

the Rotary Smile

Allentown, Pennsylvania

www.rotarydistrict7430.org

December, 2007



District 7430 On-Air Auction to benefit Rotaplast and D.A.R.E.

Saturday, Dec. 8, 2007
7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
WFMZ-TV Channel 69

You can find more information about the auction at the rotarydistrict7430.org website. You can preview the auction catalog of items and bidders may register online. Online bidding will be open before the actual on-air portion of the auction, but final bids will be live "On-Air" on December 8th.

Help us to help them!



Before



After

Dictionary Project Reaches 48 ASD Classrooms in 13 Schools

~ more photos on page seven ~



Don De Lorenzo and Jay Geiger with a classroom of delighted students.



Reading her word from *her dictionary*.



Word search game has everyone studying.

The Rotary Club of Allentown

610-794-4101

~ A Member of Rotary International ~

Club No. 121, District 7430

• in our 94th year of service •

We meet Fridays at noon at the
Crowne Plaza, 9th & Hamilton Streets,
Allentown.

Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to 31,000 Rotary clubs located in 167 countries.

Club Officers

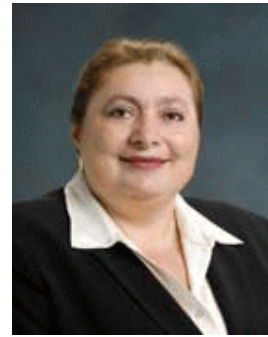
President	Ibolya Balog	610-433-3220
President-Elect	Pete Smith	610-395-7700
Secretary	Don DeLorenzo	610-967-3380
Treasurer	Tom Christman	610-434-9645
Past President	Rolf Schlake	610-770-0900

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Judith Barberich	Scholarship	610-282-1100 x1478
Rolf Schlake	Harris & Iobst Awards	610-770-0900
Richard Daugherty	International	610-437-3700
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Amy Meleck	Communications	610-770-1127
Larry Campbell	Community Service	610-391-9805
Pete Smith	Membership	610-395-7700
Cindy Lambert	Badge Board/Hospitality	610-776-3323
Bill Hacker	Youth	610-437-3340

Foundation Board Members

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Judith Barberich	610-282-1100 x1478
Amy Beck	610-770-9781
Barbara Bigelow	610-437-0795
Albert Bova	610-395-5910
Larry Campbell	610-391-9805
Thomas Christman	610-434-9645
Wallace Eldridge	610-366-0843
Suzanne Goodell	610-799-1204
Platte Moring III	610-435-8414
Marcella Moyer Schick	610-794-5129
Rolf Schlake	610-770-0900

From the President



December is Family of Rotary month on the RI calendar. This time of the year is also a season of holidays, events structured around family times. Fellowship and development of friendships is one of the Objects of Rotary. For Rotarians the fellowship and friendships go beyond the members, and include families of

“Fellowship and development of friendships is one of the Objects of Rotary.”

Rotarians. That is one of the reasons that our picnics are so popular and successful.

A winter time community service project, the Meals on Wheels delivery on New Year’s day, was also a long term Rotary event that also included families as they made the deliveries, and build friendships. We are saddened by the policy change from the Meals on Wheels organization, but our Community Service Committee under the able leadership of Larry Campbell will, I am sure, come up with an alternative project involving Rotarians and hopefully families. Seasons’ Greetings. ~ Ibi Balog

Good Shepherd Work Services

October 5 – George Wells certainly made an interesting segue into his talk. Or more specifically, he rode an interesting Segway into his presentation, titled “Employing people with disabilities: Fears, facts and finances.”

In fact, Wells, who serves as business initiatives specialist with Good Shepherd Work Services in Allentown, delivered his entire program while on top of the state-of-the-art apparatus, which is officially described as a self-balancing, personal transportation device.

Wells explained that the same technology that is used in the Segway is also available in a special wheelchair that can stand up on two legs, enabling a wheelchair-bound individual to conduct a conversation face-to-face with superiors



Debra Lamb cautiously takes a Segway ride following the Good Shepherd program.

and colleagues in the workplace.

While such a wheelchair currently costs \$20,000 to \$30,000, Wells says that his rationale for bringing the Segway along was to drive home the point that soon such technology will be within everyone’s reach. He also wanted to emphasize that he and his team at Good Shepherd strive to always be one step ahead of the curve

when it comes to working with people with disabilities.

“Wayne Gretsky always said that his job was to get to where the puck is gonna be and that is what Good Shepherd is doing,” he said.

The reason his facility, which is located on Lehigh Street in Allentown across from the Queen City Airport, is so important to Lehigh Valley businesses, he said, is because it is getting harder and harder for employers “to find good people and businesses can not afford not to tap into these people.”

