

September/October 2003

THE ORLAND PARK RIVER

BULLETIN OF THE ORLAND PARK ROTARY CLUB

2003-2004 Officers and Board of Directors

District 6450
Governor 2003-2004
CHUCK JOHNSON
815-942-3722
cjohnson@uti.com

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Email: rstraz@palosbank.com

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Program Chairman

THE FOUR WAY TEST OF THE THINGS WE THINK, SAY OR DO:

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOOD WILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

The Object of Rotary

is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise, and in particular, to encourage and foster;

The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his or her occupation as an opportunity to service society;

The application of the idea of service by every Rotarian to his or her personal business and community life;

The advancement of international understanding, good will and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men and women united in the idea of service.



Lend a Hand

We **Lend a Hand** to those in need, to those in our neighborhoods, our communities, our District, our country, and around the world who need a hand."

Dist. Governor Chuck Johnson, 2003-2004

QUOTES

"When the only tool you own is a hammer, every problem begins to resemble a nail."

-Abraham Maslow

People who drink to drown their sorrow should be told that sorrow knows how to swim.

-Ann Landers

The tongue weighs practically nothing, but so few people can hold it.

-Satchel Paige

Whether it's the best of times or the worst of times, it's the only time you've got.

-Art Buchwald

The day will happen, whether or not you get up.

-John Ciardi

Watch your thoughts, for they become words. Choose your words, for they become actions. Understand actions, for they become habits. Study your habits, for they become character. Develop your character, for it becomes your destiny.

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away.

Camp Quality

On August 11th, members of the Orland Park Rotary Club pitched in to provide dinner for over 160 campers, their buddies and the staff at Camp Quality in Frankfort which provides a week-long camping experience for children who are dealing with cancer.



If you have ideas for programs or know of a good speaker, contact Patrick Zomparelli at (708) 403-6000.

Rotary Youth Exchange

The most powerful force in the promotion of international understanding and peace is exposure to different cultures. The world becomes a smaller, friendlier place when we learn that all people – regardless of nationality – desire the same basic things: a safe, comfortable environment that allows for a rich and satisfying life for ourselves and our children. Youth Exchange provides thousands of young people with the opportunity to meet people from other lands and to experience their cultures, thus planting the seeds for a lifetime of international understanding.

As hosts of students, we want to make their experience of America a positive one. Please remember Terese as you make plans for activities. Contact Terese at (708)361-0122 or Mike Casey at (708)829-4690 to make arrangements.

Terese Lindholm is our new exchange student. She is a 17 year old girl from Ekenas, Finland.



Terese's Message

My exchange year started August 10th when I went to New York. In New York I saw the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty, Chinatown and a lot of other things on a sightseeing tour. After three fun days in New York I came to Chicago. Here I live with a very nice family in Palos Heights and I have gone to Alan B. Shepard High school for about three weeks now. I have seen some of the surroundings of Palos Heights and I have been to a college in Decatur.

.....

Judge Judy Producer Visits Our Club



Thanks to Ken Reilly for arranging for his son Jeff to speak to our Club. It was a terrific presentation! (and we appreciated all the great raffle prizes!)

Hearts for Hope & Orland Park Rotary Golf Marathon

Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2003

Last year nearly \$45,000 was raised at this marathon. Over \$30,000 was donated to Hope Children's Hospital and another \$10,000 went to other charities. Chris Gary organized this event for the second year and our Rotary Club supplied five golfers. Taking part in this year's marathon are Chris, Patrick Zomparelli, Dave Corradino, John Schaefer and Dan Matis. Thanks to the golfers and to all of you who made pledges to support the golfers.

Chaperones Needed!!

Our Club is sending 5-7 students to the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) camp at George Williams College of Aurora University in Williams Bay, Wisconsin. The camp is a fun weekend of leadership and teambuilding for high school students sponsored by Rotary Clubs. We need five chaperones to participate October 17-19, 2003. Please contact Mike Casey (708)829-4690, if you can participate for any time during the weekend.

