

Program: March 18, 2021

**Speaker: Jen Lopez, ED
Friends Association**

Program: April 1, 2021

TBA

MINUTES by Faith Woodward

President Michelle opened the meeting (cohost **Matt Holliday**) with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Cathy Palmquist gave the invocation in recognition of Harriet Tubman for Women's History Month in March and Black History month in February.

There were no Visiting Rotarians.

Kassidy McKey was introduced as a guest of **Yolanda Van De Krol**.

Birthdays were presented by **President Michelle** for **Pat Barron** and **Jack Wintermute**.

Happy Bucks were celebrated by: **Sue Flynn** (\$5 for 5th grandchild), **Mickey Hall** (on Valentine's Day, granddaughter Violet turned 2 and daughter Madeline became engaged), **Randy Lindel** (\$5 -Vaccine appointment at CCH), **President Michelle** (last week her sister had a baby boy), and **Steve Brown** (new hip).

Fruit Sale volunteers were requested to help with the pickup at A. Duie Pyle.

Sue Casso Rogers presented a new volunteer opportunity to help clean up Marshall Square Park, Saturday, April 24.

President Michelle shared:

- The email from District 7450 to help Texas District 5890 after their disaster.
- A 2nd appeal was sent out for donations for our club's foundation.
- **Chris Franz** needs volunteers to give the invocation starting with or April meeting.
- Club History from the 1970s: A committee to plan the 50th anniversary was chaired by Ossie Spellman in 1971. President Irvie Hoffman presided over the celebration. At that

time six founding members were still alive and three are still members today: **Bob Poole**, **Jack Wintermute**, and **Cliff DeBaptiste**.

SPEAKERS REVIEW

by Faith Woodward/Jill Stoltzfus

Today, **Yolanda Van de Krol** introduced our guest speakers from Grandfamilies, Deborah Willet and Kathryn Spurlock. As children of incarcerated parents, they started the program at Chester County Prison to promote family cohesiveness and stability in the lives of our county youth.

Grandfamilies was formed out of a need to support children who suffered trauma in their lives, substance abuse issues in the home, mental health concerns, and incarcerated parents unable to care for their children.

Deb has worked with Grandfamilies for 11 years and explained how the organization works collaboratively with other community agencies to meet the needs of their clients.

Grandfamilies consists of households headed by Grandparents, relatives (aunts, uncles, cousins, siblings, step-parents), and non relatives. There are 2 categories of families within the program-informal which require little or no support, and formal which often receive extra supportive services from Children, Youth and Families.

For all backgrounds, 4.9% of children live in 1 of these family categories and 20% live in poverty. There are many multicultural families and this program does save money for the federal foster care system saving an estimated 4 billion annually since inception.

With the implementation of this program, children can become independently functioning members of our community. Children in these situations often feel

different from other children, and this program aims at providing children with the proper biological and emotional support to promote stability and success in their lives. These grandparents often feel isolation since they have young children, and concerns about what will happen to their children if something happens to them. Often retirements plans are put on hold, and with the added COVID concerns, they are in a higher risk category due to their age and health conditions. Grandparents often need support with legal, medical, financial and emotional issues. That is where Grandfamilies can help!

COMMUNITY WAREHOUSE DONATION DAY

Mark Your Calendar! Saturday, March 20th from 9a-1p is our next Community Warehouse donation day. We could use volunteers to help with the numerous donations scheduled to arrive that day.

We practice social distancing and masks are worn.

Help is needed to unpack houseware and linen donations and also to guide the public who are coming and donating items. Something for everyone to do and no heavy lifting.

The public has us on their radar now for a great place to donate and give back to those less fortunate. So we need Rotary volunteers now more than ever to help on these busy Saturday mornings.

This is also a great day to bring your gently used furniture, small working appliances, bedding and home goods. For complete information go to communitywarehouseproject.com. Call us for ways to get donations over to the warehouse too.

Everyone is also welcomed to bring furniture, small appliances, household items, linens, utensils, matching plates, etc... Feel free to bring helpful children too.

800 East Virginia Ave. West Chester in the Schramm business campus.

Contact: **Jeannie McGinn**; 484-343-4577 cell
Rotaryjeannie@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES EVENTS CALENDAR

Mar 20	Community Warehouse Donation Day
Apr 24	Marshall Square Park cleanup

THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2023-2024

From Kevin M. Katarynick

We have reached the end of the 14 day challenge period required by RI for the nomination process of District Governor.

Seeing no formal challenge of the Nominating Committee's selection of District Governor 2023-2024, it's my pleasure to officially introduce to you, District 7450 Governor Nominee Designate Renee DeCoskey, Rotary Club of Conshohocken Plymouth Whitemarsh.

Please join me in congratulating Renee on her selection to this role and be on the lookout for the April newsletter that will have additional information on DGND Renee!

Thanks again to the Nominating Committee, under the leadership of PDG Dawn deFuria for your hard work. Also thanks again to all the Rotarians that submitted their names to be interviewed to fill the District Governor position.

BOARD of DIRECTORS

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Kevin Katarynick, District Governor

Cynthia Rugart, Assistant Governor

Charles Streitwieser, P. D.G. '13-14 District 7450

Dwight Leeper, P.D.G. '12-13. District 7510

Robert Poole, P.D.G. '80-'81 District 7450

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Votary Committee: Chair, **Faith Woodward**, 610-918-3432; Votary@westchesterrotary.us Web support: **Judi Bell** and **Howard Sundwall**.

Webmaster@WestChesterRotary.us

Committee: **Pat Barron**, **Brian Fahey**, **Gary Hess**, **Michael Lewis**, **Fran Luft**, **Danielle Mortimer**, **Cathy Palmquist**, **Kyle Rheiner**, **Winnie Stroup**, **Jill Stoltzfus**