

ROTARY CLUB OF YORK – EAST

District 7390 – Meetings: Tuesdays @ 7:30 a.m. (please refer to website for changes)

July 2022 Newsletter

Editor: Friedel Liebe-Elser

www.clubrunner.ca/york-east



IMAGINE
ROTARY

York East Board of Directors 2022/23

President: Karen Comery

President-Elect:

Treasurer: Diane Yocum

Secretary: Friedel Liebe-Elser & Bob Elser

Past President: Sandra Graham

Sergeant at Arms:

Committee Chairs & Members-at-large

Becky Disney – Fundraising & Giving

William Giersch – Club Administration

Elizabeth Wolf – Rotary Foundation

Deb Klinedienst – Membership

Chris Izzo – Grant Committee

Greg Kern – Community Service

Tim Koller – Public Relations

Bob Straw – Vocational Service

Kris Pollick

Hunter Mink

Happy Birthday to you...

Liebe-Elser, Friedel Jul 12

Klinedinst, Deborah Jul 17

King, Todd Jul 27

Hochhalter, Cindy Jul 29

*If your birthday is not listed, please contact

Bob Elser at navman9@comcast.net or

Friedel Liebe-Elser at friedel.liebe@gmail.com

Table of Contents

- Programs
- Birthdays
- Rotary Anniversaries
- Monthly Programs
- Our Club & Happy Dollars
- Club Events, News, Information

Rotary Membership Anniversaries

Thank you

for your continued service above self

Hooper, Jr., Morrie	26 years Jul 01 1996
Stamm, Sheri	3 years Jul 02 2019
Koller, Tim	9 years Jul 16 2013

Programs for this month

July 5h. Annette Gebhardt, Executive Director of SPARROW PLACE, an organization providing residential care for survivors of sex trafficking, gives us an insight into this dark side of humanity. She also serves as president of The York County Coalition Against Sex *in person presentation - Hybrid*

July 12. CLOSE UP AND PERSONAL Friedel talks to her editor & close friend of 25 years, Stefanie Besser, in Munich – but not about publishing. Instead, they will introduce Stefanie's guests, Dr. Gregory Klymnyuk, a pediatrician & oncologist from Kyiv and his wife Tonia - *via Zoom - Hybrid*

See introduction on page 2 in this newsletter

July 19. President Karen is sharing her plans for 2022-23. She is followed by Michael Blum, newly appointed manager of the Yorktowne Hotel, where extensive renovations are nearing their completion – *in Person - Hybrid*

July 26. A Walk Down Memory Lane - *Hybrid*

For ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING: Instructions on how to join the virtual meeting will still be sent to members - or guests upon request - via the email meeting reminder each Monday.

The in-person meetings are held at Heritage Hills Hotels with the venue – location advertised on a sign outside - opening at 7 am.

YORK EAST ROTARY CLUB BOARD MEETING

Board Meeting on Wednesday, July 13th, 2022

7:30 a.m. via ZOOM Virtual Platform only

Our most heartfelt Congratulations to our 2022-23 President Karen Comery with all of our members wishing her an enjoyable time at the helm while our profound Gratitude goes to our outgoing President Sandy Graham for leading our club successfully through yet another challenging year.

HAPPY



\$\$\$\$\$ \$\$\$\$\$

I would be grateful if
once you have pledged your HAPPY DOLLARS
PLEASE send an email to
friedel.liebe@gmail.com

asap with the amount, your story and if possible, a photo.
Since it is impossible to get any of the above details during
hybrid meetings, your help is very much appreciated.

THANK YOU

Your backdated Happy Dollar Stories are always welcome
Aat any time!

Morrie Hooper - \$50 one very Happy Dollar for every one of the blissful years Morrie & Mary Ann Hooper have spent together - since Jun 21 1972. Our Club's most heartfelt congratulations to the GOLDEN COUPLE.

Jim Walters donated his Happy Dollars with this comment: "On Tuesday, May 31, after attending the community Memorial Day Celebration at the Gold Star Garden, I gave \$10 Happy Dollars for Cher - \$5 for the video that YOU reminded us to watch on TV, and \$5 for the excellent celebration on Memorial Day."

