



Swarthmore Rotary Cog Notes

P.O. Box 4, Swarthmore, PA 19081



February 18, 2021

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

Swarthmore Rotary
Leaders

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President
Kathryn Jones
President-Elect
Brian Casey
Club Executive Secretary
Webmaster
Craig Fava
Past President
Secretary
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Betty Ann A. Flynn
Club Director
Anne C. Hansen
Club Director
Lori Markusfeld
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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

"The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something. Don't wait for good things to happen to you. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope, you will fill yourself with hope."
Barack Obama

Rotary Celebrations!

Birthdays

No Birthdays Found

Meetings and Events

February

18th - [Club Meeting](#)

Speaker: Prof. Dan Hopkins, UPENN, Political Science, The Increasingly United States
Subject: Looking Back on the 2020 Election

25th - [Club Meeting](#)

Speaker: Collin Darrell, Business Consultant to Hawaiian farms and restaurants
Subject: Hawaiian Agriculture & Hospitality - Past / Present / Future

March

4th - [Club Meeting](#)

Speaker: Robert Boone, President?CEO South Central Workforce Development Board, Kentucky
Subject: #workforcedev Through Remote Access Learning: Kentucky's Solution for Virtual Statewide Career Services

Table Grace

By Frederick E. Christian

During this month when we honor great figures of our nation, show us, Lord, the true measure of their stature. Help us to see their love of liberty, their devotion to duty, and their passion for justice and freedom. Inspire us to commit ourselves to the best we see in them. 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 discussed the latest plan for supporting food banks. The Inn at Swarthmore has agreed to let the Club give out thank-you meals on a weeknight under the rear entrance to those that give us money or a check made out to a local food pantry such as City Team, the Media Food Bank or DIFAN. The Inn would purchase and prepare trays of food and we would cover this cost through a donor so everything we collect goes to the food pantries. We would ask for a minimum donation and advance notice from people picking up food. We would ask club members or Interact students to help put the food in serving containers for pick up. Advertising the project would promote the name and mission of Swarthmore Rotary in the community.

Last Meeting Summary

Matt Marencik and Stephen McWilliams of Villanova University teach by doing. Matt and Stephen teach a class in documentary film making. Instead of a class that focuses on studying texts and listening to lectures, the class makes a documentary film. The course is a year long. The first half of the course lays the groundwork, by teaching students how to use the equipment and how to perform interviews. The second half is used to conduct interviews and edit the final film. The topics are selected by the professors because of a shortage of class time. Matt and Stephen see the finished films as a tool for social activism. They focus on the telling stories of the powerless.

Wedding Anniversaries

Ann K. Seidman
February 23rd

Years of Service

Perri Ann Evanson
02-23-2001
20 Years
Susan Larson
02-20-2014
7 Years

Happy Dollars

pledge \$2,523

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

Nancy Daniel, Dan Snyder
Gudrun Weinberg
Susanne Smith

The project for last year's class (2019-2020) was "Warrior Class". This film covers recent veterans who are transitioning to civilian life from combat tours of duty. The film debuted on Veterans Day 2020. The year before that the class produced "The Mayor of Graterford". This film was about the commutation process for Inmates in Pennsylvania prisons who were sentenced as young men to life sentences without parole. More information about the film is given below. The current class is producing a film about a family that was accidentally poisoned when they were on vacation in the Virgin Islands. The film follows their slow recovery from the poisoning.

This class seems like a wonderful example of experiential learning in college education.

Mayor of Graterford

From Villanova University Media Room press release at:

<https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/media/pressreleases/2018/0502.html>

Pennsylvania is one of only six states that denies inmates sentenced to life in prison the possibility of parole. While Philadelphia housed just 370 elderly prisoners in 1980, there are now more than 8,000 elderly inmates confined in Philadelphia prisons, including the Graterford State Correctional Institution located in Schwenksville, PA. "The Mayor of Graterford," a social justice documentary produced by students at Villanova University, examines the issue of life without parole sentencing and the commutation process in Pennsylvania through the experiences of current and former inmates.

The documentary follows Tyrone Werts, a former Graterford prisoner nicknamed the "Mayor of Graterford" by other inmates at the facility, who was sentenced to life without parole in 1975 for second degree murder following a crime committed by his friend. Tyrone served more than 36 years with an impeccable prison record until his sentence was commuted in 2010. Commutation is the only outlet through which prisoners serving a life sentence can argue their case in hopes of gaining their freedom.

"The Mayor of Graterford tells the story of an ex-con reuniting with the men who became like his family over the decades he spent incarcerated and details the commutation process in Pennsylvania," said Jack McCarthy, student director of the film. "Directing this film has been the single most rewarding college experience during my four years at Villanova University. "

The documentary addresses concerns for juveniles who have been sentenced to life without parole, and were granted their right to parole following the 2012 Supreme Court case *Miller v. Alabama*, which held that mandatory life sentences without the possibility of parole were unconstitutional for juvenile offenders. A later Supreme Court case, *Montgomery v. Louisiana* (2016), ensured that this decision applies retroactively for juveniles currently serving life sentences.

The film also follows John Pace, a former juvenile lifer who was released after serving 30 years in prison for a crime committed when he was 17-years-old. Pace now works alongside Werts with the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, which helps newly freed inmates reintegrate into society.

"The students in our class and the professors worked very hard to present a thoughtful, balanced look into the issue of life without parole sentencing in Pennsylvania," said Stephen McWilliams, PhD, MFA, and Director of the Social Justice Documentary program. "The students and professors learned a great deal about the complexities and imperfections of our criminal justice system and the enormous challenges faced by those entrusted in providing 'justice for all.'"