

Rotary Club of Ann Arbor for 2005-2006

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Don Faber, Harpoon Editor

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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 September 28, 2005

Speaker: Phil Alexander, Tour Leader, Club's Rotary Trip to India

Topic: "Our Friendship Exchange Trip to Our Centennial Twin Clubs in India"

Organized by Phil Alexander, this program will feature first a most colorful photographic presentation by Fred Beutler covering the Friendship Exchange visit by seven from our Rotary Club to our Centennial Twin Clubs in Pune Central and Bangalore Midtown. With Phil Alexander as team leader, Rotarians Elaine Alexander, Fred and Sue Beutler, Ashish Sarkar, and Jim Martin and his wife, Nancy, the team spent four days each in Pune and Bangalore. Those indeed were most memorable days crammed with project visits and many related Rotary activities. Phil also will tell us how all this trip came about and other team members will share a number of their personal highlights of this "friendship exchange" trip.

Host/Introducer: Joanne Pierson

Song Leader: Russ Collins

Accompanist: Maurita Holland

Looking Ahead

October 2 (Sunday) – Reception for Ambassadorial Scholars (see article below for details)

October 5 (Wednesday) – Lynn Rivers, former Congresswoman, "Lawmaking in Today's America: The Good, Bad, and REALLY Ugly!"

October 7 (Friday) – last day to nominate individuals for the new member class of November 9.

October 12 (Wednesday) – Official visit of District Governor Bob Baker. His topic will be, "The Four Avenues of Service." Later that day will be a ceremony to charter the Interact Club at Pioneer High.

October 19 (Wednesday) - Robert P. Kelch, M.D., UM Executive Vice-President for Medical Affairs, "The UM Health System: A Progress Report and Look toward the Future."

News from the Meeting of September 21

Jim Cook presided in President Norman's absence. We gave a nice round of applause to guest Elaine Didier, former club member and our first female president.

Smile! You're on Dave Felbeck's camera. If you want a new picture of yourself in the updated directory. See Dave after the meeting of Sept. 28 for a "re-mugging."

This will bowl you over! The club's keglers defeated Kiwanis, three games to nothing, and are in first place in the bowling league as well. It's the first time in Bill Stegath's memory the bowlers have been atop the heap.

Set aside the evening of Nov. 2. That's the date of "The Normopolitan Opera," a roast and toast of Norman Herbert to benefit

the Neutral Zone, Ann Arbor's teen center. It'll all take place at the Michigan League. For more info, contact Jaelyn Portaro at (733) 214-9995. Note Ann Schriber is one of about a dozen Rotarians involved with this event. You may wish to talk to her at a meeting or email her at amnschriber@gmail.com. Reservations must be made by October 24.



Jesse
Broman



Caroline
Cattier



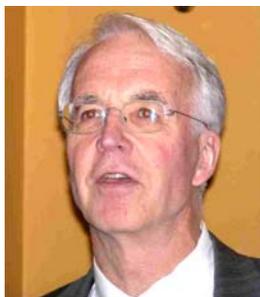
Pavel
Godfrey

Rotary tutors at Angell School have started up. Barbara DeBrodt reported a good response from Rotarians, with some left over for Burns Park. Way to step up, Rotarians!

Deadline for the next new member class is Oct. 7. See John Eman or Susan Katz Froning.

We heard from our three Junior Rotarians from Pioneer High: Jesse Broman, whose interest is music, Caroline Cattier (business) and Pavel Godfrey, undecided. They cracked us up with their very un-shylike presentations.

Notes from the Program of September 21



Ned Gramlich

Ned Gramlich, retired governor of the Federal Reserve Board and recently-named interim U-M Provost, spoke about inflation and monetary policy. Twenty-five years ago, he said, developed countries had double-digit inflation; today, developed countries have inflation in the 1-2 percent range, "so we think things are going fairly well." Even in emerging nations such as India, inflation is contained, leading to speculation whether "we're putting this problem behind us."

Monetary policy determines whether we have inflation, Gramlich said. A quarter of a century ago, central banks weren't doing their job of keeping the inflation rate down.

So what's the trick? Is it inflation-targeting programs? Should we do this here? We don't have inflation-targeting per se in the United States. The Fed's approach, said Gramlich, is verbal, which is to say we pay service to price stability. "The Fed has a judgmental, discretionary approach to inflation. We aim to keep prices stable, we don't need to write inflation reports to prove it."

Oil prices today are up, futures prices as well; that's unlike the energy crunch of 1973 when only current oil prices were high. How far do we go here? Inflation in the 1970s was double-digit; today, it's low.

