

# the Rotary Smile

Allentown, Pennsylvania

www.AllentownRotary.org

May, 2009



## Allentown Rotarians in the News

**Wendy Body** was named one of the Girl Scouts of Eastern PA “Take the Lead 2009” honorees, recognizing “women of courage, confidence, and character whose leadership makes the world a better place.”

**Jonathan Epstein** is featured in the current Eastern PA Business Journal’s “20 Under 40 - Salute to Youthful Achievers” Class of 2009, which recognizes “rising stars on the regional business scene” who also have made “significant contributions in leadership to civic organizations.”

**Bob Stevens** will be honored with this year’s Allentown Chamber of Commerce “Joseph S. Dadonna Good Neighbor” award “presented to an individual who has provided exemplary community service for the betterment of Allentown and its citizens.”

And, at that same Chamber of Commerce dinner, **Debra Lamb**’s daughter, **Stephanie**, will receive the Chamber’s \$1,000 college scholarship.



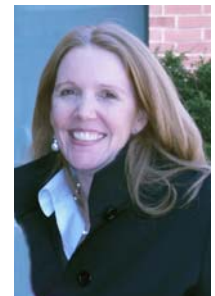
## Downtown Allentown: Where We Were, Where We Are, and Where We Want to Go

March 27 – An enthusiastic Joyce Marin, Director of Community and Economic Development of the City of Allentown, took us on a whirlwind tour of the past, present and future of Allentown’s economic development.

After citing the glories of the past of the third largest city in Pennsylvania (Hess’s strawberry fields and all), with a click of her heels we were in the present where “ugly building syndrome” and 70 years of transportation and bank lending policies nationwide had led to the emptying of downtowns.

Not to worry, unlike the Tin Man of the Wizard of Oz, our city has many hearts in the myriad of partners who are working shoulder to shoulder to restore our fair city. Business, art, civic, neighborhood, college, school systems, and economic development groups are focused on making Allentown once again a major destination.

Key to the redevelopment has been the KOZ zones which have aided major employers like PPL and Butz and smaller projects



Joyce Marin

*(Continued on page four.)*

# The Rotary Club of Allentown

• in our 95<sup>th</sup> year of service •

610-794-4101

[www.AllentownRotary.org](http://www.AllentownRotary.org)

~ A Member of Rotary International ~

Club No. 121, District 7430

[www.rotarydistrict7430.org](http://www.rotarydistrict7430.org)

Meeting Fridays at noon at the Holiday Inn  
9<sup>th</sup> & Hamilton Streets, Allentown

Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Some 1.2 million Rotarians belong to 31,000 Rotary clubs located in more than 200 countries.

### Club Officers

President . . . . . Pete Smith . . . . . 610-395-7700  
 President-Elect . . . . . Judy Barberich . . . . . 610-282-1100 x1478  
 Secretary . . . . . Don DeLorenzo . . . . . 610-967-3380  
 Treasurer . . . . . Tom Christman . . . . . 610-434-9645  
 Past President . . . . . Ibolya Balog . . . . . 610-433-3220

### Board of Directors

### Committee

### Phone

Theresa Podguski . . . . .	Program . . . . .	610-778-3303
Mark E. Emswiler . . . . .	Scholarship . . . . .	610-967-2141
Ibolya Balog . . . . .	Paul Harris/ Iobst awards . . . . .	610-434-3995
Richard Daugherty . . . . .	International . . . . .	610-437-3700
Christine Bauder . . . . .	Fellowship & Communication . . . . .	610-821-0311
Larry Campbell . . . . .	Community Service . . . . .	610-391-9805
Judith A. Barberich . . . . .	Membership . . . . .	610-282-1100 x1478
Cynthia A. Lambert . . . . .	Badge Board/Hospitality . . . . .	610-776-3323
William C. Hacker . . . . .	Youth . . . . .	610-437-3340
Platte B. Moring III . . . . .	By-laws & Parliamentarian . . . . .	610-435-8414

### Foundation Board Members

Ibolya Balog . . . . . 610-433-3220  
 Judith Barberich . . . . . 610-282-1100 x1478  
 Barbara Bigelow . . . . . 610-437-0795  
 Albert Bova . . . . . 610-395-5910  
 Larry Campbell . . . . . 610-391-9805  
 Wallace Eldridge . . . . . 610-366-0843  
 Mark Emswiler . . . . . 610-967-2141  
 Suzanne Goodell . . . . . 610-799-1204  
 Carl Henzleman . . . . . 610-758-5520  
 Janet Roth . . . . . 610-434-9645  
 Pete Smith . . . . . 610-395-7700  
 Richard Snyder . . . . . 610-434-3970  
 John Toner . . . . . 610-433-8903 x 206

## From the President



**Pete Smith**

Each year, your club president appoints a nominating committee to review and recommend candidates to serve as board members and officers of your club. These candidates are presented to the club and normally elected during our annual membership meeting, which meeting will take place May 15<sup>th</sup>. The nominating committee has presented the following slate:

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***“Save Friday, June  
26th for our  
“changeover luncheon”  
and Judy’s inaugural  
party at 6 p.m. the same  
evening at Brookside  
Country Club.”***

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**Judy Barberich**, currently president-elect, will automatically become president for 2009-2010.

