



Rotary Club of Ann Arbor for 2005-2006

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

The Rotary Club of Ann Arbor sponsors the [U-M Rotaract Club](#) and the Interact Clubs at [Huron](#) and [Pioneer](#) High Schools
"Harpoon" is the weekly newsletter of the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor. Contact the club to subscribe by email.

The Program for May 3, 2006

Speakers: Peter West and Linda Spector of the Ann Arbor Academy

Topic: "The Ann Arbor Academy --- Building on the Best!"

The Club welcomes Peter West, Head of the Academy and Linda Spector, Special Education Coordinator, who will talk about this unique school that provides individualized and hands-on education to students with learning differences. The Academy provides a structured academic curriculum for those of average and or above-average academic potential with diagnosed learning differences, including attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and dyslexia. We'll learn why this school's motto is "Building on the Best."

Host/Introducer: Joanne Pierson

Song Leader: Don Devine

Accompanist: Joan Knoertzer

Looking Ahead

May 2 (Tuesday) – Election Day

May 2 (Tuesday evening) - Strive Banquet at WCC. Details are in the News section below.

May 3 (Wednesday) – Peter West and Linda Spector of the Ann Arbor Academy will present, "The Ann Arbor Academy – Building on the Best" (see details above)

May 5-7 (Friday through Sunday) – District Conference. Go to <http://www.rotary6380.org> for details and registration info.

May 6 (Saturday morning) - Tree Planting Session #2 – Sign up with John Laird at mmllaird@comcast.net.

May 10 (Wednesday) – Fellow Rotarian Josie Parker of the Ann Arbor District Library will speak on building expansion, growth issues, technology, the Patriot Act implications and literacy of the library in light of current times.

May 13 (Saturday morning) - Tree Planting Session #3 – Sign up with John Laird at mmllaird@comcast.net

May 17 (Wednesday) – Fellow Rotarian Joanne Pierson will tell us about "The Residential Aphasia Program at the University of Michigan"

May 19 (Friday evening) – Spring Fling at Barton Hills Country Club. See article in News section below.

Note: Details on the luncheon programs listed above can be found at <http://annarborrotary.org/may.htm>.

News from the Meeting of April 26

From the sick bay: Bob Hughes in Florida is on the mend and recovering nicely. Herb Amster is suffering from a bout of pneumonia and we wish him a speedy get-well.

Check out our coming attractions for May. Another nice job from the Program Committee.

Rotary Spring Fling is May 19, 6:00-8:00pm at Barton Hills Country Club. Cost is \$25/person. It'll be a fine time for Rotarians and their spouses and guests to dine and socialize in a comfortable venue. Register by May 15. Pick up a flyer at an upcoming meeting or get one on-line at <http://annarborrotary.org/SpringFlingFlyer2006.pdf>. Update as of April 28: three dozen attendees have sent in their reservations.

Don't forget to vote in the election on Tuesday, May 2. We have two Rotarians, Prue Rosenthal and Jan Barney Newman, running for the Library board.

Ellen Abramson reminded us of the Strive Banquet May 2 at Washtenaw Community College. Joe Fitzsimmons is the guest speaker. Time is 6:30 p.m. and tickets are \$20/person. Contact Carolyn Shear at carolyn@elwest.com.

There are two more tree plantings following the one of April 29 (see article below). The May 6 planting will be at Garden Homes Park and the one of May 13 will be at South Maple Park. We'll plant 200 trees and Ian Glassford says we need about 75 diggers and planters. Question of the day: Are you a digger or a planter?

Remember to rotate your food! June 5-17 are the dates for the food drive to benefit our county's food rescue/food bank program. Sign up your business now and contribute to the effort run by Food Gatherers. It's a Rotary project, and you can be a part.

Our Legacy Conversation, ably delivered by Jack Walker, was on Bob Foster. Bob, a past president of Rotary and Paul Harris Fellow, has been a mainstay in our community for many years, serving in leadership positions on the boards of the Hands-On Museum, Ann Arbor Y and St. Joe Mercy Hospital, to name a few. The United Way has also benefited from Bob's outstanding leadership. A graduate of the U-M Law School, Bob was the court-appointed attorney for John Norman Collins, the convicted serial murderer who terrorized Washtenaw County in the late 1960s. Congratulations, Bob, and to wife Terry, who have enriched our community in so many ways! Jack's complete notes from his conversation with Bob can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Notes from the Program of April 26



Joan Knoertzer introduced Dr. Richard Ingram and the Huron High School A Cappella choir who rendered "Music of the Americas." The choir is just back from Verona, Italy, where they participated in a mixed choir competition. The A Cappella choir and the smaller Bel Canto ensemble both won gold medals in Verona, winning more gold than anyone else at the festival. And to hear them sing is to know why!

