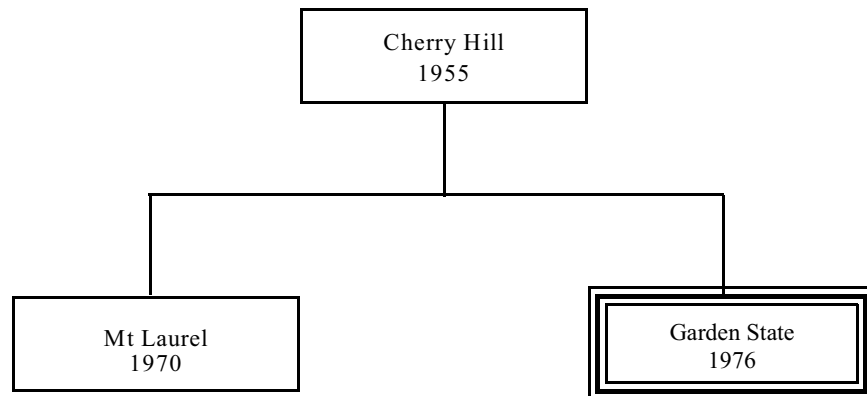


Chapter 59

Rotary Club of Garden State , N.J.



Organized	March 19, 1976	Meets :	Fridays at 12:15 pin at
Chartered	June 3, 1976		The Hideaway,
Sponsored By	Cherry Hill		63 Kresson Rd.,
Clubs Sponsored	Cherry Hill Breakfast		Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
			(609) 428-7379

Presidents

1976-77	Keith J. Bashaw
1977-78	John C. Canterbury
1978-79	Richard A. Gilbert
1979-80	Marvin Mullen
1980-81	Norman M. Mazer
1981-82	John J. Gallagher, Jr.
1982-83	Richard Schultz
1983-84	John Hiner, Jr.
1984-85	George Leupold
1985-86	Arthur Hilkert
1986-87	John L. Kehr
1987-88	James C. Horowitz
1988-89	Jack Evans
1989-90	Brian Backensto



Left to right, Garden State of Cherry Hill President 89-90 Brian Backensto, DG 89-90 Herb Budd and Club President 88-89 Jack Evans at the Club's Installation Dinner in 1989.

Christmas Party for Handicapped Among Garden State Events

Keith Bashaw and Dennis McHenry are considered the "founding fathers" of the Garden State Rotary Club of Cherry Hill, which held its first meeting March 19, 1976 and was chartered three months later with 34 members and Bashaw installed as first president. Garden State thus became the second Rotary in Cherry Hill, conducting its meetings as a luncheon club while the older Cherry Hill Rotary continued its nighttime schedule.

And, from the very beginning, Garden State asserted itself as a Rotary club thoroughly committed to serving its community. To chronicle the club's busy schedule, Dick Gilbert and Jay Herman combined efforts to publish the newsletter *Canterbury Tales* named for John Canterbury, the second president. First meetings were held at the old Cherry Hill Lodge.

During the club's early years, Serendipity Sunday at Camden Park was a highlight event that found Rotarians and their wives working together. Garden State started its custom of bringing two residents of Mt. Laurel Nursing Home to lunch.

Art Hilkert organized the club's first Group Study Exchange Program, and Stan Ravitz volunteered to show seven visitors from New Zealand how Americans run a distribution and retailing business. As a finale to a successful year, President Canterbury attended international meetings in Tokyo and San Francisco.

During Richard Gilbert's year as president in 1978-79, Garden State hosted a visit by R.I. President Clem Renoff of Australia.

A highlight project was the start of a Christmas party for handicapped children in conjunction with the Police Athletic League. A total of 600 children enjoyed the inaugural party on a day never to be forgotten by Garden State Rotarians. "It proved to be a touching, and, to some, tearful experience of yet another example of Rotary in action," it was written up in the club's booklet for its 13th annual charter night banquet.

The club received three awards at the district conference in Atlantic City: Fastest growth, best project, and best newsletter, edited by Dick Gilbert.

