

Activities Unlimited

Volume XXXVII, Issue IV

April, 2023

Spring Luncheon: May 9 at the Indian Trail Club Lake House in Franklin Lakes. Starts at 11:30 am. Please make checks for \$37 pp to Activities Unlimited. Mail to Tom Donch at PO BOX 791 Franklin Lakes, NJ. 07417 . Please join us for an afternoon of great food & camaraderie!

Activities Unlimited General Meeting Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 1:00pm Midland Park Reformed Church 183 Godwin Ave, Midland Park, NJ 07432

General Meeting Guest Speaker:

William “Pat” Schuber served as The County Executive of Bergen County for 12 years. He was responsible for a budget of over \$200 million, 2000 employees and 8 government departments.

Pat is a Professor at the School of Public and Global Affairs (SPGA), Fairleigh Dickinson University.

He has written several articles and co-authored books on History, Leadership and Homeland Security.

Pat is a graduate of Fordham University with a BA and received his JD at Fordham University School of Law.

Pat will speak on World War II, the invasion of Normandy.

President’s Note

Please note that due to a scheduling conflict at the Wyckoff Reformed Church, our April General Meeting will be held at the Midland Park Reformed Church. Social hour will begin at 12:00. The meeting will begin at 1:00 PM.

Spring is about to burst forth and all our clubs are growing in their level of activity. Please note some changes in scheduled meetings effective April 1.

The AU Website has now been upgraded to current software. You may notice some changes and may need to practice a little to reach the information you are looking for. A Beta Testing team has been working with John Abrahamsen to work through transition problems. Please be patient and forward any “bugs” you may encounter to John (John.abrahamsen.bnp@gmail.com). Some of the improvements you can expect are: 1) easier searching for member information, 2) better communication for individual club members, and 3) an added alert system on when last minute meeting changes are due to Marty. Several training sessions will be organized to assist members to adjust to the new website.

(President’s note is continued on page 2.)

(President's Note, continued)

Club Chairmen are asked to send the latest club member lists to John Abrahamsen to facilitate email blasts. If you or your club needs to send an email blast, remember to send the request to Marty Valerio (marty@hyregulatory.com). Marty will assure your message conforms to our communication policy and is in the correct format for mailing. Some notices may be combined into one message since Google limits the number large messages that can be sent in one day.

Be well and take time to smell the flowers,
Harry Bennett



Trips & Tours

2023 events being planned:

Spring Luncheon — See page 1 for details.

Wine Tasting — Sunday, May 21st from 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM . The event will be held at Total Wine, 1001 Main Street, River Edge, NJ, (right off Route 4). It will be a fun AU social gathering with pizzas being served (soda & water are also available). Wives/significant others are invited. We only have room for 40 people, so send in your checks for \$15 pp ASAP payable to Activities Unlimited. Mail to George Lewis, 45 Walnut Street West, Mahwah, NJ 07430

June— On June 8 there will be repeat of the highly successful 2021 summer picnic at the Wyckoff YMCA.

September — AU Social.

October — Annual breakfast / General meeting at the Brick House.

December — AU Christmas Dinner / Dance at Seasons.

Contact **John Caikowsky**: johncaikowsky@optonline.net or call 973-599-1056



Trips & Tours (Continued)



John Caikowsky (as Club Chair) has arranged to make all Midland Park Continuing Education events open to AU members. Several examples of such MPCE events available to us are:

- Give My Regards to Broadway (5/5) (\$149.00),
- The Bronx You Never Knew (5/16) (\$125.00),
- Longwood Gardens (5/18) (\$89.00)
- The Immigrant Experience (6/15) NYC (\$99.00)
- Essex Steam Train & Riverboat Cruise, Conn (6/22) (\$140.00).
- * Cape Cod & Martha's Vineyard (6/26-30) (4 nights \$629pp)
- Pigeon Forge & Smokey Mountains (10/9-14) (5 nights \$839pp)

The complete list of MPCE events and more details on all of these events can be found at:

“[www.mpsnj.org/continuing_education/ programs/springbrochure](http://www.mpsnj.org/continuing_education/programs/springbrochure)”

To register for any event connect directly with Midland Park,
There is no need to contact AU Trips & Tours.

