



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.
Copies of recent editions are available online at <http://annarborrotary.org/harpoon.htm>

The Program for May 10, 2006

Speaker: Josie Parker. Director of Ann Arbor District Library
Topic: "The Ann Arbor District Library - A Look into the Future"

The Ann Arbor District Library marked its 10th anniversary this past December after separating from the Ann Arbor Public Schools in 1995. As we will learn from Fellow Rotarian Josie Parker, the decade has been one of great success and tumult. Rapid changes in information technology and public policy stressors create an environment of consistent change --- and change is neither free nor inexpensive. Given this, however, Ann Arbor has one of the finest library systems in the state and beyond.

Host/Introducer: Beth Fitzsimmons **Song Leader:** Jim Irwin **Accompanist:** Maurita Holland

Looking Ahead

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. Details are contained in the flyer available at the meeting or on-line at <http://annarborrotary.org/SpringFlingFlyer2006.pdf>

May 24 (Wednesday) – Speaker: Jan Garfinckle, Partner, Aboretum Ventures and President of the Michigan Venture Capital Association will speak on, "Venture Capital's Role in Michigan's 21st Century Economy"

May 31 (Wednesday) – Former Ann Arbor Rotarian (and our first female president) Elaine Didier, Director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum will present, "The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum: A National Treasure"

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

News from the Meeting of May 3

In news about members, we have to report that Bob Hughes has had a setback and remains in intensive care. Cards and letters are welcome.

One of our visiting Rotarians was Markey Butler, who presented us with a flag from Snowmass CO. Good to see Markey again.

Dave McDowell gave us a flag from Mt. Vernon, Ohio, courtesy of his daughter who was honored as Junior Rotarian by that Club. Dave noted it was a maize and blue flag “from deep in Buckeye country.”

Tree planting goes well. Rotarians planted 70 trees at Foxfire North Park and we viewed slides of the planting during Wednesday’s program, thanks to the camera of Bill Stegath. The last tree planting is May 13 at South Maple Park.

Rotate your Food is June 5-17 and if you haven’t signed up your business, do so now. This Rotary project is in conjunction with Food Gatherers.

Our Spring Fling is Friday, May 19, 6-8 p.m., at Barton Hills Country Club. Cost is \$25/person. Make your reservation by May 15 or see Millie Danielson.

Congratulations to Jan Barney Newman who was elected to the Library Board at Tuesday’s election.

Notes from the Program of May 3

Joanne Pierson introduced Peter West and Linda Spector, Head of the Academy and special education coordinator, respectively, of the Ann Arbor Academy (<http://www.annarboracademy.org>). They spoke on “The Ann Arbor Academy – Building of the Best!”

Kids at the Academy are perceived as failures, Peter said. The Academy is a school for kids with learning difficulties, ADD, etc. The school is located at 111 E. Mosley. About 80 kids are in the Academy, many attend for 2-3 years and then go back to public school.



Linda Spector and Peter West

Linda Spector said grades 1-6 are “growing rapidly.” The children get training in basic skills in a structured environment. There is no dress code. “Kids are allowed to express themselves in clothes,” Linda explained. “They can then relax and take the risks that come with learning. Hands-on learning allows kids to formulate their thoughts, transfer their skills and organize their lives.

The teacher/student ratio at the Academy is 1:8. “We change what doesn’t work. We problem-solve and find another way,” Peter said. A collaborative faculty works together to meet student needs. “We support each other,” he said. “In time, this translates to progress.”

The Academy is not a therapeutic school; its emphasis is not on the behavioral side of students. There are special classes for reading and writing. There is an emphasis on fine and performing arts, on desktop publishing and web design.

Academy traditions include a Thanksgiving ceremony that includes dinner with parents and a touch football game. Alumni can look back and say, “Yes, I did that, too!” There is also an engineering field day and a chess tournament. “We’re gritty, we’re downtown, we’re urban, we’re not snobby,” was the way Peter West put it. The kids do community service, too, such as making decorations for Mott Children’s Hospital and organizing a canned food drive.

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 156 members, another great turnout. We also had three visiting Rotarians and eight guests. The Interact, International and International Outreach Committees met just before lunch. Overall, 18 members participated. On May 3, a total of 24 Rotarians planted trees in Foxfire North park.

Other Notes of Interest

Birthdays: May 7 – Stephen Postema; May 8 – Phil Klintworth; May 9 – Gae Miller; May 10 – Wayne Colquitt; May 11 – Flip Connell; May 13 – Bob Green.

Make-up Cards from Roving Rotarians: Don Devine (Gardner MA on April 27); Ray Hunter (Ebensburg PA on April 18); Mark Ouimet (Dexter on April 27) and Pete Richards (Ann Arbor-North on April 20).

Visiting Rotarians: We were joined by Todd Lockhart, President-elect of the Novi club, Dick Rosenfeld of Jackson and Markey Butler, formerly a member of our club but now part of the Rotary Club of Snowmass Village CO.

