

the Rotary Smile

Allentown, Pennsylvania

www.AllentownRotary.org

August 2011



Honor a Loved One

A gift to The Rotary Foundation for a loved one is a meaningful way to honor or memorialize that person. Tribute gifts can be a perfect birthday, wedding, or holiday gift for the person who has everything. Why not let your gift build a bridge of hope for those less fortunate around the world?

Your generosity can provide food for a hungry child, clean water for an entire village, medicine for the sick, and thousands of other good works in our global community.

When you make a tribute or memorial gift, The Rotary Foundation will send a letter to the recipient or the recipient's family to let them know about your gift. The amount of your gift is not disclosed. An acknowledgment also is sent to you as the donor.

Use the online memorial and tribute gifts form to make an online memorial or tribute gift. Go to www.rotary.org and click the Contribute tab, then click Ways to Give, and then click Memorial and Tribute Gifts. Or check at the Badge Board for Tribute forms. Thank you!

What You've Always Wanted to Know about Parking in Allentown



Program chair Ibi Balog with Tamara Weller.

June 24 - Tamara Weller, Executive Director of the Allentown Parking Authority, provided a comprehensive overview of the parking authority responsibilities.

In 2006, Tamara became head of the Authority. Prior to that she held positions at Good Shepherd Home and the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce. Her tenure at APA has seen a substantial growth in both off-street parking spaces and deck facilities. Currently there are 4,000 off street parking spaces in the City of Allentown. Questioned about deck capacity, she noted that it now costs \$18,000 a space to "build up."

What about that parking ticket evil? Tamara said that currently parking officers, now numbering twelve on the streets of Allentown, write just under 7,000 tickets a month. These tickets include double parking, meter violations and safety measures. According to her, probably the worse offenses are drivers who stop in a lane normally used for traffic flow. It is quite obvious on some major city roads that congestion happens when people stop in those lanes to load/unload passengers or goods.

There are six magistrates assigned to hear parking cases. However, rather than transfer all violations to the courts, a new process is in place. If a letter is sent to folks who have ignored payment, and that letter is also ignored, a boot will now be placed on the vehicle. This has reduced the burden on the judiciary by approximately 33%.

New "street smart" parking meters are in the works. These will allow better reading regarding meter use and indicate if meters are needed at certain locations or not needed. Also, they will allow ten, rather than five, minutes of grace time after meter expiration. Meter keys will also be available, providing as much as 20% discount on parking authority areas.

~ Jim Harper

The Rotary Club of Allentown
 • *in our 96th year of service* •
610-794-4101
www.AllentownRotary.org

~ **A Member of Rotary International** ~
Club No. 5414, District 7430
www.rotarydistrict7430.org

Meeting Fridays at noon at the Holiday Inn
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. Some 1.2 million Rotarians belong to 31,000 Rotary clubs located in more than 200 countries.

Club Officers

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President-Elect	Jonathan Epstein	610-437-7070 x 212
Secretary	Barbara Bigelow	610-437-0795
Treasurer	Tom Christman	610-434-9645
Past-President	Larry Campbell	610-868-2324

Board of Directors

Committee

Phone

Christine Bauder ...	Fellowship & Communication	610-821-0311
Jim Bova	Badge Board/Hospitality	610-435-7489
Larry Campbell	Paul Harris/ Iobst awards	610-868-2324
Mark E. Emswiler	Scholarship	610-967-2141
Jonathan Epstein ...	Membership & Website	610-437-7070 x 212
Don Marron	Public Relations	610-439-1600 x 135
Ann McManus	Community Service	610-434-0875
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Heather Strencosky	Youth	610-351-8297
Nan Yarrish	Program	610-434-2648

Foundation Board Members

Wallace Eldridge, Chairperson	610-366-0843
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Frank St. Amour	610-435-3901
Marci Schick	610-794-5129
Pete Smith	610-395-7700

From the President



Theresa Podguski

I would like to thank Larry Campbell for doing a wonderful job leading our club over the past year and thank the board members for all the work they have done in the past year.

What an awesome experience it was when my husband Rich and I

***“ We are ready
to take on
the challenges
that face us today.”***

entered the registration area of the New Orleans Convention Center. To see rows and rows of Rotarians from all over the world was inspirational. We were told that there were more than 20,000 people attending the Convention from all over the world, and many in their native dress – from Africa, India and Asia.