The goal of the monthly Activities Unlimited Newsletter is to improve the lives of AU members through communication about and encouragement of participation in AU clubs and activities. The newsletter accomplishes this goal by increasing communications and comradery among members and growing the membership.

Current Month Club Activities

Computer Tech. Club

Computer Club will meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10:30 at the VFW. The agenda is open. The purpose of the first meeting is to formulate the details of the Club activities in a round table discussion. Chairman of the Computer Club: **John Abrahamsen** – 201-739-8589; john.abrahamsen.bnp@gmail.com. **Fred Theile** Chairs the Technology portion of the Club: 201-825-7541;

History Club

The History Club meeting is on April 25 at 1 PM, VFW- Midland Park. The speaker is Ed Houlihan. The topic: China's New Mao : Xi Jinping. China's President Xi Jinping is attempting to become a reincarnation of Mao Zedong. His politics are Leninism, his economics are

Public Discussion Club

The Discussion Club will meet on Wednesday April 12 at 10:00am. The meeting will be at the Franklin Lakes Ambulance Corps Building. Topics are:

1. How well is Vice President Harris performing in her job?
2. Are new zoning laws posing a threat to private property rights?
3. Does a "debt limit" debate make any sense if congress has authorized the budget?

Chair: **Walter Widmer**: 201 562 8666; walterhwidmer@gmail.com

Trips & Tours

The next meeting of Trips & Tours is on Tuesday April 11 at the Midland Park VFW Hall.

John Caikowsky is the Chair: 973-599-1056 or johncaikowsky.@optonline.net

Investment Study Club

The next Investment Study Club meeting is April 19, 1PM at the VFW in Midland Park. Topic is: All About Muni's; The features of Municipal Bonds and How to Invest in Them

Club Chair is **Dennis LaBarbera**: 201-391-0471 or email at dennis.labarbera@yahoo.com.

Science Club

The next meeting of the Science Club is April 18. If you have any questions, please contact the Science Club Chair: **Marc Bernhardt**: marcbernhardt; 201-236-2957 or co-chair :**Jack Yurasek**: 201-314-0258; jyurasek@aol.com

Current Month Club Activities (Cont.)

Book Club	<p>The Book Club will meet on April 26 at 10 AM at Walt Widmer's house, 38 Hamilton St., Allendale. Books to be discussed are <u><i>Empire of Pain</i></u>, by Patrick Radden, and <u><i>The Great Alone</i></u> by Kristen Hannah,</p> <p>Club Chairman is Vince Tortorelli: 201 316 2961.; carvince@aol.com</p>
Pickelball	<p>Wyckoff pickelball courts will be officially opening with the nets out on Saturday April 1st. AU Members that want to play should come to the courts on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:30AM. There will be others who will be playing so you may need to wait until there are court openings.</p> <p>Club Chair-Ken Frisco 973-919-6704, kenfrisco@aol.com</p>
Photography Club	<p>The meeting date is being moved from the first Tuesday of the month to the fourth Tuesday to accommodate the new twice a month schedule of the Computer Club. Therefore there will be no Photo Club meeting on April 4.</p>
Stock Picking Contest	<p>Year-to-date leaders are Donald Chucka, Timothy Hudson and Christopher Love . The March leader is John Abrahamsen.</p> <p>The Club Chair is John Abrahamsen: au.club@optimum.net</p>

[CLICK HERE](https://activitiesunlimited.org/AUclubsPage.html) to go to the page providing information on each club.

<https://activitiesunlimited.org/AUclubsPage.html>

ACTIVITIES UNLIMITED



2023 OFFICERS



Harry Bennet
President
201-891-9527



Jim Atieh
1st Vice President
201-315-5346



Tom Donch
2nd Vice President
201-315-5346



Rich Bernarde
Secretary
201-337-5238



Mike Kelley
Treasurer
973-839-6470



Anthony DiIorgi
Assistant Treasurer
973-428-0431

NEW AU CLUBS

Webmaster Club: This new club is being formed to support, test and discuss new enhancements of the new website. At the first meeting details of the Webmaster club's activities will be formulated. Contents of the Website will also be discussed. For example, is a monthly events calendar page needed in addition to Marty Valerio's bi-weekly calendar? Also, suggestions on form and content of the monthly newsletter are also welcome as the Newsletter must be coordinated with the Website.

