



Swarthmore Rotary Cog Notes



P.O. Box 4, Swarthmore, PA 19081

August 22, 2019

Mark Daniel Maloney
RI President 2019-20
Peter A Mardinly
District 7450 Governor

Swarthmore Rotary
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Barbara Whitaker-Shimko
Rotary Foundation Chair
Sean Murphy
Assistant Governor

Service Quotation

"Don't mistake activity with achievement." John Wooden, basketball coach

Rotary Celebrations!

Birthdays



Hillard Pouncy
August 23rd



Meltem Pusat Gonnella
September 3rd

Wedding Anniversaries



Barbara Amstutz
August 24th



Anne C. Hansen
August 27th

Meetings and Events

August

22nd - Meeting

Speaker: Beth Murray, Sharon Mester, and Greg Brown
Subject: Swarthmore Town Center Revitalization

29th - Meeting

Speaker: Loubna Lemgard , Owner, La Cannelle Restaurant
Subject: A Restaurant in Wallingford Via Morocco

September

5th - Pot Luck Dinner

Speaker: Pot Luck
Subject: Pot luck Dinner - hosted by Whitaker-Shimko

Table Grace

By Frederick E. Christian

God, grant that today we may be disturbed by some vision of the need for justice or compassion or caring and make this Rotary the channel for renewed life or hope or aspiration for someone down on their luck. Thank you, Lord, for bringing us together and for the rich blessings of this hour. 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

By Barbara Amstutz



What is a "Community Mass"? As explained by Dr. Jay Fluellen, it is a mass composed and performed by members of a community, in this case Philadelphia. Most of the participants in the Philadelphia Community Mass were volunteers. Dr. Fluellen teaches music at a high school in Philadelphia and at a number of local colleges. He also composes music, composing his first piece at age 11. He said he was one of four local composers who were commissioned to write the Philadelphia Community Mass. One of the members of the choir is our own George Whitfield. George agreed to answer questions about his experience with the choir, including performing at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. The questions and George's responses are also included below. Finally, a photo of the choir performing is included. Can you find George?

George Interview

Years of Service

No Years Of Service Found

Happy Dollars

No Report

2019-20 Happy Dollars
for Polio Plus Fund
(\$3 to fully protect one child)

2018-19 total: \$3,845
2017-18 total: \$4,515
2016-17 total: \$3,756

Guests Last Meeting

Jules Nivlet, Rotary Exchange
Student
Noah Atsaves, host



Where's George?



How did you become involved in the community mass? To be honest Rich, I do not recall. I may have read something about it or in working with Dr. Fluellen on another project, he mentioned it.

What were the rehearsals like? The rehearsal were very easy as we have singers of varying abilities. Where were they? Most of the rehearsals were held at the Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas How often? We usually rehearsed four days per month, until we were close to a performance date, then the rehearsals were once per week. Did you find them fun or hard? I can't say that they were fun or hard. This entire project allowed me to sing. Something which I love to do. However, some of the music was challenging for a 60 year old tenor who is not a professional vocalist as it pertains to range.

How many performances were you involved in? I was involved in all of the performances including the excerpts performed in collaboration with the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra. Where? The performances were held at the Monumental Baptist Church in West Philadelphia, Historic Mother Bethel AME Church in Center City Philadelphia, The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., and the Mann Music Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia.

What was it like to perform in the Kennedy Center? Performing at the Kennedy Center was very enjoyable, but surreal in a way, because Bernstein's Mass from which the Philadelphia Mass was inspired, was commissioned by Jaqueline Kennedy for the opening of the Kennedy Center. So to put all of that history together, it was rather surreal. How about local performances? The premiere performance was the most interesting. People thought they were attending a concert, and by the end of the concert they were participating in a "good old fashioned church service". By the time the choir finished the final piece of the Mass, the Angus Dei, one could feel the Holly Spirit move in that place. As with the initial Gloria, the composer took a 16 bar blues with a gospel feel and set it with a Latin text. The Mass in its entirety is very moving.

What was your favorite part of the experience? My favorite part of the experience was its evolution. From the first rehearsal to the last performance at the Mann with full orchestral accompaniment, one could see how this "new music" had evolved. Would you do something similar again? Yes, in a heartbeat.