



THE NAIRATOR

THE ROTARY CLUB OF ELGIN - DISTRICT 6440

www.rotaryclubofelgin.org

Mon Oct 31, 2011

Home

Editor Rhonda Huber

If you have any comments or questions, please contact the editor.

Speakers

Nov 07, 2011

Dan Proft, Operation Homefront
Operation Homefront - supporting deployed American military personnel and thier families.

Nov 14, 2011

Tim Gomez, State of Illinois, Human Services Div.
Illinois Department of Human Services.

Nov 21, 2011

Vocational Speakers

Nov 28, 2011

Rick Reigner, Exec Director, Prairie Valley YMCA
Update on Healthy Living Initiative Across Illinois

Dec 05, 2011

Ben Calhoun, Musician, Judson University Alum.
Holiday Performance

Dec 12, 2011

Elgin Academy Upper School Chorus
Songs for the Holidays

Dec 19, 2011

TBD

Dec 26, 2011

NO MEETING

Jan 02, 2012

NO MEETING

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Bulletin for the Week of October 31, 2011



WELCOME

Posted by Rhonda Huber on Oct 31, 2011

WELCOME

President Randy Brittain opened the October 31, 2011 meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and The Four-Way Test. Thirty-five (35) of the club's sixty-nine (69) members attended, or 50%.

REFLECTION

- For the reflection, **John Cooper** shared a famous story of the days when Sir Christopher Wren (1632 - 1732) was rebuilding St. Paul's Cathedral. The story showed how one's point of view makes all the difference.
- On one occasion, Wren was making a tour of the work in progress. He came upon a man at work and asked him: "What are you doing?" The man said: "I am cutting this stone to a certain size and shape." He came to a second man and asked him what he was doing. The man said: "I am earning so much money at my work." He came to a third man at work and asked him what he was doing. The man paused for a moment, straightened himself and answered: "I am helping build a masterpiece, St. Paul's Cathedral."*

VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS

- The club had no visiting Rotarians. **Ralph Helm** hosted the lovely, **Vera Helm**, **Brian Borkowicz** hosted **Jeremy Meyer** of Davies Tree, and **Mike Warren** hosted local attorney, **John Regan**.

MAKEUPS

- There were no make-ups.

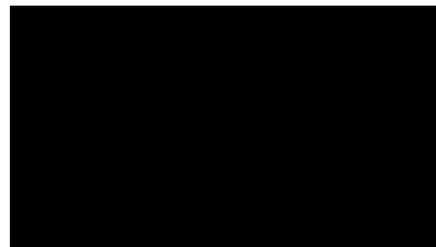
BUSINESS

- Club voted to change quarterly dues for Senior Active members from \$60 to \$35. Motion made by **Ralph Helm**, seconded and carried by all.
- Craig Stoker, Ted Schnell, John Cooper and Randy Brittain received Paul Harris Fellows pins with three sapphires and Bob Turner received a Paul Harris Fellows pin with two sapphires.

Recognition total	Pin level
US\$2,000 to 2,999.99	one sapphire
3,000 to 3,999.99	two sapphires
4,000 to 4,999.99	three sapphires

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Posted by Rhonda Huber on Oct 31, 2011



TWO FOR ONE RECOGNITION EXTENDED THROUGH FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2011

Due to a delay in confirmation emails and a high number volume of on-line contributions during PolioPlus October 24-28 2 for 1 recognition opportunity, the Rotary Foundation will extend the deadline for the promotion through Friday, 11 November 2011 (Central Standard Time). Please remember that to qualify, you must make an individual gift of US\$100 or more to the PolioPlus Fund. Please email rotarys200millionchallenge@rotary.org if you have any additional questions.

We are at an historic moment--less than 1% away from the end of polio forever. In

honor of World Polio Day on October 24, 2011, online contributions of \$100 or more made to **PolioPlus** will be **recognized 2-for-1**.

Contributions must be made online at Rotary International Contribute Now. The promotion begins October 24, 2011 at 6:00 a.m. Central Standard Time and will end ~~October 28, 2011~~ November 11 noon sharp Central Time. Contributors must be registered prior to making their online contribution with [Rotary's Member Access](#).

If you are not already a Paul Harris Fellow and contribute \$500 online during the promotion, you will receive a recognition amount of 1,000 for your \$500 contribution, which would make you a Paul Harris Fellow.

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1 If you made a gift to the PolioPlus during the 2 for 1 promotion, please let **President Randy** know.
- 1 The Rotary 5000 is scheduled for March 2, 2012 at the Holiday Inn in Elgin.
- 1 Club will be recruiting soon for Salvation Army bellringers.

