

Mount Clemens Rotary Club



“the spokesperson”

November 19, 2009

www.mountclemensrotary.org

Minutes by Joe Peruzzi



**BRING FOOD BANK DONATIONS
ON THE THIRD THURSDAY OF
THE MONTH**

11/26 NO MEETING - HAVE A
THANKFUL THANKSGIVING

12/5 ROTARY CHRISTMAS PARTY
AT CHUCK O'GRADY'S

12/10 LINDA MAY
POST POLIO SYNDROME

12/17 FRASER SINGERS

5/16/10
SPRING ZING - AN AWESOME AND
ENGAGING EXPERIENCE FOR THE
SENSSES TASTE-FEST AND AUCTION
ZUCCARO'S COUNTRY HOUSE

ODE TO THANKSGIVING
*To our national birds
The American Eagle
The Thanksgiving Turkey
May one give us peace
in all our states
And the other a piece
for all our plates*

Presiding Officer:
Rotarian Leading the Pledge:
Benediction:
Menu:
Songs:



Sarah Lee-Ellena

Jack Hart

John Walendowski

Ham, green beans, potatoes, salad and pie

Ray Hofner led Rotary in his version of the Thanksgiving national anthem "Over the River and Through the Woods" followed by "Sing a Song to Rotary."

Guests were Maurice Johnson, guest of **Phil Groh**, Dr. Michael Deeb, guest speaker, and Norbert Yager, guest of Dr. Michael Deeb

Announcements and Good Will:

- **Nancy Dedenbach** once again called for volunteers the ring the bells for the Salvation Army. You can sign up at the next meeting. Also, if you want to walk with fellow Rotarians in this year's Mount Clemens Santa Parade, you should show up before 10 a.m. on Friday, the day after Thanksgiving. It's really a great time.
- **Jack Hart** reminded the club of the upcoming appearance of Jeff Daniels at the John R. Armstrong Performing Arts Center. The engagement is at 8 p.m., December 6. For more info call 783-6520.
- **Carl Becker** let everyone know that his daughter, Lori Becker, appeared in the most recent edition of Motion magazine, a periodical for attorneys. She is an attorney, mediator and counselor at law who loves the sporting life and has won several shooting trophies at the Huntsman Hunt Club in Dryden.
- **Chuck O'Grady** reminded club members that he and his wife Carol will be hosting this year's Christmas party on Saturday, December 5. Maps will be available at the next Rotary meeting.

Flowers: **Eric Pierson** sold flowers by purchasing the first one for **Bob Leslie**, **Dick Pierson** purchased a flower for **Pete Ruggirello**, and the last flower was bought by the club for guest speaker Dr. Michael Deeb.

Recognition by Neil Dempsey: Eric Pierson was fined \$3 for bagging a deer, **Bob Leslie** was fined \$4.99 for taking too long last week to sell three flowers, **Don Miller** was fined \$4.99 for photographs of him and his wife Candice Miller in the most recent edition of Hour magazine. Fellow Rotarians at **Nancy Dedenbach's** table were fined \$1 each after it was learned that her husband, Ron, had cooked up a turtle captured on a golf course.

From Bob Baker: The Clinton Township Sunrise Rotary Club will be having a spaghetti dinner on Sunday, December 6 from 3 to 7 p.m. at Theo's Family Dining, 41734 Hayes (about 18-1/2 Mile Road) in Clinton Township. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors (55+), \$6 ages 6-10, and free for children 5 and under. Tickets are available from Theo's (586-255-3691) or from Margo Baker (586-465-6988).

Guest speaker: **Kristine Miele** introduced **Dr. Michael Deeb** who spoke about the economic causes of the American Civil War. His most recent book, "Honor Restored," is the third in a trilogy of writings about the Civil War years. The first was titled "Duty and Honor," the second was "Duty Accomplished." Dr. Deeb explained that the Civil War was caused to a great extent by the economic differences between the northern and southern states. It was thought at the start of the war that economic reason would prevail and the war would end within a few months. Tragically, that would not be the case.

Jamie Fitzpatrick won \$52 in the 50/50 raffle.

"Did You Know? ~ Facts, Figures & Folklore about the Pilgrims & the First Thanksgiving"

<http://www.holidays.net/thanksgiving/didyouknow.htm>

Did you know . . . that the Pilgrims' trip to the New World aboard the Mayflower lasted 65 days? It was a cold and damp journey, and since the ship was wooden, passengers were not allowed to light a fire for warmth or for cooking their food . . . half of the 110 Pilgrims who had left England in 1620 survived that first year. In their second year, however, the Pilgrims flourished with plentiful food sources, thanks in large part to the friendship and guidance of an Abnaki Indian named Squanto . . . the first Thanksgiving took place in December 1621, when the Pilgrims held a three-day feast in Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts to celebrate their bountiful harvest . . . the first Thanksgiving feast was celebrated during the Pilgrim's second year in the New World. During the first year, the Pilgrims were nearly decimated by the brutally cold winter . . . the first Thanksgiving celebration was held in the fall of 1621 by the proclamation of Pilgrim Governor William Bradford. He invited the neighboring Native Americans to join with the colonists in the three-day celebration, which