After opening with "Somewhere over the Rainbow" and an English madrigal, President Norman stopped the program to invite Dr. Ingram to the podium where he was given our club's Distinguished Service award and an honorary Paul Harris Fellowship. "He has selflessly devoted his life to music and educated thousands of students," read his commendation. Rick's choirs have won the highest acclaim. He has been choral director at Huron since 1978.

"Ann Arbor is a wonderful place to live and grow up," said Rick, "and I'm lucky." He received a rising ovation after accepting his honors.

Back on the conductor's stand, Dr. Ingram led his young men and women in "Ave Verum Corpus," "O Magnum Mysterium" and a lively "Climbin' Up the Mountain" before taking his final bows. We are lucky to have Dr. Ingram in our town.



The News and Notes this week were compiled by Harpoon Editor Don Faber. Fred Beutler provided the photos.

Meeting Statistics: Our reported attendance at this day's meeting was 131 members. We also had two visiting Rotarians and ten guests. The Social Committee and the Rotaract Committee met just before lunch. Overall, 12 members participated.

Other Notes of Interest

Birthdays: April 30 – Hank Brown; May 1 – Jud Hoffman and Tom Roach; May 5 – Chris Mile; May 6 – Greg Cook, Nels Olson and Jack Walker

Make-up Cards from Roving Rotarians: None received this week

Visiting Rotarians: We were joined by Wim de Ruijter of Monnickendam, Netherlands and Kim Clugston of the relatively nearby Dexter Club. Wim also visited us on February 1.

Attendance Statistics for April: In our Club's monthly report to the District, we reported no changes in membership. We started and ended the month at a total of 307 members. Overall for the month, our reported attendance for the four meetings was 67%. As mentioned in an earlier Harpoon, the Club is working to ensure attendance at Club events and participation in Club activities is properly credited. It is up to the member to ensure his/her name gets recorded and the responsibility of the event leader, e.g., the committee chair, to see that the attendance list is submitted promptly to Downs Herold or John White.



Tree Planting Update: April 29 was the first Saturday in our 2006 tree planting season. Twenty-four Rotarians, three Rotaractors and a few spouses and children helped Ann Arbor Forestry Department personnel plant 60-70 trees in the Foxfire North Park. Thanks to Bill Stegath for the photo. There is still time to sign up for one or both of the next two Saturday mornings. Contact John Laird to offer your services. See him at a meeting, call him at 971-4440 or send an email to mmlaird@comcast.net.

Member Survey Update: Sam Offen reports that he has received a total of 233 completed questionnaires which is almost double the number from last year. It amounts to a whopping 76% response rate. Ever modest, he attributes this extraordinary level of success to the caring attitude of members and their use of Survey Monkey. Before Sam is hired away from us by the Gallup pollsters, he wants to thank everyone who participated and notes that he will be analyzing the results for presentation to the Board of Directors on May 16.

Rotary Bowlers Finish the Season with a Dramatic Victory [an article by Paul Glendon]: Taking to the lanes without Captain Dick Elwell (on safari in South Africa), the Rotary Bowling Team made its last outing of the 2005-2006 season a memorable one. Brooks Sitterley returned from the disabled list to lead the way by knocking down 88 more pins than his 3-game average, and the boys captured 35 of the available 40 points. As is the league custom, the final session is "position night," which meant the team was bowling against the squad immediately ahead of them in the standings. Trailing by 17.5 points when they started, our heroes wound up 12.5 points ahead -- and thanks to an almost-as-good night by their friendly rivals from Kiwanis, they even passed the team two places ahead of them to finish tenth in the 14-team league. The only aspect of the competition less than satisfactory was that acting Captain Peter Wright lost one game to a bowler who wasn't even there. Alas, such things some times happen in the heat of bowling battle, and Pete kept his equanimity and subordinated this mild personal setback to the shared enthusiasm of team success. Other team members participating in this grand finale were Chuck Olson, Greg Cook and Paul Glendon.

