



**Next Meeting: July 30, 2010**  
**Opener: Jane Ross**  
**Program: John Horkel - Executive Director, Earthplace**  
**Greeters: Shelly Kassen, Janis Collins**  
**Place: Bobby Q's**

**July 30, 2010 / Volume 21, No. 5**

# The Crier

**Sunrise Rotary Club of Westport • P.O. Box 43 • Westport, CT 06881-0043 • [www.westportsunriserotary.com](http://www.westportsunriserotary.com)**

## July 23 Club Meeting

### Opener



**Carole Rubenstein opens the July 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting**

### Guests

Nitzzy Cohen, guest of Steve Violette  
 Nick Mathias, guest of Mark Mathias  
 Gene Cederbaum, guest of Bill Meyer  
 Pat McCormack, Westport News

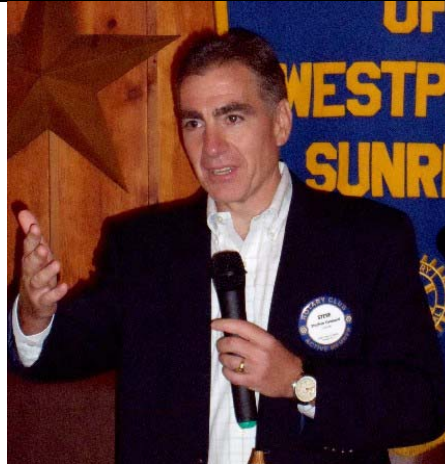
### Visiting Rotarians

Rev. Robbins-Adrian Cole,  
 Monadnock NH Rotary

### Program



**Janis Collins told her life story at the July 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting**



**Steve Cowherd giving his Bio on July 23**

Steve Cowherd is our resident health care lawyer. From journalism, which he called a "Great job for a young person," Steve morphed himself to a government relations consultant for pharma companies and other clients, and now to an active representative of doctors and hospitals who deals with many aspects of health reform.

Steve called his childhood "Enjoyable but non-nondescript" – as though being born in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and living in Puerto Rico before his family moved back to the US when Steve was seven is that. When he started school in the US, in Monroe, NY, his first language was Spanish. The school pressed him into English immediately, so when he returned to Spanish in high school he said he had no advantage over native English speakers.

Steve entered the State University of New York at Stony Brook intending to become a physical therapist, but got hooked on English and journalism. After college, he took a job with Gannet's Poughkeepsie Journal, his "great job." What could be better he asked, than meeting such a wide range of people, asking them questions and writing about it?

By 1984, he was contributing to the paper's election coverage team, and interviewed Geraldine Ferraro, the first female vice presidential candidate, and a resident of Newburgh, NY. He was also being assigned to cover various political and human interest stories for USA Today in Washington, DC.

As much fun as that job was, his friends beckoned him to New York City, where he met his wife Anne, who worked on the trading floor and later the human resources department at Paine Webber. Steve took a government relations job with a firm working for pharmaceutical companies, and often shuttled back and forth to Washington to do his day job while attending law school at St. Johns University by night.

Upon graduation, he told us, modestly, he joined Shearman & Sterling (one of the premier "white shoe" firms). As part of the standard first year associate's 24/7 regimen, one of the first cases he was assigned was Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI). That almost 20 year old case, with its "Byzantine investments" and lack of regulation, should have served as the guide book to some of the problems that led to the unraveling of the markets in 2008.

His daughter Nora's birth, in 1997, after nine years of marriage, became a "Life changer." Steve and Anne wanted to share Nora's life. They left New York and moved to Westport in 1998.

He joined a local firm where he represented health care providers among other clients. In 2004, he left to join his present firm Jeffers Cowherd P.C. in Fairfield. With the passage of the Health Care Reform legislation, many things are changing for physicians and hospitals, including

**District 7980 Governor: Julie Reppenhagen • Club President: Arlo Ellison**

the beginnings of competing on price and quality, something new for the industry. So a part of Steve's work is helping clients understand how the new law impacts them and also helping hospitals and providers expand into new services to help offset declining reimbursement and the costs of caring for the under and uninsured.

