



ROTARY VOTARY

The Rotary Club of West Chester, District 7450
 Mark Daniel Maloney, International President 2019-2020
 Bulletin #32 www.WestChesterRotary.us March 5, 2020

<p>Program: March 5, 2020 Speakers: Linda Desantis and Eryn Sibley To Love a Canine Rescue, Inc.</p>	<p>Program: March 12, 2020 Speaker: Wendy Kirshner, ED Chester County Art Association</p>
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MINUTES by Cathy Palmquist

Vice President Steve Brown opened the meeting in the absence of **President Matt Holliday**, and asked **Carol Hanson** to lead us in the pledge of allegiance. **Cathy Palmquist** gave the invocation which was in two parts. The first part commemorated Black History Month, with a brief recognition of civil rights activist Bayard Rustin, who was born and raised in West Chester, and for whom Rustin High School is named. She read a few quotes from Rustin. The second part was reading of the words from a Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints' hymnal, "Let Us Speak Kind Words to Each Other," in recognition of today's program, Better Angels.

The only visiting Rotarian was Dave Barkasy from Charleston, S.C. who is a former member of our club, and was warmly greeted by our members. **Bill Friedmann** introduced his guest, Mike from Independence Financial Group, and **Kyle Rheiner** introduced Eric DeSantos. Terry Moran and Kim Walters were introduced, representing the Volunteer English Program, the agency to receive proceeds of the fruit sale. **Claudie Brock**, Honorary Rotarian, was also recognized.

Sue Flynn gave Happy Bucks as she announced receiving a grant for research into the rare disease from which her granddaughter suffers. **Rep. Carolyn Comitta** was happy to be with us, since her job keeps her in Harrisburg much of the time. **Fran Curtin** was happy that his son got his doctorate and is engaged to be married. **Jeannie McGinn** was happy to announce that Eli Kahn is giving permanent free space for the Community Warehouse Project at Schramm's. Dave Barkasy gave \$20 because he was so happy to be back with us for a visit.

Bill Friedmann announced the kick off to our annual Chili Cook-off is a happy hour this evening beginning about 5:30 at Saloon 151, winner of last year's cook-

off. This also happens to be International Chili Day. **Bob Frame** reminded members that the Chester County Historical Society is hosting its annual antiques event on March 14th and 15th at Church Farm School. **Christine Wildauer** said she needs help on Friday afternoon, March 6th to deliver fruit, and on March 7th when folks will be picking up fruit.

Dave Barkasy won the 50/50, but missed the queen. **Vice President Steve** closed the meeting with this question – why are there interstate highways in Hawaii?

SPEAKERS REVIEW by Kyle Rheiner

Last week, Cindy Heck and Derek Stedman of Better Angels spoke during our lunch meeting. Their mantra is "Putting civility back into civil discourse." It was truly an interesting, non-partisan presentation.

Better Angels is an organization that's been featured in Rotarian magazine and they're creating a movement to reduce political polarization by putting on group workshops with a goal of bringing together liberals and conservatives, forming red & blue alliances and increasing team communication skills across parties so you can have an educated conversation with your friends, colleagues and family without becoming frustrated.

The "Better Angels" name came from an Abe Lincoln quote - *We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle-field, and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearthstone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.*

Their main focus is to provide balance in conversations. They've worked with businesses and

schools their workshop hosts consist of diverse leaders and those from all walks of life and backgrounds. They want to unite, not divide.

Better Angels first began in 2017 in Ohio. They've grown to 8,800 members in the US, 7 paid staff in a NY office, and 1,200 unpaid volunteers. They've hosted 758 workshops and held 81 debates, been to 2 National Conventions and will attend the upcoming convention. They consist of 50 alliances in the US to work on local governmental issues as well.

They will conduct a workshop for any group or business (like Rotary). Examples of their Workshops include:

- Red/Blue Workshop with stereotype and fishbowl setups with equal size groups. You could actually go observe without participating.
- Improving Communication Skills and understanding the other person's point of view
- Depolarizing Workshop - This is a 3 hour event to create awareness of the other side and of your own "inner polarization"

They also offer 1 on 1 Better Angels conversations, and host "debates" where you'd provide 3-4 minutes on your stance, and the group would discuss. They've hosted these workshops with high school students while their parents observed as well. Very interesting! (and important!)

You can contact Cindy at Heckc@verizon.net www.better-angels.org or text 66866 to join.

SAVE THE DATE

- Mar 7 Pick-up of fruit at Duie Pyle
Mar 19 Recruitment- Side Bar 6 PM bring a prospective Rotarian
Mar 21 Community Warehouse Project
- Check out the Rotary Calendar of events at <http://www.westchesterrotary.us/clubcalendar.htm>
Add events: calendar@westchesterrotary.us



THANK YOU

Copies of the Votary are provided today by
Deb Sparre, Realtor, RE/MAX Direct

MONTHLY SERVICE PROJECT

Community Warehouse Project Update: Next date:
March 21 from 9-2.



BOARD of DIRECTORS

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Lynmar Brock, Past Director of RI, P.D.G. '77-78

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Votary Committee: Chair, Faith Woodward, 610-918-3432; Votary@westchesterrotary.us Web support: Judi Bell and Howard Sundwall.

Webmaster@WestChesterRotary.us Committee: Pat Barron, Brian Fahey, Gary Hess, Fran Luft, Danielle Mortimer, Cathy Palmquist, Kyle Rheiner, Patty Roos, Charles Streitwieser, Winnie Stroup