Incoming President Banerjee asked us to first reach within yourself, and then move on, confidently, toward the targets we have set. Discover yourself, develop the strengths within you, and then, unhesitatingly,

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Classification Talk



May 6 - Julie Thomases' classification talk highlighted her passion for the arts, fashion, New York, Allentown, entrepreneurial endeavors, tennis and fundraising to assist others.

Julie grew up in Allentown; the daughter of conservative parents. Her father owned a retail clothing store and her mother was an artist. Some of her fondest childhood memories were of drawing, art classes at the Baum school, then selling her art work...and even hay rides with Bob Black!

She attended Parson's School of Design in New York and fell in love with the city. Upon graduation, she entered the fashion field, working as an illustrator and designer for Bon Wit Teller, Macy's, and Gulf and Western where she designed a line of clothing for Cheryl Tiegs.

Her work took her to London, Paris, Rome, Milan and the Far East. She was a globe trotter who loved fabrics, drawing, theater, jazz clubs and very high heels!

Julie married, moved to New Jersey, developed an interest in the Middle East, and earned her Master's degree in Middle East-

ern Studies.

It was around this time that Julie got her first glimpse of entirely different world – fundraising. And she never took her eyes off it.

Julie then moved back to Allentown after her divorce and became a program director for the Community Action Development Committee (CADC). Her view of the world changed again as she worked for community advocate, Alan Jennings, and Suzanne Goodell.

At CADC she helped many achieve their entrepreneurial dreams of starting their own business – she oversaw a farmer's market, a "Start Your Business" program, an entrepreneurial "camp" for children, and a shared use commercial kitchen.

Julie developed a passion for tennis, and turned her love of the sport and community involvement into an organization called Embrace Your Dreams. The organization offers programs that teach children life skills through involvement in tennis and golf.

Embrace your Dreams in just one organization that has benefited from Julie's involvement. She is on the board of the Allentown Symphony, Weed and Seed, the Sustainable Business partnership and an environmental fundraising event Sustain-a-Ball.

Julie truly embodies the Rotary spirit of "Service Above Self" and we are fortunate she is a member of our club.

~ Kathy Frazier

From the District Governor



Bill Jahn

Hello, fellow District 7430 Rotarians. My wife and I have begun visiting our clubs and are learning about the fantastic things you are doing. By mentioning a few, I hope all of you will join me in "Catching the Rotary Pride!"

We recognized seven Conrad Weiser members who have a combined 275 years of Service above Self, enjoyed an evening picnic at Lehigh Gap Nature Center in a pavilion built and furnished by the Slatington club, congratulated two scholarship recipients at Hamburg and accepted a \$2000 donation to the Polio Plus Fund from the Harleysville club. WOW!

You are invited to the Rotary Leadership Institute, September 17th being held at the Scanticon Valley Forge Hotel, King of Prussia, Pa., from 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. For more information, talk with a member of your board.

Have a GREAT month ahead and share your pride of Rotary with others!

From the President

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unflinchingly, go forth and encircle the world, to embrace humanity. And that is our theme for the coming year: Reach Within to Embrace Humanity.

He said how we do this will vary, club to club, culture to culture, country to country. Each of us knows best what our community needs. And, this is why we need you to fill out the surveys so that we can build a bigger, better, bolder club which is another one of the themes that we heard throughout the convention.

President Banerjee said that together, around the world, we Rotarians will be guided by three emphases: the family, continuity, and change.

Our first emphasis will be the family. It is our first emphasis because the family is the beginning, the starting point for everything we are trying to accomplish. The family is the building block of the community, and as the family goes, so goes the nation. If we wish to see a world that is more joyous, we first have to make sure that the families of the world are more joyous, that they have the things they need to be happy, to thrive, and move forward.

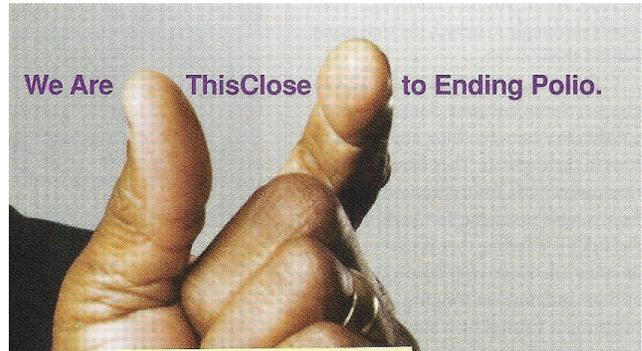
Our second emphasis will be on continuity, on continuing and strengthening those things we do well. There are so many areas in which we have been successful: working

for clean, safe water; spreading literacy; working in so many ways with Generation Next, our youth. And our greatest project, polio eradication, where our

success has come slowly but is no less certain.

