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Bob Bielski  
Tom Corcoran  
Kent Stokes  
Bob Thomas

[www.wegorotary.org](http://www.wegorotary.org)

Think you have news that should be put in the weekly WEGO Newsletter?

Email it to:  
seth.birch@gmail.com

**The Newsletter of the Westtown-Goshen Rotary Club**

**March 11, 2008**

**ONE OF OUR OWN IS IN NEED...** Past President **Milt Stith** reported to the membership last week that one of our fellow Rotarians, **Jeffrey Toaltoan** is struggling with his treatments for pancreatic cancer. Jeff's fight with cancer is growing worse as his doctors have determined the cancer has also invaded his liver. We all know Jeff to be fun and energetic at our meetings and fundraisers, and we all know how a battle such as this can wear a person down. The impact on his family is just as difficult. Past president **Dave Moldoff** has suggested to the membership that we allocate a portion of our annual funds to a "Family in Crisis" in our local area. Milt Stith has visited with Jeff and his family and they are definitely a family in crisis at this juncture of their lives. **Diane Toaltoan** has expressed to Milt that, Jeff is having a very difficult time sleeping due to their mattress being so uncomfortable. The idea was proposed and since there were no objections, the club has agreed to fund the purchase of a mattress for \$1562.00.

If any of the members would like to help alleviate the cost of the mattress by making a personal contribution of \$25, \$50, or whatever you feel appropriate, please make a check out to our Westtown Goshen Rotary Foundation, and either mail or hand deliver to Ann Trevisan. We know we don't need to ask you, or remind you, but your prayers and support for the **Toaltoan** family are greatly needed.

**WEGO INTERACT CLUB WORKING HARD...** Here is a briefing from our Interact Club Secretary **Dan Lee** on the projects they have been involved with:

It would not be an exaggeration to say that we, the University Scholars Interact Club, hit the ground running this year. Our club, under the leadership of President **Alex Koren**, leapt into fresh, engaging new projects, with members proposing service ideas and partnering with community outreach centers; we also initiated a number of new fundraisers to finance our activities (some of which are still "raking in the dough!")

We kicked off the school year by helping out with the Annual We-Go Rotary Duck Race at Goose Creek, filling eggs and selling t-shirts at the park. Not long afterwards we held our second annual school-wide talent show, which made great memories and raised funds for our club. The projects and fundraisers have picked up significant momentum since then. **Becca Buchanan**, one of the club members, led the Christmas At Sea Project, for which Interact members filled "ditty boxes" with basic toiletries and little gifts for seamen. Club member **Monica Watson** initiated and continues to run a weekly clothing drive, and club member and Vice President, **Sean Spurdle**, established the Sunshine Committee, aimed at spreading greetings to those in local retirement communities. Valentines were most recently delivered. As for ongoing fundraisers, club member **Andrew Pitts** and a number of other members have begun a school-run drink bar to raise steady funds on the side, and club member **Matt Paden** organized the completion and selling of a student-designed school calendar as our latest fundraiser.

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We are also pleased to announce several upcoming projects:

- **Shawna Peterson** heads the committee for Partners For Life, a service project involving raising money for an organization that trains dogs for service for the mobility-impaired.
- **Elisa McGraw** is gathering information for a sandwich drive project to benefit the homeless in Philadelphia
- **Chris Spurdle** is exploring service opportunities to help young readers in local elementary schools and after school programs.
- And, as a club, we are even looking at potential opportunities for service within our school. The University Scholars Interact Club continues to eagerly explore new ways to reach out to our community. So far, we as club members have really bonded in the spirit of service, and are excited for any future opportunities on our horizon!

**KAPPA DELTA RHO GOLF TOURNAMENT...**Our highly energetic and masterful WEGO producer **Seth Birch** is inviting the golf pros from our club to participate in a best ball scramble. The big event is scheduled for April 13th 2008 at the Broad Run Golf Club (formerly the Tattersall Golf Club). Proceeds to benefit the West Chester Police Department. You may sign up individually or register your own foursome at [www.kdrgolf.com](http://www.kdrgolf.com). Entry deadline is extended to March 21 and money is due no later than April 3. Fee is \$100.00 per player, or \$105.00 per player for online payment (due to online processing fees). Included in this cost is golf fees, cart, bagged lunch, give-aways, prizes and practice range use. Seth has sign up forms at the Sgt. At Arms table.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS...**On Thursday, March 27th WeGo will be meeting off site at the U.S. Post Office in downtown West Chester. This special meeting will combine with a rededication ceremony of the post office in honor of our dear friend and past WeGo Rotarian State Senator **Robert J. Thompson**.

**A BRIEF HISTORY LESSON...**The U.S. standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England and English expatriates built the US railroads. Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

Why did they use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.

So who built those old rutted roads? Imperial Rome built the first long distance roads in Europe (and England) for their legions. The roads have been used ever since.

And the ruts in the roads? Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. Therefore the United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot. (Bureaucracies live forever.)

So the next time you are handed a Specification/ Procedure/ Process and wonder what horse's ass came up with it? you may be exactly right. Imperial Roman army chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the rear ends of two war horses. (two horses' asses.) Now, the twist to the story: When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRB's. The SRB's are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah. The engineers who designed the SRB's would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRB's had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains, and the SRB's had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, a major Space Shuttle design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's ass. And you thought being a horse's ass wasn't important? Ancient horse's asses control almost everything....and CURRENT Horses Asses are controlling everything else!