Wells pointed out that 65 percent of people with disabilities aren’t working and 75 to 80 percent of them do want to find jobs. The main barrier to doing so, he stated, is the perceptions and attitudes of those doing the hiring.

“Stereotypes are keeping good people from hiring good people. It’s not curb cuts,



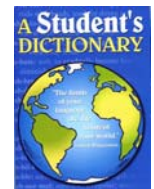
Good Shepherd Outsource Production Services employee at work.

lack of ramps, it’s our belief system,” he said. “People are afraid and that’s why the disabled can’t get jobs.

“The most important factor to a person’s success on a job is desire. If you want to work, you have a good chance of being successful,” he said.

~ Jennifer Marangos

The Dictionary Project: You Can Still Help



Only about half of the dictionaries distributed to the children in the Allentown School District have been sponsored. Make your check payable to the Allentown Rotary Foundation and give to Tom Christman or Don DeLorenzo. Thank you!



Non-Profits Offer Big Value

September 27 – The club welcomed Joe Geiger, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Association for Non-Profit Organizations. This organization, based in Harrisburg, is the trade association representing a wide-variety of 501(c)(3) organizations in the state.

Mr. Geiger explained that many people do not realize the scope of charitable organizations represented by PANO. There are twenty types of charities focusing on education, human services, health care, community action, and religious activities. There are over 150 million such organizations of all sizes in the United States today. Any charity that has over \$25,000 in annual revenues is required by the IRS to register.

The economic impact of non-profits is significant. About one in nine people in Pennsylvania work for a non-profit. These agencies

not only contribute to the quality of life in our communities, but also provide significant economic activity. Charitable organizations may pay no federal or state income taxes, but that doesn't mean they don't pay any taxes. In fact, non-profits pay payroll taxes, property taxes, and sales taxes depending on their size and charters. Many are paying a contribution in lieu of taxes to support community emergency and other services they benefit from.

In 1830 Alex de Toqueville toured the U.S. and observed the spirit of volunteerism that marked every community. What distinguished Americans was our propensity to form voluntary associations to address community needs, not wait for government to fix problems. Mr. Geiger asked for a show of hands from the members how many sit on the boards of area non-profits. Almost every hand went up. Many members serve on multiple volunteer boards. Many other

countries struggle to replicate the success of American volunteer agencies.

Mr. Geiger commented on the recent scandals involving some highly visible non-profits. To safeguard that one's charitable donations are going to a reputable agency, he advised that the public should check out the agency's IRS 990 form, identify a local board member to talk to, or speak to the agency head. Getting involved with reputable agencies benefits both the agency and the community.

One reality that the non-profit sector struggles with is the declining availability of volunteers and donations. Agencies find a shrinking pool of community-minded folks wanting to serve. He encouraged the Rotary members to stay active and get involved with our local non-profits who need our time and expertise.

Another problem confronting non-profits are recent court challenges to their tax-exempt status. In Pennsylvania, local municipalities have increasingly turned to non-profits to support declining tax bases. Some have decided to make voluntary payments in lieu of taxes, but wonder if these will become mandatory at some future date. Others find more aggressive municipi-

(Continued on next page.)

Welcome New Member



Linny Fowler

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PANO

(Continued from previous page.)

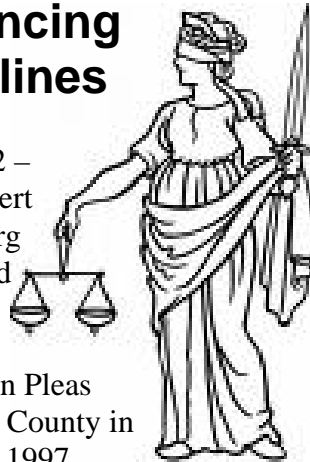
panies hiring consultants to challenge their status to force them into paying taxes or making "voluntary" payments for local services. PANO is working with agencies and lawmakers to find an equitable solution to this problem.

For more information about this important agency, see their website at www.pano.org.

~ Ken Daniel

Sentencing Guidelines

October 12 – Judge Robert L. Steinberg was elected Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Lehigh County in November 1997.



One of the most difficult responsibilities and visible actions of any judge is sentencing offenders to periods of incarceration. In Lehigh County, four Court of Common Pleas judges are responsible for criminal proceedings.

Sentencing is the most important function of any judge. When considering a sentence, the judge takes into account the impact the crime has had on the victim and the community. They must also consider additional factors to determine an appropriate sentence. The defendant's social background, criminal record, educational and employment histories, their stability in the community, medical/psychological condition and their potential for rehabilitation all play a role in sentencing.

