

Rotary Club of Ann Arbor for 2005-2006

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John White, Club Administrator
Don Faber, Harpoon Editor

P.O. Box 131217
Ann Arbor MI 48113-1217
www.annarborrotary.org
a2rotary@comcast.net
(734) 662-1734

Meetings: Wednesday at noon
U-M Union, 530 S. State St.

"Harpoon" is the weekly newsletter of the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor. Contact the club to subscribe by email.

The Program for July 13, 2005

Special Event: "New Members Induction, Rotary Club of Ann Arbor"

Presiding: Norman Herbert, Club President, 2005-2006

In keeping with the rich tradition of our Club, this is one of the most important meetings of the year. On this day, our second class of the 2005 year (...and it is truly a "first-class" class) will be formally introduced to you as fellow Rotarians. Each of our new colleagues brings to Rotary ---present and future--- a robust set of life experiences, and an indelible record of leadership and service successes. So, do join in as we all proudly extend the warmest of welcomes to each of our new fellow Rotarians who will wear the banner of "Service Above Self!"

Host/Introducer: New Member Sponsors and the Membership Committee

Song Leader: Downs Herold **Accompanist:** Deanna Relyea

Looking Ahead

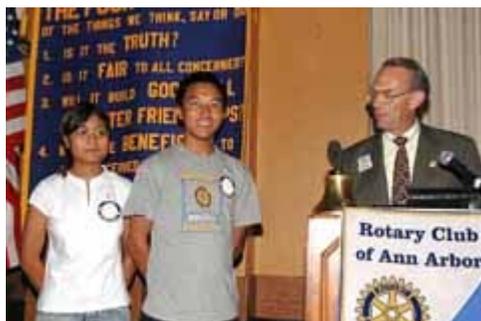
July 20 (Wednesday) – No meeting (Art Fairs)

July 27 (Wednesday) – Coach Lloyd Carr will preview the 2005 U-M Football season

August 3 (Wednesday) – Coach Tommy Amaker will preview the 200-2006 U-M Men's Basketball season

News from the Meeting of July 6

We welcomed Moni and Pem Dorjee Sherpa from the Rotaract Club of New Road City, Nepal. They recently became the first couple to get married on top of Mt. Everest. What a high! They're giving a program of that event on Tuesday, July 12, at Kerrytown Concert House at 7 p.m. The event is open to all and free. Donations will be accepted.



Sang Nam was recognized by President Norman (it's taking a while to get used to saying that) for his role in the Korean Studies Program at the U-M. Sang was featured in "Leaders and Best" magazine. The entire article is on-line at <http://www.giving.umich.edu/leadersbest/spring2005/nams.html>. In addition to reading about Sang's philanthropy, you will also learn about his background and family. One item of note is that the first names of his sons and grandchildren all begin with the letter "A." Find out why by reading the article.

The incentive for paying your dues in July is that you receive one of those neat new club pins.

Notes from the Program of July 6



Our speaker was John Hieftje, fellow Rotarian and mayor of the City of Ann Arbor whose topic was "Cities in Michigan...an Endangered Species." He said municipalities are facing a "perfect storm" in municipal finance even though property tax collections are up.

The main reason is that state and federal revenues to the cities are down. In addition, Proposal A (1994) and the Headlee Amendment make it tougher on cities in that they constrain revenue. "We don't believe the Legislature will renew statutory revenue sharing," John said.

In Ann Arbor, most expenditures go to pension, general fund, dedicated funds and capital improvements. Police and fire make up 47.4 percent of the general fund budget. Mayor Hieftje pleaded with the Legislature that "if you're not going to fund us, give us a way to fund ourselves." He suggested local sales taxes or some improvement on hospitality taxes. Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids were the only cities in Michigan which grew in the 1990s, he said. There are 72 local governments that could go bankrupt in the next five years, he said, citing a Michigan Municipal League study.

We've reduced personnel and closed a fire station among cost-cutting measures here, John said, but key challenges remain with retiree health costs, labor costs and infrastructure. "We're doing more job-sharing in such as utilities," he said. He held out the promise of regionalism as a potential way of sharing costs with other governments.

As for growth, Hieftje said "where we can grow is up. We're talking only a modest increase in density if we add 2,000 people downtown. We actually make a smaller environmental impact." He said Ann Arbor still has "a very bright future", thanks to people who get involved in local planning and downtown issues.

