

Rotary Club of Ann Arbor for 2005-2006

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Ian T. Glassford, Director
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Don Faber, Harpoon Editor

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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 April 26, 2006

Special Program: "Music of the Americas"

Conducting: Richard Ingram, Music Department Chair, Huron High School

The Club is delighted to welcome back more the highly talented members of the Huron High School A Cappella choir under the masterful direction of Dr. Richard Ingram. Keeping with their long and cherished tradition of presenting a spring program for our Rotary Club, the choir having recently returned from a choral competition in Verona, Italy will sing selections from their Italian tour along with musical selections of both North and South America. Let's give a robust Rotary welcome and a rousing "hats off" thank you to our Huron Choir!

Host/Introducer: Joan Knoertzer **Song Leader:** Lloyd Bastian **Accompanist:** Joan Knoertzer

Note: **We will be meeting in the Union Ballroom** for this concert. We will also have hot entrees. The price for the full buffet will be \$9.00, soup and salad will be \$7.00, soup and beverage will be \$4.50 and beverages only will be \$2.00.

Looking Ahead

April 24 (all day Tuesday) – Our Huron High Interact Club is holding a fund-raiser in cooperation with Applebee's restaurant on Green Road (just north of Plymouth Road). Clip the coupon at the end of this newsletter and take it with you

April 29 (Saturday morning) - Tree Planting Session #1 – Sign up with John Laird at mmllaird@comcast.net.

May 2 (Tuesday evening) - Strive Banquet at WCC. Contact Carolyn Shear at carolyn@elswest.com.

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

May 5-7 (Friday – 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) – Regular weekly luncheon meeting

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

News from the Meeting of April 19

Corrections from last week's Harpoon: Contrary to the information contained in this section last week, the date for the Strive Banquet is really Tuesday, May 2. Also, a correction on the condition of Bob Hughes; "I'm sorry to inform you the item in

the recent Harpoon regarding Bob Hughes is incorrect. While he is improving gradually, he is still in intensive care in Regional Medical Center in Florida. He has received almost 100 cards with good wishes, not the least of which were the ones from Rotary and many members. He appreciates them all!"

Millie Danielson announced that the annual Spring Fling, the highlight of the social season, is Friday, May 19th at Barton Hills Country Club from 6:00pm – 8:00pm. The cost is \$25 per person, partially underwritten by the Club. Give your check to Millie, John White or Downs Herold or mail it to the Club at P.O. Box 13127, Ann Arbor 48113-1217. You will not be able to pay at the door. This is a great time to bring your wife, husband or friends. To all of the new members, you should not miss this event. Update as of 4/22: Beth and Joe Fitzsimmons have the honor of being the first to sign up by mail. Attached to this Harpoon is a copy of the flyer.

Lois Jelneck described the Strive Banquet on Tuesday, May 2nd at the WCC Student Center Building, Room 121 with welcome time at 6:30 pm, dinner at 7:00 pm. The cost is \$20 per person with checks made out to the Ann Arbor Rotary Endowment. This will be an exciting evening to share in the achievements of the Strive students and scholars.

Ian Glassford called for Rotarians to join the tree-planting, scheduled for three Saturday mornings; April 29th, May 6th, May 13th from 8:30 to about 11:00 am. These planting sessions will be the largest ever. Rotarians are not limited to one session; plant at all three if you wish.

The Huron High Interact students will have a fund-raiser at Applebee's on Green Road, Tuesday, April 25th. Ten percent of the price for your meal will be donated to the Interact group. To participate, simply clip the coupon at the end of this newsletter and give it to your server.

President Norman announced that the Club has received 195 of the annual survey questionnaires. This is an excellent response but there is still room for another 100 or more. The results are essential for Club operations.

Abbie Vander Meulen reported a Legacy Conversation she had with Nishta Bhatia. The full text of her remarks is below.

John Rasmussen informed us that four Rotary scholars will come to Ann Arbor in the fall. Each needs a host. This does not require housing, rather helping the scholars with their transition into Ann Arbor life. A life-long friendship may result so talk to John if you believe that you can do this. See last week's Harpoon for more information.

Notes from the Program of April 19

Chuck Cares introduced Professor Robert Grese (in photo below), Director of the Nichols Arboretum/Matthaei Gardens. His topic was "Treasures in our Midst."



Botanical gardens at the U date back to 1837 with the first on Central Campus in 1896. Due to trampling by students, the garden was moved to the site of the present Life Sciences Building in 1902, a marshy location. Walter and Ester Nichols donated money to found the Nichols Arboretum which moved to the present Geddes Road site in 1916. In 1957, the Matthaei family donated money to start the present gardens on Dixboro Road, designed by Alden Dow who designed many of the University Buildings. Both were combined into one unit in 2004.

Today over 200,000 people per year visit the two sites which serve as a place for relaxation, an outdoor classroom for students, and locations to maintain collections of the flora of Michigan. The goal of the combination is to expand research and develop a closer community relationship.