Rotary Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
10/2	Club Assembly
10/9	Father Naumenko
10/16	Christopher Cummings-Iraq
10/23	Robert Boyd
10/30	TBA
11/6	Meeting at The Center, Palos Park
11/13	#135 Supt. Linda Anast-May
11/20	District Governor Chuck Johnson
11/27	Thanksgiving • no meeting

SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW

Bill Opelka

Name: William J. Opelka, "Rainbow Bill"

Birthplace: Chicago, St. Rita's Parish

Childhood: Chicago

High School: St. Philip High

College: St. Ambrose University where I majored in Psychology/Philosophy and involved in amateur theatre. Graduate degree studies at Purdue University's Marketing Institute

Present Home: My wife Beverly and I have lived in Palos Park for the past 30 years.

Employer: I retired 2 years ago from a career which began as a life insurance agent and ended 55 years later as a Family Wealth Counselor.

Hobbies: Tennis, golf, amateur theatre, fishing, ballroom dancing and travel. My wife and I devote a great deal of time to the perpetuation of the arts. I enjoy entertaining children's groups with card tricks and humorous stories

I'd give anything to meet: Jesus, but not just yet!

How many years involved in Rotary?

28 years which began when I joined the Elmhurst Rotary

Favorite Rotary Memories: When I became President of the Elmhurst Club, it had no established fund raiser. After hearing of another the event from another club in Texas, we started running duck races on the Salt Creek. The idea was sold to the community and the 2nd year it was combined with Special Olympics, Scout Jamboree, various bands and performing children's troupes. We made upwards of \$38,000. The event continued for 4 more years and brought great attention and respect to our Rotary Club.

Most memorable life event: Joining the Marine Corps in 1951, losing my dignity going through boot camp and gaining it back serving in Korea until the war ended.

Involvement with other Service/Civic Organizations: I currently serve on the Foundation Board of Moraine Valley Community College. Previously, I served as a member of the Board of St. Rita High School (the only Episcopalian and was made an Honorary Alumni) the Foundation Board of Little Company of Mary Hospital, and Chairman of the Vestry of the Church of Transfiguration in Palos Park.

Gift of Life Program

The Gift of Life Program, which began in 1975, is a worldwide Rotary International Service Program. Its primary purpose is to help those children who require corrective heart surgery secure another lease on life through the miracle of open-heart surgery in a Gift of Life Participating Hospital in the U.S.A. Children with life-threatening cardiac disorders, ranging in age from infants to eighteen years, have been sponsored by Clubs and Districts from throughout the Rotary World. **Dr. George Harris** is the chairman of the Gift of Life Program in our district and through his effort, our club has made it possible for **Jamersson Roduiguez-Jiminez** and his mother, **Bergica**, to travel from the Dominican Republic to Chicago so Jamersson could receive open heart surgery at Hope Children's Hospital. They arrived on August 28th and surgery was performed on September 4th. The surgery was a great success and Jamersson is on the road to recovery.



September Birthdays



- Jerry Stoiber 4th
- John Schaefer 6th
- Rich Wahlberg 12th
- Jack Payan 18th
- Peter Pishos 18th
- Irv Goldberg 20th
- Van Bounatsos 27th

October Birthdays

- Jim Coglianese 6th
- Rich Pape 11th
- Russ LaMantia 18th
- Greg Paetow 23rd
- Ron Danihel 31st



Most Memorable People in the World

Pop quiz (and it doesn't count if you look up the answers):

1. Who were the highest paid CEOs for the past three years?
2. Who were the last three Heisman trophy winners?
3. Who were the last three winners of the Miss America pageant?
4. Who were the last three winners of the Pulitzer Prize for Literature?
5. Who were the last three recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize?
6. Who won the last three Academy Awards for Best Actress? Best Actor?

So, how'd you do? You probably left more than a few answers blank. Well, don't worry—you're not alone. Few people remember yesterday's news. And that's what these folks are. Sure, they're the best and brightest in their fields, the wealthiest, the most attractive, the most successful. But sooner or later, the applause dies, the beauty fades, the awards tarnish. And the wealth? Well, you really can't take it with you.

