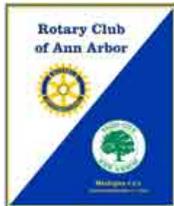


Harpoon for the Meeting of April 4, 2007

Note to email subscribers: If this newsletter does not display properly or you wish to print a copy, the .pdf (Adobe Acrobat) version is available on the Club website at <http://annarborrotary.org/harpoon.shtml>. Past copies are also available on-line.



**Rotary Club of Ann Arbor for 2006-2007**

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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 as .pdf files at <http://annarborrotary.org/harpoon.shtml>*

## The Program for Wednesday, April 4, 2007

**Committee Showcase:** Preceding the meeting at 11:00 in the Anderson Room will be the Committee Showcase session featuring our internal committees. All members are welcome. New Rotarians and others without current committee memberships are encouraged to attend.

**Speakers:** Youshiyosu Harada, Joachim Klima and Yuiko Ono

**Topic:** Ambassadorial Scholars Reflect on Their Year at U-M

Three Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholars who have spent this academic year studying at U-M and soaking up Ann Arbor's version of American culture will say hello and goodbye to their host club, sharing their experiences and observations in Michigan, their background in their home countries, and their hopes and dreams for a future made all the more bright by the life-changing experience of being Ambassadorial Scholars.

**Host/Introducers:** John Rasmussen & Neil Loney    **Song Leader:** Don Devine    **Accompanist:** Joan Knoertzer

## Looking Ahead

April is "Magazine Month" on the Rotary Calendar. Your *Rotarian* should arrive early in the month.

**April 4** (Wednesday noon) – Ambassadorial Scholars Youshiyosu Harada, Joachim Klima and Yuiko Ono wrap up their year as scholarly ambassadors to Ann Arbor by sharing their experiences, observations, hopes and dreams with their host club.

**April 11** (Wednesday noon) – U-M Admissions Director Ted Spencer will update us on U-M admissions principles and practices after the Supreme Court affirmative action decisions and Proposal 2. Preceding the meeting at 11:00 in the Anderson Room will be the Committee Showcase session featuring our external committees. All members are welcome. New Rotarians and others without current committee memberships are encouraged to attend.

Note: Details on the luncheon programs for April are on-line at <http://annarborrotary.org/april.shtml>.

**April 14** (Saturday morning and early afternoon) – District Assembly at Walsh College in Troy. Register on-line at <http://rotary6380.org/>. If you have any trouble logging in, please email John White at [administrator@annarborrotary.org](mailto:administrator@annarborrotary.org).

**April 14** (Saturday evening) – The Ann Arbor Symphony’s season finale at the Michigan Theater. For tickets, call Caitlin or Lori at the Symphony office, 994-4801

## **News from the Meeting of March 28, 2007**

Dennis Norton introduced three Interactors from Pioneer High as “Rotarians of the future.”

We signed cards for Hal Flynn, whose wife Carolyn died, and for John Laird who underwent a sextuple bypass. The memorial service for Carolyn Flynn was Saturday, March 31, at Westminster Presbyterian Church. John’s heart attack has him recovering “like an average 60 year old,” even though he’s 83. Hope to see you soon at Rotary again, John.

Don’t forget the Committee Showcases April 4 and 11. Learn what Rotary does and how it does it.

Sam Offen says the annual survey is up and running. You can go online for it or there will be paper versions.

If plantings are your cup of tea (or tree), sign up for the April 28 tree planting at Leslie Park. Rain date is May 12. Tree guru Ian Glassford will have more to say on this in upcoming weeks.

The social committee reminds us of the following future events: the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra concert on April 14 and the Spring Fling on May 4 at Barton Hills. Make your reservations by April 30 if you’re planning to attend this fun annual event. The registration form is on the website at <http://annarborrotary.org/RotarySpringFlingFlier2007.pdf>

Mentors are still needed for Rotaract. Do you hear your name being called?

Fifty-four Rotarians were cited (and given certificates) as new member sponsors. We appreciate these efforts to keep our club vigorous and growing.

