



The Rotary Club of Elmhurst *District 6450*  
**Fellowship – Understanding – Service - Ethics**  
[www.elmhurstrotary.org](http://www.elmhurstrotary.org)

**August 3, 2023**

**Opening**

President Frank started us off by sharing two profound quotes, both of which apply to the Rotary way of doing business. The first was by Helen Keller who said, "Alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much." The other quote was from the 39<sup>th</sup> US President, LBJ, who said, "There are no problems which we cannot solve together, and there are very few which any of us can settle by himself."

Taking the early lead in inviting the most guests to a Rotary meeting between now and the end of the year, Frank introduced his sister and brother-in-law, Susan & Roger Rose who came all the way from Phoenix to escape the heat and spend quality time with our distinguished leader. His lead, however, was short-lived, as Charlie introduced 4 guests...his lovely wife, Betty, fellow York Art teacher Carla Murray and former student, Michael Symber and his wife, Jody.

Charlie picked the Jack of Spades from a fresh deck of cards. 1 down. 51 to go.

Frank then conducted our Fine Session. Attempting to improve the punctuality of our members, he personally attacked anyone and everyone that arrived at the meeting in a less than timely manner. Look for a line of Rotarians waiting outside our meeting room starting at 11:45am next Thursday.

Rob Kopecky informed the club that he recently ran into the first recipient of our newly formatted scholarship program, Liam Parpan. Liam, who graduated from Marquette with a degree in Nursing, said he couldn't have done it without our support. He will be working at Rush Hospital going forward.

**Program**

The club's own Charlie Laliberte talked about the Joy of Teaching Art (the subject, not Pitz) which he did for 40 years from 1964 to 2004. It all started in a high school with an exciting urban environment in the Philadelphia suburb of Chester, PA where he taught French for a year. He quickly transferred to a school in Baltimore where he shared his art studio with a mural of famous building alum, Babe Ruth, and a 6' boa constrictor!

In 1973, Charlie was asked to start up the Art Department at York H.S. He shared highlights of his years there...from preventing a serious accident when a student fainted while using a welding torch, to splitting his pants down the middle while moving a display case with some of his students, to "exposing" some of his students to a surprise performance while attending an avant-garde play while on a field trip back in the 70's. Those were the days, my friends!

With a smile on his face while reminiscing about said field trip, former student, Michael Symber related what a pivotal role Charlie played in his life. Being more than just a teacher, Michael explained how Charlie realized that each student had different talents, that they should be who they are and do what they want to do. Michael has followed in Charlie's footsteps, teaching art while still being a talented artist and, most recently, opening a Fine Arts School catering to artists of all ages and abilities right here in Elmhurst.

After 28 years at York, Charlie and Betty decided to dip their proverbial toe in the waters of international teaching. They immediately fell in love with the assignment teaching at a middle school in Istanbul, Turkey where both students and teachers hailed from all over the world. The school schedule afforded them much time for travel. What a great experience!

Charlie finished his program by showing us a few pictures. The first was from 1973 showing Betty and him standing in front of one of his original works that was on display in the Art Institute of Chicago!

He then showed us a wide array of art produced by former students who work in numerous media. A partial list includes: working for De Beers Jewellers in Australia; being a creative arts therapist; teaching art in Mexico City, Oak Park and elsewhere; assistant to famous metal sculptor, Richard Hunt; working with glass and ceramics; working with “found” objects; working with recycled paper; working with just black, white and red; tattoo artist; producing Ok Go videos (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJuhGUh8vU>).

Charlie concluded that it was a fun career. Sounds like it.

Bill Shanklin invited everyone to attend the upcoming Elmhurst American Legion Community Appreciation event at 6pm on Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> featuring Elmhurst’s own Lake Effect Band with a special tribute to Art Ahlgrim. Tickets can be purchased at the door for only \$20.

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS:**

8/10 TBD

**Finer-Thought for the Day:**

8/10 Bill Lyman

Boria, Marilyn	Phil	Retired-Library Director
Cahill, Valerie	Hal	Risk Mgmt. Director-YMCA
Carroll, Larry	Carlotta	Post-Secondary Education
Clohessy, Jim	Vanessa	Accounting-Small Business
Gorski, Maryann	Ron	Resident Artist
Harper, Mary Beth	Jim	Library Director
Hill, Collin	Megan	Retail Jewelry
Hostetler, Harry	Marie	Retired-Manufacturer
Howard, Bob	Karen	Attorney
Kopecky, Rob	Cheryl	Retired Photographer
Kosik, Marilyn		Residential Real Estate
Kunesh, Dan	Paula	Industrial Supply Distribution
Laliberte, Charlie	Betty	Education-Children UP-Uganda
Libovicz, Elaine		Retired-City Treasurer
Lyman, Bill	Linda	Retired-Railway Management
Mason, Rachael		Business Services – Pub. Library
McKenna, Dave	Tammy	Home Construction
Mehta, Shazad		Auto Repair Service
Merrill, C. J.	Alice	Retired-Music Educator
Nichele, Joe	Kelly	Attorney
Nilles, Joe		Property Management
Pitz, Arthur	Suzanne	Retired-International Relations
Robinson, Jody	John	Financial Planner
Sakash, Bill		Retired-Industrial Distribution
Shanklin, Bill		Retired-Packaging
Slone, Joyce	Russ Weigand	Commercial Real Estate
Spada, Al	Beth	Non-Profit Management
St. Laurent, Greg	Brenda Lee	Retired-Retail Packaging
Studebaker, Scott	Mary	Healthcare Development
Sukowicz, Mark	Joan	Accounting
Troost, Frank	Patricia	Retired-Monument Company
Turnbough, Eli		Funeral Director
Tyburski, Susan	Paul Weisel	Hospital Development
Vaccaro, Garry	Debra	Warm Coats for Cool Kids
Villiard, Bob	Becky	Retired-International Logistics
Weigel, Joe	Aileen	Commercial Lending

**ROTARY 2022-2023**

**Create Hope in the World**

**Rotary International President**  
Gordon McNally - Scotland

**District 6450 District Governor**  
Connor Gee – Chicago (and Elmhurst)

**Rotary Club of Elmhurst Officers**

President	Frank Troost
President-Elect	Marilyn Boria
Secretary	Bob Villiard
Treasurer	Jim Clohessy
Past-President	Mary Beth Harper
<b>Directors</b>	Dave McKenna
	Art Pitz
	Eli Turnbough
	Garry Vaccaro

<b><u>Member</u></b>	<b><u>Spouse</u></b>	<b><u>Classification</u></b>
Alexander, Don	Jody	Retired-Finance
Bartels, Ken	Marge	Civic Leader
Bergheger, Brian	Carol Doyle	Retired-Museum Director

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF ELMHURST** meets for lunch at 12:00 noon at the *Elmhurst Public Library, 125 S. Prospect Avenue*, Elmhurst, followed by a program and ending by 1:30pm. **Lunch is catered except for a beverage.** The BrewPoint Coffee bar, located just inside the Library, has a limited supply of drinks in addition to coffee your way.

**THE FOUR WAY TEST** of the things we think, say or do:

- Is it the TRUTH?
- Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?
- No. 5: “Is it any fun”? [Ted Arey]

“Rotary International is the world’s leading humanitarian service organization”, Cliff Lyda, Past Pres. of Elmhurst Rotary & Past District 6450 Governor.

**Elmhurst Rotarians at today’s meeting: Numerous**