The Matthaei Gardens now has a fence to restrict deer from coming to dinner, a children's garden, a Bonsai display, a collection of plants and trees endemic to Michigan. The Conservatory is being renovated with the addition of a demonstration of lawn care using minimal water. New trails are available for children with new signage.

The Arb is also being upgraded with an interpretative wetlands trail, restoration of the river shoreline with a stopping place for canoeists. The collection of Michigan maples and buckeyes is increased. The paved road has been replaced with a gravel road to aid water drainage.

We are fortunate to have these two treasures in our midst. They are on-line at <http://sitemaker.umich.edu/mbgna>.

The News and Notes this week were compiled by Bob Buchanan. Fred Beutler provided the photos.

Meeting Statistics: Our reported attendance at this day's meeting was 135 members. We also had one visiting Rotarian, two Interactors (Jenny An and Alexander Tang) and four guests. The Board of Directors met that morning and four committees (International, Rotary Invitational, Program and Strive) met just before lunch. Overall, 48 members participated.

Other Notes of Interest

Birthdays: April 23 – Larry Hastie; April 24 – John Debbink; April 26 – Bruce Benner, April 28 – Dave McDowell; April 29 – Deane Baker and Dan Devine

Make-up Cards from Roving Rotarians: Henry Amble (Monterey CA on March 16 and 23, Pacific Grove on March 21 and Carmel-by-the-Sea on March 29).

Visiting Rotarians: We were joined by Marian Dzimko of Zilina, Slovakia. Unfortunately, she joined us a little late and missed being introduced at the start of the meeting.



Rotarians in the News: The U-M Business School's birthday party for Paul McCracken, one of only two nonagerians in the Club, was covered in some detail by the school's magazine, "Dividend," in its issue of spring 2006. The tributes were accorded in what was described as a "light-hearted micro-roast." In addition to accolades from those present on the evening of November 26, well-wishes came from a wide range of notables, including past Presidents Gerald Ford and George H. W. Bush. Congratulations, Paul!

Notes from the Board Meeting of April 19: The report from John Ackenhusen, Club Treasurer, projects that we will be close to breaking even at year's end. Dave Gunderson, Endowment Treasurer, reported that the Endowment side is in excellent health and that the market value of the Permanent Endowment Fund is now over \$1.22 million. The board also accepted the recommendations of the Internal Financial Procedures Committee for a new set of processes, primarily involving additional and more formal oversight, to better ensure proper handling of the funds entrusted to the Club. President-elect Ingrid Sheldon announced the oversight areas for our six directors effective with the new Rotary year which begins July 1: Lou Callaway for Membership, Barbara Debrodt for Club Meetings, Peter Wright for Youth and Vocational Service, Deb Polich for Publications and Communications, Nishta Bhatia for International Service and Ian Glassford for Community Service. The Board retreat on May 16 will essentially begin the process for the new year while the "passing the gavel" ceremony on June 28 will formalize it.

Attendance Statistics for March: In our Club's monthly report to the District, we reported the loss of one member (Doug Crary), the reinstatement of one member (Judie Lax) and the admission of nine new members. We ended the month at a total of 307 members. Overall for the month, our reported attendance for the four meetings was 63%.



Umbrella Lost at the Meeting of April 12 (reprinted from last week): A small, navy blue umbrella came up missing after last week's meeting. If it found its way with you, please bring it to the meeting this week and give it to Downs or John. If you have it but can't make the meeting, call John at 662-1734 for pickup. Thanks.

Legacy Conversation with Nishta Bhatia: Here is the full text of Abbie Vander Meulen's conversation with her:

I very much enjoyed the opportunity to meet with and get to know Nishta. We have such diverse and amazing group of people in this club and weekly meetings don't always afford us the opportunity to really get to know each other.



Nishta first came to the US in 1961 with her family from India when her father was on sabbatical at Washington State University for a year. During that year she enrolled in the University to continue her college education and study education and English. After her father's sabbatical, her family moved back to India, but Nishta decided to remain in the States and finish her degree. In recounting her stories to me, Nishta could point to three specific decisions she made that she feels shaped her life. Her decision to remain in the States was the first.

After she finished her bachelor's degree, Nishta began graduate school at the University of Southern California. It was here, in 1965, that she met her future husband, Nareen. They married the next year in India surrounded by their families and

resided in Los Angeles briefly before Nareen's job transferred him to Baltimore, Maryland. While there, Nishta began teaching middle school English. They resided there until 1971, and welcomed the birth of their first child, Ranjeet. A year later, the family relocated to Ann Arbor. Nishta finished up her graduate degree at EMU and joined several organizations such as the American Association of University Women and International Neighbors. As part of these organizations she was able to make many lifelong friends that now reside across the country and the globe.