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**OUR 2008-09 PROPOSED SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR THE WE-GO BOARD IS AS FOLLOWS...**

- President: ..... Mark Rudiger
- Immediate Past President ..... Larry Whitaker
- Vice President..... Leo Gibbons
- Secretary ..... Reese Davis
- Treasurer ..... Bob Thomas
- Sgt at Arms..... Travis Olszewski
- Members at Large..... Seth Birch      Jeff Penfil      John Young

We welcome additional nominations...please contact any board member.

**ANNUAL GUNDAKER APPEAL...**Past President and permanent Gundaker representative Stan Krangel reminds us that it's that time of year again for the annual Gundaker appeal. Please see attached donation form and mail to Stanley with your check.

**THE WEGO WEBSITE GETS A NEW SHARP LOOK...**Once again the Westtown-Goshen Rotary Clubs web site went under the mouse and received a new fresh look. There are new pages for the WeGo Foundation, photos, and an archive for past WeGo's to be found at. Updates are being made in the next few weeks and the site should be complete by the beginning of May. Check out the work in progress at [www.wegorotary.org](http://www.wegorotary.org).

**FINALLY FROM YOUR WRITER/EDITOR...**I regret to inform my fellow Rotarians that I must resign. As your editor/writer of the WEGO newsletter that is. With my recent job change at FlightSafety, it's no pun to say that I'm busier than a one-armed paper hanger or busier than a one-legged man in a butt-kickin' contest. Actually, I'm very busy at both. Travel, late nights working from home, the stress of sitting at a computer all day and fielding hundreds of emails is taking its toll. In addition, my three young ladies are becoming more involved in school work and other related activities, that quite frankly, I don't want to miss. I get one shot in my lifetime at being a Father; I aim to make it my best shot.

I'm very confident there is a Rotarian within our midst who would love to write and inspire us to take action in our communities and Rotary International. You get to be the "voice" of the best club in the district.

It has been a privilege to write this newsletter on your behalf. My inspiration to write the WEGO comes from my mentor **Dick Hodgson**. While no one will ever come close to matching "Dicky Do's" wit and charm, I like to think I came close. I predict the future circumstances surrounding my job will change and perhaps more time will be available to possibly write the WEGO again. But for now, I'm doing good just to be an active Rotarian. Thanks fellow Rotarians for your support and understanding.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

- 13 March      Presentation on the Pennsylvania Judicial System by Judge David Bortner
- 20 March      PA Turnpike Commission presentation
- 27 March      Off-site meeting, rededication ceremony of the U.S. Post Office in the name of past WeGo  
Rotarian State Senator Robert J. Thompson
- 03 April      West Chester Senior Center Amy Balian and Steve Quigley
- 10 April      TBA
- 17 April      Chester County Community Foundation Beth Briglia

**UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS:**

District Conference April 25-27 at the Skytop Lodge in the Pocono mountains

# Rotary Club of Westtown-Goshen

## **GUNDAKER ANNUAL APPEAL** **Rotary District 7450**

Dear Fellow We-Go Rotarian:

The Gundaker Foundation's Annual Fund Raising Campaign is under way. The Gundaker Foundation was established to better serve the people and Rotary Clubs from District 7450. All 53 clubs in our District network together through the Gundaker Foundation to help improve the quality of life for many deserving people.

The Gundaker Foundation annual budget covers the following areas:

1. Matching Club Funds for both local and international projects (we have already received \$2,000 from Gundaker this year to support We-Go projects).
2. Helping local graduate and undergraduate students with educational costs.
3. Helping our District to provide one of Rotary International's best "Club to Club" High School Exchange Programs for both Inbound and Outbound students.

Many hours are donated by District Rotarians to administer the above programs. These Rotarians are rewarded by the smiles and thank yous from the many young people who have been helped by the Gundaker programs. We need your financial assistance annually to continue to provide these important programs.

While We-Go currently has several Guy Gundaker Fellows, but I'm looking forward to the time when every member of our club becomes a Guy Gundaker Fellow (representing total Gundaker contributions of \$1,000 or more). To encourage maximum We-Go participation this year, our club's Foundation will provide \$50 to match each Sustaining Membership contribution of \$50 or more.

Thank you for your support,

Stanley Krangel  
We-Go Gundaker Representative



**Pledge:** To support the programs of the Gundaker Foundation, Inc., a non-profit corporation of Rotary District 7450, I will make the following contribution:

- \$1,000 Guy Gundaker Fellowship
- \$50 Guy Gundaker Sustaining Membership Contribution (to be matched by the We-Go Foundation so my Sustaining Membership Contribution for this year will total \$100.)
- \$100 Guy Gundaker Sustaining Membership Contribution (to be matched with \$50 from the We-Go Foundation so my Sustaining Membership Contribution for this year will total \$150.)
- \$25       Other Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I will pay by:     Check enclosed     Have Treasurer bill me

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return the pledge form and check to me at the next We-Go meeting or mail to:  
Stan Krangel, 646 Heatherton Lane, West Chester, Pa. 19380