



## VAL WIELEZYNSKI & CHARLOTTE HARDON

### LA CHATELAINE FRENCH BISTRO

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[www.uarotary.org](http://www.uarotary.org)

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For make up locations, check the club web site or call the make-up hotline at (614) 470-1002.



**Chip Knoop** introduced our speaker **Val Wielezynski**, owner of LA Chatelaine French Bistro. Val was joined by his sister - **Charlotte Hardon** who manages La Chatelaine's Worthington restaurant. Charlotte is the CEO of the La Chatelaine restaurants. There are three locations – Lane Avenue in UA, Worthington and Dublin.

Val recounted the family's history of coming to the United States from France and its various movements in the U.S. before settling in Columbus/Upper Arlington. Val's family followed his grandparents to the Cleveland area in 1986. Shortly after arriving they realized how much they missed French food.

A move to Dallas was followed by a stint traveling in a family caravan to various points in the west and ultimately a determination to head for the east coast. A stop in Columbus to connect with acquaintances from the Cleveland area ultimately led to a decision to put down roots in Central Ohio and Upper Arlington. The community's appeal is its emphasis on family and the multi-generational nature of the community – something which is appealing to the Wielezynski family. Columbus' location of several restaurant chains was also an appealing part of the Columbus area. Val and Charlotte's mother is originally from Belgium and the climate in Central Ohio is nearly identical to her Belgian home – yet another appealing part about Columbus.

The Lane Avenue La Chatelaine was established in 1991. The Worthington location opened in 1994 and the Dublin location opened in 2007.

Charlotte shared several thoughts. She pointed out that Val has recently become an American citizen after carrying around the world's oldest green card for many years. She highlighted La Chatelaine's tradition of celebrating military veterans at 5:00 PM on June 6 each year. That date, the anniversary of the invasion of Normandy on D-Day is an opportunity to recognize veterans of the invasion. While the annual event was begun as a D-Day commemoration it has evolved into a gathering opportunity for all veterans - including a number of women who have begun participating. Charlotte happily noted that three D-Day veterans were able to attend this year – in their late 90's and one at age 101.

The family's emphasis in their restaurants is consistency and quality. All of the baking is done at the Lane Avenue location and distributed to the other locations daily. Natural spring water piped into the Lane Avenue store is used in the baking process. When the seasons change some characteristics of the water also change – something which they need to monitor. Customers sometimes notice slight differences in flavor or texture.

"Family" is the underpinning of the entire LA Chatelaine operation. The family loves the business and appreciates the opportunity to succeed when hard work is applied. They love the United States and the opportunities and rewards available to folks who work hard.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view this meeting and all previously recorded Rotary meetings

## GREETERS

### July 30

John Wiseman  
Bob LeBoeuf

### August 6

Kelly Marlow  
Jack Cotter

### August 13

Cameron Box  
Scott Emch

## REGISTRATION DESK

### July 30

Don Leach  
Brian Bainbridge

### August 6

J.D. Dickerson  
Jim Nicklaus

### August 13

Kevin Brown  
Janine Hummer

## CALENDAR

### July 30 -

#### The Boathouse/Confluence

Rob Cercek, President, Ohio-Health Riverside Methodist Hospital; Kristina Stuecher, VP OhioHealth Women's Center  
Host: Jessica Grisez

### August 6 - Scioto CC/Zoom

Chad Whittington,  
President & CEO – CAPA  
Host: Jessica Grisez

### August 13 - Scioto CC/Zoom

LinkUS  
Host: Jessica Grisez

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit your volunteer opportunity to [herb@herbgillen.com](mailto:herb@herbgillen.com) for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

Please submit your social event reminder to [herb@herbgillen.com](mailto:herb@herbgillen.com) for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

## OUR NEXT MEETING

### JULY 30TH

The Boathouse/Confluence

Upper Arlington  
**Rotary**  
Club



## THE MEETING



President **Angela Lanctot** called the meeting to order and asked **Herb Gillen** to offer the invocation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Angela noted that our annual directory update is underway. Here is a [link](#) to the update page. Alternatively, paper forms were available to fill out and submit. She encouraged picture updates where needed.

## NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:



**Debbie Johnson**, after commenting on **Ned Clark's** directory picture, announced that Ned has achieved Paul Harris Fellowship +6. She asked Ned to share his experience using the online Rotary Direct contribution management system. Ned shared that the system is easy to use. Debbie also caught up on recognizing two new Paul Harris Fellows – **John Zambito** and **Beau Taggart**.

**Jessica Grisez** reminded us of a volunteer opportunity on August 18 from 6-10 AM at the Grandview Yard Quarter and Half Marathon and 5K event. UA Community Foundation is a beneficiary of the event. Volunteers will help staff a water station.

## UA ROTARY DIRECTORY UPDATES REQUESTED

The 2024-25 Upper Arlington Rotary Member Directory is being created and we need anyone with updates to send those to Tanya asap. Please visit [http://uarotary.org/wp-content/uploads/documents/2024-25\\_Rotary\\_Directory\\_updates\\_form.pdf](http://uarotary.org/wp-content/uploads/documents/2024-25_Rotary_Directory_updates_form.pdf) and return your form or just email updates to Tanya at [twesterviller@twc.com](mailto:twesterviller@twc.com)



## RIVERVIEW INTERNATIONAL THANKS UA ROTARY

Upper Arlington Rotary Foundation recently donated to the Riverview International Center (RIC) and we received a nice thank you note from them. Read it [here](#).