Shooting Club: The Board has approved formation of this club

-Membership is open to any AU member who has an interest in shooting or learning how to shoot.

- Club members meet once a month at a range to shoot as a group. There could be some competitive shooting as individuals or teams.

- Club members would pick a day to meet that doesn't interfere with other club meetings.

- The Club could meet in an appropriate classroom for training and sharing of ideas.

- There are a variety of ranges in the area, Gun for Hire in Woodland Park has 44 ports, 4 ranges, rent guns, and is large enough to accommodate a group. There is a gun store there which sells guns and gear. They also offer a variety of training classes. Other ranges can also be considered.

If you are interested in joining an exploratory meeting of this club please contact the club **Chair Dave Hubschmit** at (973-650-0052) or ski3100@aol.com.

On Monday March 27 AU Short Hikers hiked a “long-short” hike (just over 5 miles) along the shore of Wawayanda Lake! It was a beautiful clear day, and the hikers even saw bears out bathing! 2 cubs with Mama!



A great time was had by all at the Brownstone Luncheon on March 30.





Activities Unlimited Newsletter

Obituary

Richard A. Botta MD

Dr. Richard A. Botta passed on March 17, 2023 at the age of 93. He was a devoted and loving husband, father, uncle and grandfather, and he died peacefully at his home in Wyckoff surrounded by his family.

Born June 12, 1929 in East Harlem, New York, he grew up in New York City and Queens, New York. He attended Flushing High School, the New York Military Academy and the University of Georgia was accepted at Marquette University School of Medicine, where he earned his medical degree. He did his medical residency at Flushing Hospital, where he met the love of his life, Patricia (nee Vaupel). They were married on April 7, 1956.

He began his medical career as a resident in Flushing Hospital, specializing in obstetrics and gynecology. When duty called, he joined the Navy and served as a physician at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He was honorably discharged from the Navy as a Lieutenant Commander and started a private practice in Allendale, New Jersey in the basement of his home. Dr. Botta was an old-fashioned physician. If a patient had an emergency in the night or was ready to give birth, he would meet the patient at Valley Hospital or go on a house call. He was one of the original physicians on staff at the Valley Hospital in Ridgewood and delivered over 5,000 babies throughout his career.

While he loved his work and his patients, his true passion was his family. He was a dedicated and loving father to Trish and Chris, and later an adoring grandfather to Nicolas, Daniel and Tyler. He never missed one of Trish's riding competitions or Chris' hockey games, and later in retirement was his grandsons' biggest fans at their games and events. There is nothing he loved better than sitting around the dinner table, telling stories of his family and career as a physician.

In retirement, he traveled extensively and was involved as a Board Member of the Spring Meadow Condominium Association and Activities Unlimited in Wyckoff. He ran enjoyable trips. He served as Eucharistic Minister to the sick and homebound at St. Elizabeth's Church and delivered communion weekly to residents at the Christian Health Care Center.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Patricia; his daughter, Patricia, and her husband Joseph Dalimonte, of Aquebogue, New York; and son, Christopher, and his wife, Lisa, of Ramsey, New Jersey. He was loved by his three grandchildren, Nicolas Botta, Daniel Botta and Tyler Botta, numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and his brother and best friend, Dr. J. Robert Botta.