Connie Spark

And once again Connie donated 'Happy Dollars'
1. She expressed her gratitude to our new President Karen for 'stepping up to the plate' when President Elect Shari Stamm had to withdraw due to a change in her professional life
2. She praised our club's monthly newsletters.
Thank you, Connie – from Friedel – NL Editor

and

Jim Craft – donating 'sad Dollars'

announcing the passing of Rotarian Orville H. Lauver, 89, who died June 11, 2022. He was born on July 19, 1932 in Richfield, Pennsylvania. Orville, the founder of Lauver & Company, had perfect attendance in Rotary for fifty seven years, an achievement recognized by the District Governor as outstanding commitment to Rotary values. We remember Orville, a member of the RC Red Lion, from his many visits, when he visited our club – as he visited every one of the 34 clubs in our District – for our weekly meetings.

July 12th

CLOSE UP AND PERSONAL

Friedel talks to her editor & close friend of 25 years, Stefanie Besser, in Munich – but not about publishing. Instead, Stefanie will introduce her guests, Dr. Gregory Klymnyuk, a pediatrician & oncologist from Kyiv and his wife Tonia, who will share with us their experience. School commitments allowing, their son Nazar (19), daughters Christina (16), Sascha (14), and 'Nesthäkchen' Zlata (6) may also join.

SAVE THE DATE

Once again Elizabeth and her husband Steve have graciously invited us all to their by now traditional summer picnic at their magnificent home.

(as shown in our newsletter of May 2022)



OUR CLUB APPROACHES ITS 35TH ANNIVERSARY - THEREFORE, IT IS TIME FOR US TO START A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE...

John Schmitt Sr., our oldest active Charter Member, vividly remembers the early days of the Rotary Club of York East. Those meetings they held before they even had a Rotary Club

they could call ‘home’. Some of their ideas were fresh and their plan somewhat ‘daring’: “A Breakfast Club? – Who would want to join that one?” and, even more so, as it was only on 4 May 1987 that the U.S. Supreme Court ruled: ‘Rotary clubs may not exclude women from membership on the basis of gender’ this new club – the Rotary Club of York East - would proudly induct the first lady member in York as one of their Charter Members: Joanne Bankos - thanks to Charlie Stein Jr. – the father of our current member Charlie Stein III, who sponsored and invited Joanne. Looking back over the past 35 years, it is evident that Joanne not only made history on September 24th, the day she was inducted, but over the past three and a half decades when, time and again, she proved to be an outstanding Rotarian, an exemplary role model for all those who followed her lead, a great asset to our club’s continued success, and simply a lot of fun! – Interestingly the Rotary Club of York, having operated without having a member of the fairer sex among them for 72 long years, did not induct their first lady member until 1988.

While Joanne will always be proud of her Italian heritage, her fellow Charter Member, John Schmitt traces his parents back to Germany. There, in 1926, the young girl and the young man, who would one day become John’s parents, left their cozy little town near Schweinfurt in Germany. The thought of having a son together could never have occurred to them, because when each of them decided to leave their families’ homes, which were nestled in a triangle between Frankfurt, Würzburg, and Nuremberg , they didn’t even know each other. The only bond between them was their individual hope for a better future when they arrived on Ellis Island as two of the more than 12 million immigrants who had landed there during the first three decades of the 20th century.

Little did those two young people, who eventually met and fell in love at first sight, know just how short-lived their marriage would be. Their first-born, a happy bouncing baby boy they named John, became the apple of his parents’ eyes. Yet even before John could create the first memories of his mother, tragedy struck this young family when his mother died while giving birth to John’s little sister.

John’s father remarried and it turned out that his step-grandmother was his saving grace. She nurtured his heart and his soul and showered him with as much love as his mother would have given him. “She meant the world to me”, John remembers her fondly even now, while he is preparing to celebrate his 90th birthday on February 7th, 2023.

