



Swarthmore Rotary Cog Notes

P.O. Box 4, Swarthmore, PA 19081



October 6, 2022

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

Swarthmore Rotary Leaders

- Heather Saunders
President
- Greg Brown
President-Elect
- Brian Casey
Club Executive Secretary
- Patrick Gunnin
Treasurer
- George C. Whitfield Jr.
Secretary
- Jane C Billings
Youth Services Chair
- Perri Ann Evanson
Public Relations Chair
- Carr Everbach
Membership Chair
- David Firm
Service Projects Chair
- 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
Club Director
- Barbara Whitaker-Shimko
Rotary Foundation Chair
- Kenneth J. Wright
Club Director
- Cathleen Darrell
Attendance Secretary
- Richard Shimko
Bulletin Editor
- Karen Aleta Mazzarella
Assistant Governor

Happy Dollars

pledge \$1,092
2021-2022 \$4,476

Rotary Celebrations!

Birthdays

Joshua Twersky
October 11th

Meetings and Events

October 6th
[Swarthmore Weekly Club Meeting](#) (Inn)
Speaker: District Attorney Jack Stollsteimer
Subject: The Chester Partnership for Safe Neighborhoods: A Progress Report

October 13th
[Swarthmore Weekly Club Meeting](#) (Inn)
Speaker: Ernestine Louise, Oslo Norway
Subject: Influence of Place - A Poetry Collection

October 8th
[Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up](#)

October 20th (Zoom)
[Swarthmore Weekly Club Meeting](#)
Speaker: Vudi Xhymshiti, photojournalist currently in Ukraine
Subject: Ukraine and Kosovo, Shattering Russian Propaganda (re-do)

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

"Most of us are still raised in a culture that tells dads you need to be a breadwinner and not much else. We're socialized in a way that makes us uncomfortable with emotions. We need to hold dads accountable to who they need to be for their families".

Rotary magazine article "Lessons in fatherhood", September 2022

Club News

Rotary moment – Elizabeth Church discussed Rotary International’s efforts over the years to promote peace. She described how Rotary started to focus on international peace soon after it was organized. In a message to the 1921 Rotary convention, founder Paul Harris said “Rotary believes that the better the people of one nation understand the people of other nations, the less the likelihood of friction, and Rotary will therefore encourage acquaintance and friendships between individuals of different nations”.

Last Meeting Summary

By Sarah Pita



Abby Cengel, director of the Swarthmore Public Library, visited to talk about *Looking to the Future* for the library. She started by asking who at the meeting had visited the Swarthmore Public Library. Everybody had. Every year, the Library offers over \$2 million in services, free of charge, to the community. In 2021 it hosted 416 events with over 10,000 attendees. And it offers much more than just books, providing technology including e-readers, discussion groups, clubs, and access to some very useful databases.

The library needs, at a minimum, renovations, but what the community seems to really want is expansion. The roof leaks, for starters, and has been resistant to efforts to fix it. There is a need for more meeting and gathering spaces; for ADA accessibility throughout the facility; for designated quiet spaces; and perhaps for more dedicated spaces not only for children but for teenagers. These needs were identified by at least two recent community needs surveys in Swarthmore. Ms. Cengel showed pictures that illustrated both problem areas, and solutions other communities had created in their library remodels.

Discussion was lively. The conundrum of relocating or somehow creatively remodeling was discussed. The current location is awesome, and “too good to give up”, but doesn’t have a lot of room for a library to expand other than perhaps by adding a third floor. This will be a costly project, however and whenever it happens—other library remodels discussed have cost millions of dollars. It will be a challenge with Swarthmore’s relatively small tax base and small base of businesses.

Wedding Anniversaries

Carr Everbach
October 9th

Years of Service

Ann K. Seidman
10-11-1996
26 Years

Guests Last Meeting

Several Rotarians agreed that the lack of community meeting spaces is a real problem, and suggested that perhaps the PAC board should work with the library board to make sure that work isn't being duplicated between the two facilities.



Swarthmore Public Library funding request

In July of this year, Abby Cengel submitted a request for funds through AARPA, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. ARPA is the \$1.9 trillion stimulus bill passed early in the Biden administration. The ARPA money is to be dispersed in 2021 and 2022.

The request is shown on webpage swarthmorepa.org/DocumentCenter/View/2127/library. The fund request states that the funds will be used to renovate and increase the size of the library. It contained the following estimates:

- Increase size of library from 5,200 to 12,000 square feet
- Projected construction schedule of 2024 to 2027.
- Projected construction cost of \$6 to \$8 million. (From the Borough website – the 2022 total Borough budgeted expenditures is \$5.6 million.

The fund request suggested that part of the funding would be obtained from other sources in addition to ARPA and the Borough budget.

www.SwarthmoreRotary.org ----- www.Facebook.com/SwarthmoreRotary ----- www.SwarthmoreFair.org