

PEE VEE VIEWS DEC. 30, 2020



"CELEBRATING OUR 68TH YEAR OF "SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

OUR (PANDEMIC) YEAR THAT WAS - 2020

Although the pandemic was in the news last February, it was still remote from New Jersey, so we held what might have been the last of our annual Valentines Dinner - Dances on the 8th at the Carriage House in Totowa; it was a success due to the over-the-top effort of the committee, our members who supported it and our patrons. Our weekly lunch meetings continued into March, averaging over thirty members joining together at Bardi's for Wednesday lunch in the spirit of Rotary Fellowship.



Five nights before NJ Governor Murphy's March 13th Indoor Dining Prohibition was ordered "to flatten the curve," we held our annual PV Rotary Wine Tasting Dinner at Bardi's, captained by our resident oenophiles John Wispelwey and Jim Cramer. On the Monday afternoon following, about a dozen PV Rotarians informally gathered at Bardi's to have our last "legal toast" in friendship before the mandated state-wide indoor dining ban began.

We then began a "sentence" of weekly meetings on Zoom, quickly set up by Herb Hamilton. However, the novelty of those virtual meetings also wore off very quickly, even though we had some fun times, including catching up with friends via happy/sad dollars and hearing timely speakers as the doctor from John's Hopkins who was originally buttonholed by Doug to speak at the Annual Rotary District Conference.



OUR (PANDEMIC) YEAR, Continued: That district conference, DG Ray Freaney's, was cancelled. We also had the Township's new health officer as a speaker. Though our Zoomed attendance leveled off into the mid to upper twenty's, we even tried some virtual happy hours to boost our spirits. However, the novelty of those soon wore off as well.



Our club's wisdom of keeping a emergency relief fund encumbered in reserve was once again proven wise when we were able to provide \$5,000 of hot meals for the nurses and patient care heroes at Chilton Hospital when their cafeteria was turned into a patient ward. Chuck DiGiamo stepped up and coordinated the area-wide effort which also provided meals to seniors isolated at Alex Hearle Village as well as to those perennially impacted by the lockdown due to health factors or chronic food insecurity.



A number of our members stepped up and volunteered to pick up the food, purchased from area restaurants and deliver it. Donna Cetani sewed dozens and dozens of masks; Shrey Shah collected many more. Our two Kathleen's, "PK" and "KP," kept the PT food pantry humming, and along with Janet in Lincoln Park, all kept us advised of their town's food insecurity needs.

President John Driesse saw our last annual fund raiser, the PVR Charity 5K cancelled as he neared the last turn of his eventful, but nevertheless, successful PV Rotary year. Another milestone was reached when longtime club stalwart and "Crusty Demon" John Wispelwey, PP, PHF and Pat move to their new Delaware home, across the street from another key PV Rotarian Paul Darmofalski, PP, PHF and Joan, who built & retired there two years prior. This demonstrating once again that PV Rotary helps build and maintain friendships for a lifetime.



We ended John Driesse's year on a high note and kept another promise to our three town's youth by awarding scholarships of \$1,000 or more to eleven, yes 11 deserving graduating seniors in one of our more memorable virtual meetings. Thanks to Janet Cassidy and the scholarship committee for working under less than ideal pandemic conditions. What an amazing group of kids! There's no group photo of all of the kids this year, so here's one of Janet happily announcing two of the recipients.

OUR (PANDEMIC) YEAR, Continued: As the Covid-19 transmission rate decreased and the original goal of flattening the curve was achieved, lockdown orders were belatedly eased by Gov. Murphy. A physically distanced outdoor new officer installation event was planned for the beautiful, poolside setting in Jim and Jenn's West Parkway backyard. Most of those present that late afternoon, about 30 of us, posed in fellowship for a priceless photo.



The following Wednesday saw us begin Jim Cramer's term as 2020-2021 PVR President, but thankfully we were once again meeting weekly, outdoors and in person, at Bardi's newly constructed spacious outdoor patio dining area. Sadly for Rotary in our district, Herb indicated that we were reportedly one of only four clubs of over sixty to fully resume weekly, in-person, though physically distanced meetings. Thank you to Joe and Bardi's



Plans began gathering steam for our annual PV Rotary Charity Golf Outing on September 11th, which turned out to be a qualified success. Though sponsorships were down, and the number of golfers reduced from the usual 120 to 60, we netted a healthy 13K profit, about half the usual take, but we provided a safe and fun-filled day for our supporters. They will be back!

October was time for our rescheduled late spring PV Rotary Charity 5K. In a stroke of genius, this year's PV run was combined with the annual Lincoln Park "Beavertown 5K" though the kindness of Lincoln Park's mayor

and Janet and Herb's coordination. Due to pandemic regulations, the number of runners was capped at 250 and we saw the registration reach that figure the day before the run! This provided a great boost to the community, the runners and our club and its many volunteers who helped on site. PV Rotary even won a trophy as the team of Shrey, Pauli D and Janet won the first Rotary Club Challenge, (their photos appear on the following page). Plans are already under way for our Spring 2021 5K this coming June.

Our weekly outdoor meetings saw some interesting guests. Morris County Sheriff Jim Gannon came to give us an update on his efforts on drug crime and rehab.