Bill Gates told us that he is proud to be a partner in the work that Rotary has been doing to eradicate polio. Rotary's efforts have helped get us 99 percent of the way there. He used one simple statistic to explain his optimism. In 1960, of all the children in the world under the age of five, 20 million died of different diseases. Last year, that figure was down to 8.1 million. And so during that time, less than his lifetime, we've learned how to use lifesaving tools, including vaccines, to save the lives of over 12 million children every year. As a whole, this has to be one of the great accomplishments of humanity over the past century. Now to build on this progress, and to get that number to be even lower, we need to get new vaccines for more diseases. We need to reach all the children. And we need to eradicate polio.

We heard from a Seattle tv reporter, Penny LeGate, who traveled to India to participate in their annual National Immunization Day. She told a



story about a mom who pleaded with them to give her son the Polio vaccine; but it was too late, he was already crippled. And then the mom walked along the line, of those waiting in line for the vaccine, carrying her son, and said do not let this happen to your child. Get the vaccine.

We are "this close." Our work has brought us so far - 99 percent of the way there. This last one percent will be the longest, hardest one percent. It'll require more work and commitment than ever before. But Bill Gates is 100 percent convinced that this fight is winnable and said that we've never stopped at 99 percent before.

We are "this close." Rotary has written so many chapters in the history of the fight against polio and we all want to close the book.

And so, our third emphasis in 2011-12 will be change, and we start by being the change we wish to see in the world. If we wish for peace, we start by living in peace ourselves, in our homes and in our communities. If we wish environmental degradation to

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In Memoriam



William H. Stephens, Jr.

Bill Stephens, Jr., 91, of Macungie, passed away July 20, 2011, in the Palmerton Hospital. He and Mary celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary last August.

Born in Allentown, he was president of Harold Stephens Company, a wholesale food distribution company serving Lehigh and surrounding counties. He received his Ensign Commission from the U.S. Navy in 1942 and later achieved the rank of Lieutenant.

He had received the Outstanding Achievement Award for 50 years of service and was a Paul Harris Fellow.

When Bill's son, Andy, wrote to inform us of his father's death, he noted that Bill "was very proud of Rotary and the good work done by fine people like you. In his eighties, those weekly meetings were easily the highlight of his week. Thanks to all of the members of Rotary for being so kind to him over these many years."



Willard H. Gehman

Willard "Bill" Gehman, 88, of Allentown, passed away on June 7.

He owned and operated W.F. Gehman Company, Narrow Fabrics Distributor in Whitehall before retiring in 1991.

A past president of our club, and one of the founders of the Lehigh Valley Hospice, and later served as the chair of its board of directors. He also was a founding member of the Health East Community Health Service Organization.

In the words of one of our members, "Bill was a humble guy with a great outlook on life, a terrific sense of humor and a sincere interest in everyone and everything."

A WWII Army Air Corps veteran, rising to the rank of First Lieutenant, he was navigator and flew numerous missions in the South Pacific Theater. But he minimized his military service, often telling people that his war experience consisted of "never missed a meal and never fired a shot."

From the President

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stop, if we wish to reduce child mortality or to prevent hunger, we must be the instrument of that change and recognize that it must start within each of us.

Finally, President Banerjee asked us to, go and tell our clubs and our communities that we are ready to take on the challenges that face us today, the challenges of distrust, of fear, of intolerance, of helplessness, of violence, and that the Rotarians are ready to go and work, with hope, with enthusiasm, with courage, and with vision, and to stand firm and strong and tall like Mount Everest, firm in our purpose to spread love and happiness and to work for peace.

~ Theresa



August

- 1 Ann McManus
- 9 Sils Silsbee
- 13 Wendy Gail Body
- 16 Andree Johnson
- 20 Theresa Podguski
- 21 M. Bruce Irwin
- 24 William Hacker
- 28 Heather Strenkosky



Christine Bauder visited the the Rotary Club of Como during her recent vacation in Italy and exchanged flags with Il Presidente Alberto Mascetti.



Warren Armstrong presented Lee Butz a baseball autographed by Willie Mays after Lee's presentation about "Allentown Drive."

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Allentown Rotary Club
5540 German Road
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