Steve has brought Service Above Self home, as his children will join him when he serves at Gillespie Home.

## Earthplace, the next 50 years, at July 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting

*By Bill Blaufuss*

John Horkel, Executive Director, Earthplace, will be the guest speaker at the Westport Sunrise Rotary Club breakfast meeting on Friday, July 30, at 7:30 a.m., at Bobby Q's Restaurant, 42 Main Street, Westport. Guests are welcomed.

With Earthplace having celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2008, Horkel will give a historical perspective of Westport's natural history museum. Reflecting on his tenure as Executive Director since 1985, he will discuss the changes that have occurred at Earthplace since then, where the institution has been, where it is now, and where it will be heading in the future.



Earthplace was founded in 1958 in order to educate the community about nature and the environment and the means of taking action to preserve, protect and enjoy the assets of the natural world. Maintaining a natural history museum and a 62 acre wildlife sanctuary with trails and wildlife for public viewing, Earthplace hosts public nature programs and events including a state-licensed preschool and summer camp, a wildlife rehabilitation program, and the Harbor Watch/River Watch water quality testing program. Prior to coming to Westport in 1985,

Horkel was Executive Director, Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, Houston, Texas and prior to that he was General Curator of the Texas Zoo in Victoria Texas. He holds a PhD in Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences from Texas A & M University, a Certificate in Zoo and Aquarium Management from the University of North Carolina Professional Education Program, and a Certificate in Business Management from the Houston Baptist University Professional Education Program.

## Earthplace's John Horkel looks ahead

*By John Franklin*



John Horkel has served as Executive Director of Earthplace for almost half of the 52 years it's been a must see for earth people (possibly aliens, as well). He has served for almost 25 years thru name changes (remember The Nature Center et al) and even The legendary Rubenstein dynasty. Before coming here John was a curator for The Texas Zoo, Executive Director for the Houston Arboretum and got a PhD in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M.

When he arrived in 1985 Earthplace was essentially a stop for kids who wanted to pet small animals. John established a 62 acre empire making it a complete environmental experience long before the word "environment" became politically fashionable. It is now a total pre-school to Senior experience from nature walks, wildlife rehab. to the nursery school Carole built. In addition, Earthplace has become pro-active in areas like water quality testing.

So what's next? John will bring us up to date on what's now, and what's ahead. He will also be bringing some "props". Maybe even a snake for Audrey.

## Lou's Thoughts & Chuckles

*By Lou Weinstein*

### *This week's words of wisdom:*

*When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on.*

*- Franklin D. Roosevelt*

## Making a Difference

*By Dennis Wong*



The following letter was received from Bridge Academy in recognition of the club's Young Voices initiative:



July 27, 2010

Westport Sunrise Rotary  
Dennis Wong  
10 Hickory Hill Rd.  
Westport, CT 06880

Dear Mr. Wong,

The Bridge Academy is very pleased with your support of the Westport Arts Center's Filmmaking Program at our school. This program has allowed our 30 Seniors to learn valuable artistic and vocational skills in movie production. Film instruction has been given during our student's regularly scheduled Art classes. Without your support our students would not be able to have this valuable opportunity.

In addition, the film program has changed our school culture. Film creates important connections for our students that can not be made using other media. Our teachers are becoming more and more comfortable using film production in their classrooms as a teaching tool. Also, we now have a vibrant after-school film club that resulted in two of our students being accepted with scholarships to the Center for Creative Youth film program at Wesleyan. For these two students, this program is life changing.

The Bridge Academy has cooperated successfully with the Westport Arts Center in the past. Their Artists in Residence program have been a great help to our art programs. This grant will continue the successful connections between their programs and ours.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite you and members of your group tour our facility this summer. I am available to answer any questions about our school and our programs.

Please e-mail me at  
BridgeAcademy@yahoo.com, or call me  
at 203-336-9999 to schedule a visit.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Dutton  
Director, Bridge Academy

## Rumors, Gossip & Innuendo

By Frog Wilson, A Guest Speaker From Mars



Bill Meyer has been so impressed with recent club bios that he has decided that all Friday programs will now feature members as guest speakers. A partial list has been Wiki-leaked exclusively to this columnist.