## **Notes from the Program of March 28, 2007**



John Bacon

Al Burdi introduced John U. Bacon, noted local author, radio host and general all-around bon vivant, speaking on the six months he spent with Cirque du Soleil. This outfit started 23 years ago as a band of street performers in Quebec and is now a billion dollar company with more than 350 employees worldwide. John described how Cirque sparks creativity in its people while running a successful business. “Nobody manages creativity better than Cirque,” John said, who flew to Montreal in early 2005 and did everything the performing troupe did.

“The need to create and innovate is getting tougher in today’s world,” John said. Cirque takes the attitude “we don’t get here by playing it safe. You have to roll the dice.” You also have to show people something they haven’t seen before to get (and keep) their attention. Cirque works individually and collectively; individually, they address one’s fears and get you to try everything to admit your fears, John said.

John worked the trapeze (“to fall is fine, it’s the sudden stop that will kill you”), the fitness thing and the head mold. The latter was his worst fear. For 30 minutes, you have to hold perfectly still while they put your head in a mold. “You have straws in your ears and in your nose, but you are unable to speak. You have to get over any feelings of claustrophobia,” said John. It worked for John; he became almost meditative and says he’s a different person. “I addressed my fears and stared them down,” he said.

Cirque says to create an atmosphere where sparks fly. You promote collaboration (not to be confused with a committee!), conflict and constraint. With constraint, ideas are generated and you find solutions. What kills creativity? Well, red tape, bureaucracies and a wet blanket attitude. Every job gets boring, but you just get up and do it, the muse will come, John said. To achieve success, you have to risk spectacular failure – that's Cirque's modus operandum.

The News and Notes were prepared by Don Faber. Fred Beutler provided the photographs.

**Meeting Statistics:** Our reported attendance at this day's meeting was 134 members. We also had five guests, one visiting Rotarian (Brent Lofgren from Ann Arbor North) and three Pioneer High Interactors (Promita Chakraborty, Alina Charniauskaya, and Kathy Kong). Prior to the luncheon, seven members of the Rotaract committee met. In addition, five members of that committee reported attendance at Rotaract meetings earlier in March.

## Other Notes of Interest

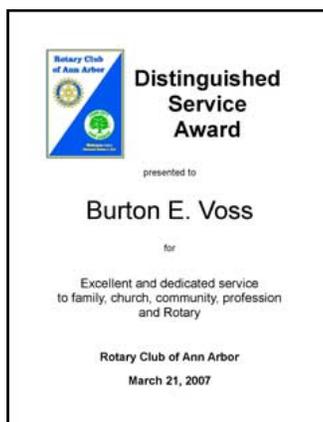
**Birthdays:** March 27 – David Sarns; March 29 – David Behen (oops! Those two new members were overlooked last week); April 2 – David Felbeck, Jerry Gray, Jim Kosteva and Ted McLogan; April 3 – Bettye Elkins; April 5 – Barbara Bryant and Mary Hays.

**Make-up Cards from Roving Rotarians:** Neil Bidwell (Key West Sunrise on March 9, 15 and 23); Barbara Bryant (Scottsdale AZ on March 12 and 26. The "meeting" on the 26<sup>th</sup> was actually a club field trip to a spring training baseball game); Betsy Hammond (St. Joseph Lakeshore on March 15); Reno Maccardini (Palm Beach Gardens FL on March 20) and Mark Ouimet (Chelsea on March 27).

**Monthly Membership Report to the District:** We started the month with 303 members (not counting our three Honoraries). We inducted thirteen new Rotarians and had one resignation. Thus, we completed March with a total of 315 members. That total puts our club among the largest 50 in the world! Our attendance for the month was 52%.

**Rotarians in the News:** Nothing significant so far this week but be sure to check the bulletin board next to the check-in desk for the latest. One newsworthy, but likely unpublished, accomplishment was Chuck Olson's performance on the Rotary bowling team. On March 29, he threw a 254 game on his way to a series of over 600! The bad news is that his Gold team was competing our Blue team.

