocktail has gained a reputation as a ladies drink, and men, unfairly, often decline to order one, or even try it. And that's a shame. The Cosmopolitan is a tasty, even festive concoction that can and should be enjoyed by any cocktail aficionado. I urge you to order one, or make one with the recipe below. As usual there are many variants, and many call for a citrus infused Vodka, but not everyone has that, so I am posting the most basic version to get you started. (Note that the key ingredient is Cranberry Juice Cocktail – in other words, a sweetened drink à la Ocean Spray, NOT straight cranberry juice, which would produce a very tart and unsatisfactory mixture.)

The Cosmopolitan

2 oz Vodka

1 oz Cointreau or Triple Sec

1 oz lime juice (freshly squeezed)

1 oz Cranberry Juice Cocktail

Shake and strain into a martini glass, garnish with lime, lemon or orange



Non Profit of the Quarter

Bournelyf Special Camp

Bournelyf is the only summer day camp of its kind in Chester County providing outdoor recreational activities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, aged 8 and up.

It was founded in 1980 as a service project of the Church of the Loving Shepherd, a congregation welcoming people of all religious backgrounds, and one of its congregants, Jim Scanlon, a member of our Rotary Club. It was incorporated in 1989 as a PA nonprofit to support the broadening of programs, and expand the camp's ability to serve the community.

The mission of the camp is to develop participants' abilities by helping them build confidence, improve social and communication skills, and become more physically fit through challenging but achievable physical activities and interaction with others.

Bournelyf offers campers a beautiful site, a handicapped-accessible, Olympic-sized swimming pool, a pond and woods, and indoor recreational space. Three different summer day camp programs are offered to: 8 to 14 year olds, 15 to 22 year olds, and alumni, 23 years old and up. In addition to the summer camp, Bournelyf offers fun events two times per month throughout the year, and two off-site, overnight vacations for alumni.

Bournelyf has been the recipient of a grant from the Community Philanthropic Committee on behalf of our club.

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.

The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the **truth**?
2. Is it **fair** to all concerned?
3. Will I build **goodwill** and better friendships?
4. Will it be **beneficial** to all concerned?
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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 reflect 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*

