

the Rotary Smile

Allentown, Pennsylvania

www.AllentownRotary.org

June - July 2012



How do You Make a Program?

The Program Committee has a daunting task: arranging our club's weekly programs for 48 Fridays a year!

On July 6 you'll have an opportunity to offer them your feedback, ideas, and suggestions for programs in the coming year.

Nan Yarrish, out-going chairperson, once said in a SMILE article, "I believe that each club member is a member of the Program Committee." So the Committee takes very seriously any club member's suggestion of a speaker or topic.

Here are some of the criteria the Program Committee applies when deciding whether to schedule a particular program:

1. Will the subject matter be of interest to most club members?
2. Is the individual a good public speaker?
3. Is the speaker offering an innovative approach and greater understanding of a subject (or is it a thinly veiled sales pitch)?
4. Has a similar subject been addressed recently?
5. Is there a connection to downtown Allentown?
6. Can this talk be scheduled within the next three months?

(Continued on page seven.)



Matt K. (left) and Jim S. (center) keep a close eye on Warren Armstrong as he deals five-card stud.

Monte Carlo Night at Good Shepherd

Twelve Rotarians and three spouses entertained about 35 residents of the Good Shepherd Raker Center for an evening of gambling at the Allentown Rotary's annual Monte Carlo Night at the Riker Center of the Good Shepherd Home June 11. The residents enjoyed bingo, roulette, black jack, five card poker, Texas Hold 'em and the Wheel of Fortune.

The residents rotated through six stations competing for prizes donated by the Allentown Rotarians. Their excitement kept the Rotarians on our toes for the night. The frequent command coming from the Bingo area was for Bob Jacobs, Andrew Block and me to help mark the cards as Theresa called the numbers. As Bob Jacobs can attest, you have to move fast to keep up with them.

Larry and Tina Campbell staffed the station at the Roulette table; Wally Eldridge, Ibi Balog and Harry Crapster were at the Wheel of Fortune; Kathy Frazier and Sils Silsbee were playing 21 while Warren Armstrong and Bruce Seidel were dealing five card stud. Debbie Ferry and Maryann Meehan jumped in for a very quick tutorial on Texas Hold 'em and I believe were successful in awarding the most prize money.

Thank you also to Good Shepherd Home staff members: Erin Kaminetsky (who also took the photos for this event), Debbie Gaumer and Andrew Block, who coordinated the event and ensured the guests were well taken care of.

~ Pat Meehan

The Rotary Club of Allentown

• *in our 98th 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

President	Theresa Podguski	610-778-3303
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	610-398-9612

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	610-398-9612
Mark E. Emswiler	Scholarship	610-967-2141
Jonathan Epstein ...	Membership & Website	610-437-7070 x 212
Ann McManus	Community Service	610-434-0875
Bob Stevens	Communication & the SMILE	610-390-7787
Nan Yarrish	Program	610-434-2648

Foundation Board Members

Frank St. Amour, Chairperson	610-435-3901
Jim Bova	610-435-7489
Larry Campbell	610-398-9612
Tom Christman	610-434-9645
Wallace Eldridge	610-366-0843
Mark Emswiler	610-967-2141
Carl Henzleman	610-758-5520
Kati LaBuda	610-709-9715
Ann McManus	610-434-0875
Amy Meleck	610-867-1689
Theresa Pudguski	610-778-3303
Janet Roth	610-434-9645
Marci Schick	610-794-5129
Pete Smith	610-395-7700

From the President



Theresa Podguski

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your president this past year. The year has really flown,

“ This year has given me an opportunity to meet so many wonderful people.”

from attending the Rotary International Convention in New Orleans, with my husband, Rich last May, to preparing for these last couple of meetings. As I think back to the RI Convention, RI President Banerjee said, “...Rotarians are ready to go and work, with hope, 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 to work for peace.”

I believe our club has stepped up to the challenge and we have done what President Banerjee asked and I could not have done it without the board’s support and the support of

(Continues on page seven.)



Team leader, Katsuhiko Igawa exchanges club flags with President Theresa Podguski.

Group Study Exchange

Apr. 20 – Our members had the opportunity to meet the five members of the Group Study Exchange from Tochigi Prefecture in Japan. Members included Team Leader Katsuhiko “Katsu” Igawa, Yuri Aoki, Kazunori “Nori” Aoki, Hiroyuki “Hiro” Hakoshima, and Chie Tominaga. Prior to presenting at the meeting, a number of club members had been entertaining them with an enjoyable whirlwind tour of the Lehigh Valley including sites such as Allentown Symphony, the Allentown Art Museum, Zoellner Arts Center, the Liberty Bell Museum and much more.

Each provided a brief personal introduction including some information about their careers, families and even pets.

They also provided an overview of their hometowns. They were so organized that they provided copies of their personal information in a very colorful brochure, along with a Tochigi Visitors Guide.