SURROUNDING CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1 The **Dundee Township Rotary Club** Citrus Sale is underway. Full cases of oranges or grapefruits are \$32; half-cases of oranges or grapefruits are \$21; half-mixed cases are \$27. Fruit will be delivered to the Club. If you wish to place an order, e-mail **Sandy Morganstein** at president@dundeerotary.com.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1 You can still register for District 6440 Fall Seminar Day on Saturday, November 5, 2011. The event held at the Renaissance Hotel in Northbrook and registration is \$45. The Fall Seminar will be a combination of the ABCs of Rotary, the ABCs of the Rotary Foundation, Membership, and PR/Communication seminars. Come early for breakfast and wear your favorite sports team's color. Plenary sessions will focus on membership, starting with a keynote presentation by **Katie Ischkin**, founder of a Minneapolis Rotary Club focused on attracting Next Generation members.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1 Ecker Center's eleventh annual "**Festival of Trees**" fundraiser will be held as part of the Elgin: Home for the Holidays celebration. Individuals and businesses sponsored and decorated approximately 40 artificial Christmas trees in heights of 7 or 4 feet, plus several 48" and 36" wreaths. The trees are on display at the Gail Borden Library in Elgin from October 31 through November 12, during regular hours of the library. All are welcome to the opening event which will be held on November 1 from 5:00 - 6:30 at the library. The trees are then available for sale at the library prior to the Gala Event. Trees not pre-sold will be live auctioned to the highest bidder at the Celebration Event on Saturday, November 12 at The Centre of Elgin.

HAPPY DOLLARS AND FINEMASTER

Posted by Rhonda Huber on Oct 31, 2011

Fine master **Mike Warren** started with fines to **Art Puotinen and Tom Johannesen** for being late and for missing pins and badges. Next he fined any member who had not donated to the recent PolioPlus campaign.

Happy members then stepped up to fill the basket:

- 1 Reformation Sunday celebrated by Lutheran churches had **Art Puotinen** happy...Reformation Sunday celebrates the Protestant Reformation formed through the revolutionary beliefs of Martin Luther in the mid 1500s;
- 1 **Bob Turner** was happy to spend time in Ashville with brothers thispast weekend and threw \$5 dollars in the basket—one for each brother;
- 1 **Earl Lamp** was happy granddaughter, Emily got the part of Alice in Westminster School's production of Alice in Wonderland;
- 1 A happy **Craig Stoker** gave happy dollars in honor of his 95 year-old mother-in-law, who still after 42 years has never given him advice;
- 1 A somewhat happy, **Jerry Cain** offered up twelve alarm clocks all set for 10:31 a.m....the clocks had been set by Judson students to go off all at once during the university's Founder's Day speeches;
- 1 **Laurie Bitter** had a double dose of happy..today is Laurie and James 25th wedding anniversary and second in honor of a successful Festival of Trees event;
- 1 **Hratch Basmadjian** gave a few happy dollars for John Cooper's great reflection today;
- 1 The City of Elgin's Nightmare on Chicago street event Saturday had **John Cooper** happy;
- 1 **Leo Nelson** was happy **Andy Shaw**, president and CEO of the Better Government Association will be the guest speaker at the Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce's

Good Morning Elgin! program on Tuesday, November 8;

1 **Brian Borkowicz** was happy for the "boo-tiful" music that filled the Hemmens Cultural Center when the Elgin Symphony Orchestra presented this year's Halloween Spooktacular on Saturday;

1 **Mike Warren** finished up the happy dollar collection with a few dollars after receiving his Rieke's top salesperson of the year award and a family trip to Yellowstone National Park that goes with it!

Next **Mike** quizzed on Halloween trivia collecting a grand total of \$79 today!

NEWS FLASH

Posted by Rhonda Huber on Oct 31, 2011

THIS DAY IN HISTORY AND TODAY'S NEWS

John Cooper provided this *Day in History*.

- 1 On October 31 in 1517, the priest and scholar Martin Luther approached the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany and nailed a piece of paper to it containing the 95 revolutionary opinions that would begin the **Protestant Reformation**.
- 1 In his theses, Luther condemned the excesses and corruption of the Roman Catholic Church, especially the papal practice of asking payment, called "indulgences", for the forgiveness of sins.
- 1 At the time, a Dominican priest named Johann Tetzel, commissioned by the Archbishop of Mainz and Pope Leo X, was in the midst of a major fundraising campaign in Germany to finance the renovation of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Though Prince Frederick III the Wise had banned the sale of indulgences in Wittenberg, many church members travelled to purchase them. When they returned, they showed the pardons they had bought to Luther, claiming they no longer had to repent for their sins
- 1 Luther's frustration with this practice led him to write the 95 Theses, which were quickly snapped up, translated from Latin into German and distributed widely. A copy made its way to Rome, and efforts began to convince Luther to change his tune. He refused to keep silent, however, and in 1521 Pope Leo X formally excommunicated Luther from the Catholic Church.