Sentencing guidelines provide a myriad of sentences available to a judge. Depending on the severity of the offense and the offender's prior record, sentencing guidelines offer judges some

assistance in determining sentences for defendants convicted of crimes. Sentences represent the amount of time convicted defendants are to remain in custody or on periods of supervised probation or parole

Victims also play an active and important role in the criminal justice system. Victims are allowed to testify at sentencing hearings. Their testimony is meant to shed light on how the crime has impacted their lives. Victims are also notified when offenders linked to their case are transferred from prison to prison within the Commonwealth, released into a community corrections setting and sought out when offenders are considered for parole. In death penalty cases, victims and their families are also permitted to attend the execution.

Most people do not understand the concept of sentencing until they become involved in the criminal justice system. Sentencing is more than just sending people to prison; it is about changing people's lifestyles. Judges frequently see the same people over and over in their courtrooms. They want to provide incentive for the offender to leave behind criminal ways and adopt a way of life that is both law abiding and productive to our community.

~ Theresa Podguski



Church of the Mediator

New Hope for a New Sudan

October 19 – Ms. Jo Trepagnier, a member of the staff of Episcopal Church of the Mediator in Allentown, presented a report about a recent service trip to Sudan, one of the most troubled countries in Africa. The local Episcopal Diocese has identified Sudan as a target for local congregations to provide support in many ways.

Ms. Trepagnier explained that the problems facing Sudan stem from a 50 year civil war that has raged throughout the country ever since it received independence from Great Britain in 1957.

The war has brought great destruction of the country's basic infrastructure. This means that basic services such as education, housing,

public health, business, and government are virtually non-existent. The northern half of the country has a powerful militia while the southern provinces have only a small army. Many thousands have fled to neighboring Uganda to escape the bloodshed. Combatants have dropped thousands of butterfly mines on roads, in fields, and in rivers. These plastic devices are almost impossible to detect and disarm rendering the hope of agriculture or fishing development impossible.

There are approximately 13,000 United Nations peacekeepers in Sudan. The UN is also building wells for fresh water. The Episcopal Church worldwide has also embraced the crisis in Sudan for recovery work and donations from local congregations.

The church group from Allentown is focused on building a small college in Kajo Keji, a province in southern Sudan. It is hoped that this college will enable the country to begin developing a core of educated leaders and teachers to support government, medical, and professional services. The church also promotes micro-financing of small business ventures through a loan program. For example, Episcopal churches in the Lehigh Valley sell shirts that are hand made in Sudan which in turn supports

families and communities there.

Mr. Charlie Barebo, owner and President of Otterbein-Barebo Water Company in Emmaus, assisted with the presentation. He was a fellow worker on the mission trip. For more information, see the church's website at episcopalmediator.org.

~ Ken Daniel



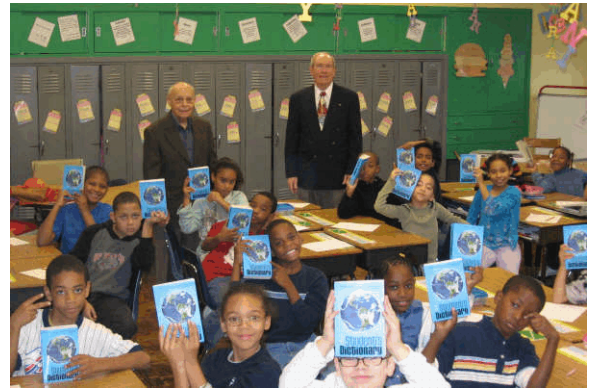
Thank you to SMILE Staff !

Thank you to our Rotary SMILE writers who do a fine job writing summaries of our speakers each week:

Ken Daniel
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Jennifer Marangos
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Teresa Podgusky
Barbara Stauffer

And to Don DeLorenzo and Larry Campbell who contribute photos.

~ Bob Stevens
Editor



**Thank
you
to all**



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helped
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dictionary
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Lou Solt

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~ Michele Varricchio





William Allen High School Interact advisor Clara Wolfe (left to right); Pelin Ipek Avdan, exchange student from Turkey; Mariah Morales, Allen Interact president; and our own past-president Ellen Ghelardi at a recent meeting. Morales is applying to be an exchange student to Spain.

December Birthdays

- 4 Kathryn Roberts
- 5 Michael Egan
- 8 Rosemarie Ackerman
- 13 Frank Ford
Robert Black
David Hill
- 14 Thomas Christman
- 16 Grayson McNair
- 19 George Southworth
- 22 Rusty Sullivan, Jr.
- 27 Bob Stevens



December Meeting Schedule

7th - Community Service
Grants and Iobst Recognition

14th - Holiday Program:
Dave Roper

21st - No meeting today

28th - No meeting today

Coming in January

Jan. 4th - Ed Yarrish
Classification Talk



the Rotary Smile

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