Audrey Sparre -The Evolution of Snakes

Charlie Haberstroh - My First Wife Was Evita Peron

Gavin Anderson - His New Book edited by Nick Clarke - Haggis Recipes Suitable for Every Meal

Carole Rubenstein - How To Smile When You're Mean to Little Kids

Joe Renzulli - The Metro North Story

Suzanne Meisel - The Vocal Stylings of James Earl Jones

Ted Freedman - How To Retain Your Dignity At A Noisy Breakfast Table

John Branson - Converting Your Church Into a Monastery

Linda Bruce - Merritt Parkway Exit 43

Hal Levy - An Uncensored Look at The Crier, What We left Out and Why

Leo Cirino - The Commuter Dirigible And How 195 Became Obsolete

Lou Weinstein - -How To Forget

John Hendrickson - Name Changing Made Easy

Sheila Keenan -Selling Your Home For Less

Mark Mathias - Turtle Technology

Arlo Ellison - Walk Softly and Carry A Big Agenda

The Westport Sunrise Rotary Club meets 7:30AM every Friday Morning at [Bobby Q's Restaurant](#), 42 Main Street in Westport. Meetings are open to all Rotarians and their guests.

## An exchange with Reverend Robbins-Cole

By Roy Fuchs



Rev. Adrian Robbins-Cole

I traded e-mails with Reverend Robbins-Cole after last Friday's meeting to learn a bit about his club and to gather his impressions of our meeting.

His first comment was to thank us for making him feel welcome.

The Monadnock, NH, Rotary Club (<http://www.monadnockrotary.org/>) is also a sunrise club, meeting Tuesdays at 7:30 at the Dublin Community Church. The Club is about 20 years old, and like ours, was spun out of a lunch club. They have just under 40 members. About half attend most meetings. They enjoy a breakfast provided by the Dublin General Store. Monadnock has a weekly thing they call "The Hat," in which every week one Club member talks for two or three minutes about an aspect of their life – one of the hats they wear, Reverend Robbins-Cole called it. It seems that the speaker is encouraged to entertain as well as enlighten, and to show a side of their life members might otherwise be unaware of. I'm only sorry that we didn't do The Hat for him. Maybe we should try it for visitors.

Monadnock's two major annual projects are a Wellness Festival sponsored by major health care companies in the area and their RYLA program at a local camp. Both are detailed on their website. The festival helps raise the level of health awareness and generate funds the Club uses to support its charitable giving. They also run a successful RYLA program for high school juniors and seniors from New Hampshire and

Vermont at a local camp.

He invites us to visit when we are near by.

Reverend Robbins-Cole enjoyed his visit, in part because the two bios struck the theme for his sermon for this week. "Both (speakers) were clearly very successful in their careers but both of whom at some point had realized (dramatically in the case of the woman speaking about the impact of 9/11) that there is more to life than just career ambition & that we need to get the balance right between career, family and serving our neighbors. To me the bios spoke to the assigned bible reading for next Sunday in the Episcopal church in which Jesus warns about over concern with money for its own sake and says and where your heart is there your treasure will be found." (If my "scholarship" is correct, the reading is Luke 12: 13-21

## Club Announcements

► None

Submit Club Announcements &  
Happy Hollers to:  
[www.datacut.com/misc/crierinput.htm](http://www.datacut.com/misc/crierinput.htm)

## Club Meeting Schedule

Sunrise Rotary Club members serve as greeters and deliver the openers at the Club meetings on a rotating basis. If a member is unavailable on the assigned date, it is essential that he or she find a replacement and submit the name to:  
[www.datacut.com/misc/crierinput.htm](http://www.datacut.com/misc/crierinput.htm)

## Greeters

July: Kassen, Collins

August: Cowherd, Galan, Feczko

September: Meisel, Masumian, Canning

October: Cohen, Mathias, Ayres

November: Hawley, Levy, Haberstroh

December: Renzulli, Freedman, Smith

## Meeting Openers

August 6: Rita Steinberger

August 13: Frankie Smith

August 20: Audrey Sparre

August 27: Mario SaCouto

## Programs

August 6: Leo Cirino – Electric cars

August 13: District Governor Julie Reppenhagen

## Gillespie Center Schedule

On the first Saturday of each month, two Rotarians deliver and serve meals to the homeless at the Gillespie Center. Please contact Sheila Keenan or Anne Beers to sign up for available dates.