**Larry Campbell**, currently our Community Service Chair, was selected as president-elect nominee and this year stands for election to president-elect for 2010-2011. He will then become

*(Continued on page five.)*

## Classification Talk



### Marc Carlos Solt

March 6 – The Rev. Dr. Marc (Marcos) Solt proved he is a Juan of all trades during his March 6 classification presentation, as Marc recounted his life adventures with much wit and humor.

According to Pete Smith, Marc is an “unusual bird” but that’s a good thing! Diverse, spiritual, caring and humorous are other words that describe Marc well.

Marc’s first language is Spanish and he spent most of his youth in Central and South America. His father built cultural radio stations from the ground up. Because of the electrocution thing (he was shocked at times) Marc realized this was not his calling. Marc’s father’s work took him, and his family, which consisted of Marc’s mother and five siblings, to every South American country.

During childhood Marc worked on his father’s car,

played the trumpet (The best thing about that was he quit.), was a beekeeper and handler, taught disadvantaged children in secondary school, cycled, and played soccer.

In fact, he traveled extensively around Mexico playing soccer, and playing professionally for the Philadelphia Adams and Dallas Tornados. In 1980, when he had hair and a beard, he participated in the Olympic Trials. He still plays twice a week.

Marc’s other passions include his wife and family (numero uno passion), theology, and financial planning with Prudential Securities. He has been married to Ruth his partner, soul-mate, best friend, and mother of their five children, for 27 years. The family is so close Marc and Ruth went with their daughter and son-in-law on their honeymoon. (In case you’re wondering, my parents are NOT going with Don and me on ours.)

Marc has extensive training and education in theology (hence the titles Dr. and Rev.) and spends a great deal of time with ministerial duties at the Evangelical Church of Faith. He cares about people, and the financial profession gives him the flexibility to do the community work that means so much to him.

He is deeply committed to God and his faith. It brings

peace and joy to him, his family and others around him. We are thankful he also is committed to Rotary.

~ Kathy Frazier



### May Birthdays

- 2 Ellen Ghelardi  
Avery Smith
- 8 Amy Meleck
- 11 William J. Hoffman
- 18 Randall Forte  
Watson Skinner
- 20 Barbara Bottitta
- 27 Platte Moring III  
David Schrum



Have you found your way to AllentownRotary.org yet?

Thanks to Jonathan Epstein, we have a solid web presence, providing information about our Club history and committees, current and back issues of the SMILE, meeting location info and more. Check it out, and refer your friends to the site!

## Classification Talk



### Janet Roth

April 3 – Faced with the intimidation that all of us seem to go through when our classification talk looms, Janet Roth met the challenge expertly. From start to finish, with a warm and personal slide presentation, she did just what classification means: a wonderful history of Janet.

She traced her pilgrimage from her birth in Pittsburgh to her current responsibility as executive director of the Trexler Trust. When she was two years old, the family moved to Johnstown where her father found a job as a coal miner. In 1978, the mine roof fell in. Undeterred, her father enrolled in college at 50 years of age and completed a degree in accounting.

Janet enrolled at Shippensburg University where she majored in journalism/communications. During summer she worked in a fruit

market and also got a job as a country music disc jockey (a “position” in radio that also included reading the local obituaries).

She moved to Allentown in 1986 to work at the Pennsylvania Stage Company, then on to Tylersmith Graphics and soon thereafter to Trexler Trust as an assistant to the director. While at Trexler, and after sitting through Trustee meetings, she decided she needed a clearer understanding of how to read a balance sheet. (And she wanted to understand what Dexter Baker was talking about!) So by 2000 she had completed her MBA in finance from DeSales University.

Janet then moved to Maryland to work for another foundation, but shortly thereafter she took a grant-writing and public relations job with the Baltimore Area Council, B.S.A. But a position again became available at Trexler and it did not take much persuasion to have her return to Allentown.

She has some historic Rotarian roots. Janet’s grandfather was a founding member of the Windber Rotary Club and her grandmother was a Rotary Ann. (For you newcomers, this was the women’s “auxiliary” of Rotary, prior to Rotary International – finally – opening the door for

full female membership.) And, of course, Tom Christman set a fine example of not just her “leader” but also an Allentown Rotary leader.

~ Jim Harper

## Downtown Allentown

*(Continued from page one.)*

like improving building stock. The mayor has increased police presence and reinstated community policing, graffiti busting, and beautifying of the environment.

