



# Swarthmore Rotary Cog Notes

P.O. Box 4, Swarthmore, PA 19081



May 6, 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

Things of the spirit differ from things material in that the more you give the more you have.  
Christopher Morley

## Rotary Celebrations!

### Birthdays

No Birthdays Found

### Wedding Anniversaries

Brian H. Craig  
May 6th

Barbara Whitaker-Shimko  
May 7th

## Meetings and Events

May

6th - [Club Meeting](#)

Speaker: Frances Sheehan, founding President of the Foundation for Delaware County  
Subject: Foundation for Delaware County (tbd)

13th - [Club Meeting](#)

Speaker: MacDara King, Executive Producer of Great Decisions on PBS  
Subject: Making 'Great Decisions' on PBS

20th - [Club Meeting](#)

Speaker: Dr. Mark Hopkins, Director, Moody's Analytics  
Subject: "Building Back Better: Will Biden's Plan Lead us to Fiscal Collapse, or Save Us From It?"

## Table Grace

By Frederick E. Christian

**Amid the profusion of flowers this month, remind us, O Lord, of our daily dependence upon your goodness, not alone for the necessities we enjoy but for the beauty of fields and flowers. How can we return our thanks, except by the gift of caring concern for the good earth itself and for those within it who are denied so many blessings that we enjoy. 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?

## Last Meeting Summary

The following was submitted to The Swarthmorean as a letter to the Editor:

Many of us believe that economic inequality, political polarization, and social isolation are the worst they have ever been. Robert D. Putnam, the acclaimed author of "Bowling Alone", told Swarthmore Rotary on April 29 that our country has been in similar difficulties before. Putnam told us that 120 years ago at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century our country had similar problems. He said his measures of inequality, polarization, and isolation indicated that conditions were just as bad then as now. A few wealthy people lived in their enormous mansions while most factory workers and farmers lived in abject poverty. Labor strikes frequently led to pitched battles in which hundreds died.

Life got better. Putnam said improvement was caused by a change in culture and morality. Americans started to think more about what was good for society as a whole and less about what was good for themselves. Putnam said we changed from an "I" culture to a "we" culture. He said, based on his research, that the change was driven by young activists such as Jane Addams, a social worker, John Dewey, an education reformer, and Ida Wells, an investigative journalist. He also credited young adults who started civic organizations, such as Rotary, that increased social

Richard Shimko  
May 7th

Years of Service

No Years Of Service Found

## Happy Dollars

pledge \$3,317

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

Charles Gilbert, David Smith  
Ben Berger, Theresa O'Malley  
Ann Haslanger, Shiela Bell  
Linda Armour, Allen Prindle  
Gudrun Weinberg, Joan Apt  
Mary Hinds, Sannan Dhillon  
Nancy Daniel, Jim Snively  
Hogie Hanson

connection. Putnam believes that progressive politicians such as Theodore Roosevelt responded to the change, rather than led it.

Putnam stated that between 1900 and 1960, income equality, political cooperation, and social cohesion all gradually increased. The 50's had more family stability. Well-paying blue-collar jobs were common. This trend reversed in the 1960's. Putnam believes the reversal was a reaction to assassinations of political leaders, the Vietnam War and civil rights disruptions. Individuals lost faith in the government and other institutions. They thought more about "I" than "we". Again, politicians such as Ronald Reagen followed the culture change rather than led it. Putnam does not blame the internet and social media for the state we are in. He believes the trend began well before the internet arrived. He said the trends continued to today's political polarization, income inequality and social isolation.

Putnam has hope that culture will be changing back to a "we" focus. He sees signs of increased grass-roots activism by young adults. He cited Greta Thunberg as an example of a young activist. What can we do? In his books, Putnam encouraged adults to join locally organized groups, such as Rotary, that promote social connection and service to others. He encouraged young people who are trying to improve the world to work with others locally. These are not quick fixes. Voting once in an election or donating to a cause or criticizing someone for being insufficiently progressive will not reverse the trend. It took many decades to reach this state. It will take many years to turn things around again.

## Review of Robert Putnam's book

Excerpts from the New York Times review of Robert Putnam's book "The Upswing" at

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/13/books/review/the-upswing-robert-d-putnam.html>

In this good-hearted and sweeping book, the political scientist **Robert D. Putnam** (with Shaylyn Romney Garrett) offers some hope in bleak times. "The Upswing" begins by invoking Tocqueville's admiring depiction of America in the 1830s as a land where individualism was balanced by mutual association and common purpose. Yet half a century later came the Gilded Age, a period like our own — of robber barons, widespread corruption, mutual mistrust, political scandal, exploitation of wageworkers and pillaging of the natural environment.

Then the wheel turned again. After 1900, America embarked on a reform era that extended through the 1960s, before we descended into a second Gilded Age. Recent history, Putnam argues, begins well before the New Deal. In the entire period from 1901 (when Theodore Roosevelt succeeded the assassinated William McKinley) through Lyndon Johnson's Great Society, with only a short pause in the 1920s, America steadily became more community-minded.

Many New Dealers learned their values and craft in the Progressive Era of the first Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson. "By the time we arrived at the middle of the 20th century," Putnam writes, "the Gilded Age was a distant memory. America had been transformed into a more egalitarian, cooperative, cohesive and altruistic nation." These trends operated in the economic, political, social and cultural realms, reinforcing one another. Then they all reversed in tandem.

**“Between the mid-1960s and today ... we have been experiencing *declining economic equality, the deterioration of compromise in the public square, a fraying social fabric and a descent into cultural narcissism.*”**

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