



Swarthmore Rotary Cog Notes

P.O. Box 4, Swarthmore, PA 19081



January 28, 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 Amstutz
Grants Committee 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 Whitaker-Shimko
Rotary Foundation Chair
- Maria Michael Zissimos
iPast President
- Heather Saunders
President-Nominee
- Francy Cross
Assistant Governor

Service Quotation

"He serves his party
best who serves his
country best."
Rutherford B. Hayes

Rotary Celebrations!

Birthdays

No Birthdays Found

Wedding Anniversaries

Gladys D. Snively
January 29th
Ann (testing) Seidman
February 2nd

Years of Service

Meetings and Events

January

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
11th - [Club Meeting](#)
Speaker: Stephen McWilliams and Matt Marencik, Profs, Villanova University
Subject: Documentary Film Making for the Social Good

Table Grace

By Frederick E. Christian

God of truth, in this day when truth is distorted to mean only "that which works," help us in Rotary to make an honest man's word as good as that person's bond in the marketplace, shop, and office. Give us a sense of gratitude for your goodness to us that we may be faithful in all things to the truth. In your name we pray. 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

From Bill Hale:

The "Annual Meeting" tookplace during last week's club meeting for the purpose of electing the President Nominee. Joy Charlton, chair of the President Nominee Selection Committee, presented Heather Saunders who accepted the nomination and was unanimously elected to serve as President 2022-2023. Congratulations Heather and thank you for agreeing to serve!

Last Meeting Summary

Jeannine Osayande told us she is part of nine generations of black persons who have lived in the "Historical Black Neighborhood of Swarthmore" (HBNS). The HBNS is composed of Union, Brighton, Kenyon, and Bowdoin Avenues. Jeannine, the founder of a West African dance group, wants to record her community history before her elders die. She said blacks started migrating to Swarthmore in the late 1800's. They found work at the College and the Strath Haven Hotel. Joseph Gilpin, the owner of The Grange, another hotel in Swarthmore, built houses in the HBNS and rented them to his workers starting in the 1880's. The black community used a house at the corner of Kenyon and Yale Avenues, called Jones Hall, as a church and community center. In 1927 the neighbors built the current Wesley AME church.

Ms. Osayande said the blacks who migrated to Swarthmore carried their religious, cultural, and food traditions with them. She said the

Gladys D. Snively
01-31-1997
24 Years
Raymond F. Hopkins
02-01-2006
15 Years

neighborhood has a custom of spontaneous porch parties. One family will sit out on their porch, where they soon will be joined by first one, then many other families. Everyone who comes will bring food. Rotarian Hillard Pouncy encouraged Jeannine to write a book of oral histories and food recipes. It sounded as though he also volunteered to help her on the book. She seemed interested. The book seems like an important outcome of Jeannine Osayande's work.

Happy Dollars

pledge \$2046

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

1963 Articles on the Sale of HBNS Homes to Renters

I was interested in Jeannine's comment about opposition to the sale of homes in the HBNS to the renters. I contacted Rachel Pastan about the possibility of doing a search on the topic in the Swarthmorean. Rachel put me in touch with Amy Sisson, who graciously provided me with the following summaries of articles from that period. Amy is creating an annotated bibliography of news articles and other sources about race in Swarthmore. (More on that later). The homes were referred to as the Keppler or Moore-Keppler property.

3/27/63, Delaware County Times

Swarthmore borough solicitor Clarence G. Myers confirmed the legality of a proposed subdivision of the Keppler property, which contained "eight double houses and a small beauty shop." The land has been recorded as one property, but sewer plans showed that a subdivision had existed since 1909. The planning commission intends to offer the homes for sale to the current tenants. Some borough residents have resisted this plan, arguing the property should be sold as one, and also that the homes are in such disrepair that they need to be improved or razed. Myers said, "unless the conditions of a building is such that it amounts to a nuisance, a borough may not order its removal."

3/29/63 The Swarthmorean

The Borough solicitor, Clarence Myers, has been asked to give an opinion on two advancing real estate disputes. Confusion and discussion continues in the case of the Moore-Keppler tract in the Brighton, Kenyon and Yale avenue area. Albert Garrett, attorney to Richard Keppler who recently inherited the tract, had previously applied to subdivide it so as to sell the homes it contains separately. However, he later deemed the application for subdivision unnecessary, as he "discovered divided tax billings and other factors during past years, leading him to believe a subdivision is already established." Some borough residents have resisted the idea of subdividing and selling the homes, arguing that it would better serve the neighborhood to tear them down and use the tract in a way that could "upgrade" the neighborhood. One realtor said that six of the families currently living in the homes were ready to buy, and that improvements were planned as part of the purchase. Another said he had a buyer ready to purchase the whole plot.

4/12/63 The Swarthmorean

The Borough Council held a special session. During this special session, the council endorsed the decision made by the planning commission to recognize the "de facto" subdivision of the Keppler-Moore tract.

9/6/64 Philadelphia Evening Bulletin

Borough of Swarthmore preserves housing on the estate of the Gilpin family former site of The Grange. Homes on the estate were rented to negroes who work in Swarthmore homes or the college. The houses were in a state of disrepair. Some local residents wanted the tract condemned. Other's wanted the tract subdivided and the houses sold. "A bitter debate followed. It was said that selling the homes to residents would only serve to perpetuate a blighted neighborhood." The building code was waved so that the residents could purchase some homes in the tract.

Guests Last Meeting

Linda Heffernan (Marty's wife),
Carr Everbach, Joan Apt,
Rachel Pastan, Don Snyder,
Sue Edwards, Gudrun
Weinberg

No story selected for story_5
Custom Text