August 7: Lloyd & Cowherd  
September 4: McGettigan & Jinishian  
October 2: *open & open*  
November 6: *open & open*  
December 4: *open & open*

## Club Calendar

Are you a committee chair scheduling a meeting or an organizer of a Club or Rotary event? Please submit the info for the Club Calendar to:

[www.datacut.com/misc/crierinput.htm](http://www.datacut.com/misc/crierinput.htm)  
[www.westportsunriserotary.com/calendar.html](http://www.westportsunriserotary.com/calendar.html)

Aug 2 Mon – Board Meeting at 1 Gorham Island, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 5:30-6:30pm  
Aug 7 Sat – Rotarians serving meals at the Gillespie Center, 4:45-5:45pm  
Sep 4 Sat – Rotarians serving meals at the Gillespie Center, 4:45-5:45pm  
Sep 6 Mon – Board Meeting at 1 Gorham Island, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 5:30-6:30pm  
Oct 2 Sat – Rotarians serving meals at the Gillespie Center, 4:45-5:45pm  
Oct 4 Mon – Board Meeting at 1 Gorham Island, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 5:30-6:30pm  
Nov 1 Mon – Board Meeting at 1 Gorham Island, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 5:30-6:30pm  
Nov 6 Sat – Rotarians serving meals at the Gillespie Center, 4:45-5:45pm  
Dec 4 Sat – Rotarians serving meals at the Gillespie Center, 4:45-5:45pm  
Dec 6 Mon – Board Meeting at 1 Gorham Island, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 5:30-6:30pm  
Jan 1 Sat – Rotarians serving meals at the Gillespie Center, 4:45-5:45pm  
Jan 3 Mon – Board Meeting at 1 Gorham Island, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 5:30-6:30pm  
Feb 5 Sat – Rotarians serving meals at the Gillespie Center, 4:45-5:45pm  
Feb 7 Mon – Board Meeting at 1 Gorham Island, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 5:30-6:30pm  
Mar 5 Sat – Rotarians serving meals at the Gillespie Center, 4:45-5:45pm  
Mar 7 Mon – Board Meeting at 1 Gorham Island, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 5:30-6:30pm  
Apr 2 Sat – Rotarians serving meals at the Gillespie Center, 4:45-5:45pm  
Apr 4 Mon – Board Meeting at 1 Gorham Island, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 5:30-6:30pm  
May 2 Mon – Board Meeting at 1 Gorham Island, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 5:30-6:30pm  
May 7 Sat – Rotarians serving meals at the Gillespie Center, 4:45-5:45pm  
Jun 4 Sat – Rotarians serving meals at the Gillespie Center, 4:45-5:45pm  
Jun 6 Mon – Board Meeting at 1 Gorham Island, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 5:30-6:30pm

## WSR Board of Directors

*President:* Arlo Ellison  
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*Past President:* John Hendrickson  
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*Treasurer:* Steve Violette  
*Sgt. at Arms:* Nick Clarke  
*Speakers:* Bill Meyer  
*Membership:* Sheila Keenan  
*International Service:* Robert Galan  
*Youth Services:* Dennis Wong  
*Member at Large:* Rick Jaffe  
*Member at Large:* Roy Fuchs

## The Crier

Editor	Hal Levy
Photographer	Charles Reedy
Photographer	Anil Nair
Reporter	Roy Fuchs
Columnist	Frog Wilson
Columnist	Dennis Wong
Humorist	Lou Weinstein

### Crier Deadlines:

The deadline for all input for *The Crier* is Noon on Tuesday for that week's edition and must be supplied by [web form](#) to the editor.