



Swarthmore Rotary Cog Notes

P.O. Box 4, Swarthmore, PA 19081



February 16, 2023

Jennifer Jones
RI President 2022-23
David Houtz
District 7450 Governor

Swarthmore Rotary
Leaders

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President

Greg Brown
President-Elect

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Club Executive Secretary

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Treasurer

George C. Whitfield Jr.
Secretary

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Youth Services Chair

Perri Ann Evanson
Public Relations Chair

Carr Everbach
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David Firm
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Betty Ann A. Flynn
Club Director

William Clinton Hale
Past President
Sergeant-at-Arms

Anne C. Hansen
International Service Chair

Kathryn Jones
iPast President

Jeannine Osayande
Youth Services Chair

Hillard Pouncy
Club Programs Chair

Joshua Twersky
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Barbara Whitaker-Shimko
Rotary Foundation Chair

Kenneth J. Wright
Club Director

Cathleen Darrell
Attendance Secretary

Lori Markusfeld
President-Nominee

Richard Shimko
Bulletin Editor

Karen Aleta Mazzarella
Assistant Governor

Happy Dollars

pledge \$2,818
2021-2022 \$4,476

Rotary Celebrations!

Birthdays

Dan Honig

Meetings and Events

February 16th
Swarthmore Weekly Club Meeting (Inn)
Speaker: Dr. Joyce Shin, Pastor, Swarthmore
Presbyterian Church
Subject: What I Have Learned about the Church
in Community

March 2nd
Swarthmore Weekly Club Meeting (Inn)
Speaker: Irene Nunn, Portrait Artist
Subject: Portraits, Places and Things - Looking
Back and Slightly Forward

February 23rd
Swarthmore Weekly Club Meeting (Inn)
Speaker: Owen Powell, Pa State Overdose Task
Force
Subject: Trends in Substance Use and Addiction

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?

Service Quotation

Anticipate charity by preventing poverty; assist the reduced fellow man, either by a considerable gift or a sum of money or by teaching him a trade or by putting him in the way of business so that he may earn an honest livelihood and not be forced to the dreadful alternative of holding out his hand for charity. This is the highest step and summit of charity's golden ladder. Maimonides

Club News

President Heather Saunders requested our help in providing meals to Kathryn Jones, Julie Millward, and their sons. As you know, Julie broke her ankle and will be off her feet for the rest of the month. See Heather's email of Feb. 9 for details.

Rotary Moment. Elizabeth Church told us that February is Peacebuilder and Conflict Resolution month.

Rotary International has supported peacebuilding initiatives throughout the world and sponsored the training of over one thousand peace builders. Rotary International is asking us to engage with others to build peace.

Last Meeting Summary



Mark Hopkins' job at Moody Analytics is to predict the future of the economy. So what is it? Will the economy become better or worse? Mark told us Moody Analytics considers the probability of a recession in the next year as about 50/50. He explained that recession is defined as falling Gross National Product (GNP) for

two quarters in a row.

First Mark gave reasons why there will NOT be a recession. There is low unemployment, inflation is decreasing, wage growth is moderate, the stock market has rebounded, and the European economy is doing better than expected. To support the idea that inflation is decreasing, Mark went into some details discussing a graph that he said related worker productivity and inflation. The graph showed both the percent changes in the GNP and rate of employment. He pointed out that in 2022, businesses were adding workers faster than the GNP was increasing. This implied that each worker was producing less goods. Put another way, the

February 16th
Jane C Billings
February 21st

Wedding Anniversaries

No Wedding Anniversaries
Found

Years of Service

Susan Larson
02-20-2014
9 Years

Guests Last Meeting

Carol Hopkins

businesses labor costs were increasing. This caused the company to increase the selling price of their products, thereby increasing inflation. Mark showed us on the graph that in 2023, the opposite is true, implying less inflation.

Mark then gave reasons why there WILL be a recession. He said the primary reason was that we are currently experiencing something called the inverted yield curve (IYC). IYC means that the interest rate for long term loans, say 10 years, is lower than for short term, say 1 year. This is the opposite of what normally occurs. Borrowers normally have to pay higher interest rates in order to keep a loan longer. So why does IYC predict a recession? Mark said economists have found that over the years a recession normally follows a period of IYC. All that can be said for sure is that the large group of individuals who are lenders and borrowers think the interest rates will go down in the future. As Mark explained in a discussion after the meeting, a negative interpretation is that this could be because the Fed lowers interest rates in response to a recession. He said a more positive interpretation is that the public expects that the inflation rate will decrease substantially.

Mark didn't say which side of the debate he was on. We can take our pick. As he said 50/50.

Andrew Bunting Stories

The classification speakers were invited to tell a story about themselves. Here is Andrew Bunting's.

I was fortunate to have my interest and passion for gardening and plants develop in high school when I was relatively young. I attended a junior college for horticulture where an internship was required and I worked the summer of 1983 at the nearby Morton Arboretum and in the summer of 1984 at the Chicago Botanic Garden. I subsequently had the opportunity to complete an internship at the Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden in Miami, Florida and apprenticeships at Tintinhull House Garden in Somerset, England and Titoki Point Garden in Taihape, New Zealand. This has led to a life-long career in public horticulture including working in public gardens The Scott Arboretum, Chicago Botanic Garden, Atlanta Botanical Garden and now the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society over the last 40 years.

I love the public aspect of my job and connecting people from all walks of lives through gardening. I also love that every day is different and interesting and there are endless opportunities for partnerships and collaboration. My profession has also provided amazing opportunities for engagement regionally, nationally and internationally. I have had amazing opportunities to travel the globe and study plants including trips to Mexico, Cuba, Colombia, Argentina, Chile, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, most of Europe and China, Japan, Vietnam and Taiwan.

Throughout my career I have really enjoyed mentoring students and interns. Many of my interns at the Scott Arboretum now have notable leadership positions in public horticulture including Jim Adams who has the Supervisor of Horticulture at the White House under the Obama's and now leads horticulture at the U. S. Botanic Garden.

It is a great field that is experiencing significant growth in many sectors for public gardening to professional gardeners and the nursery industry. On Tuesday, I was in Brooklyn at a conference at the Director of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden stated that 30 years there was less than 50 people in NYC that identified as a professional gardener and today there are over 500. For someone new entering the field I would encourage them to explore different horticulturally related professions before settling on one. And, for every new person to this profession I am always an advocate of an experience abroad. For me, it transformed my career.

While I think gardening in the past was viewed as leisure activity or a hobby, but today it is being regarded as essential. Those who can garden to grow food. During the pandemic food insecurity doubled in some parts of Philadelphia. Growing and sharing food became essential for many. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society partners with over 150 community gardens throughout Philadelphia to grow their own food, but to also participate in our program to share 10% of the harvest with local community-based food banks and food pantries.

Botanic gardens and arboreta world-wide are playing a key role in researching plants that will be able to be resilient and sustainable as our ecosystems are impacted by global climate change. There will be an ongoing need for careers in plant physiology, plant pathology and plant breeding to help mitigate the effects and impacts global climate change.

At the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, we are constantly striving to create green equity in the city and region. Where there are other equity issues there are also issues with access to green spaces, lack of tree canopy, lack of jobs and significant issues with access to fresh food. The Rotary 4-Way test in many ways underpins and anchors our approach to Gardening for the Great Good as we strive to be fair and equitable while sharing goodwill and building social connections and friendships. All our work revolves around four impact priorities including, creating healthy living environments; increasing access to fresh food; expanding economic opportunity and building meaningful social connections.