



OUR AWESOME CLUB!!

BACKPACK DRIVE



EILEEN'S FOUNDATION TALK



POLICE DIRECTOR DAN ZEISER



FREEHOLDER BRUCE BERGEN



GENIE WON THE POT!
THANKS TO NORM'S DAUGHTER!



PRES JULIE IN ROME



GOVERNOR HAL'S VISIT



mark your CALENDARS

OCTOBER

TUES., 10/6
VOCATIONAL ASSEMBLY
The Pines Manor

WEDS., 10/14
HOPE'S OF HOPE DINNER
Somerset-Bridgewater Hotel

SAT., 10/31
ROTARY FOUNDATION SEMINAR
The Bridgewater Marriott

NOVEMBER

MON., 11/2
EAT DRINK & SHARE
The Pines Manor

FRI., 11/20
AUTOMOBILIA
Herb's Museum

BIRTHDAYS:

- 9/20: Sal Dovi
- 9/26: Genie Weisz
- 9/28: Justin Patel
- 9/29: Cecil Cates
- 9/29: Miriam Mercado

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PERFECT ATTENDANCE

CONGRATULATIONS to our members who had perfect attendance for the month of July. (This is according to the sign-in sheet)

- Laura Bretzger-McGrath
- Ray Cruz
- Julie D'Aloia
- Frank Lawrence
- Hermann Miedel
- Charlie Minton
- Rob O'Connell
- John Sasieta
- Manny Vieira
- Genie Weisz



OUR AWESOME CLUB!!



ROTARY PARK



SEEING EYE DOG DONATION



Margaret & Peggy Singe & Oliver Patel came to see the dogs, too!



SUMMER VACATION

LAURA BRETZGER: The best part of my summer was spending time with my kids. They were around more than other years and it was fun hanging out with them. I also had the opportunity to go to Alaska early in the summer. It is a beautiful place. We also rented a house at the shore (hopefully, this will be the last time we have to rent and our house will be ready for next summer!!)

MANNY VIEIRA: I spent many weekends at the Jersey Shore (Ocean Grove & Asbury Park). Walking the beach and body surfing. The beach is my heaven. Also spend a week in Provincetown, Cape Cod, MA...FUN!

ROB O'CONNELL: My wife, our 3 kids, our dog and I spent a week in the beautiful Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia. The 1800's farmhouse we rented was amazing and the views from the mountaintops were breathtaking. It was special too, because as my kids are getting older, it may be the last one we get to share for a while.

GENIE WEISZ: My family had a wonderful visit to Barcelona to re-connect with my husband, Andy's, Hungarian relatives. His father's half-sister lives in Hungary with her husband. Their two daughters live in Barcelona and Switzerland with their husbands and children. And, all were travelling to Spain to celebrate a Bar Mitzvah of the oldest grandchild. Although Andy had only met these Hungarian relatives 5 times over the course of 50+ years, he wanted to take his own family to meet his extended family. (I had met the family once 24 years ago in Hungary so I knew the daughters minimally). However, once we arrived, we were embraced by all and connected by an invisible thread. Five different languages were bandied about to enable communication from Hungarian to Spanish to Swiss to High German and English. I felt very intimidated and impressed with the multi-lingual and extremely articulate group we were engaged with and related to. My husband is bi-lingual (Hungarian and English) and after this trip I feel motivated to continue with my Spanish to become more adept in a second language!

ED ROSENHAFT: I enjoyed getting into the water. It's a place I can stand and walk in without assistance. I looked forward to seeing my children when

they visited. I am very lucky to have a strong system around me. I got into the water most days. On Tuesday the pool will be closed. I will really miss being in the water.

MIKE ATANASIO: The highlight of my summer was our annual family pilgrimage to Wildwood. Almost all of my family went including my brother from California. There were 22 of us altogether.

PRESIDENT JULIE: The highlight of my summer was our "Trip to Italy". This was the best vacation we ever had.

EUGENE MITCHELL: The best time of my summer was the last two weeks of August. I took a 17 hours one way road trip with the kids to visit their grandparents in Georgia. I was able to have one on one time with my three kids, do things together and watched the kids have one on one time with their grandparents. This was a priceless but valuable moments that I will never forget.

HERMANN MEIDEL: This long summer was almost perfect. We did go almost once a week to the shore (just half a day). Then the weekend to the lakes in New York. These were wonderful and we did enjoy the time around our State.

JIM DIGIOVANNI: Our awesome family trip to Hawaii. My wife and I, my four sons and their wives, and our 9 grandchildren aged 16 to 4, enjoyed Hawaii together. We spent 3 days in Honolulu and a week in Maui. Different families saw and did different things and combined some excursions with each other. We all went on a snorkel cruise, attended the Luau, and had several family dinners together. Ever try to get reservations for 19 people? Hawaii is a beautiful place and the people were so friendly. Everyone had a great time.

