

Program: December 17, 2020
Chester County Family Academy
Holiday Program Video

MINUTES by Cathy Palmquist

President Michelle Venema opened the virtual meeting, and led us in the pledge of allegiance. She hoped everyone had a nice Thanksgiving and is now in the Christmas spirit. **John Abitabilo** gave the invocation with words that urged us to always place service above self. Guests included Donald Neimetz, the new executive director of North Star, and two guests of **Capt. Jesus Corraliza** from the Training College of the Salvation Army, who are learning how Christmas is done by the SA. **Glen Sweet** extended birthday greetings to **Doug Meis** and **Matt Biffen**.

President Michelle kicked off Happy Bucks by paying for **Jesus Corraliza**. He said there are 40 children who need to be "adopted" for the holidays, and hoped that some Rotarians will adopt them. To adopt a child contact Jesus or call his wife, Captain Maria Corraliza at 973-581-3264. **Steve Brown** gave 11 Happy Bucks for the 11 wins by the Pittsburgh Steelers on their way to the Super Bowl. **Bill Winters** was happy to announce the donation of pillows to the Community Warehouse, and said his wife is getting more to donate. **Melissa Baxter** was happy and thankful for her 98-year-old "Nana," and for the honor her daughter Ellie recently received. **Tara Webber** was happy because everything is working out at the Chester County Family Academy. The youngsters are pre-recording their Holiday Concert this year, which it will be run at our Dec. 17th Rotary meeting.

Joanne Tadeo, reporting on behalf of the Fellowship Committee, said there will be no December social, but there will be a holiday social on January 14th from noon to 2 p.m. at **Patty Jefferis**. Also, on February 11th, there will be a gathering at the Chester County History Center (formerly Historical Society) from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Only 30 or fewer guests will be allowed to attend, so get your request in early if you want to go. **Gary Hess** announced that he has received about \$1,000 for the Rotary Foundation and urges those who have not yet contributed to send their donations to him.

President Michelle announced that because

Program: January 7, 2020
TBA

we did not have a chili cook-off this year, she has appointed a fundraising committee, and is looking forward to working with them. **Melissa Baxter**, incoming chair of the CPC, announced that there were 23 applications for grants this year, and the committee reviewed all of them and has recommended supporting 14 of the organizations. The Barn at Springbrook Farm was selected as the fruit sale recipient, since it is the only applicant of the six who applied, that has not received fruit sale proceeds previously. The \$31,000 CPC funds will be divided among the 13 remaining organizations. She said we will be doing some fundraising this year since the chili cook-off had to be cancelled.

President Michelle thanked **Ernest Zlotolow**, for the article about our work with our sister Rotary Club in Tigre that he sent to the District newsletter. She also said the nominating committee is hard at work and, she is excited about that. **Carol Hanson** reported that 11 members of our club bought 22 boxes of tulips which the Longwood Club was selling, and with the match of funds from the Gates Foundation, will amount to over \$2,000 going to the polio campaign.

President Michelle then shared some Historic Happenings, reported by our historian **Bill Friedmann** about happenings in the 1940s and 50s. The 1949-50 Rotary Year kicked off with the induction of President John Jacob, who presided over a club comprised of 19 committees with an operating budget of \$2,650. Committees included Aims and Objectives, Rural/ Urban, Sports, Music, and the Student Loan Committee.

Fall marked West Chester's Sesquicentennial celebration and the club was in the middle of planning and working the event. To mark the occasion, it was announced in September that the men in the club would all participate in a beard-growing contest. On October 4th, the judging took place. Dick Freeman was declared winner, while Earl Thomas was proclaimed to have the "seediest beard." The prize was a couple of razors.

On November 1, the club celebrated the charter

meeting of the Rotary Club of Kennett, which we sponsored. That club began with 26 members and is still in existence with a membership of 16. In December Rudy Lorgus took up a collection to provide Christmas bouquets to the "lonesome and bed-ridden" patients at the Valley Forge General Hospital.

In the spring, a resolution was proposed by the Rotary Club of Columbus, Ohio that the official motto of Rotary International be changed from "He Profits Most Who Serves Best" to "Service Above Self". That motto was adopted at the RI convention that year in Detroit. The club finished up the year with their annual clothing drive. Working with the boys at the high school, and with the support of the Daily Local News and several local retailers, the club collected over 7,000 pounds of clothing that was distributed to the needy in Philadelphia.

President Michelle closed with these words from John Muir, "The power of imagination makes us infinite," and reminded us of the international theme, *Rotary Opens Opportunities*.

SPEAKERS REVIEW by Michael Louis

The speaker for our December 3, 2020 Rotary meeting was Kate Martin, Director of Development for the Garage Community and Youth Center. They have locations in Kennett Square and West Grove and during the Pandemic have a location at the Kennett Presbyterian Church. Kate said that their mission is to help youth obtain their potential.

When COVID hit they shut down for two weeks and then found out that the community was having trouble obtaining supplies. They bounced back adopting the motto: "Tough times did not break us, they made us." The Kennett Square Center became a supply distribution center. They served 575 families 3,550 supply boxes worth \$40,000.00.

In the 2021 school year they are having classroom learning pods opened at their Kennett and West Grove locations plus Kennett Presbyterian Church. They are opened from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and have up to 100 students in grades 6-12 for virtual academic support, transportation to and from school, meals and nutrition. They serve the students a lunch and they then finish school at the garage. After school they have enrichment activities along with social and emotional support and recreational activities.

As far as results Kate reported the following:
63% of students earn a C or higher in core subjects
94% of students reported a new spark or passion
91% of seniors graduate from high school
72% of students have a career goal after high school
72% of graduates enroll in post-secondary education

or a training program

On Saturday, December 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. they are having an online auction. You can go to their website and bid if you would like:

<https://www.garageyouthcenter.org/>

Kate and the Garage are doing a great job for our youth in the Kennett and West Grove areas.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Dec 12	Salvation Army Bell Ringing
Jan 14	Members Only Holiday Gathering
Feb 11	Gathering at Chester County History Center



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HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Votary Committee: Chair, **Faith Woodward**, 610-918-3432; Votary@westchesterrotary.us Web support: **Judi Bell** and **Howard Sundwall**.

Webmaster@WestChesterRotary.us

Committee: **Pat Barron, Brian Fahey, Gary Hess, Michael Lewis, Fran Luft, Danielle Mortimer, Cathy Palmquist, Kyle Rheiner, Winnie Stroup, Jill Stoltzfus**