Thanks to his happy childhood, he grew into the proverbial ‘people person’ everyone likes to be around. John only makes friends for life, and one of them was Marlin Barley, born on May 31st, 1932, in York, with whom John shared his first-grader experience followed by many of the naughty deeds they engaged in throughout their school years. They both graduated from William Penn Senior High School in 1951. But while Marlin went on to Rider University, from where he graduated in 1955, John followed his family genes, devoting his career to growing, propagating, nurturing, and selling flowers. After all, his father’s reason for immigrating to America was that he had heard talented gardeners were in short supply in the New World. And since John’s forefathers were farmers, known far and wide

for their ‘green thumbs’ when it came to growing flowers, John followed his passion to watch tiny seedlings grow into beautiful plants. He felt at home in the flower business his father had created. In 1955, the Schmitt Family’s post-war flower shop Lincolnway at 3601 East Market Street was thriving. So much so they even added other businesses, among them a golf course adjacent to their farm, all of which they owned and managed.



Source: Website image

Despite taking different paths into their chosen fields, John and Marlin’s friendship remained as strong as ever. They confided their first loves to each other and, once they had taken their respective brides down the aisle, they encountered the joys of fatherhood at the same time, giving them a chance to bond yet again on an entirely new level, which included comparing notes about on how to stop their offspring from crying.

In 1986 they went into a new venture together – although for them it was more like adding some different spice to their already interesting lives by forming the ‘Springetts Ambulance Club’ with both of them signing up as volunteer Ambulance Drivers. “We learned more than we could ever have imagined during those often harrowing trips, when we were desperately trying to save someone’s life.” This non-profit organization is still going strong today.



At that time Marlin Barley and his wife Josie already co-owned and operated Autumn House, a retirement home on 2618 East Market Street.

They later opened and operated another Autumn House on Powder Mill Road. They both had caring for others embroidered into the very fabric of their lives. And besides many other such posts, Marlin served on the boards of Misericordia Convalescent Home, Margaret Moul Home, American Red Cross, and VNA of York County because the welfare of those who could not care for themselves any more were at the heart of Marlin and Josie’s endeavor. As a member of the Department of Public Welfare Personal Care Homes Advisory Committee and a member of the American College of Health Care Administrators, his own growing venture, Barley Homes was an ever expanding string of nursing homes dotted around York County where excellent care was guaranteed.



And while John Schmitt's friend Marlin Barley, with whom he shared many little secrets from the days when the excuse for any misdemeanor was still "Boys will be Boys" made sure that those who entrusted him and his staff to ensure their wellbeing and often even with their mere survival, John had made it his business to take care of peoples' emotional wellbeing by brightening up their lives with the most amazing flowers, often surrounded by some beguiling scents. That John loved his profession comes as no surprise because putting a smile on every client's face, not to mention those who might ultimately receive such beautiful bouquets, filled the air inside his flower shop, already heavily laden with the scent of nature at its finest, with happiness. "Many of them were 'regulars' who might drop in every Friday or so to take home a special gift."

One of these many regular clients, who John remembers with great fondness, was Rich Santel, known to every classic movie lover in York County and beyond for his outstanding private collection of Hollywood's finest. Not only does Rich show his movies at all kinds of venues, from OLLI to nursing homes, he has the most eloquent way to share his boundless knowledge about each movie, including many dainty little secrets not usually talked about, that delights his audience. The members of our club are among Rich's devoted audience since he has been a welcome speaker at many of our meetings throughout the years. It seems to always have been Rich's life's ambition to spread happiness and joy, because he was one of John's regular customers who, without fail, would drop in on his way home every weekend to select 'something special for Judy' throughout their blissful life together.

Sadly, just two months after celebrating their 29th anniversary, Judy died in November 2011, within six weeks of Rich's retirement. As joining our club has been part of one of Rich's retirement plans, we are still hopeful that one day we may call him our Fellow Rotarian.

With flowers being John Schmitt's life, he can safely say he has seen it all. From the birth of a baby to some special birthday celebration, remarkable anniversaries, extraordinary events, John's flower arrangements would create an atmosphere of joy and happiness. Naturally one of his favorites were weddings with "every one of them planned to be the happiest day of the young couple's life". He could write a book about the funniest requests for wedding and other venue decorations. Funerals, of course, are always somber affairs, often leaving even those who are asked to arrange the floral tributes with a heavy heart especially when the coffin is white.