Future ideas include: a home-buyers supermarket, encouraging growth up rather than out to the suburbs, green collar economy, and lots of special events in the city. To find out what is happening go to [www.allentownpa.gov](http://www.allentownpa.gov) or [allentowngoodnews.com](http://allentowngoodnews.com) if you care to blog . . . or even know what that means.

Joyce left us with this challenge as to what you or I can do to improve our city: meet your friends downtown to eat, attend cultural events, walk, ride a bike, enjoy our gorgeous parks, buy locally grown fruits, vegetables, and flowers. Move your business downtown or capitalize on the stimulus packages out there like the Summer Youth Program. In other words: try it, you’ll like it!

~ Your erstwhile reporter and enthusiastic supporter of Allentown, Chris Nelson.

## From the President

*(Continued from page two.)*

president following Judy Barberich's term (2009-2010). **Theresa Podguski** has been selected by the committee to stand for election as president-elect nominee for the 2011-2012 Rotary year. She currently serves as Chair of the Program Committee. **Bob Stevens** has been nominated to fill the unexpired one year term of Cindy Lambert. **Jonathan Epstein** and **Ann McManus** have both been selected to serve three-year terms on your board.

Judy Barberich has completed president-elect training (with honors) and is in the process of completing her budgets, agendas and necessary Rotary paperwork to commence her year as president of your club.

Please remember to save Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> for our "changeover luncheon" and Judy's inaugural party at 6 p.m. the same evening at Brookside Country Club.

Our Smile editor, Bob Stevens has made the Smile one of the most impressive Rotary club newsletters. Bob sends it to Jonathan Epstein who posts it to our website ([www.allentownrotary.org](http://www.allentownrotary.org)) and more people are reading it as a result. I invite you to email it to your friends and don't forget to thank Bob for a wonderful job not only as

editor but also as chief photographer!!

By the time you receive this newsletter, the Good Shepherd Home Casino Night will be history. Many thanks to Larry Campbell and his Community Service Committee which has worked weeks to organize this affair. A wonderful time should be had by all the attending Good Shepherd residents.

Thanks also to Jay Geiger who has organized a Rotary Meals on Wheels team. Our club has supported Meals on Wheels in many ways for years and most recently with a community service grant. Those who have actually participated in the delivery of Meals on Wheels will be quick to tell you it is a most gratifying experience. Thank you Jay for getting us back into a "hands on" mode!

Within days the Group Study Exchange visitors from Eastern Europe will arrive and simultaneously Ibi Baalog's group will be departing for Eastern Europe. Both groups will cross paths at the Rotary District Conference in Lancaster this weekend. Rick Daugherty has organized host families and an interesting itinerary for our visitors. We look forward to their meeting our club on May 1. Rick, thank you! Ibi, Bon Voyage!

~ Pete Smith



Thank you to Rotarians who helped us run Casino Nite at Good Shepherd. Residents had a fabulous time and are already looking forward to next year's event.

Judy Barberich  
Larry Campbell  
Kati Labuda  
Cindy Lambert  
Theresa Podguski  
Rolf Schlake  
Sils and Danielle Silsbee  
Pete Smith  
Michele Varricchio

Also, special thanks to all who donated prizes:

Chris Bauder  
Dave Bausch  
Barb Bigelow  
Al Bova  
Jim Bova  
Jonathan Epstein  
Ken Kirshner  
Ann McManus  
Grayson McNair  
Rolk Schlake  
Art Weinrach

My apologies to anyone I may have missed.

~ Larry Campbell



## Gates Foundation Announces Increased Challenge Grant

Did you enjoy reading about Microsoft founder Bill Gates in the current Rotarian magazine?

Did you know you could watch him on video as he announces an increase in the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's challenge grant for polio eradication at the International Assembly?

You can see the five minute clip on Rotary.org (follow the links) or if you're really ambitious (and an accurate typist), key the following into your browser:

[http://www.rotary.org/en/MediaAndNews/News/Pages/090121\\_news\\_gatesvideo.aspx](http://www.rotary.org/en/MediaAndNews/News/Pages/090121_news_gatesvideo.aspx)

or make it easy on yourself by going to YouTube.com, enter "Bill Gates Rotary" as the search term and the video will appear.

It's worth the time to hear what he has to say about this remarkable goal of Rotary International; it's also fun to see him enthusiastically wearing that Rotary hat!

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**Friday, June 6 - 6:00 p.m. – Changeover Dinner at the Brookside Country Club**  
**Watch for exciting details in next month's SMILE!**

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### Coming Events

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Group Study Exchange
- 8<sup>th</sup> - Foundation and Scholarship Awards
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Ed Sweeney, Lehigh County Department of Corrections
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - NO MEETING TODAY
- 29<sup>th</sup> - TBA

### Coming in June

Vocational Scholarship Awards, Northeastern PA Counter-Terrorism Task Force, Changeover and more!

### the Rotary Smile



Allentown Rotary Club  
5540 German Road  
Emmaus, PA 18049