



CogNotes

The Rotary Club of Swarthmore
November 17, 2011



November is **Rotary Foundation** Month

Celebrating 75 Years of "Service Above Self"
April 26, 1937 to April 26, 2012

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Craig Fava
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Josh Twersky
Steve Laxton
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Brian Casey

Vocational Service
New Generations
Membership
Retention
Sergeant-at-Arms
Rotary Foundation
Program
Public Relations
Gundaker
Charitable Trust
CogNotes Editor

Today's Program:

Denise Aquilante
On the Ultimate Turkey

Table Grace

Lord of the harvest, we pause to give you thanks for the bounty of this great land.

Our lives have truly fallen in pleasant places. May we never accept these gifts lightly.

Thank you for this food set before us and for the opportunity we have to go out strengthened in body, mind, and spirit to serve our community. Amen.

The Rev. Dr. Frederick E. Christian

Coming Program & Events

Nov 24 Thanksgiving—no meeting

Dec 1 TBA

Dec 8 The Silvertones

Dec 15 District Governor
Bonnie Korengel

The Pledge of Allegiance



Four Way Test:

Of the things we think, say and 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?



Last Week's Speaker:

Joe Hortua

by Mike Malone

Joe Hortua, a playwright and TV writer, spoke to us about how he ended up in his current position as a writer on TNT's *Leverage*. He attended NYU for his MFA and was taught by Tony Kushner, a prominent playwright. He described how it took him 7 years to finally arrive at his present state. As always, there is luck involved, and his luck was an energetic agent. Once his first child was born his interest in TV writing versus playwrighting increased significantly.



As for TV writing the skill set includes much more than writing ability. It requires people skills to handle various higher-ups' requests and an ability to manage the stress of deadlines. Once the episode you are responsible for is done you can return to the "tribe of twizzler eating neurotics" (the team of writers). Joe loves the chance to "make believe."

Guests Last Week:

Bill Bossert, Rob Ketron

Polio Eradication Within Reach, Despite Concerns

Among the key goals of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) is interrupting transmission of the wild poliovirus by the end of 2012. Although the GPEI Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) reported in July that this goal may be in jeopardy, it also noted signs of progress and provided several recommendations that could help get the program back on track.

The GPEI has made significant steps forward since the launch last year of its new strategic plan and the bivalent oral polio vaccine. Among the four polio-endemic countries, India has reported only one case of polio so far this year. The country "is on track to interrupt transmission this year," the report states.

"The northern part of India, where most of the problem had been, hasn't had one case in 15 months," adds Robert S. Scott, chair of Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee.

The other polio-endemic countries are Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan. The IMB report cites good progress in Afghanistan while spotlighting the challenge of immunizing children in conflict areas. Nigeria also has been making good headway but, following elections in April, needs to sustain the political commitment required to ensure eradication of the disease.

In Pakistan, cases doubled in the first six months of 2011, compared with the same period in 2010. The report commended the country's high-level commitment to polio eradication through its national emergency action plan, launched in January, but added that the plan needs to make a stronger impact at the local level.

The report also expressed concern about controlling polio in countries with reestablished transmission, including Angola, Chad, and Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Despite these challenges, polio cases worldwide decreased almost 50 percent during the first six months of 2011, compared with the same period in 2010.

"Type 3 polio numbers have dropped to 15 this year," says Scott, referring to one of only two strains of the wild poliovirus that remain. "It appears type 3 will soon be eradicated completely."

Health experts believe that eradicating polio, rather than trying to control the disease, is both feasible and essential.

"There are approximately a dozen countries where polio gets reported sporadically, and those cases can all be traced back to the four countries where transmission has continued," says Robert Murphy, director of the Center for Global Health at Northwestern University in Illinois, USA. "If we focus on those four countries, the cases in the other countries are going to evaporate."

"It's very important to finish the job soon, because we're so close. If we back off now, the problem is going to get bigger and even more expensive."

Finishing polio once and for all, the IMB report states, will require enhanced political commitment, secure funding, and strengthened technical capacity.

"The eradication of polio is the responsibility of every government," says Scott, noting the unanimous decision in 1988 at the World Health Assembly to pursue that goal. "Rotarians in every country must continuously talk it up with their fellow Rotarians and, at every opportunity, with their political leaders, to ensure support, both financial and moral."

During a TED conversation in July, Bruce Aylward, the World Health Organization's assistant director-general for polio eradication and related areas, called Rotarians' efforts at the international and grassroots levels "incredibly powerful for a global health initiative like polio eradication."

See full article on Rotary.org or at <http://ht.ly/7vwmN>.



Happy Dollars Total for 2011-12:

\$1065

2010-11 Total: \$1690

2009-10 Total: \$896



(6085 Children Immunized)

Service Quotation

"There are no traffic jams when you go the extra mile"

-- Zig Ziglar - World Famous Motivational Speaker and Author



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Rotary Anniversaries:

Harry Urian	Nov 18	6 years
Hillard Pouncy	Nov 18	6 years
Rich Noonan	Nov 18	1 year with Swarthmore
Craig Fava	Nov 20	3 years
Joy Charlton	Nov 20	3 years
Madeline Bialecki	Nov 20	3 years

Meeting Schedule

We are approaching that time of year when we need to stay on top of our meeting schedule. Please note the following schedule for November and December.

Thursday November 24	NO MEETING
Thursday December 1	Strathaven Golf Club
Thursday December 8	CADES
Thursday December 15	Swarthmore United Methodist Church
Thursday December 22	NO MEETING
Thursday December 29	NO MEETING