On The Lighter Side



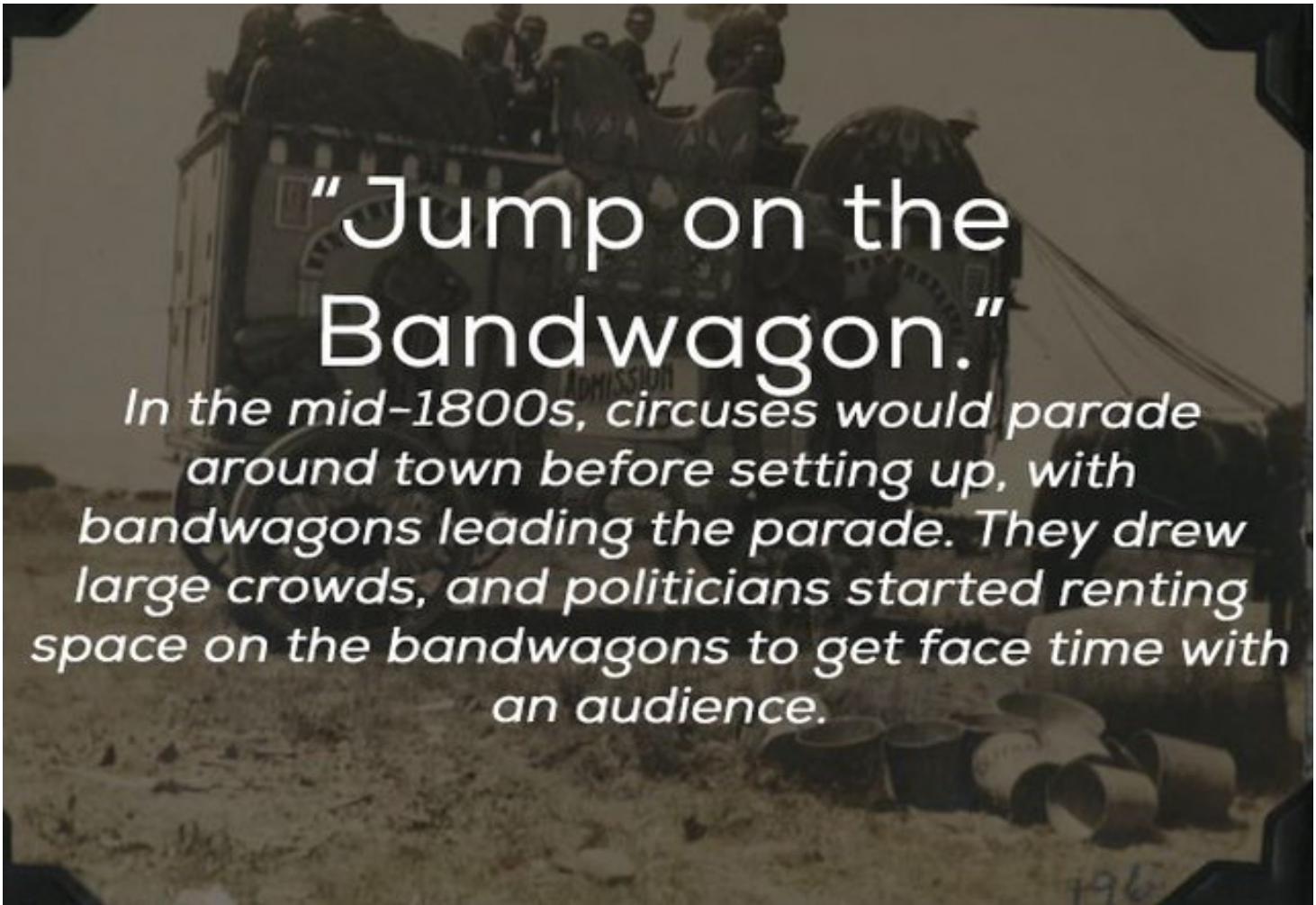
How did you meet your husband?

I'm a pharmacist, he come in to buy condoms, asked for XXXXXL And only after we got married I realised that he stutters...



On The Lighter Side

For English Language Lovers. What is the difference between 'Completed' and 'Finished'? No dictionary has been able to define the difference between 'Complete' and 'Finished.' But in a linguistic conference in England, Sun Sherman an Indian American, was the clever winner. His response: When you marry the right woman, you are 'Complete.' If you marry the wrong woman, you are 'Finished.' And when the right woman catches you with the wrong woman, you are 'Completely Finished.' His answer received a five minute standing ovation.



"Jump on the Bandwagon."

In the mid-1800s, circuses would parade around town before setting up, with bandwagons leading the parade. They drew large crowds, and politicians started renting space on the bandwagons to get face time with an audience.