Legacy Conversation with Bob Foster: Here are Jack Walker's notes from his conversation with Bob:

As others have mentioned, these Legacy conversations are really a great idea. Thank you, President Norman for asking me to give this presentation. I appreciate the opportunity to learn more about one of our distinguished Rotarians and to share this with you.

Just for fun, I would like to describe a little of the background of this person before a real introduction and see if you can guess who it is. If you already know – just relax.

First of all, Our Rotarian was born in Lansing. He went to High School in Holt, MI and was a star athlete and especially

outstanding in Baseball and Football. (That eliminates many of us!). He was Offered a tryout by the Detroit Tigers but decided to go to college instead (I think he now secretly wishes that he would have given the Tigers a shot!). He graduated from the University of Michigan Law school in middle 60s and became a very successful and distinguished attorney (with his own firm and other firms here in Ann Arbor). OK, This will be a give away to know who it is...

Do any of you remember John Norman Collins? Well... as I recall, John Norman Collins was convicted of one murder in a series of linked murders between 1967 and 1969 here in the Ann Arbor area. Our Legacy person was appointed by the court to represent John Norman Collins. And during the first visit, Collins asked our Rotarian to do some smuggling for him. (I think this was declined) Now, so all of you will know who it is ... He has 2 grown sons and 5 grandchildren and is married to our own Rotarian, Terry. Who else but Bob Foster!

Bob has been member of Rotary for over 30 years and I'm sure that most of you know that Bob is a past president of our Ann Arbor Rotary Club and was also awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship. In addition to a very distinguished Law Career, Bob somehow found time for many, many community service projects. I found it interesting that Bob's community service is quite broad and ranges all the way from coaching little league teams to chairing boards. Bob has also received numerous Awards and Honors for his community work:



He received the Washtenaw United Way Big "W" Award for Service to Community and Nation. (Bob and Terry were joint recipients)

I must say that when I was looking over all of Bob's accomplishments and community activities, for a while, I thought that since there was so many that they must all be combined somehow with Terry's... but they both seem to have a long list individually. For example – Bob received the Ann Arbor Jaycees, Distinguished Service Award and other types of recognition from various community groups. In addition to these community service awards, something else that is quite impressive and I think Bob is especially proud of -- He won four State Doubles Handball Championships and also a U. S. Regional Handball Championship.

Let me mention some of the other offices and boards that Bob has served. He is on the Board of Directors of the Washtenaw United Way, and has been the Board Chair and he has been on the United Way of Michigan Board as well. Bob has served on the Ann Arbor Board of Education and Board of Trustees (some of this service was back in the 80s when there was a teachers strike and the telephone numbers of School Board members were put in the newspaper – he got many telephone calls from people angry with the teachers.) Other boards that Bob has served include (this is just some of them): First of America Bank, Ann Arbor Hands on Museum, Ann Arbor area Chamber of Commerce, St Joe Mercy Hospital, McPherson Hospital and the Ann Arbor YMCA. So, how does one make time just to go to all of the meetings much less find time to do the associated work?

Any humorous events? It was interesting to talk with Bob about his long and successful career as an attorney, Over the years as an attorney, Bob has met many good people and has run into some characters with questionable credibility, but apparently one of the biggest lies was one that he heard right here at AA Rotary. Being a relatively new Rotary member, this certainly surprised me. (maybe some of you are familiar with this big lie). This occurred when he was asked about becoming President of Rotary, and as part of that discussion, he was told with great sincerity --“Don't worry Bob -this Club just runs itself”

In addition to his professional and community service work, Bob continues to have many outside interests. As many of you know Bob and Terry spend much of the summer at their cottage on Burt Lake. And Bob enjoys Golf, handball, tennis... and maybe he could still help the Detroit Tigers

Family - Even with having a successful professional career and all of his accomplishments, Bob's family remains as the most important aspect in his life. As I mentioned earlier, Bob and Terry have two sons (Rotarian Mark and David) and five grandchildren. And finally, an important part of Bob's legacy to know is that some of his favorite things to do are --- a round of golf with his sons and spend an evening at home with his family and grandkids.

Bob's father was especially influential in Bob's life and taught him the important idea “ of giving back to the community”. And obviously, Bob seems to have learned that very well.