In 1979-80, Garden State launched its most ambitious, and most highly publicized, project: Support of the Garden State Sports Complex. President Mary Mullen and his committee arranged to lease 30 acres from Cherry Hill Township for \$1 annually under Green Acres law. A corporate fund drive began with major donations from Gannett Corp., Texaco, Detroit Automotive and the Hideaway. By '83, a total of \$125,000 had been raised for the complex.

Spina Bifida Sunday replaced Serendipity Sunday as a club fund-raiser, Rocco Marianni ran the first of his successful "1,50s," and Denny McHenry's three sons helped raise more than \$700 at a firewood sale.

Fund-raising ventures during 1980-81 included Paul Solomon's coordination of the 10,000-meter Benihana. run.

During Richie Schultz' year as president in 1982-83, the Sports Complex was paid off and to this day stands as a permanent monument to Rotary dedication and perseverance.

In fact, during a Rotary meeting in Evanston, Ill. the following year, Garden State received a coveted R.I. Special Achievement Award for its Sports Complex project.

When George Leupold was the club's voting delegate at the R.I. convention in Birmingham, England during his year as president (1984-85), he appeared on crutches, the result of a softball injury inflicted by his son.

Attorney Doug Heir was selected as Man of the Year at a Hyatt Regency banquet. Doug is a paraplegic who dived into a swimming pool to save a child and in the process injured his spinal column. Selected later by Wheaties to appear in a promotion, Doug has a Sports Complex field named in his honor.

Three \$500 scholarships were started for seniors in the two Cherry Hill high schools. During Hilkert's year as president in 1985-86, Rotarian Steve Main assisted Camden County Prosecutor Sam Absell with his Child Abuse Program by printing and distributing pamphlets.

The Christmas party for the handicapped was the largest ever, with 1,100 attending and New Jersey Gov. Thomas H. Kean making an appearance. The party again was enhanced by the valuable assistance of more than 200 students from Cherry Hill East and West high schools.

There was a sad note: The club mourned the death of Sam Fineberg, a dedicated Rotarian who was killed in an automobile accident.

Garden State continued its deep involvement in Rotary world affairs during 1986-87 with 100 percent participation in the 3 H program, a \$700 contribution for purchase of furniture for the district-wide orphanage project in the Dominican Republic, and sponsorship of Brazilian exchange student Sergio Becelar.

Under the direction of Joe Schooley, the club purchased and delivered food baskets to needy families at Thanksgiving and Christmas, and donated \$550 to St. Joseph's in East Camden for purchase of a freezer to store food for distribution to the indigent.

Due to Chris Klenk's efforts, two canoes were purchased for the Boy Scout Camp at Pine Hill.

One of the most memorable club events of 1987-88, Jim Horowitz' year as president, was Garden State Rotary welcoming the first woman into club membership, Antoinette (Toni) Parkinson.

A marble plaque was dedicated at the Sports Complex as lasting recognition of Garden State's involvement in the eight-year-old project.

Garden State Rotarians staffed booths at area motels to welcome incoming Rotarians worldwide to the '88 Rotary International Convention in Philadelphia.

When Jack Evans and Steve Main became the club's 14th and 15th Paul Harris Fellows at the District 764 banquet, acknowledgments were made by R.I. President Charles C. Keller.

And, as an indication of Garden State Rotary's total commitment to "Service Above Self," it sponsored the new Cherry Hill Breakfast Club which was chartered during 1988.

Charter Members

OFFICE	NAME OF MEMBER
President	Keith Bashaw
1st Vice President	John C. Canterbury
Secretary	Robert J. Rank
Treasurer	Warren Freedman
	Harold J. Ammond
	Fred D. Carty
	Rich Davidov
	Harold W. DeCheser
	Wayne Dupler
	Steve Forman
	Charles Foulke
	J. Jack Gallagher
	J. Clifford Gardner
	Sidney Geller
	Richard A. Gilbert
	Arthur T. Hilkert
	Arthur Karpf
	John L. Kehr
	Jack Leonard
	Norman M. Mazer
	Harry S. McElhone
	Marvin Mullen
	Allen A. Roedel
	Sidney Schaffer
	Adrian Sweeney
	Charles R. Talley
	Jay Taylor
	James M. Vogdes, III
	Gerry Wetjen
	Joseph E. Wolk