



# Swarthmore Rotary Cog Notes

P.O. Box 4, Swarthmore, PA 19081



April 15, 2021

Holger Knaack  
RI President 2020-21  
Kevin M. Katarynick  
District 7450 Governor

Swarthmore Rotary  
Leaders

- William Clinton Hale  
President
- Kathryn Jones  
President-Elect
- Brian Casey  
Club Executive Secretary  
Webmaster
- Craig Fava  
Past President  
Secretary
- Sonya Pappas  
Treasurer
- Barbara Whitaker-Shimko  
Rotary Foundation Chair
- Betty Ann A. Flynn  
Club Director
- Anne C. Hansen  
Club Director
- Lori Markusfeld  
Service Projects Chair
- Penelope Reed  
Public Relations Chair
- Ann K. Seidman  
Membership Chair
- Barbara Amstutz  
Grants Committee Chair
- Maria Michael Zissimos  
iPast President
- Heather Saunders  
President-Nominee
- Francy Cross  
Assistant Governor

## Service Quotation

Better to light one small candle than to curse the darkness. Chinese Proverb

## Rotary Celebrations!

Birthdays

No Birthdays Found

Wedding Anniversaries

No Wedding Anniversaries Found

## Meetings and Events

April

- 15th - [Club Meeting](#)  
Speaker: Reggie Shuford, Executive Director ACLU of PA  
Subject: Priorities for 2021
- 22nd - [Club Meeting](#)  
Speaker: Edwin Kline, Citizens Corp of Delaware County  
Subject: Covid-19 Vaccination Implementation in Delco
- 29th - [Club Meeting](#)  
Speaker: Robert D. Putnam, Malkin Research Professor of Public Policy, Harvard Un  
Subject: The Upswing: How America Came Together a Century Ago and How We Can Do it Again.

## Table Grace

By Frederick E. Christian

**Lord God, we are aware that life is lived but one day at a time, so we reach our goals. Grant us, too, the longer view that we may not be so bound to the present that we lose sight of the larger purpose. Thank you. Lord, for the gift of life today. Amen.**

## 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?

## Club News

**President Bill Hale said the food pantry project is now scheduled for May. He reminded everyone about the Tri-District Conference, Friday, April 30, to Sunday, May 2. He also invited us to visit Joy Charlton's booth at the Hall of Friendship at the Conference. The theme of Joy's booth is the Rotary Peace Fellowship. Lori Markusfeld reminded us of our service project on Saturday, April 24. We will be doing gardening at the Chester Housing Authority's outdoor garden.**

## Last Meeting Summary

**Kim Andrews is the Executive Director of the Japan-America Society of Greater Philadelphia (JASGP). You might ask – why is there a Japan-America Society? First of all, the obvious reason is to promote ties between the two countries. In addition, Kim alluded to another reason in her talk. She said all of her Asian American staff have been harassed recently by strangers (see follow-up email below). This demonstrates the importance of increasing understanding between Japan and the United States.**

**Kim said she was originally hired as the Executive Director of the Friends of the Shofuso Japanese House and Gardens in West Fairmont Park. The house was built in the Park in 1958 and needed a new roof. Kim's first job was to obtain funding and oversee the installation of the roof. In 2016, the Shofuso House merged with the JASGP and Kim became the Executive Director of the**

## Years of Service

Barbara Whitaker-Shimko  
04-17-2014  
7 Years  
Richard Shimko  
04-17-2014  
7 Years

## Happy Dollars

pledge \$3,183

2020-21 Happy Dollars  
for Polio Plus Fund  
(\$3 to fully protect one child)

2019-20 total: \$3355  
2018-19 total: \$3,845  
2017-18 total: \$4,515

## Guests Last Meeting

Gudrun Weinberg

combined organization. One major project of JASGP is to plant cherry trees throughout Greater Philadelphia. They have planted over 1000 trees. The Society's largest event is the Subaru Cherry Blossom Festival in April. Before the pandemic, the Festival attracted over 15,000 visitors. If you are looking for something to do, consider learning the Japanese language. Classes are offered online at the Society's website: [japanphilly.org](http://japanphilly.org). You can also take a virtual tour of the Shofuso House and Gardens. See details below.

### Follow-up Email with Kim Andrews

I received the following email from Kim Andrews in response to my question about harassment of Asian American staff:

Thanks for reaching out! I really enjoyed giving the talk to the Swarthmore Rotary.

Yes, unfortunately, I can say that my Asian American colleagues and coworkers began reporting regular verbal abuse a year ago, including a Japanese American friend who has lived in Lower Merion for fifteen years receiving frightening taunts and threats from a passing car of white adults last April while she was walking her dog near her house; she had never experienced anything like that before in her many years in the United States.

The other folks have had regular, more low key but still frightening, incidents of passing others on foot and hearing racist curses, insults, and names delivered under their breath on the street and in stores in the past year. Every Asian American in my circle of colleagues and friends has relayed experiences like this, which they describe as happening very sporadically in the past but with regularity now. A work colleague now avoids going out on the streets around her house in Center City without her white husband and takes Uber to Shofuso now rather than ride her bike to avoid bad interactions.

I'm very sad for this state of affairs and hope that general tolerance and kindness can return as soon as possible. The work of Rotary International certainly supports transcultural understanding and cooperation.

I hope you come out to enjoy Shofuso this summer.

Please take care and stay well,  
Kim

### Shofuso House and Garden Virtual Tour

You may be interested in this virtual tour of the Shofuso House and Gardens. The following is from [japanphilly.org](http://japanphilly.org). If interested, you can register online at the website.

Join us on Zoom for a virtual tours live from Shofuso.

With no need to leave the house, spend one peaceful hour while a Shofuso visitor services associates guides you through the house, the gardens, and to the pond to see the koi. Treat yourself to a morning serenity break from working at home to enjoy the aesthetic joys of Shofuso.

Register for April 21, 2021 at 6pm EST.