Members in our Thoughts and Prayers: As of Sunday, May 7, we learned that Herb Amster has left the hospital and is home to continue his recovery. Our most recent news on Bob Hughes is that he is still in intensive care. We were told he derives enjoyment and encouragement from cards and letters so a special email message was sent to all current club members. It provided his address and suggested the transmittal of good wishes.

Tree Planting Update: May 6 was the second Saturday in our spring 2006 tree planting season. Here are a few photos.



In the photo at top left, you have indisputable evidence that John Laird can do more than just carry a clipboard and “encourage” participation by others. There is still time to sign up for the final Saturday morning (May 13). Contact John Laird to offer your services. See him at a meeting, call him at 971-4440 or send an email to mmllaird@comcast.net.

Meet your Club Leaders: This is the first in a new series of Harpoon articles to acquaint members with the roles and responsibilities of the various leadership positions within the Club. Thanks to Ian Glassford for providing the details and insights on his position.

“As the director responsible for ‘Community Service,’ I observe and act as a liaison to the board of directors. I oversee the following committees: Community Allocations, High School Scholarships, Strive, Community Spotlight, Tree Planting and Rotate your Food. These committees are self-driven and need little tutoring from me. What they may bring to my attention is a special need or funding request for a program they are delivering. I then help to articulate these needs to the club leadership.

All of these committees are active, the most active being Strive for the nine months of the school year. This committee helps

with Ann Arbor's alternative high school for "at risk" children. The committee has expanded its duties to involve awarding community college scholarships, mentorship, awards and recognition, and "at work" field days that incorporate local/regional businesses in work-related experiences. The 20-plus members of the committee come from all walks of life including education and business and share the same desire to see young people succeed.

The other committees mentioned generally have a specific period during the year when their activity takes place. There is usually planning involved, but committee time is minimal. These activities are good hands-on experiences whereby the volunteers and committee members can see the results of the work soon after the program/project is completed.

Finally, the financial engine that drives the programs delivered through our committees is our club dues and community service allocation. In addition, our annual fund raiser provides funding specifically for Strive and the tree planting effort. The committee that handles this fund raiser has members, directors, leaders and volunteers from across the Community Service landscape. All pitch in to maximize the dollars needed to fuel Strive and trees. This committee works for six months in preparation for the fund raiser."

Note: Other Club officers, directors and committee chairs can expect to hear from Don Faber seeking a few paragraphs on their position. If you hold one of these positions, you can contact him for details and scheduling.

Want to be Published?: If you yearn to write but are not quite ready to produce a major novel, why not try your hand at articles for the Harpoon? A paragraph or two on occasion is all that is needed to become a valued contributor. For example, you can report on a Rotary activity or document the plans, progress and accomplishments of your committee. The possibilities abound! You may contact Don Faber or John White to discuss the opportunities or simply submit a draft article to jtwhite@umich.edu. Thanks.

In the May Rotarian Magazine: Each member (including those in our class of March 8) should have received the May issue last week. RI President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammer's opening message expanded on his observation that "Cooperation is the key word for the future of Rotary." He cited the most obvious example of collaboration, that of Rotary and the United Nations in working to eradicate polio and urged "Rotarians, clubs and districts to continue to look for partners when conducting a project, large or small." Our club's cooperation with the two Jackson clubs on the Lingap Center project is a good local example. A feature article of special interest to us is the one on how to run a successful golf outing. Based on our past outings, it seems we have almost all their suggestions covered. Moreover, the fourth annual edition of our event (coming up on September 11) will probably generate some ideas that the magazine can use for their next article!

A Thank-you Note from a Former Junior Rotarian:

Dear Rotary Club members,

I am pleased to inform you that I have applied and been accepted to Albion College, in Albion, Michigan. I will be in the pre-med program and minor in music. I thoroughly enjoyed the two Rotary meetings I attended and found the discussion stimulating. Thank you again for the honor of being admitted as a Junior Rotarian.

Sincerely, David Merigian

Report from the District Conference: President Norman has returned from last weekend's District 6380 Conference. He reports that it was very good and encourages others, especially club leaders, to attend. He says that a district conference is valuable in that it provides individual members with a better perspective of how Rotary is organized and works. Next year's conference is April 27-29 in E. Lansing at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center on the Michigan State University campus. The theme is "Have Fun!"

Group Study Exchange 2007: President Norman also brought back some information on next year's Group Study Exchange. As background, a GSE is a unique cultural and vocational opportunity for business and professional men and women between the ages of 25 and 40 who are in the early years of their professional lives. The program provides travel grants for four to six weeks to exchange visits between paired Rotary districts in different countries. Each team is composed of non-Rotarians and led by a Rotarian team leader. At the conference, incoming DG Gerry Jackson announced that the GSE for 2007 will be with Thailand. Outbound dates are February 20 to March 20. The inbound visit will be during the month of April. Detailed information will be coming later this year but feel free to learn more about the program in general by going to <http://www.rotary.org/foundation/educational/gse/index.html>

"Service above Self"