But then there are uncountable occasions when flowers are chosen to convey a message, and in those cases, when they can say more than a thousand words, John would be the florist to provide the perfect answer. He knows that the famous Edelweiss, grown in his ancestor's part of Germany, stands for

Devotion and Courage, the chrysanthemum's message would symbolize Honesty, or a red Camellia should be reserved for the one and only person you love.

We didn't ask John if he let some red Camellia speak for him when he conveyed his feelings to Donna, who, at that time, happened to live in a apartment 'above the shop'. No matter which flower her landlord John chose for his message to her, on August 07th 1991 she became Mrs. John Schmitt and they have lived happily ever after. It's such a joy to watch them today as their love is clearly as strong as it was three decades ago.

The special bond between John and Marlin had already endured for more than half a century when, in 1987, these two friends decided to not just follow the motto 'Service above Self', but to become Charter Members of the Rotary Club of York East. Six years after Marlin, in 1993, his son Michael also joined his father's Rotary club.

On the morning of September 20th, 2004, just ten days after he and Josie had celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary, Marlin died at their home at the age of 72.

John and Marlin had always sat at the same table together where their like-minded fellow Rotarians gathered. It was affectionately known as the 'Bob Yost Table', a table where they often invited Joanne to join them. Her wit, charm, and infectious laugh, still just as evident today as it was then, always added a welcome touch to this group of seasoned professionals.

Bob had also graduated from William Penn Senior High School, albeit in 1942, nine years before his fellow Rotarians John and Marlin. Bob was a Rotarian by heart, a dedicated philanthropist who will forever be remembered for his unparalleled generosity. And not only was Bob the first to arrive at every meeting, he was famously known to always be the first Rotarian to open his wallet, or rather pull out a bundle of large notes, take off the rubber band that held them together, and start 'dishing them out'.

For almost six decades Bob Yost was a Real Estate Agent who set the highest standards, for himself and those who worked for him. His much admired leadership skills always made him look for more in others than they ever saw in themselves. With this superior skill Bob helped them to grow into their own. He truly changed people's lives, their careers, their prospects, and their homes.

Bob Yost would detect a stretch of land – one he might even happen to own - and in his mind he was already mapping it out to be developed into new, beautiful, yet affordable estates. There, families could raise their children in an environment of safety and joy, such as Mayfield East, Avondale, Wrightsdale, Mayfield, Greystone Farms, Sylvania Heights, Fireside Park, and Allendale.

Bob moved houses and mansions like other people would move queens and castles on a chess board. Whenever he came across a property he felt could serve a specific purpose for a particular charity organization he would simply buy it and donate it without much ado.

Knowing only too well what it meant to start at the bottom – and in his case this really means at ‘ground level’ – his unique talents showed early on during the depression when this youngster picked up every used nail he could find on the ground, hammer it back into shape, and sell it.

Yet it was clear from the start that Bob would not remain at ‘ground level’ for long. No sooner had he graduated, he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps as America had just been drawn into World War II. “One way to get my nose off the ground”, he often joked about his time when he served as a waist gunner on board a B-17 Flying Fortress.

After his Honorable Discharge in 1944, having dodged enough flack to make his survival look like a miracle, he returned to York County where his unique talent soon led him on the path that would, for the next six decades, see him become one of the most successful realtors in this part of Pennsylvania. Having learned the ropes for a year at Zeigler Real Estate, he started his own business, Bob Yost Realty, on Duke Street in York. From his Duke Street offices his rapidly expanding business forced him to move his operation to the corner of Queen Street and



200 East Market Street

His final Headquarters, on 2525 Eastern Boulevard in Springettsbury Township,



Here he created an imposing office complex to his own specifications, including some real ‘tongue-in-cheek’ inventions of his.



One such intimate touch in his new (and final) office was hidden in the private bathroom adjacent to his office. Those closest to him were shown his bespoke toilet seat, featuring real \$\$\$-bills, “just for fun”, as he would explain to his friends when he showed them around.

This building, until recently the headquarters of Bob Yost’s successor, Berkshire Hathaway Homesale Realty, the largest real estate office in the York area, is being sold at the time of writing.