Ned gave us a mental experiment. "Imagine I give you \$10,000. Your choice is to spend that money on a catalogue of goods and services at today's prices or that same catalogue at prices five years ago. Which would you choose?" On a show of hands, Rotarians gave a narrow edge to prices at this year's level. But since the voting was so close, "50-50 makes my point," said Ned, to much laughter. The indifference is what the central banks are working for – it shows the value of money is stable. And that's my defense of Fed policy."

In the Q. and A., a question about housing prices prompted Ned to say that "this is a raging debate among monetary economists." Inflation is not the problem, but deficits are too high and debts are too high.

The News and Notes were prepared by Don Faber. Dave Felbeck provided the photographs.

Meeting Statistics: Our reported attendance at this day's meeting was 137 members. We had one visiting Rotarian, three Junior Rotarians and nine guests. In addition, a total of 36 members participated in the meetings of five committees.

Other Notes of Interest

Birthdays: September 25 – Pete Eberbach and Tom Kauper, September 26 – Gene Chang and Beth Fitzsimmons, September 29 – Deanna Relyea, September 30 – David Anderson and Anne Glendon, October 1 – Bill Martell.

Make-up Cards: Brad Bowersox (Ann Arbor North and Chelsea)

Visiting Rotarians: Douglass Gross of the Ann Arbor Briarwood Club visited us as a guest of Sang Nam.

Ambassadorial Scholar Reception: The Ambassadorial Scholar Reception and Orientation is Sunday, Oct. 2 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. This annual fall event brings together scholars, hosts, District officers and Rotarians. John Rasmussen is looking for a Rotarian to work with the scholars to arrange scholar club visits. If you are interested in working with Ambassadorial Scholars, call John 734-995-8483 or request more information by emailing him at A2Appraisal@aol.com.

Rotarians in the News: An article on the restoration and expansion of the Yankee Air Museum in the Ann Arbor News of September 22 featured a photo of Dennis Norton with Jack Lousma, an astronaut and Ann Arbor native. Dennis is president of the Michigan Aerospace Foundation, the museum's sister organization that is charged with raising \$50 million for the project. The entire article is on-line at <http://www.mlive.com/search/index.ssf?/base/news-14/1127400054147430.xml?aanews?NEA&coll=2>. The cover photo of the November issue of the Ann Arbor Observer is a painting of the Irwin Building, headquarters of Wolverine Technical Staffing, Jim Irwin's company.

The October Rotarian magazine: Among the articles contained in the latest issue are the reminder that October is Vocational Service Month (see article below) and an extensive body of information, including registration forms, for the 2006 Convention which will be held in Malmö, Sweden and Copenhagen, Denmark. Also, the editors are seeking inputs from Rotarians for three future stories. The topics are second languages, family reunions and stolen identity. See page 37 for details.

October is Vocational Service Month: When professionals join a Rotary club, they do so as a representative of their particular business or profession. This gives Rotarians the dual responsibility of representing their vocation within the club and of exemplifying the ideals of Rotary within the workplace.

Vocational service focuses on:

- * Adherence to, and promotion of, the highest ethical standards in all occupations, including fair treatment of employers, employees, associates, competitors, and the public.
- * The recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, not just your own or those that are pursued by Rotarians.
- * The contribution of your vocational talents to the problems and needs of society.
- * The values expressed in The 4-Way Test and the Declaration for Rotarians in Business and Professions, which promote high ethical standards in the workplace, a central theme of Rotary throughout its history.

You can read more about this Avenue of Service on-line at http://www.rotary.org/programs/voc_act/information/about.html.

More Participation Sought for the Harpoon: At the Harpoon Planning Committee meeting on September 21, it was decided to seek help from more Rotarians in the assembly, editing and publication of our weekly newsletter. The committee members present were willing to take a greater role but it was decided that a person, or persons, with the interests, skills and technology to take the primary responsibility would be best. Anyone interested? Contact John White at a2rotary@comcast.net or 662-1734.

Katrina Thank-You Note: Following is a general email message we received from Lorena Mallock, Corporate Outreach Specialist at the Washtenaw Chapter of the American Red Cross.

“Kindly click on the subject line (http://www.redcross.org/news/ds/hurricanes/katrina_facts.html) to review the latest facts regarding the Red Cross and Katrina. We ask that you accept our apology for not being able to send weekly updates. The Washtenaw Chapter has trained 1229, deployed 90 and have 431 ready to be deployed. The Chapter is very blessed to have the number of volunteers who have stepped forward to assist in the local chapter along with those who have selected to be deployed. Financial donations to Katrina in Washtenaw County have been overwhelming (\$1.4 million). Thank You - we could not operate this Chapter without each of you!”

A number of members have contributed to the Red Cross through the Ann Arbor Rotary Endowment.

Compilation of Committee Memberships: Thanks to those chairs who have submitted their lists. Please keep them coming to John White or Downs Herold at a meeting or by email to a2rotary@comcast.net.

----- “Service above Self” -----