

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 December 14, 2005

Speaker: Mary Sue Coleman, President, The University of Michigan

Topic: "The State of the University"

We warmly welcome Mary Sue Coleman who has led the University of Michigan since being appointed its 13th president in August 2002. Our speaker will share with our Club --- news of UM accomplishments and plans, including fundraising achievements, campus construction plans, and arts offerings. President Coleman will also take questions from the audience.

Host/Introducer: Cynthia Wilbanks

Song Leader: Henry Johnson

Accompanist: Tom Strode

Looking Ahead

December 21 and 28 – No meetings. Enjoy the Holiday Season

December 30 (Friday) – This is the last business day of 2005. If you want your Community Service Assessment and other contributions to count as donations in this calendar year, please make sure they arrive in the Club's PO Box or are otherwise in John White's hands by noon that day.

January 4, 2006 (Wednesday) – Our regular weekly meetings resume with Ambassador Ronald Weiser speaking on "The Role of the U.S. Ambassador in Foreign Policy."

News from the Meeting of December 7

We welcomed back with a fine round of applause member Bob Foster, recuperating from a heart attack suffered in Las Vegas. Bob said he was "gaining strength" day by day.



Traveling Rotarians Vic Rosenberg and Elaine Alexander presented us with flags from trips to Houston TX (at left in photo) and Midlothian VA (at right), respectively.

John Psarouthakis had a granddaughter participating in the program of Pioneer choirs today.

Jim and Millie Irwin were recently recognized by the Michigan Marching Band for their sponsorship of band shows. Congratulations to both.

Notes from the Program of December 7



We were entertained by two choirs from Pioneer High under director Kenneth Westerman.

Caught quite unaware, Ken was honored with Rotary's Distinguished Service Award and a Paul Harris Fellowship for his 25

years of sharing choir music with us at Rotary. Bob Pratt said a few words (full text below) as President Norman presented the plaque. Ken received a standing ovation and, incidentally, the choirs never sounded better.



Ken Westerman receives the award from President Norman

The News and Notes were prepared by Don Faber, Harpoon Editor. Fred Beutler has returned to his familiar post as photographer. Thanks to Bill Dunifon and Dave Felbeck for filling in during Fred's recuperation.

Meeting Statistics: Our reported attendance at this day's meeting was 140 members. We had one visiting Rotarian and were also joined by fourteen guests. Just before lunch, a total of 23 members participated in meetings of the Directory, Rotary Tutors, International and Communications committees.

Memories of a Choir Concert Past: This one comes from Bob Buchanan during his year as Club President. "On the day of the Pioneer Choir Rotary concert in December, 2000, a snow storm closed the University and the public schools. Several Rotarians called and asked if the meeting is canceled. I called the Union, was told that the tables were set and food was being prepared so decided to go ahead with the scheduled meeting. Bob Pratt said he would try his best. About 15 to 20 Pioneer choir members struggled through the snow to the Union without their robes. Ken Westerman rehearsed the few who made it. They entered the Ballroom and sang their hearts out! At the finale, the Club was instantly on their feet with very few dry eyes, thanking the little group of singers for a superb performance."

Other Musical "Notes" (pun intended): Many Rotarians throughout the world have been musically inclined. Here is a sample of five: Sir Harry Lauder, entertainer, Scotland (RC Glasgow), Franz Lehar, composer, Austria (RC Vienna), Georges Octors, orchestra conductor, Belgium (RC Brussels, Brabant), Sigmund Romberg, composer, USA (RC New York City) and Jean Sibelius, composer, Finland (RC Helsinki-Helsingfors).

Other Notes of Interest

Birthdays: December 13 – Geoff Baker, December 14 – Joel Berger and Pam Horiszny, December 18 – Robben Fleming, December 20 – Mary Jo Callan, Lee Danielson and Paul Wright, December 23 – Verna McDaniel, December 25 – Brooks Sitterley, December 26 – Bob Holmes, December 28 – Ken Fischer, December 30 – Bob Ause, December 31 – Chris Conlin.

Make-up Cards: Elaine and Phil Alexander (Brandermill Club of Midlothian VA on 12/1), Dave Keosaian (Mt. Penn Club of Reading PA on 11/23) and Vic Rosenberg (Galleria Area Club of Houston TX on 11/28)

Visiting Rotarians: Eileen Heasley of Troy was our sole visiting Rotarian this week. She is featured in the Upfront section of the December Rotarian magazine. The article is on page 10.



