



Swarthmore Rotary Cog Notes

P.O. Box 4, Swarthmore, PA 19081



January 12, 2023

Jennifer Jones
RI President 2022-23
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District 7450 Governor

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Club Director

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President-Nominee

Richard Shimko
Bulletin Editor

Karen Aleta Mazzarella
Assistant Governor

Happy Dollars

pledge \$1,860
2021-2022 \$4,476

Rotary Celebrations!

Birthdays

No Birthdays Found

Meetings and Events

January 12th
Swarthmore Weekly Club Meeting (Inn)
Speaker: E. Carr Everbach, Professor,
Engineering, Swarthmore College
Subject: The history of technology and how
civilizations grew in relationship to water.
See bio below

January 26th
Swarthmore Weekly Club Meeting (Inn)
Speaker: Vijay Kapoor, chief of staff to the
Receiver for the City of Chester
Subject: Chester, PA and Receivership

January 19th
Swarthmore Weekly Club Meeting (Inn)
Speaker: Rachel Pasten and Beth Murray
Subject: Housing Affordability in Swarthmore

Service Quotation

You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make. Jane Goodall

Introduction to Speaker

Biosketch: Carr is The Isaiah V. Williamson Professor of Civil and Mechanical Engineering and also a member and former chair of the Environmental Studies program at Swarthmore College. Since his youngest days, Carr has had an interest in the history of technology, not only why we have radios and lasers and rockets but also why don't we have healthy oceans and inexpensive light rail to get us around. Carr built a 1000-square foot house out of straw bales near Swarthmore's track in the 1990s as part of a student project to examine sustainable building practices, and also chaired the Green Team for the design and construction of the Science Center in 2004. More recently, Carr and his students are designing kites to generate electricity by pulling the cords on ground-based generators arranged like rowing machines. As an acoustics expert with his own consulting firm, Everbach Acoustics, Carr helps clients with noise or sound enhancement problems. He also plays trombone in the Swarthmore College Orchestra and Wind Ensemble, and sings first tenor.

Club News

George Whitfield presided.

Ken Wright told us the first Rotary Arts Project (RAP) presentation will be 7:30 pm, January 20 at the PAC Center. The presentation will be "A conversation with Penelope Reed". Tickets (\$10) can be purchased at thepac.center/events, or at the door.

Jane Billings and Jeannine Osayande told us about a service project at Strath Haven Middle School on Monday, January 16. Please see Jane's email of 1/9/23 for details about how you can participate.

In the Rotary Moment, Elizabeth Chruche summarized an article in January's Rotary Magazine about the Rotary Community Corps (RCC). RCC's are established to do service with the community that is being served.

The example given in the article was Rotarians working to help Afghanistan refugees living in the U.S.

Last Meeting Summary

By Heather Saunders

The topic of Sibelan Forrester's presentation could be titled "The history of Russia and how it shaped the Russian culture". Dr. Forrester is Professor of Russian Languages at Swarthmore College. She made a mighty effort to cover the topic in half an hour.

Dr. Forrester explained that over the past millennium, Russia has had periods when it was influenced by Western European culture. During this period, western Europe was

Wedding Anniversaries

Meltem Pusat Gonnella
January 12th

Years of Service

Betty Ann A. Flynn
01-17-2006
17 Years

Guests Last Meeting

No guests



moving towards the system of representative government, capitalism, and technology that is present today.

The opening to the west received a major blow when the Mongols conquered most of Russia in the 13th century. The Mongols instituted a harsh rule and subjected many of the Russian people to slavery.

The conflict between cultures is epitomized by two rulers: Ivan the Terrible and Peter the Great (it is clear which ruler had better public relations). Ivan was a 16th century ruler who pushed back the Mongols. He was very autocratic and suppressed the nobles and serfs. About a century later, Peter tried to westernize the country. He moved the capital west from Moscow to St. Petersburg. He reorganized the government based on Western European principals. He introduced the French language to the royal court.

Although Peter the Great changed the culture of the Russian aristocracy, Dr. Forrester explained that the great bulk of the population was serfs living in villages. They were not impacted by Western influences.

What did impact the village culture was communism. Dr. Forrester said Stalin had village leaders and competent individuals killed. She said that left those more likely to be drunkards.

This conflict between advocates of a more open culture and the culture of strong central government continues to this day. Dr. Forrester stated that there has been a resurgence of old Russian culture under Putin after a brief period of openness in the 90's.

Regarding the current war between Russia and Ukraine, Dr. Forrester said the Ukrainian language was banned under Russian rule. Apparently, efforts by Russia to suppress the Ukrainian culture have been no more successful than Peter the Great's effort to introduce western influences.

Russian Humor

Dr. Forrester told a joke about Roosevelt and Stalin during her talk. Here are a few more jokes, culled from the web. During my search, I read that Americans don't think Russian humor is funny. I would have to agree:

Stalin appears to Putin in a dream and says: "I have two bits of advice for you: kill off all your opponents and paint the Kremlin blue." Putin asks, "Why blue?" Stalin: "I knew you would not object to the first one."

Under orders of the [State Media Oversight Committee](#), the next edition of "[War and Peace](#)" will be retitled, "[Special Operation](#) and Treason."

An American explains to a Russian that the United States is a truly free country because he can stand in front of the White House and shout "To hell with Ronald Reagan!" The Russian says that this is nonsense because he can easily stand in Red Square and shout "To hell with Ronald Reagan."

Can a woman become president of Russia?

Theoretically yes, but practically no.

Why?

Because Putin is not a woman