WEEKLY MEETING LUNCH MENU

Posted by Rhonda Huber on Oct 31, 2011



When possible, email Hickory Sticks your lunch preference by Sunday.

Send your selection to Romaus Mesa at romausjr@gmail.com.

This will help the staff at Hickory Sticks have lunches ready on time.

Monday, November 7 menu selection:

Steak Fajitas over Spanish Rice or Garden Salad

Chocolate Mousse for dessert

GUEST SPEAKER AND PROGRAM

Posted by Rhonda Huber on Oct 31, 2011

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

Hratch Basmadjian stepped in at the last minute as guest speaker and shared his fascinating life story.

Hratch arrived in the United States on December 2, 1970. As a child, his mother would say to him, "The best place to be is America, son," and **Hratch** has never regretted the decision.

Raised in Lebanon by a shoemaker, **Hratch** is of Armenian descent. His parents did their best to keep both their sons in school, which was difficult because there are no public schools in Lebanon and only those who could afford tuition attend school.

Living space was limited as well. When **Hratch** returned to his family's old neighborhood thirty years after first leaving Lebanon, the family home and three neighboring homes had been destroyed and the land turned into a parking lot. The area where the four homes once stood and 25-30 people lived was only large enough for eight parking spaces.

When **Hratch** was a young teenager, a friend suggested they apply to be part of a government sponsored trade school program. The five-year program was limited to 175 students and more than 10,000 applied. Acceptance was based on the applicants' entry exam scores. Several of the exam focused on foreign language skills - primarily Arabic, English and French. Language questions were worth fifty points each while other questions were only worth eight points. Since **Hratch** could speak five languages he aced the test and came in 4th out of 10,000 students!

Because of his foreign language skills, it was suggested that **Hratch** join the five-year hotel school program. He was one of the few students to complete the program as many dropped out as they learned new skills to become waiters or hotel staff.

Following graduation at age seventeen, **Hratch** took a job as night auditor at a Holiday Inn in the desert city of Abu Dhabi. It was here that **Hratch** learned that it "pays well" to be a Christian.

Two weeks into the job, **Hratch** was approached by the son of a sheikh who asked if he would sell his monthly \$1,000 allotment of alcohol as Muslims cannot purchase alcohol in Abu Dhabi.

\$10,000 richer later, **Hratch** was loading up trucks with beer for the sheikh's son. The lucrative arrangement continued for the next several months until **Hratch's** visa came through for the United States.

In 1992, **Hratch** became a Rotarian while the general manager for a Holiday Inn in Bay City, Michigan.

DID YOU KNOW?

Posted by Rhonda Huber on Oct 31, 2011

Did you know that past *Nairator* newsletters are archived on the Club's website? Visit www.rotaryclubofelgin.org and scroll down the menu on the left hand side to Site Pages and click on [Nairator Newsletter Archives](#).

Did you know the Club has a new Facebook page? Thirty-one friends have liked the Club's new Facebook page and now two are talking about it! The new page is different from our Facebook group and allows for greater communication between members and friends. To become a friend, enter Rotary Club of Elgin in the Facebook Friend search field and choose the page with the Rotary wheel. Next, click "like." Or click here, [Elgin Rotary Club Facebook Page](#)

Did you know the Club's Facebook group has 81 friends? Join the group at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/104813166257/>

Did you know Rotary is on Linked-In—and that there are two Rotary groups you may want to join? District 6440 has a group as well as Rotary International. Join at <http://www.linkedin.com/>

Did you know you can access the District's Web site at www.rotary6440.org?



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Posted by Rhonda Huber on Oct 01, 2011



BIRTHDAYS

October 4

Phyllis Blizzard (Harry)
Dale Lonis
Gregory Mistak

October 11

Vicki Wright

October 22

Robert Spellmeyer

October 24

Michael McKay

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

October 1

Kay and Carl Lundstrom celebrate 51 years

October 6

Ellen and Larry Bethers celebrate 16 years

October 12

Pat and Ted Schnell celebrate 54 years

October 21

Deanne and Steven Adams celebrate 33 years

October 31

Laurie and James Bitter celebrate 25 years

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES

October 1

Michael McKay – 10 years

October 3

Larry Zisman – 4 years

October 4

Karen Beyer – 18 years

October 11

Robert Spellmeyer – 1 year

October 15

Sharon Jakle – 24 years

October 21

Paris Donehoo – 9 years

October 22

Catherine Neuhalfen – 21 years

October 27

Susan Moylan – 22 years

Club Links

[Beach Party - Rotary 5000](#)

[Our Club's Business Directory](#)

[Our Club's Facebook](#)

[District 6440 Website](#)

[Interact Club - South Elgin High School](#)

[Nicole's Blog - Ambassadorial Scholar in Bogota](#)

[BocaJump Elgin](#)