Tochigi certainly sounds

~ Carol Jones



GSE team members included (left to right) Hiroyuki “Hiro” Hakoshima, Yuri Aoki, team leader Katsuhiko “Katsu” Igawa, Ellen Ghelardi, Kazunori “Nori” Aoki, Theresa Podguski, Cindy Hornaman, and Chie Tominaga.

like a beautiful part of Japan, where agriculture (especially strawberry and rice farming) is a major industry. Some areas were impacted by the recent tsunami. One of the team members, Hiro Hakoshima, works for the Environmental Department at the Utsunomiya city office and shared that he has been busy at work helping to clear debris since the disaster. It was wonderful to hear, though, that life goes on.

It was interesting to learn how many common threads span Japan and the United States. Hobbies of the team members include volleyball, music (piano and saxophone), weather forecasting, international travel and even ice fishing! From the family photos they shared, it was evident that Mickey Mouse is a very popular character!



Lehigh County Veteran's Mentoring Program

May 4 – At the meeting of May 4th, Rotarians in attendance learned of a new program available to veterans facing criminal charges in the Lehigh County court system. Steve Luska, First Assistant District Attorney for Lehigh County, shared the details of this new initiative, which got underway in October, 2011.

The program is the outgrowth of Team MISA which meets regularly to address the unique challenges faced by the courts in dealing with those facing criminal charges who are also dealing with mental issues or substance abuse. Team MISA recognized that a subset of this

group is made up of veterans who may have special needs and/or access to needed treatment services through the Veteran's Administration.

The goal of the program is to quickly identify those in the court system who may benefit from participation, which is entirely voluntary, arrange for necessary diagnostic evaluations, provide assistance in arranging Veteran's Administration sponsorship of these services, if possible, and pair the veteran with a volunteer mentor, also a veteran, who can assist them in getting the services or offering the support needed. Mentors are specially trained and certified prior to being paired, to assure that they are familiar with available community and Veteran's Administration resources.

District Attorney Luska was quick to point out that the

Lehigh County Veteran's Mentoring Program is NOT a diversionary program. Enrolled veterans are still held accountable for any crime committed. He also pointed out that not all veterans are free to participate in that those who have committed serious crimes may be excluded. On the other hand, the program is designed to help veterans navigate the various programs and services available to them, including the Lehigh County-based Veteran's Sanctuary, in an effort to help our community by keeping them out of the criminal justice system.

To date, approximately 15 local veterans have opted to participate in the program and it is expected that the program will grow over time.

~ Carol Jones



Happy Birthday!

June

3	Suzanne Goodell
4	Debbie L. Ferry
4	Edwin Pawlowski
5	James Bova
5	Jonathan Epstein
9	Dan Gambet
10	Miriam Huertas
10	Don Wieand, Jr.
12	Larry Campbell
15	Andrew Block
15	Asa Hughes
15	Ben Walbert, III
16	Michael Donovan
26	James Anderman



John Nespoli, President and CEO
Sacred Heart Hospital

Update on Sacred Heart Hospital

May 11 – In a special private room at the Sacred Heart Hospital with our own buffet lunch, John Nespoli, President and CEO of the hospital, presented the current status and his long range projections for this 100 year-old Allentown landmark. Voted Business of the Year by the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, we anticipated a valuable Rotary meeting, and we got it!

Mr. Nespoli, just entering his third year as head of the hospital, talked first of his challenge to turn around Sacred Heart in terms of patient services, community involvement, doctor recruitment and, of course, financially. Currently there are 1,500 employees at the hospital, of which

100 of them are new this year. Twenty five new doctors have joined the staff during his first years here.

In a community overview, 1,000 people a day come to Sacred Heart for care. Half of these come from outside the city of Allentown. A new medical facility has been completed and Nespoli expects it will be 90% occupied by year's end.

He has made great strides working in cooperation with other facilities. For instance, Moss Rehab of Philadelphia has quarters in the hospital, working with spinal/stroke/amputee patients. Lehigh Valley Hospital runs the emergency room; Coordinated Health provides their exercise capabilities and St. Luke's does the on-site oncology and geriatric services. A community health needs assessment is underway, taking a look at integrated services with all local health providers.

Nespoli has moved to make Sacred Heart a strong presence in the neighborhood. He has set out a specific mission to serve the inner city where half the patients come from. He has established clinics in six surrounding grade schools, where Sacred Heart nurses are providing health screening. He is also working with the school district to develop a student data base to make certain there is service continuity.

Working with partners in the immediate neighborhood, Central Catholic High School

and Sacred Heart Church, they are developing a true sense of neighborhood. New street lighting has been put in place, more trees are being planted in the vicinity, a neighborhood watch has been organized and streets have been narrowed to better contain traffic. As one might expect, all efforts have served to lower the crime rate.

In addition, Nespoli has formed a partnership with Lehigh Carbon Community College. Thirty students now sponsored by Sacred Heart earn ten semester credits through internships. In the immediate five year projections, he plans to renovate patient rooms that will encourage a family atmosphere – hospital rooms with kitchens – plant even more trees around the buildings and continue advances being made in every area of technology.

This was an exceptional Rotary program, highlighting one of the valley's long time quality health care facilities. Happy 100th birthday, Sacred Heart.