Okay, now try this quiz:

1. Name three teachers who helped you get through school.
2. Name three friends who helped you through tough times.
3. Name three people who've taught you valuable lessons.
4. Name three people who've made you feel loved and appreciated.
5. Name three people whose company you enjoy.
6. Name three personal heroes whose stories have inspired you.

Bet this one was easier. The people who truly make a difference in our lives are rarely the ones with the biggest names, the most money, or the greatest number of accolades.

They're the ones who care.

Can you name the five American Presidents not buried in the United States?

□□□□ □□□ □□□□□□ □□□□ □□□□□□ □□□□

****If you have any news or information you would like to see in our newsletter, please contact**

Kathy Mahoney at 708-671-2575 or Keloryn Putnam at 708-349-2972**

Guaranteed to Make You Smile

On July 20, 1969, as commander of the Apollo 11 Lunar Module, Neil Armstrong was the first person to set foot on the Moon.

His first words after stepping on the Moon, "That's one small step for man, one giant step for mankind," were televised to Earth and heard by millions. But just before he reentered the lander he made the enigmatic remark, "Good luck Mr. Gorsky."

Many people at NASA thought it was a causal remark concerning some rival Soviet cosmonaut. However, upon checking, there was no Gorsky in either the Russian or American space programs. Over the years many people questioned Armstrong as to what the "Good Luck Mr. Gorsky" statement meant, but Armstrong always just smiled.

On July 4, 1995, in Tampa, Florida, while answering questions following a speech, a reporter brought up the 26 year old question to Armstrong. This time he finally responded.

Mr. Gorsky had died, so Neil Armstrong felt he could answer the question.

In 1938 when he was a kid in a small Midwest town he was playing baseball with a friend in the backyard.

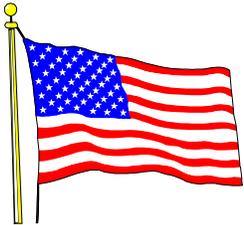
His friend hit the ball which landed in his neighbors yard by the bedroom windows.

His neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Gorsky. As he leaned down to pick up the ball, young Armstrong heard Mrs. Gorsky shouting at Mr. Gorsky.

"Sex! You want sex?! You'll get sex when the kid next door walks on the moon!"

True story.

**Orland Park Rotary Club
P.O. Box 276
Orland Park, IL 60462**



Visit the Orland Park Rotary Web Site at www.orlandparkrotary.org

Past District Governor

Quentin P. Kling 1976-77

Past Presidents

Quentin P. Kling.....1972-73
Carol Bateman.....1973-74
Richard H. Letnfer.....1974-75
Richard B. Coghill.....1975-76
Ira J. Hornbeck.....1976-77
Edward Peterson.....1977-78
William P. Cote.....1978-79
Thomas J. Barcelona1979-80
Paul Schrieber.....1980-81
Howard J. Waraday.....1981-82
Edward W. Mulcahy.....1982-83
Bill Kacerovskis.....1983-84
Rich Wahlberg.....1984-85
Jim Dory.....1985-86
James Bateman.....1986-87
James Sanderson.....1987-88

Ralph Caron.....1988-89
Robert Hyland.....1989-90
Robert Pasqualoni.....1990-91
Martin T. McGraw.....1991-92
Massimo 'Max' Bianchini.....1992-93
Dennis J. DeLance.....1993-94
John Arena.....1994-95
Gerald Stoiber.....1995-96
Anne Kacerovskis.....1996-97
Neal Anderson.....1997-98
Gregory Paetow.....1998-99
David Corradino.....1999-2000
Lou Mule'.....2000-01
Chris Gary.....2001-02
Dan Matis.....2002-03

A Lesson

As she stood in front of her 5th grade class on the very first day of school, she told the children an untruth. Like most teachers, she looked at her students and said that she loved them all the same. However, that was impossible, because there in the front row, slumped in his seat, was a little boy named Teddy Stoddard.

