



The Cornpicker

Bulletin of Fairbury, IL Rotary Club

"Lead The Way"

Fairburyrotary.com

2006 - 2007 Officers

President	Dave Roberts
Pres. Elect	Joan Smeltzer
Vice President	Keith Bahler
Sec/Treas	Leroy McPherson
Editor	Leroy McPherson

DATE/TIME/

PLACE: May 22, 2007 - 12 noon at Marchelloni's

ATTENDANCE: 22 & 17 Prairie Central Students

LOTTO: L. McPherson & P. Hermes

ACTION ON THE AVENUES

CLUB SERVICE

Programs:

- 05/29 - Heather Schweizer
- 06/05 - WWII Vets
- 06/12 - Oliver Crossing - Chatsworth
- 06-19 - OPEN
- 06-26 - Heather Schweizer

AREA CLUB MEETINGS

Bloomington	12:00 Noon	Thursday	Elks Club
Gibson City	6:45 a.m.	Wednesday	The Country Kettle
Gilman	6:05 p.m.	Tuesday	Gilman Lounge
Lincoln	11:50 a.m.	Wednesday	Elks Country Club
Normal	12:00 Noon	Wednesday	Bone Student Center
Piper City	6:15 p.m.	Monday	Azz Izz Tavern

Bits & Pieces

*One does what one is;
one becomes what one does.*

*Robert Musil (1880-1942)
Novelist and essayist*

4-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the Truth?
2. Is it Fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned



Prairie Central Students

Accelerated Readers Student of the Month



Dr. Capasso introduced five students from Westview. They are required to set a goal, read books, then take a test to score points.

These students set their goals and exceeded them. Jacob Leman and Morgan Hoffman passed their goal by 500% - over 200 books read. Kyle Knapp exceeded his goal by 300% or 2,276,922 words. Reagan Mueller, who likes to cut baby pigs tails and help Mom with the dishes, made 400% or 2,570,440 words. Lynn Fehr likes cooking and babysitting and met her goal by over 460% or 3,731,401 words.

Megan Shier (Chenoa) is a senior going to EIU.

Crystal Roberts (Chenoa) is a senior going to WIU in Business

Justin Hormichel (Chats.) is going to Heartland - then ISU

Dana Wahls (Chenoa) is a senior going to EIU in Language

Kallen Bittner (Fairbury) is a senior going to Parkland in Ag.

Tevin Weaver (Chenoa) is a sophomore going to the Marines

Kelcey Shafer (Fairbury) wants to be a lawyer

Loran Anliker is a junior going into Math.

Travis Heins (Chenoa) is a senior going to Parkland in Ag.

Norman Mayer is a sophomore going into construction

Andrew Knapp (Fairbury) is a senior and works for Double M

Bits & Pieces

Her Life's Work

At the young age of 15, Gertrude Elion (1918-1999) already knew she wanted to be a scientist. Her decision was partially influenced by the hours she'd spent at the bedside of her grandfather as he slowly died of stomach cancer. She was determined to discover if not a cure for cancer, then a way to ease the suffering of people who had it.

However, by the time Elion graduated from college, the country was in the throes of the Great Depression - jobs were scarce and so were opportunities for women. In spite of her passion and gifted aptitude for the sciences, it was her gender that prevented elion from getting work. One company rejected her application for a research position because it believed a woman's sheer presence in a lab would be distracting to the other researchers.

Needing an income, she enrolled in secretarial school to gain the skills for a position that women were perceived to be appropriate for. She attended classes for six weeks when a three-month position was offered to her in a nursing school lab. She took it without a second thought and never regretted quitting secretarial school - even when she worked in a lab for no payment. She was a scientist at heart and could not serve the world through a typewriter. She refused to settle for unrelated work.

Over the next several years, Elion took whatever science-bent job would open for a woman, from teaching high school physics to conducting food analysis. She also earned a master's degree in organic chemistry, and suffered another terrific loss: her fiance, who died of a disease that could have been cured by penicillin. But penicillin research was just beginning. This personal setback underscored the value of drug exploration and strengthened Elion's desire to serve the world through research.

In 1944, her luck turned. Elion interviewed at a pharmaceutical company with a scientist named George Hitchings and became his assistant. For the first two years, her job wasn't very demanding, so she started working toward her Ph.D. at night. And then a dilemma arose.

The dean of Elion's doctorate program wanted her to leave her job and attend school full-time. But Hitchings, who knew what Elion's goals were, said she didn't need a Ph.D. to succeed in the field.

With faith that her boss was right. Gertrude Elion devoted the next 55 years - often 10 hours a day, seven days a week - to research at Burroughs Wellcome. There were failures along the way, of course. But Elion persevered through her research just as she'd persevered in her job hunting. She learned to gird herself and say, "OK, that one failed. It was a step . . . in the wrong direction. So, let's go back to the crossroads, and go in a different direction and not let the failure be the end of the line."

Her perseverance paid off. Among her accomplishments, Elion developed the first immunosuppressant drug, which opened the field for organ transplants; she created the key element in the cure for childhood leukemia. Her lab team developed the first medicine used to fight viral infections. But her most important contribution to medical science? She helped to revolutionize the process for developing drugs, a process that is still used today and for which Elion and Hitchings won a Nobel Prize.

Science was Gertrude Elion's life for nearly all her life. We have all benefited in some way from her singular unwavering focus and her refusal to follow mainstream beliefs about women's careers.