



Rotary Club of Ann Arbor for 2005-2006

Norman G. Herbert, President
Ingrid B. Sheldon, Vice President
J. Downs Herold, Secretary
John G. Ackenhusen, Treasurer
Paul E. Glendon, Past President
Bernard Bedell, Endowment Chair
David R. Gunderson, Endowment Treasurer
Alphonse R. Burdi, Sgt. at Arms

Nishta Bhatia, Director
James W. Cook, Director
C. Beth Fitzsimmons, Director
Ian T. Glassford, Director
Debra Polich, Director
Raymond Rabidoux, Director
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.

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 January 11, 2006

Speaker: Mary Kerr, President, Ann Arbor Convention and Visitors Bureau

Topic: "Ann Arbor: Where the Play Begins"

Ann Arbor Area CVB President Mary Kerr will discuss the latest issues in the high energy-high expectations tourism industry. Highly-experienced in the field, our speaker will place a primary focus on Ann Arbor's own Super City Celebration plans for the 2006 Super Bowl XL. The eyes of the world will be on this major event in Detroit--and Ann Arbor will be part of it!

Host/Introducer: Deb Polich

Song Leader: Downs Herold

Accompanist: Joan Knoertzer

Looking Ahead

January 18 (Wednesday) - Brian Steglitz, Senior Utilities Engineer for the City of Ann Arbor, will speak on, "Toward a Sustainable Water Future for Ann Arbor."

January 21 (Saturday) - An afternoon of fellowship and bowling with the U-M Rotaractors. The event will be from 1:00-3:00pm at the Ypsi-Arbor Lanes (on Washtenaw at Golfside). The price for bowling and snacks is \$15. Non-bowling Rotarians are welcome, too, at \$5. Contact Joanne Pierson or Dick Elwell to sign up.

January 28 (Wednesday) - Susan Lackey, Executive Director, Washtenaw Land Trust will discuss, "The Importance of Sense of Place."

News from the Meeting of January 4

Doug Brouwer's inspired invocation came after he said he had googled "New Year's prayers" and "desperate pastors" to no avail.

There will be a closed door rehearsal for Rotarians only on Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Kerrytown Concert House for "Wine, Women and Song IV", starring Rotarians Shelley MacMillan and Deanna Relyea. WWSIV is sponsored by Rotarian Jim Irwin and his wife, Millie.

We welcomed special guest Elaine Didier, our club's first female president.

Condolences to Dallas Dort on the death of his mother, and congratulations to Ann Schreiber, a first-time grandmom.

On the subject of tutors, Barbara DeBrodt read an e-mail from the principal of Angell School. Test scores were up, thanks in

part to our cadre of Rotary tutors.

About 50 members have yet to pay their community assessment...but on the other hand, 194 members have contributed \$38,000 to the Rotary Foundation.



Joanne Pierson presented in rhyme a challenge to support the Rotaract bowling night on Jan. 21 at 1 p.m., Ypsi-Arbor Lanes. Support the bowlers and have fun, she said, while Dick Elwell added 5 major reasons to come out that afternoon. It's fun being around young people, he said, and who could disagree?

New member nominations are due Feb. 17 for the next class slated to join on March 8.

Note: Details on several of the news items above (the invocation, WWSIV, Rotaract bowling and new member applications) are contained in articles later in this issue of the Harpoon.

Notes from the Program of January 4



Beth Fitzsimmons introduced Ron Weiser, founder of McKinley Associates, who served as U.S. ambassador to Slovakia 2001-04. Ron spoke on the role of the U.S. ambassador in foreign policy. He said about one-fourth of our ambassadors are political appointees. They bring a background of management and networking, he said, unlike the career diplomat. Political appointees have real access to the President.

The role of the U.S ambassador is to build strong relationships. The State Department and the President rely on ambassadors to supply needed information. Slovakia became independent in 1989 after splitting off from Czechoslovakia. In 1998, there was an election of a new government there; the National Security Council had told Weiser "make sure the former incumbent doesn't get elected, and don't get caught!" If he was elected, the U.S. wouldn't support Slovakia and it wouldn't get into NATO or the European Union.

"I reached out to the nonprofit community," Weiser said. "We must help the emerging democracies in Europe. I raised money for a get-out-the-vote effort aimed at young, disillusioned voters. I wanted the people involved." He succeeded; there was a 74 percent turnout.