~ Jim Harper



Scholarship Awards Program

May 18 – The annual scholarship program was held on Friday, May 18th. The Roger and Louise Mullin Scholarship Fund gives \$4,000 total for four years of college to one senior from each of the Allentown School District's high schools: Central Catholic, Dieruff, and William Allen. The club had the opportunity to meet the 2012 scholarship recipients. Three students from Allentown high schools were chosen by the scholarship committee: Fr. Frank St Amour, Jackie Lewis, Theresa Podguski, and Mark Emswiler. Jonathan Epstein, Jean Fox, and Wally Eldridge also sat in to assist with the interviews. Mark read the definition of scholarship at the meeting. According to the dictionary scholarship means grant or aid to a student. These students have demonstrated leadership potential, academic achievement, and service to the community.

Roberto Santana is a senior at Central Catholic. His parents and principal were present at the awards. Roberto helps out in the community, particularly at his church. He is looking to major in aerospace engineering and hopes to obtain a masters in five years. His goal is to one day work for Boeing or NASA.

Brandon Lukow is a student at Dieruff. He brought



2012 Scholarship recipients (left to right) Roberto Santana, Jack Lema and Brandon Lukow.

both of his parents and his principal with him. He said “it was a wonderful honor to have all of us here” today at the club’s meeting. He is planning on going to school for criminal justice. Brandon stated that service is more important to him than his scholarship achievements. He gladly extends his hand to help anyone who is at a high, low, or middle of the road. He always has a smile on his face.

The final recipient was Jack Lema. Jack attends William Allen and has been involved in Rotaract. He has also participated in Rotary events such as Camp Neidig. Rotary has taught him service above self. He has helped out at many different Rotary events such as ringing the bells at Christmas time, collecting food, and going to help out at Good Shepherd. He is going to Moravian College where he

will be studying environmental studies. His career goals are to help the environment.

The Allentown Rotary Club Foundation is pleased to assist these three recipients by awarding them this college scholarship.

~ Kati LaBuda



From the President

(Continued from page two.)

you, our members. You have been involved in so many wonderful projects this past year including: Daybreak; Dictionary Project; Meals on Wheels; Monte Carlo Night at Good Shepherd; reviewing community service grant applications; reviewing scholarship applications and interviewing applicants; and hosting members of the Japanese Group Study Exchange Team in your homes and businesses.

My deepest thanks go to the club board and foundation board as well as those who spearheaded the committees and projects during my tenure as president. I am very appreciative of Larry Campbell's help and advice throughout the year. Jonathan Epstein, Bob Stevens, Tom Christman, and Barbara Bigelow put in many hours behind the scenes to help your club run smoothly and for that I am truly grateful.

Thank you to all of our committee chairs for the great job they have done throughout the year. Chris Bauder sends out e-mail after e-mail and Bob Stevens publishes *The Smile*, both helping to keep our club members informed. Jim Bova made sure that the badge board had coverage and Mark Emswiler headed the Scholarship Committee to choose this year's Roger and Louise Mullin Scholarship recipients. Jonathan Epstein was very busy this year as he headed the Membership Committee, continued working

on the club website, did a yeoman's job on the club strategic plan, and even stepped in to head the Youth Committee when we had a vacancy. Ann McManus and her committee were very busy taking the lead on many of our favorite community service projects. Thanks to Nan Yarrish and Ken Kirshner along with the members of the Program Committee who brought many interesting speakers as well as an amazing, young classical guitarist to our meetings.

Thank you to Wally Eldridge, past chair of our Allentown Rotary Club Foundation, and Fr. Frank St. Amour, the current chair, and the members of the foundation board for all the work that they do.

On October 7, we will be holding our 3rd annual 5K Walk/Run. Thank you to Janet Roth and Marci Schick for leading our walk/run through the first two years. They have passed the baton to Kati LaBuda and she and her committee have been hard at work planning this year's race. We are hoping to surpass the \$7,000 that was raised last year!

This year has given me an opportunity to meet so many wonderful people and I look forward to working with you in the years to come to continue to serve our community.

I wish Jonathan the best as he leads the Allentown Rotary Club through our 99th year!

~ Theresa



Thank You!

Thank you to all who helped at the Good Shepherd Monte Carlo Night:

Warren Armstrong
Andrew Block
Larry and Tina Campbell
Ibolya Balog and
Harry Crapster
Wally Eldridge
Debbie Ferry
Kathy Frazier
Bob Jacobs
Theresa Podguski
Pat and Maryann Meehan
Bruce Seidel
Sils Silsbee



How do You Make a Program?

(Continued from page one.)

7. How flexible is the potential speaker's schedule?

Bring your thinking caps to our meeting on July 6. If you're interested in joining the Program Committee (meets the second Tuesday of the month) contact incoming chairperson, Roger Dupere (610-432-0129).



With four kings in her hand, Carol U. is a happy winner at Rotary's annual Monte Carlo Night. President Teresa Podguski (at far right) calls the bingo numbers as resident Dave V. focuses on filling his card.

the Rotary Smile

Allentown Rotary Club
229 N. 27th Street
Allentown, PA 18104