The News and Notes were prepared by Don Faber, Harpoon editor. Fred Beutler provided the photographs.

Other Notes of Interest

Birthdays: July 10 – Scott Westerman, July 11 – Terry Foster, July 12 – Bruce Benz and Dan Centurione, July 15 – Bob Johnston and John Laird

Make-up Cards: Ray Hunter (Ebensburg PA), Mark Ouimet (Chelsea), John Rasmussen (Durham Brede UK)

Visiting Rotarians: Our meeting was attended by three visiting Rotarians. One was Allen Auxier of Soldotna AK. He was visiting Ann Arbor. Another one was Carol Senneff. She is a member of the Iowa City Noon Club but now lives in Ann Arbor. Sandy Rupp brought her. The third was Iqbal Alavi of Karachi East in Pakistan. This was his third visit. Before the meeting, he spoke with our International Projects Committee about work being carried out by his club.

2005-2006 Dues: A total of 163 dues bills were distributed at the past two meetings, saving \$60 in postage. Thanks to the dozens of members who have paid their dues so far. The remaining envelopes have been mailed out. Also enclosed in the envelope is a copy of your most current directory listing. Please take a look at the information and mark the page as "OK" or write in your updates. Return it with your dues check. You will have until the end of July to pay your dues. An incentive to pay on time is a new club lapel pin based after our new flag design. Once your payment is made, see John White at a meeting to get your pin.

Yogurt in the Luncheon Buffet: Although the July 6 introduction of lowfat yogurt was mentioned in last week's Harpoon, a communication breakdown has resulted in the postponement until July 13.

Another Piano Player Needed: The Music Committee would like to add to the list of pianists available for our weekly

meetings. The ability to sight-read is a key requirement but do not be discouraged if you don't feel your skills are of the exceptional level possessed by our current accompanists. If you have any interest, please contact Larry Henkel for an "audition" at henkel@provide.net.

Harpoon On-line: A copy of the current week's Harpoon is available on-line at the Club website, <http://www.annarborrotary.org/Harpoon.pdf>. You will find this resource useful if you are on-line but away from email or if you want a version of the newsletter that is suitable for printing. Contact John White at a2rotary@comcast.net if you want electronic copies of back issues. Also for your reference at our weekly meetings, printed copies of the Harpoon for the past year are stored in binders that can be found in the check-in desk at the head of the food line.

Rotary Exhibit at the Library: Thanks to Josie Parker, her staff and all the donors for helping to assemble the exhibit on Rotary's Centennial. It is available for viewing in the lobby outside the basement meeting room at the downtown library (Fifth and William Streets). Here are two photos by Fred Beutler:



Civic Band to Honor Charlotte Owen: On Wednesday, July 13 at 8:00 in West Park, the Ann Arbor Civic Band will hold a free concert to pay tribute to Charlotte Owen, its musical director from 1985-2001. The band will perform some of her favorite selections, including music from Porgy and Bess, big band and movie music. Charlotte was one of our Club's first women members. She passed away on December 18, 2004.

Notes from the RI Board of Directors: At its March 2005 meeting, the RI Board of Directors ruled that any club seeking cooperation from members of more than one club must first submit its plans for district governor approval. Another decision stipulates that clubs and districts must get approval from the RI Board before soliciting financial help or participation in commercial ventures beyond their member base. Several other Board decisions were also highlighted. You can read the entire article on page 55 of your July Rotarian magazine.

Another note from the July Rotarian magazine is that page 58 is entitled "At your service" and contains a directory of RI staff and organizations that are of interest to many local Rotarians.

Can You Identify these Notable Rotarians?: Rotarians are accustomed to addressing each other by first names. "Cornelius" and "Tristram" are the uncommon first names of two members from Rotary's early years. As a clue, their celebrity is related to a major event coming up in Detroit on July 12.

That was last week's question. It must have been a tough one since no one responded with the correct answers. The Rotarians are noteworthy baseball figures. One is Cornelius "Connie Mack" McGillicuddie, a manager and owner (RCs of Philadelphia PA and Ft. Meyers FL). The other is player Tristram "Tris" Speaker, a player and manager (RC of Cleveland OH).

----- "Service above Self" -----