



# CogNotes

The Rotary Club of Swarthmore  
March 22, 2012



March is **Literacy** Month

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

## Rotary International President

**Kalyan Banerjee**

District 7450 Governor Bonnie Korengel

Assistant Governor Anne Hansen

## 2011-2012 Board

### President

**Brian Casey**

President-Elect Will Fairley

Club Administration Will Fairley

President-Nominee Hillard Pouncy

Past President Marv Gelb

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Community Service Ken Wright

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Membership Betty Ann Flynn

Retention Cathy Darrell

Sergeant-at-Arms Dean Wolfe

Rotary Foundation Program Craig Fava

Hillard Pouncy

Public Relations Josh Twersky

Gundaker Steve Laxton

Charitable Trust Marty Spiegel

CogNotes Editor Brian Casey

## Today's Program:

**J. Barrie Shepherd,  
Poet and former Pastor,  
Swarthmore Presbyterian  
Church,**

Will read and discuss selections  
from *Faces by The Wayside*, his new  
book centered on the Lenten season

## Table Grace

Eternal God, teach us to number  
our days that we may face our  
tasks and responsibilities in the  
spirit of adventure and hope.

Make us impervious to those  
devastating moods of fear and  
worry. Lift our spirits as we recall  
here in Rotary our shared hopes  
for all humankind, and bless our  
meeting and its bounty for we ask  
it in your name. Amen.

The Rev. Dr. Frederick E. Christian

## Coming Program & Events

**Mar 29 Linda Bond, Habitat for  
Humanity, Delaware County**  
Building a Home: Bettering a  
Community

## 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?



## Guests Last Week:

none

## This Day in History

1972—Equal Rights Amendment passed by Congress

1945—Arab League formed

1894—First Stanley Cup Championship played

1930—Stephen Sondheim is born

1933—FDR legalizes sales of beer and wine

## Last Week's Speaker: Laura Lavin by Dean Wolff

**Laura Lavin** of the League of Women's Voters helped us understand how gerrymandering of political districts can affect communities like Swarthmore. She described as an example the re-districting process which split Swarthmore into two districts, While the state constitution says that communities should stay together in the same district unless it is "absolutely necessary," in fact political deals in Harrisburg can end in communities being split apart. Gerrymandering seems hostage to politics.



## Rotary Club of Swarthmore, PA 75th Anniversary Celebration

Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, will mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rotary Club of Swarthmore. The club and invited guests will celebrate this historic day on Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012. There is no extra cost for members of the Rotary Club of Swarthmore; however, all invited guests will be charged \$45.00 with the proceeds to benefit A Better Chance Strath Haven (ABC Strath Haven). It was decided long ago that instead of having just a celebration, we should celebrate and do what Rotary is known for; helping others.

ABC Strath Haven provides a high quality secondary-school education for intelligent, motivated, low-income minority students from distressed school districts. The local chapter of ABC is an affiliate of the national A Better Chance Program.

Helping the club to celebrate this historic occasion will be Bonnie Korengel, District Governor 7450 with the feature speakers being two ABC Strath Haven alumni. Other attendees will be Past District Governors, current club presidents from other Rotary clubs in the area as well as residents of the Swarthmore community interested in the missions of Rotary and A Better Chance Strath Haven.

### Coming to America—Vitor Gimenez

Looking over my shoulder, I saw my parents' tears. I wondered what I was doing. I passed by security and heard the last Portuguese words I would for a year. There was no turning back. When I arrived in the US, I saw signs I could not understand. I felt butterflies in my stomach. But when I met my host family, I knew that leaving Brazil for an exchange program was the right choice. I took a deep breath and started a new life. Immersed in a new culture, I learned lessons about myself through playing soccer, making new friends, and living as an American.

Through soccer I realized that I am capable of achieving my goals. Trying out for the school soccer team was unexpectedly demanding, and I feared I would not make the team. I was not physically prepared. Initially, I was a Brazilian kid disappointing people. The only impressive thing I did was to score in our first scrimmage. But getting into shape helped me demonstrate my desire to be part of the team. I worked hard during the few minutes I had to play, proving I could start at the varsity level. I learned my first lesson: to persist when I want something.

I also improved my courage and self-confidence. Leaving my life behind was not an easy task, but it was something I had to do. The courage to leave, though, was not enough. Shyness had always been a problem for me, and I needed to battle it in order to make new friends. At first, I was afraid to be myself. I did not know how I should act or talk to people of a different cultural background. But eventually, I tried being myself. Suddenly I was so involved in meeting people and learning a new culture that I forgot my shyness. Consequently, I became a more open person. Now, new friends and places are exciting opportunities and not problems.

The juxtaposition of my lives in Brazil and America led me to appreciate simple pleasures I might otherwise have taken for granted. Back home, coming from school and having the biggest meal of the day was as comforting as hugging and kissing my friends daily. I never noticed how essential these details were until my life lacked both. I also came to value walking safely with my dog at night and having sports and clubs at school, things I only have as an American. Realizing the importance of these simple pleasures re-defined what constitutes a privilege for me; appreciate small things, and live each day to the fullest.

Exchanging my old life for a new one taught me a lot about myself. In taking a risk, I learned to overcome challenges. By facing my social fears, I learned the self-confidence to tackle problems. Through comparing lives in two cultures I learned to take advantage of opportunities. Life: I am ready for you.

### Happy Dollars Total for 2011-12:

**\$1589**

2010-11 Total: \$1690

2009-10 Total: \$896



(6925 Children Immunized)

### Service Quotation

"If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else."

— Booker T. Washington, 1856-1915,  
Educator

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### Anniversaries

#### Birthday:

Craig Fava

March 23

#### Rotary:

Brian Casey

March 27

3 Yrs



**ONLY 38  
DAYS  
UNTIL FUN  
FAIR!!**

**MCHUMOR.COM** by T. McCracken



"Although the Weather Service hasn't predicted rain, certain indicators can't be ignored."