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

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

Email it to:  
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**The Newsletter of the Westtown-Goshen Rotary Club**

May 28, 2007

**WEGO HELPS GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE . . . Lisa Balch** wants to thank all her We-Go buddies who supported the Spring Community American Red Cross Blood Drive held at Penn Wood Elementary School last Thursday. There were a record 63 units of blood collected which will help over 189 local hospital patients. On hand to donate were **John O'Brien, Reese Davis, Ed Olsavicky, Tom Corcoran, Larry Whitaker, John Young and Bob Thomas.** Taking a day off work to volunteer at the drive and donate was Sergeant-at-Arms **Travis Olszewski.** And stopping in to lend his support was **President Govinda Malya.** Lisa plans to continue the twice yearly blood drives and hopes that We-Go will continue to support this life saving endeavor. As soon as the fall drive is scheduled she will let us know the date.

**VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS...Kimberly Bivens** is a West Chester East senior who will be attending The Art Institute of Philadelphia for 4 years, majoring in fashion design/marketing. She is ranked 186 of 505 and came highly recommended by her teacher and counselor. She also holds a part time job and is involved in extracurricular activities. Kimberly was a strong interviewer and conveyed a positive, mature attitude, despite having a challenging family life. She is commended for her accomplishments.

**Joseph Hoffman** is a Henderson senior who will be attending Universal Technical Institute in order to become an automobile mechanic. Joseph, like Kimberly, has had an immensely challenging personal life. His mother had 8 years of fighting an illness and has lived with relatives since that time. This hardship has seemed to make him a strong and grateful person. He holds two part time jobs and was involved in scouting and lacrosse. He comes highly recommended from his teacher (who also notes his strong "soft skills"), and his counselor highly recommends him as well. Financially, he has a need for scholarship money more than any of the candidates we considered. He was a joy to interview.

**PRESIDENT'S DINNER...** Get your reservation in as soon as possible for **Thursday June 28th at 6:00 p.m. at Penn Oaks Country Club.** **President Govinda** is arranging the change of command ceremony at a cost of \$34.00 per person. Dinner choices are Chicken Chesapeake, Atlantic Salmon, Filet Mignon or a Vegetarian plate. Hors d'oeuvres and cocktails provided by **President and Mrs. Govinda Malya.** Please sign the sign-up sheet being circulated at our regular meetings. The deadline draws near.

**GREAT DAY FOR SELLING SLUSHIES...**Past President and future retread **Mark Rudiger,** reported fantastic selling opportunities at the annual Chester County Hospital May Festival! The weather was fantastic, and people were thirsting for the frozen

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concoctions served up by our fellow Rotarians: **Mark Rudiger, Nick Christie, Seth Birch, Larry Whitaker, Keath Fetter, Travis Olszewski, Bill Retallick, Ginny Zinni, Bob Bielski, Leo Gibbons, Bob Thomas, Harshad Dodia, Milt Stith, Kenton Stokes, Reese Davis, Jeff Toaltoan, Jeff Penfil.** Supposedly the only person missing was **Captain Morgan**, but rumor has it he may have been hiding under the table. If we have missed anyone else please forgive us.

**MEMORIAL WEEKEND...** Finally, some little known facts about the origins of Memorial Day: Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General order No. 11, and was first observed on 30 May 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war). It is now celebrated in almost every State on the last Monday in May (passed by Congress with the National Holiday Act of 1971 to ensure a three day weekend for Federal holidays), though several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19 in Texas, April 26 in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10 in South Carolina; and June 3 (Jefferson Davis' birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee. In 1915, inspired by the poem: "In Flander's Fields" by John McRae, Moina Michael replied with her own poem: *We cherish too, the Poppy red That grows on fields where valor led, It seems to signal to the skies That blood of heroes never dies.* She then conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. She was the first to wear one, and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit servicemen in need. Later a Madam Guerin from France was visiting the United States and learned of this new custom started by Ms. Michael and when she returned to France, made artificial red poppies to raise money for war orphaned children and widowed women. This tradition spread to other countries. In 1921, the Franco-American Children's League sold poppies nationally to benefit war orphans of France and Belgium.

#### **THE FINAL PROGRAMS FOR THIS ROTARY YEAR...**

- 31 May – Lung cancer and Asbestos ( Speaker to be arranged by D.J. Tyndall)
- 7 June – Reigns of Life by Julie Friedman and Kathy Colvin
- 14 June – Classification talks by **Leo Gibbons** and **Joe Cunnane**
- 21 June – Topic to be determined by Elsa Wolf
- 28 June – President's dinner at Penn Oaks Country Club

#### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

##### **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER...**

- 27 June** District Governor installation Desmond Hotel
- 13-14 July** R.I. Presidential event regarding membership
- 23 Aug** Rotary Foundation, R.I.'s President's visit