RAY CRUZ: The best part of summer for me was celebrating our 27th year anniversary with my wife in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

SHARON PATEL: We enjoyed the beautiful weekend weather – the best I can remember and entertaining friends at the shore for what will be our last summer in the house before we demolish it and re-build. I especially enjoyed taking Oliver (who's almost 2) to the zoo, the park, and boating. It's great to view the world through the eyes of a precious child and enjoy his sense of wonder.



Rotary is ordinary people working together

Shawnee on the Delaware

LAST SUNDAY several members of our club's 2017 District Conference "Dream Team" ventured west to visit the **Historic Shawnee Inn on the Delaware**, to jumpstart the conference planning process for **Charlie's** year as Governor and our club's hosting of the District Conference.

Charlie and **Kathy**, **Rob** and his wife **Nancy**, **Sharon** and **Laura** travelled together (it's only one hour from Union!!) just over the bridge into Shawnee. What a gorgeous day to view the property, check out the ballroom and meeting rooms and assess how we are going to go about assigning rooms to the attendees of our district conference which will take place from May 5-7, 2017.

We were also joined by **Lucy** and **Richard** from the Branchburg Club. Lucy has lots of experience planning and executing district conferences for various district governors. We're lucky that she's part of our committee lending her invaluable expertise. Everyone was excited by the property, the variety of accommodations, the beautiful grounds, and the location right on the Delaware River, with expansive mountain views. The Shawnee Inn is amazing and even has its own brewery (which will make us a batch of private label beer for the conference); a 27 hole golf course, a full service spa and salon, an apiary, and their own organic gardens which provide the "farm to table" cuisine served at the restaurants, along with an on-site Theater Playhouse, water activities, hiking, indoor pool and hot tub. The expansive veranda was so inviting that we could imagine sitting there with a mint julep and a good book!

It's hard to imagine the magnitude and charm of this place without seeing it.built at the turn of the century, it has an old world elegance with its wrap around veranda and ambiance of another era. After enjoying a delicious lunch and sampling of the craft beer from the brewery, we left with a feeling of excitement and anticipation that "OUR" conference will be memorable, unique and an awesome experience for all attendees!!

Please go online and check it out for yourself at www.shawneeinn.com!!

Thank you to **Laura** for covering this outing!

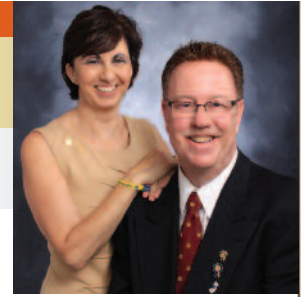
WANTED: ROVING REPORTER

NEEDED:

2 or 3 club members willing to rotate reporting on meetings and club happenings. We'll be publishing The Cog monthly, so this is not a big commitment. You could write up the notes on the meetings and email to **Sharon**. Great opportunity to hone your writing skills and create interesting copy for our publication.

Please see Sharon for details.

DG2B CORNER



ON THE WAY TO GET "ZONED" OUT

If you're an avid reader of this column you'll remember my words as I attended my first "Zone" Institute. The Zone is a training event and coming together of the Rotary leaders from our Zone and from Rotary International.

The Zone is the composition of Rotary Districts, we are in Zone 32. We comprise all of the Northeast USA, Canada, Washington State, Russia and Bermuda....what a mix. There will be 39 of my fellow Classmates, us DGE's coming together to be trained, learn, network and get ready for our year as District Governor.

I have been given homework assignments to prepare. I have received my "Lead Your District" Governors manual and lots of emails to get ready for this week long event. Our graduation ceremony is Wednesday night with the parade of DGE's and it's exciting to be your representative at this most prestigious ceremony. The Zone Institute starts where other dignitaries come to Providence Rhode Island to be trained and brought up to speed on all the new Rotary rules and initiatives. Zone concludes with the Fire & Ice extravaganza on Saturday night that Providence is known for, should be quite a week.

Each DGE is asked to bring a House of Friendship gift to be silent auctioned off for the benefit of the Rotary Foundation. I have decided to donate a bottle of wine. It's a 2001 Screaming Eagle red wine that is the most precious American wine made. Collectors seek it and there is a 1000 person waiting list just to be able to purchase it. It's value on line yesterday ranged from \$2,500.00 to over \$4,000.00. I'm thrilled to be able to donate it and can't wait to see the final bid.