OUR (PANDEMIC) YEAR, Continued:



We heard from a FEMA wildfire fighter, had an update on Operation Smile and listened to the Paterson Fire Department's first female captain, Beth Fournier, a Township resident. From Robbin, we heard graphically about the temporary use of catheters! One of our speakers, Beth Fournier, became one of our three newest members during the past six months, as did second generation PV Rotarian and attorney Frank Scangarella and Christine Stimel, who grew up in town and is in real estate, having just passed her broker's exam. Frank's father Frank Sr. joined us for lunch that day his son was inducted, (below).

With the virus on the rebound, "official" in-person weekly lunch meetings at Bard's are on hold. President Jim switched leads just a day before Thanksgiving and pulled back to official virtual



lunch meetings after a run of 22 safe, consecutive outdoor and two physically distanced indoor meetings. Although Bardi's is still open for indoor lunches in accord with NJ Governor Murphy's pandemic physical distancing rules, members continue meeting weekly with about half attending via zoom, and half present at Bardi's for lunch in person, checking in via laptop or phone and watching the virtual meeting on the big screen TV.



Our pandemic year has not been without loss. Earlier this year we lost Charlie Scanlan, PHF, who joined us circa 1983; he had not been active since we heard him speak frankly about his challenges at a meeting years ago when we were still at Stefano's. A number of members have lost loved ones as well. Honorary and past long-time member Walt Muehling lost his wife Irene just before Thanksgiving. Pat Wotjyszyn just lost her brother Carmine Nigro and sister-in-law Laura, both within two days due to Covid-19. Kathleen Edwards Chase lost her mother. A few in our extended Rotary family have successfully fought the virus as well. They are in our thoughts and prayers.

OUR (PANDEMIC) YEAR, Continued:



Although we had to skip our traditional December Christmas Holiday Party and Cook-off Contest for members and guests and the Fireside Annual Business Meeting for all members, we do have a slate of officers for the new 2021-2022 Rotary Year. Joining President-elect Patty Odenbrett: Charlene Carmean, Vice President: Jenn Scheck, Treasurer: Bobby Roberts, Assistant Treasurer/Collector and Kathleen Pennington, Secretary. At left, Jenn and Jim were dressed for the holiday spirit at a recent Bardi's Wednesday Rotarians lunch meeting.

Through this pandemic year, PV Rotary has embraced “What we CAN do” and not “What we CAN’T do” and that attitude, and not fear, has moved us forward together through these most difficult times. In spite of it all, we had a successful year, held our traditional fund raising efforts and raised a substantial amount, we supported our communities and had much fun while doing it together in PV Rotary fellowship. That “Can do” spirit bodes well for PV ROTARY in 2021.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! W. Jay Wanczyk, Scribe

GIFT OF LIFE SUPER BOWL RAFFLE:

Hello fellow Rotarians!

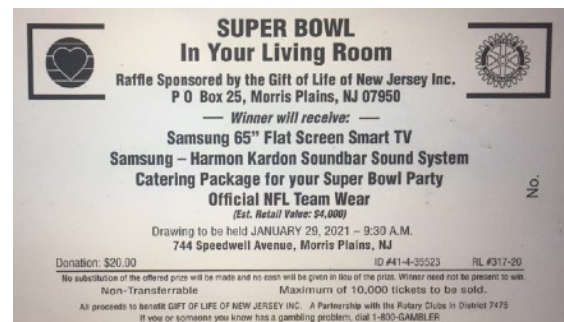
Even though your holiday lights may still be twinkling, time is ticking away for the Gift of Life raffle ticket returns! Due date is Jan. 15 in my



hands with stubs and

money! I will be at Bardi's for Rotary today, (this Wednesday) to make it a little easier for you if you want to drop them off. If you have tickets that you cannot sell, please drop them off at Bardi's this Wednesday as I have people asking me for more tickets, (well, one person, lol!). Everyone should have received them by now. Personally I like the tv and sound bar and catering and NFL deal! Do your best, as I know Rotarians always do!

Donna



PV VIEWS, Continued:

PROGRAM & VIP DATES: TODAY: December 30 - Pamela Todd; January 6 - Jay Wanczyk. Please let Dave Baker know your intentions so we may be sure to have an interesting program on your day. We should have a new calendar for January - June soon. A copy of it will be scanned and emailed to all.

PV ROTARY 50/50: President Jim announced at our recent business meeting that PV Rotary is proceeding with a limited 50/50 raffle to replace part of the income that will be lost due to the cancellation of our annual Valentines Dinner and the reduced proceeds from the otherwise successful golf outing and rescheduled 2020 5K*. There will be 100 tickets at \$100.00. Pres. Jim offered that those who found it a tough sell could partner with another on a ticket. (*Our 5K is tentatively set to return to schedule in the Spring, so we will have two 5K runs in our 2020-2021 Rotary budget year cycle.)

DISTRICT 7475 FOUNDATION RAFFLE: Jen S-K reported that we will be soon receiving our allotment of District 7475 Foundation tickets. Up to \$150,000 in total prizes if all tickets are sold. There will be 3 Grand Prizes of 10% of the proceeds, up to \$15,000 for a winning ticket; 30 Second Prizes of .334% of the total proceeds - up to 500 per winning ticket and 60 Third Prizes of up to .167% of all proceeds up to \$250 per winning ticket. Only 7,500 tickets available at \$20 per ticket.

OUR PV ROTARY PEPPERONI SALE IS ENDING: Ernie says, "There might be some left." They are \$11.00 for each full stick. Tell Ernie how many you need for the new yare eve celebration. Email Ernie at emp824@gmail.com or call him today! 973.650.2995. Act now or face having to tell your family and friends that there's no pepperoni for them on New Year's Eve!

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