featured games, races, bow and arrow competitions, and of course feasting of the bounty of the fall harvest . . . Thanksgiving didn't become an official national holiday until 1863 when President Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday of November a national day of Thanksgiving . . . 107 million American homes will celebrate Thanksgiving this year . . . U.S. Presidents issue an annual Thanksgiving Proclamation declaring the fourth Thursday of November as Thanksgiving. While President George Washington was the first U.S. President to issue a Thanksgiving Proclamation, not all following presidents followed the custom. In 1863 Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving to be celebrated on the final Thursday of November. In 1939 President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared that Thanksgiving would be celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November and in 1941 the U.S. Congress passed a law officially



establishing the celebration of Thanksgiving as the fourth Thursday in November . . . U.S. Presidents issue a pardon to White House Thanksgiving turkeys. Since about 1947 the National Turkey Federation has presented the President with live turkeys in a ceremony. The turkeys are pardoned and live out the rest of their days on a farm or sent to either Disneyland in California or Walt Disney World in Florida, where they serve as the honorary grand marshals of Disney's Thanksgiving Day Parade. While it is commonly believed that this pardoning tradition began with President Harry Truman in 1947, the Truman Library has been unable to find any evidence for this. The earliest Thanksgiving Presidential Pardon on record is with President George H. W. Bush in 1989 . . .

The most popular Thanksgiving dinner includes a menu of turkey, cranberries, sweet potatoes and pumpkin pie. Americans raise more than 256 million turkeys. The biggest producer of turkeys is Minnesota, followed by North Carolina, Arkansas, Virginia, Missouri and California. There is no historical evidence that the first Thanksgiving included turkey. There was mention of wild turkeys in a book written by Pilgrim Governor Bradford . . . the most traditional way to prepare a turkey is to stuff and roast it, although some chefs -- particularly in the south -- swear by deep frying their birds . . . Americans raise 649 million pounds of cranberries, 1.6 billion pounds of sweet potatoes, and 998 million pounds of pumpkin . . . the U.S. imports \$5.2 million worth of live turkeys from Canada, \$2.2 million worth of cranberries (also from Canada), and \$2.3 million dollars worth of sweet potatoes from the Dominican Republic . . . Turkey, Texas has 496 residents; Turkey Creek, Louisiana has 357 residents, and Turkey, North



Carolina has 267 residents. There are eight places and townships named Cranberry, and 20 places named Plymouth . . . the first National Football League's Thanksgiving Classic game was played in 1934, when the Detroit Lions hosted the game as a gimmick to get people to go to Lions football games . . . there are many Thanksgiving Day parades held across the country, the most famous is the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City held every Thanksgiving Day and televised nationally by NBC. The parade features parade floats with specific themes, scenes from Broadway plays, etc. The float that traditionally ends the Macy's Parade is the Santa Claus float, the arrival of which is an unofficial sign of the beginning of the Christmas season . . . for many Native American people, Thanksgiving is cause for mourning. Although the first Thanksgiving included the Pilgrims' Native American neighbors, that spirit of cooperation did not last long between the native people and the colonists. The land and lives of the native people were pillaged and destroyed countless times during

the early history of the United States of America. Thanksgiving has taken on greater historical significance for many Native Americans, who view that First Thanksgiving as the beginning of centuries of oppression and discrimination . . . Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, widely touted as the biggest Christmas shopping day in America, is actually not the biggest shopping day. The Saturday before Christmas has historically been the largest volume shopping day. Black Thursday ranks from second to fifth in Christmas shopping days.



BIRTHDAYS

11/14 JOHN WALENDOWSKI
11/15 DARLENE LABELLE
11/18 JEFF FUREST

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

MARY ANN HOSEY (18), BOB RANDOLPH (52), NANCY DEDENBACH (20)

CHUCK O'GRADY (55) AND MARTY RUBIN (55) (WOW!)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kristine Miele & Rolf Schroeter (*one year*)
Jessica Stone & John Walendowski (*two years*)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Birthdays & Flowers

Lynn Davidson

Boat Outing ~ Valerie Miller

Bulletin ~ Eric Pierson

Community Projects

Eric Pierson

Fund-Raising ~ Sarah Lee-Ellena

House ~ Jessica Stone

House Committee Assistants

John Hart, Don Torline, Ray Hofner, Cecilia Moloney, Bob Randolph



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Music ~ Bob Selwa

Membership ~ John Walendowski

Public Relations

Nancy Dedenbach

Recognition ~ Julie Huttenlocher

RI Foundation Development

Jeff Furest & Bob Baker

RI Liaison ~ Rolf Schroeter

Speakers Program

Kristine Miele & Sarah Lee-Ellena

Wheelchair Project ~ Larry Neal

Mount Clemens Rotary
Club 2992 of
Rotary District 6380
of Rotary International
Meets 12:15 p.m. Thursday at
Zion United Church of Christ
Serving the community since 1920
(586)468-2000
schfam94@yahoo.com
View your newsletter online at
www.mountclemensrotary.org
District 6380 newsletter is posted
at www.rotary6380.org
Announcements & bulletin
submissions
lindamay@ameritech.net
(586) 791-8116 phone/fax

Jeffrey Furest
President

Sarah Lee-Ellena

First Vice President/President-Elect

Eric Pierson

Second Vice President/

President Nominee

Julie Huttenlocher

Treasurer

Penny Schulwitz

Secretary

Nancy Dedenbach

Immediate Past President