Lend a Hand to the Rotary Tutors: Do you like to read to five-year olds? You could do it every week for 10 weeks if you volunteer to take over Beth Fitzsimmons' two kindergarten classes at Angell School on Tuesdays from 12:30 to 2:00pm. Josie Parker will help get you started. Please contact Barbara Debrott for more information at 426-2267 or bardebro@umich.edu.

District 6380 News: The December issue of the District 6380 News has been posted on the website at http://www.clubrunner.ca/Data/6380/html/7175/District_6380_December.pdf. In addition to the District Calendar in a sidebar, the front page includes a wrapup of the recent Foundation Gala and some notes on December as "Family Month." Inside are articles on Rotary Youth Exchange, the Veterans History Project and the next Group Study Exchange, among

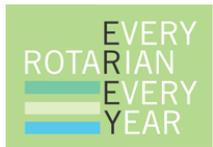
others. As you may recall, the District 6380 website has a new URL. It is <http://www.rotary6380.org>. Also on the website is a flier for an in-depth class on building BioSand water filters that will be offered in Grand Rapids from February 21-25. Details are at <http://www.clubrunner.ca/Data/6380/html/7027/workshopfinal.pdf>

Personal Connections: Fran Hoffman, wife of the late Bob Hoffman (our President in '92-'93) and now living in Illinois, has enjoyed receiving a copy of the Harpoon over the past several years as one way to keep up on what is going on with friends in Ann Arbor. Their daughter, Jane Kimball, has just written to tell us that Fran is now suffering from Alzheimer's to the point where she cannot comprehend what she is looking at. Jane relates that Fran is still pretty good with names and would love to hear from friends in Ann Arbor. If you have some memories you would like to share with Fran, please send them to Jane at jhkimball@sbcglobal.net. Both of them send warm holiday greetings to everyone in the Club



Community Service Assessment Billing Update: Bills were handed out at the last two meetings with the remaining envelopes mailed on December 7. If you get your check in by December 30 by noon, we will make sure it is deposited in time to count as a donation in this calendar year. Note to our members who joined in 2005: You paid a prorated share of this assessment when you joined and so are excused from this bill.

New Printed Directories: Over a hundred copies have been distributed so far. They will continue to be offered to members at upcoming meetings for \$5.00 or by mail at \$6.75. Electronic versions are also available. Contact John White at a2rotary@comcast.net.



“Every Rotarian, Every Year” Campaign: A few more contributions have arrived as we begin close in on last year's final total. As specified before, checks for donations should be made out to “The Rotary Foundation” but mailed to the club address or handed to Downs Herold or John White at this week's meeting. For contributions that are received in the Club's PO Box later in December, we will make every effort to see that they get to The Rotary Foundation in time to be counted as a donation in calendar year 2005. The Foundation will send you an appropriate receipt.

Bob Pratt's Tribute to Ken Westerman: Here is the full text of Bob's remarks:

“It is an honor and pleasure to introduce my friend and colleague, Kenneth Westerman, to the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor's Distinguished Service Award on this, his 25th Winter Concert for us.

Ken comes from a musical family. His father was a voice teacher and author of a textbook on singing. His mother was a vocal music teacher at Slauson School. Ken is an Ann Arbor native and was raised on Granger Street, in the house where he still lives, just across the street from the late William D. Revelli, who was Ken's mentor.

I first met Ken when he sang in my choir at Pioneer High. He was also a member of the hockey team there, which won two state championships, plus the football and soccer teams; a three-letter man! When he graduated from Pioneer, he toured Europe with the Youth for Understanding Chorale. Then it was off to Yale University where he was a member of the Glee Club, the famous Whiffenpoofs and the Spizwinks. He has another degree from the University of Michigan School of Music. Ken's lovely wife, Cherry, also a Yale grad, is now the vocal music teacher at Slauson Middle School, a fine program and a great “farm team” for the Pioneer Choir.

They have two grown children who both sang under Ken at school; Erica, yet another Yale grad, working on her Ph.D. in Zoology at the University of New Hampshire, and Michael, who is a sophomore at Bowdoin College. They both sing at their respective schools.

Does Ken have a hobby? He sure does. He plays hockey twice a week!

Congratulations, Ken!”



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