



Eggstra Eggstra

Week #35 of the Bittner Dynasty!

March 6, 2009

The Rotary Club of Columbia/Patuxent
Fridays, 7:30 a.m. Vantage House, 5400 Vantage Point Rd.

Visiting Rotarians: **Bill Commack**, College Park Rotary; **Joe Hines**, Columbia Town Center Rotary; **Jeff Van Stone**, Clarksville Rotary

Guests: **Mark Brodsky**, Graphic Impressions (guest of Darrell)

Make-ups: notta

Buffet Line Zen: “Still Gettin’ It Done – Barbie is 50 years old now!”

Announcements: **Joe Hines** from the Columbia Town Center club promoted their annual **Sports Banquet** on March 27. Always an impressive list of local pro players and retirees from the Colts and Orioles attend this usually sold out event. He also promoted an **HC Drug Free Job Fair** for teens at Long Reach High School. **Katie Essing** hawked the upcoming **Business Roundtable** Thursday, 3/12 7:30-9:00 a.m. at the former Rouse HQ building. Barb Nicklas of GGP will be discussing the redevelopment plans for Columbia Town Center. Space is limited to the first 20, so email Katie if you plan on attending to get an up close and personal look at the magnificent potential in transforming the area around Lake Kittaquindi and Symphony Woods into a real downtown! **Alan Jefferson** read a thank you letter we received from **Voices for Children**.

Vocational Moment: **Caroline Sherman** gave us some details of the American Recovery Act that insures CPA’s will stay in business at least another century! A few key points: Estimated Tax threshold has been lowered to 90% of previous year’s tax, down from 100-110%. Depreciation has been shortened to maximize write-offs now. And something changed with COBRA. Roy: “I hate snakes!”

Foundation Moment: Treasurer for Life **Charlie McCabe** sung the praises of the Rotary Foundation, not only for its international good works, but also the manner in which local projects can get funding 3 years hence from the contributions we make today. We are a little behind our usual pace of contributions. Everyone is expected (not required) to contribute \$200 annually to the Foundation. Thanks to a wide range of educational programs about the Rotary Foundation over the past 10 years and the significant 3-H Grant we received to launch Leon and Lon’s FAHA (Foundation Against HIV/AIDS) organization in Ethiopia (\$287,000!), our club has consistently ranked in the top 5 Rotary clubs in the District in contributions per Rotarian.

Membership Moment: Club Membership Chair **Ken Solow** had an epiphany about Rotary. “I feel like I am in Business Development for Rotary! We have the best brand out there. We do impressive work locally and around the world. More members will extend our reach in the community. They need us more than ever. Civic duty is making a comeback. Let’s capitalize on this paradigm shift.”

Program: **Rachelina Bonacci** wowed us with the many facets of **Howard County Tourism**. Ho.Co. is the 3rd wealthiest county in the U.S. and generates \$500,000,000 in revenue from tourism, \$16.1 million in tax receipts. 92% of concert goers at Merriweather are from outside the County. Howard County Tourism Council has a \$587,000 annual budget, of which 80% comes from state and local funding. Main private funding source is their annual **Soiree** at Belmont Conference Center during the first week of June. Features many local restaurants’ best fare and a swinging good time dance contest! “Posh” headquarters in basement of 100+ year old E.C. Post Office Building is getting a make-over. They will relocate for one year during renovations. Some of the projects tourism runs or assists each year:



Restaurant Week focuses on local independently owned and operated restaurants, which average 45% increase in business. **Wine in the Woods** sees 25,000 attendees at Symphony Woods. **Columbia Festival of the Arts** is the



biggest draw of the year. **Blossoms of Hope** program plants Kwanza Cherry Trees around parks in Ho.Co., raising awareness of breast cancer. The 1,300 trees planted so far beautify the county and has raised money for the Claudia Mayer Cancer Center. **Howard Life**



Festival on April 26, which expands the Blossoms of Hope program to include a half marathon from W.R. Grace to the General Growth Building (bike or run 35 or 65 miles); **Pink Greens** on the golf courses; **Pink Plates** in the restaurants. New this year is their first Wildlife Driving Tour through Howard County.



Happy Dollars: **Alan** was more than happy to let you buy your HCC Grand Prix tix from Rachelina. **Ken** was glad his daughter Carly was off her Prednisone and doing much better, and son Danny had lighting duties at Wilde Lake High School’s production of “Pippin.” **Tom Allen** had a dollar that was not signed by JimLee – he must have run out of TARP



money. **Kari** was hip to the Chocolate Ball (being over) next weekend. All her kids will be working the event and Mom and Dad Quast will be visiting from Minnesota for 3 weeks! **Charlie McCabe** says he survived St. Kits, but we know better than that! He noted that the airport displayed a banner saying “Rotary Welcomes You!” and 4-Way Test signs lined the road out of the airport. Also, his son at Elon University is participating in a special program in L.A. **Lon** was just happy (as usual!). **Bill** from College Park is now cancer free after a run in with melanoma. **Katie** loved the program. **Caroline** loves Tourism, especially the Cherry Blossom program. She also announced that Annie Geiermann was elected to Maryland’s Top 100 Women.” **Brian** was happy to be here. **Hal G.** dressed in the dark and now notices his shoes don’t match and his underwear fly is in the back! Roy promptly gave Hal his dollar back. **Renee** loved the program and added: “My underwear is on right!” **Dave B** enjoyed the program and had a Proud Dollar for wife Ilana who, during testimony before the Columbia Council, referred to them as “a bunch of weenies!”