It looks as if the high standard, imposed by Bob throughout his career, has continued as his successors posted on their website the following statement: ‘Our office prides itself on the professionalism of our real estate agents and staff, as well as being friendly and willing to help everyone! As winner of the Best Places to Work in Pennsylvania and Top 50 Fastest Growing Companies in Pennsylvania awards, we are the BEST choice in helping you find your dream home!’

The new owner let it be known that he is purchasing this office because of the outstanding reputation of its original owner. Such is the proud legacy of Bob Yost – some 14 years after his death.



Bob was always ahead of his time, especially when it came to innovative ideas. While cell phones were merely a dream that was still waiting to come true, he had two-way radios installed in the cars of his agents to ensure the office could get in touch with them and vice versa at any time. His teams created a listing system which gave everyone the advantage to have the all-important property information ‘at their fingertips’ on the office computer. No wonder Bob Yost became the president of the organization that would ultimately become the Realtors Association of York & Adams Counties. He also created the Real Estate Education Center in Springettsbury Township. Many of his contemporaries hold Bob responsible for the high standard of excellence in the business of real estate.

HOMEOWNERS!!!

Bob Yost will lend you your equity to buy any of these fine homes. Make no payments until your present home is sold. List Now!

VILLAGE OF FOX RUN offers 2 or 3 bdrm. townhouses with central air, w/w carpet, finished rec. rm., 1½ or 2½ baths, swimming pool, carports. From \$36,450 to \$37,600.

- **MARLBORO WEST** presents contemporary 2 sty. 5 bdrm. family or social oriented home. First flr. fam. rm., lower level walk-out rec. rm., 2 car garage, central air, all wrapped in mature trees. High \$60's. (1156)

DRY CLEANING BUSINESS — All equipment in good condition. A good potential for a hard working couple of family. Call for complete information. (1325) 1.4 ACRES

York Daily Record – Bicentennial Edition July 3, 1976

There are scores of people who still sing the song of praises about Bob. He never seemed to hesitate when he saw that he could help. One of those many incidents has been reported by those present at the time. The desperate need for a shelter, provided for victims of domestic violence in York was brought to his attention by a woman who felt she had just found the perfect home for these women. All she needed was to organize the money to secure this house. Bob looked at her documents, left the room without a word, only to return shortly afterwards with a personal check, covering the full amount of the purchase price for 633 South George Street in York.



Creating this safe haven for all the victims who have since been seeking shelter at ACCESS YORK – or 633 Cottage Place - because they had nowhere else to go is only one of Bob's many legacies.



As early as 1968, "Greater York in Action," a fact-filled book published by the York Chamber of Commerce, praises Bob's achievements: 'The highly successful Yost organization is the finest and largest real estate office in York at 200 East Market Street. This spacious and stately town house built in 1867 retains its traditional exterior but extensive renovation inside now account for the most beautiful and modern offices to be found anywhere.'

The same publication records (also on page 134) 'Bob Yost received national and regional honor – is recipient of the American Home magazine's "Best Home for the Money" award

for the 'Regent' Rancher which has been widely copied throughout the United States.'

Some 40 years later, at the time of Bob's death in 2008, his longtime friend, Bill Schintz, recorded his remarkable legacy: "Bob Yost put more people in homes than anyone in York County history. To me, he was one of the greatest guys you could ever know." For many decades, Bob was known as *the king of real estate in York County*.

*** *to be continued* ***

I want to thank everyone who helped me in my research – Rotarians as well as all those who just happen to remember and were kind enough to share their memories. As always, first and foremost I am enormously grateful to my husband Bob for his wealth of knowledge his invaluable editing skills, his patience, and his adorable sense of humor.

As every club is currently assessing the way forward it is always interesting to learn about different points of view:

The many benefits of meeting virtually

- abridged version - Posted on December 13, 2021

By Dominica Pradere, past president, Rotary Club of Montego Bay, Jamaica

<https://blog.rotary.org/2021/12/13/the-many-benefits-of-meeting-virtually/>

When Jamaica's borders closed in March 2020 from the COVID-19 pandemic, I was packed and ready for a trip to Trinidad and Tobago, where I planned to connect with other Rotary members, as I normally do when I travel. Naturally I was sad and disappointed at having to cancel my plans. Lockdowns and curfews, as well as government restrictions limiting the movements of citizens, further isolated many retirees like myself as we tried to "stay safe."