Mrs. Thompson had watched Teddy the year before and noticed that he did not play well with the other children, that his clothes were messy and that he constantly needed a bath. In addition, Teddy could be unpleasant.

It got to the point where Mrs. Thompson would actually take delight in marking his papers with a broad red pen, making bold X's and then putting a big "F" at the top of his papers. At the school where Mrs. Thompson taught, she was required to review each child's past records and she put Teddy's off until last. However, when she reviewed his file, she was in for a surprise.

Teddy's first grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is a bright child with a ready laugh. He does his work neatly and has good manners... he is a joy to be around.." His second grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is an excellent student, well liked by his classmates, but he is troubled because his mother has a terminal illness and life at home must be a struggle."

His third grade teacher wrote, "His mother's death has been hard on him. He tries to do his best, but his father doesn't show much interest and his home life will soon affect him if some steps aren't taken." Teddy's fourth grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is withdrawn and doesn't show much interest in school. He doesn't have many friends and he sometimes sleeps in class."

By now, Mrs. Thompson realized the problem and she was ashamed of herself. She felt even worse when her students brought her Christmas presents, wrapped in beautiful ribbons and bright paper, except for Teddy's. His present was clumsily wrapped in the heavy, brown paper that he got from a grocery bag. Mrs. Thompson took pains to open it in the middle of the other presents. Some of the children started to laugh when she found a rhinestone bracelet with some of the stones missing, and a bottle that was one-quarter full of perfume.. But she stifled the children's laughter when she exclaimed how pretty the bracelet was, putting it on, and dabbing some of the perfume on her wrist. Teddy Stoddard stayed after school that day just long enough to say, "Mrs. Thompson, today you smelled just like my Mom used to." After the children left, she cried for at least an hour.

On that very day, she quit teaching reading, writing and arithmetic. Instead, she began to teach children. Mrs. Thompson paid particular attention to Teddy. As she worked with him, his mind seemed to come alive. The more she encouraged him, the faster he responded. By the end of the year, Teddy had become one of the smartest children in the class and, despite her lie that she would love all the children the same, Teddy became one of her "teacher's pets.."

A year later, she found a note under her door, from Teddy, telling her that she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life. Six years went by before she got another note from Teddy. He then wrote that he had finished high school, third in his class, and she was still the best teacher he ever had in life.

Four years after that, she got another letter, saying that while things had been tough at times, he'd stayed in school, had stuck with it, and would soon graduate from college with the highest of honors. He assured Mrs. Thompson that she was still the best and favorite teacher he had ever had in his whole life.

Then four more years passed and yet another letter came. This time he explained that after he got his bachelor's degree, he decided to go a little further. The letter explained that she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had. But now his name was a little longer.... The letter was signed, Theodore F. Stoddard, MD.

The story does not end there. You see, there was yet another letter that spring. Teddy said he had met this girl and was going to be married. He explained that his father had died a couple of years ago and he was wondering if Mrs. Thompson might agree to sit at the wedding in the place that was usually reserved for the mother of the groom. Of course, Mrs. Thompson did. And guess what? She wore that bracelet, the one with several rhinestones missing. Moreover, she made sure she was wearing the perfume that Teddy remembered his mother wearing on their last Christmas together.

They hugged each other, and Dr. Stoddard whispered in Mrs. Thompson's ear, "Thank you Mrs. Thompson for believing in me. Thank you so much for making me feel important and showing me that I could make a difference." Mrs. Thompson, with tears in her eyes, whispered back. She said, "Teddy, you have it all wrong. You were the one who taught me that I could make a difference. I didn't know how to teach until I met you."

(For you that don't know, Teddy Stoddard is the Dr. at Iowa Methodist in Des Moines that has the Stoddard Cancer Wing.) Just try to make a difference in someone's life today... tomorrow.. just "do it".

Rotary Architectural Tour September 14, 2003

Many thanks to Patrick Zomparelli who organized the Architectural River Tour followed by dinner at The BeBop Cafe on Navy Pier. The weather was cool but the rain held off and a great time was had by all!