Fines:

Roy - wearing a tie that looked like it was made out of one of Hal's shirts
Hal - wearing a shirt that looked like it was made out of one of Roy's ties
Roy - Agreeing to buy 50/50 tickets for Cliff, but did not because he only had a \$20
Hal - The Bluebird of Happiness apparently sat on his shoulder and left a reminder.
Renee - For sending Roy an email that said that 22 hours advance notice to get change for Friday's 50/50 raffle ticket purchase was just not enough time! She recited Maryland Code 50.50 that requires at least 24 hours notice must be given to request correct change. Renee then tried to pay her fine with a \$10 bill but was unceremoniously rebuffed by Sgt. Roy.



Blaine - for paying for tickets with 2 rolls of pennies and allegedly being 2 short, which he promptly paid for with 2 more pennies.

Darrell - for stylin' through the parking lot with the volume on Level 11 like he was Puff Daddy Nevin. (that's a big upgrade from the Magic Dragon!) And for allowing the Tourism Council to relocate its Visitors Center to his basement!

Late: **Kari** and a few others.

50/50 Raffle: #493 to **Sam Krupsaw** and a 7 of diamonds saves us all for a chance at next week's raffle prize, now over \$2,000! Down to just 9 cards in the deck. (Has anyone checked to see if Roy actually puts the Joker in the deck???)

Upcoming Programs:

March 13	Local Food Banks – Dawn Audia
March 20	Charitable Trust Annual Report presented by K. Solow
March 27	HCC Scholars Program – Missy Matthey

Upcoming Events:

March 9	Bumble Bee Spelling Bee for Grades 1-3, The Gathering Place
March 12	Business Roundtable at GGP's HQ – Barbara Nicklas on Town Center redevelopment
March 14	ARC Chocolate Ball
March 27-28	RI Membership Seminar w/ R.I. President D.K. Lee – Greenbelt Marriott –
March 30	Grassroots Volunteer Dinner – (Ken Solow, organizer)
April 18	District 7620 Assembly at Laurel Holiday Inn
April 26 –	*new* Howard Life event – Blossoms ½ Marathon, Pink Greens Golf, Pink Plates, Cherrybration event by Ho.Co. Tourism
May 2	HCC Vino Scholastico event
June 13	Rotary Boat Float kicks off the Columbia Festival of the Arts
June 20	Annual Induction Dinner at Engineer's Club in Balto.
June 29	Grassroots Volunteer Dinner
August 31	Grassroots Volunteer Dinner
Sept. 19, 2009	“Grandeur of the Seas” club Cruise to Bermuda
November 30	Grassroots Volunteer Dinner

	<u>Greeter/Gracer</u>	<u>Foundationeer</u>	<u>Vocationator</u>
March 13	Caroline Sherman	Blaine Milner	Carl Stubbings
March 20	Katie Essing	Charlie Montague	Brian Hammond
March 27	Sherri Brogan	Darrell Nevin	Bob Smith
April 3	Darrell Nevin	Renee Madden	
April 10		Tom Sabia	

March Rotarian Anniversaries:

22 years Charlie McCabe
12 years Hal Gurian
9 years Carl Stubbings
4 years Cheryl Lind (woulda been)
1 year Dave Lerer

March Birthdays:

3-14 PeteWalt Kunz
3-24 Blaine Milner
3-25 Dawn Audia
3-28 Kim Andreone
3-28 Kari Ebeling
3-29 Renee Madden

Howard County Rotary Clubs make a make-up today!

- Clarksville Rotary Club, Maple Lawn, Tuesday @ 7:45 a.m.
- Columbia Rotary Club, Eggspectations, Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m.
- Columbia Town Center Rotary Club , Sheraton Inn, Wednesday @ 12:15 p.m.
- Elkridge Rotary Club, Furnace Inn, Wednesday @ 6:30 p.m.
- Ellicott City Sunrise Club, Tersiguel's, Thursday @ 7:15 a.m.
- Ellicott City Rotary Club, Tersiguel's Thursday @ noon

Next Meeting: March 13, 2009



CAPTION CONTEST SUBMISSIONS from past week:

- * Arrr, ar, ar, ar, ar... one more can of me spinach and Brutus is done for!
- * Three guesses where the nozzle is on this balloon animal!!!
- * In this battle of the bulge ...I'd say the bulge won!
- * "I have never used steroids. Period. I don't know how to say it any more clearly than that. Never!"
- * This gives new meaning to Lump Some Distribution!
- * Completely hard and fully rigid...viva Viagra!!!
- * What??? Do I have something between my teeth??
- * Bees! One little sting and poof....I look like the Michelin Man.
- * "I think I'm a fall color."
- * Dude... I have GOT to meet your tailor.
- * "Does this outfit make me look fat?"