In 1975, Nareen was offered a position with his company in Madrid, and the family relocated once again for a four years to Spain. As Nishta was telling her story, it seemed that with every move the family made they added another member. And during that first year in Spain, Nishta gave birth to her second child, Meera. The now family of four, moved back to Ann Arbor in 1979, where Nishta spent the next several years rearing her children.

Once her children were grown, Nishta felt the need to get into the business world and purchased a nanny placement agency in 1989. It was shortly after this that she was wisely recruited and joined Rotary. She owned the agency for 10 years and then sold it in 1999. This allowed Nishta to become more active in the community and within Rotary.

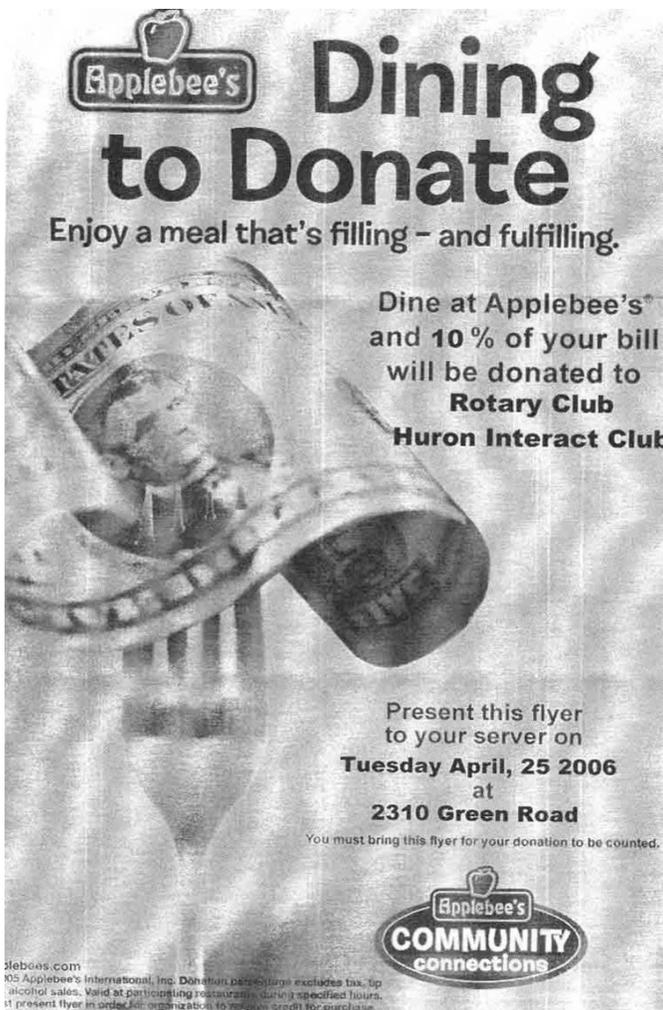
Nishta has been a member of our club since 1990. She has continued to be increasingly active in the club as a Director and she currently chairs our International Projects Committee. She has been instrumental in further developing this committee and growing its budget from \$1,500 to \$19,000 in the years she has been on the committee.

Nishta also spent 3 years as a board member of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra and as a board member of the Ann Arbor Thrift Shop, where she still volunteers several hours a week.

With all of the various organizations and projects that Nishta has dedicated her life to, she believes that her life's work, and the one that has given her the most joy was the rearing of her two children. They have carried on her love of education and for the international community. Ranjeet completed his MBA and married a woman from Norway, Elisabeth. They live in London, where Ranjeet manages a venture capital fund. The couple recently welcomed their first son and Nishta's first grandchild, Finn, on December 29th. Nishta's daughter, Meera, also completed her MBA and currently resides in Seattle where she is a project manager for Microsoft.

Nareen recently retired, and with their children on opposite sides of the globe, this has left plenty of time and reason for Nishta and Nareen to travel. Nishta has also developed a love for hiking. She has hiked in Nepal and Norway, and is leaving on April 28th for a 9-day hike in Bhutan. Nishta is also an avid reader. She is actively involved in two local books clubs and if left to herself would simply curl up with a good book.

Having never met Nishta before our interview, I found her life very fascinating and am thankful to her for her contributions to our club and our community both locally and internationally. And while conceptually this is a legacy conversation...I don't think she will be finished leaving hers any time soon.



The flyer features the Applebee's logo at the top left. The main title is "Dining to Donate" in large, bold letters. Below it, the text reads "Enjoy a meal that's filling - and fulfilling." The central image shows a hand holding a \$100 bill, with a fork and knife crossed over it. To the right of the image, it says "Dine at Applebee's® and 10% of your bill will be donated to Rotary Club Huron Interact Club". At the bottom, it states "Present this flyer to your server on Tuesday April, 25 2006 at 2310 Green Road". A small note at the bottom left says "You must bring this flyer for your donation to be counted." The Applebee's logo is repeated at the bottom right with the text "COMMUNITY connections".

Clip this flyer and take it to Applebee's (2310 Green Road just north of Plymouth) on Tuesday, April 25!