Swarthmore Rotary Cog Notes

P.O. Box 4, Swarthmore, PA 19081

SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Meetings and Events

January

20th - Swarthmore Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Mel Laytner, Author, What They Didn't Burn
Subject: Has The Digital Age Changed The Way the Holocaust Affects Us: Telling My Father's Auschwitz Story
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27th - Swarthmore Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Senator Tim Kearney, 26th District
Subject: Report from Harrisburg

February

3rd - Swarthmore Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Nicole Pollard, Curator of Lived Culture, Philadelphia Contemporary
Subject: Say Hi to Philadelphia Contemporary

Table Grace

By Frederick E. Christian

Lord God, amid all of our goal setting and striving, help us to see persons and places of human need. Beyond planning and programs, give us a vision of boys and girls healed and helped. And now receive our grateful thanks for the abiding friendships in Rotary that go with us as we return to our tasks. Amen.

4 Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Note on Today's Speaker

From Hillard:

Service Quotation

The greatest good you can do for another is not just to share your riches but to reveal to him his own. ~Benjamin Disraeli

Rotary Celebrations!

Birthdays

Martin Spiegel
January 20th

Ann E Green
January 21st

Wedding Anniversaries

No Wedding Anniversaries Found

Years of Service

No Years Of Service Found

The Author is making his book available on eBook sale sites for $0.99 for a limited time. It is normally $9.95.

Book: What They Didn't Burn
Softcover: $16.95, 978-16846331032
ebook: $9.95, 978-1684631049
audiobook, $12.95, 978-1667043258
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From the Author:
I had sent a link to the Amazon page: https://bit.ly/Amazon-What-They-Didnt-Burn . As.I mention to Hillard, the sale is supposed to run from 1/22-->1/28, but that depends on how efficient the different ebook retailers are in updating their sites. It may appear a day earlier; hopefully not a day later.

Club News

Elizabeth Churche's story reinforced the message we got from our speaker of January 6: some Rotarians go to extraordinary efforts to support Rotary programs. Previously, Ann Lee Hussey had told us about going on 30 trips oversees to combat polio. Elizabeth told us about Caroline Schroder, a Denver Rotarian who has gone to Zimbabwe 21 time in support of a grant to help empower women. According to Elizabeth, Caroline emphasizes the importance of having someone on the ground in the foreign country to learn about the culture and meet the people who will be involved in the grant project. President Kathryn Jones commented that Swarthmore Rotary may send someone to Liberia in support of our grant to a Rotary club in that country.

Last Meeting Summary

As I was writing my speech summary, I saw this article in the Delaware County Daily Times, Jan. 17, 2022. This is the same presentation that we heard. The article is provided below with some editing to shorten its length.
Melissa Lyon is slated to start her role as Delaware County's initial Health Director Tuesday as numbers of COVID and syphillis are at top levels and care for mental health is facing a crunch.
Rosemarie Halt, chair of Delaware County's Board of Health, spoke

about these issues and others related to the health department at a presentation hosted by the League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County called, "Hot Topic: Building the Delaware County Health Department."

During the presentation, Halt spoke of the department's vision and priorities, including the optimization of health and health equity, and shared that Lyon, who previously served as Erie County's Public Health Director will start in her role in Delaware County on Tuesday.

For more than two years, Delaware County has been working to establish a county health department that meets the standards of Act 315 and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Even through the pandemic, officials continued to move the goal of opening the department this month.

The Delaware County Health Department has focused on adopting a Public Health 3.0 model. Halt explained that the initial model of public health created in the 1950s was to be an additional provider of service for those in the community without insurance.

While services will continue to be offered at the department, Halt explained that the modern version has five core tenants including a chief health strategist who helps determine where health interventions are placed, such as looking at the top 10 causes of morbidity and addressing them; cross-sector collaborations with hospitals and other non-traditional groups such as the Suicide Prevention Task Force; the PHAB accreditation; evaluating the data and being innovative and finding funding for that.

She stressed the need for more specific data, giving as one example higher rates of cancer and asthma for communities along the industrialized I-95 corridor as compared to those in the western part of the county bordering Chester County, as a basis in determining and creating strategic interventions. Relatedly, she said the county has begun to do GIS mapping with health factors.

She also shared the services and programming that will be provided by the county health department, which will be implemented in phases.

The first phase estimated to extend through 2024, the department's focus will be on personal health with all types of immunizations, not just COVID, maternal and child health and communicable disease control; population health with a continued response to the pandemic, disease surveillance and health education; and environmental health in the form of food, water, sewage and pool inspections.

Although a lawsuit had been filed by seven municipalities – Springfield, Ridley, Aston, Upper Chichester, Darby Township, Tinicum and Marple – seeking an injunction from having the county health department take over municipal inspections, Halt said it would not impede the opening of the department.

In the first phase, the county hopes to establish a Baby First program, which would have a community health worker meet with every woman who has given birth before she leaves the hospital to outline what services are available in the county and to determine if they need

additional help. They also are looking at employing doulas to help through pregnancy and breastfeeding questions.

In a second phase anticipated between 2023 and 2026, Halt said the health department would add expanding infant mortality programs and addressing violence prevention, housing and food security, air quality and lead poisoning prevention.

One of the things that the county had to present to the state was what were the leading causes of death in the county broken down by ethnicity and race. In Delaware County, the leading causes of death are related to diseases of the heart and accidents.

When race is included as a factor, diabetes and assault are the fifth and sixth leading causes of death for the Black community in Delaware County, she explained.

"This is one area that we feel we might be targeting as a health department in really looking at what are the underlying causes of this and what are the interventions that might bring down some of these numbers," Halt said, adding that they would be looking at all the factors as well.

Certainly through the pandemic, COVID has been a mortality and health factor.

Halt said the county is around 72 percent of the population between 5 and 100 years old are vaccinated. However, she said more need to receive the vaccine.

Of the recent Omicron strain, Halt said, "The week before Christmas, I will say the alarm bells started going off in our county."

She noted the incidence rates, which were 1,483.6 per 100,000 in Delaware County during the week of Jan. 7 and significantly higher than Bucks, Chester and Montgomery counties. She said tracking showed cases to originate in holiday and church gatherings in places. Halt said recent data gives her hope that the county has hit its peak; however, it will take time to get out of this.

COVID isn't the only severe disease facing the county as Halt said there is an epidemic of syphillis here right now.

From 2017 to 2019 in Delaware County, the rate of chlamydia was 888.2 per 100,000 people; the rate of gonorrhea was 338.4 per 100,000; and syphillis was 16 per 100,000. Halt said those numbers have only doubled.

Mental health issues and the limited availability of crisis centers is another issue on the county health plate.

Crozer Health system, which has been a large part for severe mental health issues and crisis, is having a lot of financial difficulties and is starting to close some of these, Halt said.

"So, the county is now looking into working with our human services department," she said, adding that they will be reaching out to community partners to strategize about how to address this concern.

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