"I visited 105 Slovakian cities where I was welcomed. My message was that if you return to the old government, we won't support you." Meanwhile the State Department had told Weiser "you can't do that (raise money)" At the election, a center-right government came to power which instituted many reforms and attracted foreign investment. Result is that Slovakia is the fastest growing country in Europe, he said, while urging us to visit Bratislava. "Service," he said, "is the rent we pay for living."

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

Meeting Statistics: Our reported attendance at this day's meeting was 152 members. In addition, we had three visiting Rotarians and were joined by ten guests. Before the weekly meeting, a total of 19 members participated in meetings of the International and Distinguished Service Award committees.

Other Notes of Interest

Birthdays: January 9 – Bernie Bedell and Dave Osler, January 10 – Libby Hines and Erik Bakker, January 12 – Dale Ausherman, January 14 – Carol Senneff and Ben Wylie.

Make-up Cards: Terry Linden (Appleton WI on 12/30) and Mark Ouimet (Dexter on 11/27).

Visiting Rotarians: Denny O'Brien (president of the Ypsilanti Club), Dick Rosenfeld (Jackson) and Bryan Schindel (Cranbrook, British Columbia).



Substitute Math Tutors Needed!: If you would like to try tutoring math to a darling elementary school student, without committing yourself for a school year, how would you like to be a substitute? The regular tutor will tell you what to do, and how to do it. And you can see how you like it! Contact Barbara Debrodt at bardebro@umich.edu or 426-2267 for more information or to sign up. We need you!

Wine, Women and Song IV: The Social Committee has arranged for Rotarians and their guests to attend a closed dress rehearsal of this production at the Kerrytown Concert House. The date is Thursday, January 26. The time is 7:30. The evening promises to be full of surprises complete with laughter, tears and wine. Admission is \$15. Make your reservations by phone to 769-2999 or on the web at <http://www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com>. The event is sponsored by Jim and Millie Irwin while Rotarians Shelley MacMillan and Deanna Relyea will be among the vocalists.

Spring Fling to be May 19: Speaking of the Social Committee, they have just picked Friday, May 19 as the date for the Club's annual Spring Fling. Details will be coming later but mark your calendars now.

District 6380 Annual Conference set for May 5-7: While you are marking dates in your calendar, you may wish to note that the District 6380 Annual Conference will be held at the Radisson Plaza in Kalamazoo from Friday, May 5 through Sunday, May 7. Details will be posted in an upcoming Harpoon but you can be sure you get the information first by visiting the District website at <http://www.rotary6380.org>.



Nominations for Candidates are due February 17: (this article is reprinted from last week but with the corrected due date) The next class of new members will be inducted into the Club on March 8. New member proposals are being accepted by the Membership Development Committee (MDC) through Friday, February 17. Please contact John Eman or a member of the MDC if you have questions or need additional information. The necessary forms are available in a pocket at the bottom of the badge board or on our web site at

<http://annarborrotary.org/facts.htm>.



Interact Websites: The two Interact Clubs we sponsor maintain websites to organize their activities and document their accomplishments. The Huron club is on-line at <http://huron.aaps.k12.mi.us/organ/interact>. Ed Wier is their Rotarian liaison. The two-month old club at Pioneer is on-line at <http://www.pioneerinteract.blogspot.com>. Brandt Coultas is our liaison to their club.

A Prayer for the New Year: Here is the full text of Doug Brouwer's invocation at the meeting of January 4.

Dear God, we thank you for the year just gone by, not only for the good that we enjoyed, but also for the bad. It was in our setbacks and disappointments, after all, that we have grown deeper and wiser.

We thank you for friends who see us as we are and who, remarkably enough, still love us.

We thank you for the work we have done, without which this world would have been a much poorer place. And remind us that it is in our work, more than in our play, that our lives find their meaning and purpose.

We thank you for lively minds that allow us to travel and explore, even when we do not leave our homes. In this new year, push us to travel and explore even more, and forgive us when we cling to tired ideas and perceptions of the world around us.

We thank you for giving us a sense of humor, especially the good gift of being able to laugh at ourselves. Cultivate in us a sense of modesty, so that others have no need to do it for us.

In this new year, may we come just a bit closer to being the people we are capable of being - grateful, forgiving, tender-hearted, and alive to your presence in our lives. Amen.



SERVICE Above Self