On another note...the planning of OUR District Conference is going very well. Our core team made a trip to Shawnee Sunday. Since we will be responsible for assigning rooms we wanted to take an in-depth look at the different room categories and photograph as many as we could so we give everyone what they desire. We had a great trip and my sincere THANKS to those who gave up their Sunday to go. Chair **Sharon**, my **Kathy**, **Laura**, **Rob** and **Nancy O'Connell**, **Lucy** and **Tom** from Branchburg Rotary. Registrar **Genie** had planned to join in but **Andy** is still nursing his shoulder from surgery. I think we need a new pair of sneakers from all the walking but we really accomplished a lot.

Chair **Sharon** is working very hard on OUR Conference and will be contacting every member of our club to see what your commitment is to OUR conference and asking you what you would like to do. It will take every member to pitch in. When Sharon calls be ready to sign up and let's get EXCITED! Because it's going to be "Sweet" to be 20 "16".

Till the next column...

Yours in Rotary Service

District Governor Nominee Class of 2016-17

Charles "Charlie" Minton

to make the world a better place. ★ www.unionrotary.org

ROB, THE FOOD GEEK

My wife got a "Struggling College Student's" cookbook when we were back in school. This might not be the most gourmet-like recipe for linguine and clam sauce but in a pinch it's very quick and we still make it to this day. Our kids even enjoy it. Hope you all do too.

LINGUINE AND CLAM SAUCE

Serves 4-5

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb linguine
- 6 medium garlic cloves
- 1 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 4 cans minced clams (7oz. each)
- 6 tablespoons butter
- 6 tablespoons olive oil
- Parmesan or Romano cheese to your liking

DIRECTIONS

1. Boil water and add pasta.
2. Chop up garlic and fresh parsley. Open cans of clams and drain but save the juice.
3. In a large skillet, melt butter over medium heat. Add oil. Add garlic and cook 1-2 minutes and don't let it burn.
4. Add parsley and stir. Add clam juice. Turn heat down to low and simmer, covered for 5 minutes.
5. Add clams. Cook 1 more minute. Remove from heat.
6. Add cooked pasta to pan and stir well. Salt to taste and top with grated cheese at the table.
7. Get some good Italian bread to soak up the juice.

MANGIA!

★ COMMUNITY ★ ★ SERVICE ★

MIRIAM MERCADO, COMMUNITY SERVICE

WE DID IT!

Back-to-School Backpack Drive a SUCCESS!

When Club Service Chair **Miriam Mercado** put out a plea for collecting school supplies for children at the YWCA Women's Shelter, our members generously donated all kinds of supplies and money to provide for local survivors of domestic violence. The YWCA Union County is a private, non-profit organization and has been providing programs and services to women and children surviving domestic violence for 36 years. They began in 1978 as an emergency shelter and have grown to provide a comprehensive array of services, free of charge.

heard around the club

- ➡ **Congratulations to Sal** on receiving his last round of chemotherapy. We are so proud of him. He and **Mike C.** have raised many happy bucks in our club!!
- ➡ **IT'S A BOY! Michael Sasieta** was born on September 8th at 2:40 AM, weighing 7 lbs, 14 ounces. Congratulations to **John**, his wife, **Margaret** and the entire **Sasieta Family**. As our new tradition in recent years, our club will be presenting a "ROTARY ROCKS" rocking horse to baby **Michael**.
- ➡ Healing thoughts go out to PP **Genie's** husband **Andy** as he recuperates from shoulder replacement surgery and to **Miriam's mom** facing recent health challenges.
- ➡ **Kudos to Eugene** for co-chairing the successful **Mayor's Day 5K** for the Chamber of Commerce.
- ➡ Sympathy to **Julie** and **Mark D'Aloia** for the recent loss of Mark's father.

FOOD PANTRY

Let's rally to help those who need
our help in the community.
Bring your non-perishable food items.

STAMPS FOR WOUNDED VETERANS WHAT CAN STAMPS DO FOR A VETERAN?

Miracles, almost. Stamps can give bedridden patients, long-treatment patients, and convalescent patients, a consuming interest.... something to do to keep their minds active. They can sort and mount stamps without effort as they lie in bed. If they are ambulatory, or even in a wheelchair, they can pass happy hours soaking stamps and mounting them in albums. Even the far withdrawn, mentally disabled patient takes pleasure in using the more common stamps to make fanciful greeting cards, or to cover decorative boxes in organized therapy sessions.

Please tear off stamps from your incoming mail and bring them to the next meeting. The more the merrier!!

Do you know a potential speaker for one of our meetings?

We're always seeking ideas for interesting meetings. If you have an idea or know someone who can give an interesting presentation to our club, please contact **Charlie Minton**, Club Administration Chair.

When you start with Rotary, good things happen.