



Swarthmore Rotary Cog Notes

P.O. Box 4, Swarthmore, PA 19081



January 21, 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
- Francy Cross
Assistant Governor

Service Quotation

"Setting a good example is a far better way to spread ideals than through force of arms."
Ron Paul

Rotary Celebrations!

Birthdays

No Birthdays Found

Wedding Anniversaries

No Wedding Anniversaries Found

Years of Service

No Years Of Service Found

Meetings and Events

January

21st - [Club Meeting](#)
Speaker: Jeannine Osayande & Dunya Performing Arts Company
Subject: Making A Homeplace: Stories From The Historically Black Neighborhood of Swarthmore
28th - [Club Meeting](#)
Speaker: Seth Rosenberg, founder, Syncretic
Subject: Computer Network Security: The Threat Landscape

February

4th - [Club Meeting](#)
Speaker: Scott Richardson, owner, Occasionally Yours
Subject: At Occasionally Yours: Thirty One Years And Still Having Fun

Table Grace

By Frederick E. Christian

Lord of us all, you have made us of differing colors but of one blood. Teach us, that though we differ like keys on a piano board, we can choose whether to make harmony or disharmony. Show us how to be in harmony with others and with your purpose for us as your family here on earth. 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

Perhaps the most striking comment by Mayor Marty Spiegel was his response to a question about whether the Borough had been receiving warnings about the need for heightened security during the inauguration. Mayor Marty said the Borough police have received briefings and are taking extra precautions because two legislators, one federal and one state, live in Swarthmore. We will not disclose their names here for security reasons. (just kidding, see next article for a discussion on the rioter)

The Mayor also reviewed the impact COVID has had on Swarthmore. He said there has been over 100 cases and one death, an EMT worker. The town businesses have been hit hard. As far as he knows, however, none have gone out of business. He credited the Swarthmore Senior Citizens Association with doing a great job disseminating information in their newsletters. He noted that Delaware County was hampered in its response to the crisis because it does not have a County health department. The new Democratic administration began the process of establishing one when it assumed control of County government. So far it hasn't had enough time to get one operational.

Happy Dollars

pledge \$1861

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

Linda Heffernan (Marty's wife),
Jim Snively (Gladys' husband)
Charly & Kay Hoover
Frances Sheehan, Nancy
Daniels, Rachel Pastan

One good piece of news: there will be no increase in the Borough tax rate. Another positive idea:

Mayor Marty is hopeful we can have a Fun Fair this fall. Wouldn't that be great.

Thomas Edsall article on Rioters

I find that Thomas Edsall, a New York Times columnist, is helpful in explaining social and political trends. Here are excerpts from his column in the Jan. 13 on-line edition of the Times.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/13/opinion/capitol-riot-white-grievance.html>

Ethnonationalist ... want to return to a past when white men saw themselves as the core of America and minorities and women “knew their place.” Because doing so requires the upending of the social order, many are prepared to pursue extreme measures, including racial violence and insurrection. What makes their actions all the more dangerous is a self-righteous belief ... that they are on the correct side of history as the true defenders of democracy, even as their actions undermine its core institutions and threaten its stability.

White supremacy and frank racism are prime motivators, and they combined with other elements to fuel the insurrection: a groundswell of anger directed specifically at elites and an [addictive lust for revenge](#) against those they see as the agents of their disempowerment.

Despair — and the associated mortality trends — is concentrated among the less-than-college educated and is much higher among whites than minorities. The trends are also geographically dispersed, with populations in racially and economically diverse urban and coastal places more optimistic and with lower premature mortality.

What, however, could prompt a mob ... to break into the Capitol? One possible answer: a mutated form of moral certitude based on the belief that one's decline in social and economic status is the result of unfair, if not corrupt, decisions by others, especially by so-called elites.

When people hurt or kill someone, they usually do it because they feel they ought to: they feel that it is morally right or even obligatory to be violent.

“Most violence,” Fiske and Rai contend, “is morally motivated.”

More religious and less well-educated whites see Donald Trump as one of their own despite his being so obviously a child of privilege. He defends America as a Christian nation. He defends English as our national language. He is unashamed in stating that the loyalty of any government should be to its own citizens — both in terms of how we should deal with noncitizens here and how our foreign policy should be based on the doctrine of “America First.”

He speaks in a language that ordinary people can understand. He makes fun of the elites who look down on his supporters as a “basket of deplorables” and who think it is a good idea to defund the police who protect them and to prioritize snail darters over jobs. He appoints judges and justices who are true conservatives. He believes more in gun rights than in gay rights. He rejects political correctness and the language-police and woke ideology as un-American. And he promises to reclaim the jobs that previous presidents (of both parties) allowed to be shipped abroad. In sum, he offers a relatively coherent set of beliefs and policies that are attractive to many voters and which he has been better at seeing implemented than any previous Republican president. What Trump supporters who rioted in D.C. share are the beliefs that Trump is their hero, regardless of his flaws, and that defeating Democrats is a holy war to be waged by any means necessary.