My club began meeting online immediately. I became aware that many clubs around the world were doing likewise, and my life was transformed when I received a spreadsheet created by the Rotary Club of Mount Lawley, Western Australia, Australia, showing details of clubs that had started to meet virtually.

Initially, I had no idea how many new friends and acquaintances I would make while sitting at home! At the same time, I renewed contact with Rotary members I have met both here and overseas over the years. I have attended club and district virtual events around the world. I have learned about projects and

heard great speakers. I have joined a Rotary Action Group (RAG) which was formed and established during the pandemic by an online group of Rotary women. I have attended virtual Christmas parties and carol singing!

These are some of the aspects of the “New Normal” which strengthened and inspired me as I explored the Rotary world online:

Fellowship

I spent most of the past 20 months alone at home. Once I started attending online meetings, I enjoyed connecting with like-minded people. I began to attend certain clubs on a regular basis, and I still do. We learned about each other’s families, extended words of comfort and sympathy when members became sick or lost loved ones. Many of the Rotary members I met online began to attend our club’s meetings, and we established a “Friends of Montego Bay” chat group on WhatsApp. Our meeting attendance has increased, as Rotary members from as far as India and Uganda, Pakistan and the United States, as well as parts of our own district, have become regular visitors.

Networking

As I got to know Rotary members at club meetings and events, I was able to help some clubs connect with other Rotary members who could assist with projects, information, or presentations. At the same time, members I met at other meetings put me in touch with Rotary members, clubs, and groups which were of interest to me.

Partnerships

My club has relied on partnerships with overseas clubs for many of our projects. Opportunities for partnership increased dramatically once we established virtual connections. I was invited to present on the work of my club at the Zoom meetings of several clubs, which led to offers of assistance with some of our COVID-19 relief projects. The Rotary Club of Northampton, United Kingdom, and Carrollton Farmers Branch, Texas, USA, donated toward our food packages and tablet distributions. The Rotary Club of Ottawa Metro, Ontario, Canada, funded a water tank for a special needs school in Montego Bay. In turn, my club contributed toward a global grant for a prosthetic limb project in Sri Lanka.

Information and training

Online meetings have enabled Rotary members to learn from one another as never before. This includes how to conduct an effective Zoom meeting! We have been able to learn so much about the way Rotary clubs organize their projects and activities, as well as how the pandemic has changed the way we do things in various parts of the world.

Access to great speakers

Securing good speakers can be a challenge for some clubs. The change to online meetings has created opportunities to enjoy presentations on a wide variety of topics from around the world. My club was able to benefit greatly from this, as I requested the contact details of speakers I heard at meetings elsewhere. Although the pandemic has made life difficult for us all, it has created a paradigm shift in the way we interact socially. The pandemic has opened a new world of communication across virtual space and has created a paradoxical situation. While our physical world has contracted, our social world has expanded. As a result, many clubs, including my own, have agreed that, even after the pandemic ends, and we resume in-person meetings, we will continue to meet online on a regular basis to continue to benefit from the links we have established.



Kristina Rodriguez resigned in June 2022

“I left for Mississippi in April for Military training. While in Mississippi I got a job offer that I couldn’t resist. I took on new role as a Mobile Trainer for the Northeast Counterdrug Joint Task Force.

This means I won’t be able to be a part of the Rotary Club of York East. However, I thoroughly enjoyed my time with you and I appreciate all of the members.

I thank all of you for your hospitality and kindness.

*Respectfully
Kristina”*

We are sorry to see her go but we are, at the same time, happy that her life may finally be a little less stressful and we truly hope she will have more time to spend with her children in the future. We wish her all the happiness she deserves.

Growing up is hard — even for Egrets!



I'm trying to fly but look, I keep
slipping off



Don't worry! Just spread your wings
like this



But my wings aren't as big as yours!



I think my wings are too short



You must run like this — RUN — and
flap your wings like crazy!