**DSA for Burt Voss:** Here is the full text of the narrative used by Scott Westerman on March 21.



The Distinguished Service Award is the highest honor presented by this Rotary club. It is given selectively to those whose lives give very special expression to our motto "Service above Self." Today's honoree truly deserves this recognition. Will Burton E. Voss, better known as Burt, please come forward?

Burt was born in Fulton, Illinois, and graduated from high school there. His undergraduate degree was from Central College in Iowa, where he majored in chemistry and biology. His two graduate degrees, an M.S and a Ph.D., were awarded by the University of Iowa, focusing mainly on the sciences. His first professorial appointment was at Penn State, from where he came in 1963 to accept a professorship at the U of M School of Education, where he served with distinction for the next thirty years.

Burt's excellence and dedication have been demonstrated in many areas. Today, we're looking at five. First, his family - Husband to Jackie, father to their three sons, Bob, David and Mark, and grandfather to seven grandchildren, all of whom are, of course, spectacular, one even serving as a member of the Michigan Marching Band.

Second, his church Service as an Elder (twice) and Deacon at First Presbyterian Church, while also providing

leadership for the Campus Ministry to Students, especially through membership on the Board of Directors for the Ecumenical Center and International Residence for more than seven years, frequently in the role of treasurer.

Third, his community A regular member of the Board of Directors for his Condo Association, providing leadership as president for five years.

Fourth, his profession Directing more than 75 doctoral dissertations in his role as Professor of Science Education at the U of M. Recognized in a host of ways for his many contributions beyond the university at the national and state levels, some of which are as follows: President of the National Association of Biology Teachers, President of the School Science and Mathematics Association, President of the Michigan Association of Science Specialists, consultant and advisor to many other related national and state organizations, contributing to the literature in his professional field. As a result of his excellent leadership, he received many awards and honors. To name only a few: the National Science Teachers' Distinguished Service Award, The Robert Carleton Award for National leadership in Science Education, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Michigan Science Teachers' Association.



Burt Voss and family

Fifth, our Rotary During his twenty years as a Rotarian, he has been important in a variety of ways. On this occasion the focus is on the key role he played in promoting and building the Club's endowment, helping it to achieve its challenging million dollar goal.

Please express to Burt your gratitude for all he has done and your congratulations for having been chosen as a recipient of the club's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award.

**Shrunken Overcoat Still Missing:** If you have black men's overcoat that you may have worn to the meeting on March 21, please check to make sure it is yours. If not, please bring it back and trade it in for a longer one.

**Links of Interest:** Below is a list of links to various websites that will be of interest to Rotarians.

• **Rotary International:** <http://rotary.org/>. The RI home page has links to About Rotary, The Rotary Foundation, Club Locator and Member Access. Registration information for the Annual Convention in Salt Lake City from June 17-29 is also on-line at: <http://rotary.org/events/conventions/2007/index.html>.

• **Zone 28:** <http://www.zones27-28.org/>. The zone level is between RI and the district. We are part of a zone with 15 districts covering the lower peninsula of Michigan, the upper parts of Indiana and Ohio and even a bit of Pennsylvania and New York.

• **District 6380:** <http://rotary6380.org/>. This is the website for our district. District 6380 covers a total of 50 clubs in the counties of Washtenaw, Livingston, Oakland, Macomb in Michigan and Kent in Ontario. The district's monthly newsletter, as well as individual articles of district-wide interest, are also posted here. The latest postings, 2007 RYLA Registration Forms, the March District Newsletter and on-line registration for the District Conference which will be held in East Lansing from April 27-29.

• **Rotary Club of Ann Arbor:** <http://annarborrotary.org/>. This is our Club's own website. It contains a great deal of background material and current information such as the Club brochure, the current Annual Report, New Member Nomination Form, Committee Descriptions, synopses of upcoming programs and an archive of current and past Harpoons. Our club also sponsors the following Rotaract and Interact Clubs:

• **U-M Rotaract Club:** <http://www.umich.edu/~rotaract/>

• **Huron High Interact Club:** <http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/huron.interact/home>

• **Pioneer High Interact Club:** <http://www.pioneerinteract.blogspot.com/>

**“Lead the Way”**

