



## Activities Unlimited General Meeting Tuesday, February 12, 2019 — 1:00 PM at the WRC, Heneveld Hall

Our speaker for our monthly meeting is **Brian Saxton**, a former professional football player for the **New York Giants** and **Atlanta Falcons**. He will tell us interesting stories about his experiences in college and the NFL.

Brian, is currently a Managing Director of Investments at Wells Fargo Advisors. He is recognized as a Premier Advisor within Wells Fargo Advisors and also holds the CFP®, CRPS®, AIF® and AAMS® designations. He is also an actor and stunt person and has appeared in movies specializing in football.

Brian attended Boston College on an athletic scholarship where he earned a BS in Marketing and a MA in Human Development. He played tight end on football teams that went to three different bowl games. After college, Brian played in the National Football League with the New York Giants and the Atlanta Falcons. Brian is very active in the local community having participated in many civic and religious organizations and has co-chaired many charitable events through the years that have cumulatively raised over \$1,000,000 for families in need. He also coaches his daughters' soccer, basketball and softball teams. He serves on the Wyckoff Library Board, the Wyckoff YMCA Finance Committee and is an active member of the Boston College/Wall Street Council as well as the Cornerstone Program at St. Elizabeth's Church.

Brian and his wife Jennifer live in Wyckoff, New Jersey with their four daughters Ella (12), Madeline (11), Grace (11) and Scarlett (4).

**Come join us at 12pm to meet and talk to fellow members and listen to the great AU Orchestra**

### **MEMBERSHIP DUES**

**Your Membership dues of \$50.00, for 2019 are PAST DUE (December 31, 2018).** This is the last month in which you can maintain your membership in AU. Please send in your check, today, for \$50.00 payable to "Activities Unlimited" to: **Douglas Cooper**, 15 David Alan Way, Montville, NJ 07045. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call me at 908-907-1112.

### NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We hope all of you are enjoying our typical New Jersey winter and not envious of our fellow members in Florida who are probably not wearing a winter coat. It will get warm soon, it usually does!

The Board has been busy with some initiatives and we want to share them with you. ***The Board has been concerned with the attendance at monthly meetings and is proposing a time and location change on a trial basis.*** We sent out an email questionnaire a few weeks ago relating to this proposal and have received 95 responses to date. The response is mixed with almost 60% voting in favor of a 2-month trial. For those who have not responded or do not have email the following is the question: Please read it and respond with your opinion.

*The question we ask you to respond to is:*

*Would you attend the monthly business meeting if it were to begin at 10 am and finish by 11:30 so that the afternoon is freed up? The meeting would need to be in the Church Sanctuary. We propose this change on a test basis only for one or two meetings,*

*Please reply: Yes or No directly to me, Joe Pullaro, at [josephpullaro@hotmail.com](mailto:josephpullaro@hotmail.com), or call at 201-337-0018*

#### **New Members**

New members allow Activities Unlimited to grow and flourish. We encourage everyone to talk to their friends and acquaintances about the benefits of joining our great organization. When you bring a new member to a General Meeting to sign up, introduce them to members that you know. Afterward volunteer to take them to the next General Meeting and to clubs you are in and they may be interested in. We want to insure that new members have an easy and comfortable break-in period and get full enjoyment of the benefits of our clubs.

Hope to see all of you at our meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Joe Pullaro**, President,  
201-337-0018

[josephpullaro@hotmail.com](mailto:josephpullaro@hotmail.com)

# ACTIVITIES UNLIMITED

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



### 2019 OFFICERS



**Joe Pullaro**  
President  
201-337-0018



**Vincent Tortorelli**  
1st Vice President  
201-447-3718



**Bob Dauer**  
2nd Vice President  
201-327-9247



**Dave Voehl**  
Secretary  
973-227-6981



**Doug Cooper**  
Treasurer  
908-907-1112



**Jeff Mohn**  
Asst. Treas.  
201-261-1219

COMMITTEES & CLUBS			
GROUP	CONTACT	PHONE	MEETING
AU Guys Band	John DeSantis	201-447-0256	
Book Club	Vince Tortorelli Joe Clinton	201-447-3718 201-447-2261	4th Wed. 9:30
Dup. Bridge	ED Foldessy	201-327-5767	Wed 1 pm Larkin House
Rub. Bridge	Bob Mulligan Dave Kampschmidt	201-447-8837 201-405-2043	M,F 1:00 pm Franklin Lakes Ambulance Building
Care-Concern	Doug Cooper Paul Hennion	908-907-1112 201-891-4716	
Chaplain	Rev Andy Kadzban	201-485-8589	
Computer	Don Kirkpatrick Ed Schlachman Fred Theile	201-337-5666 973-423-1459 201-825-7541	3rd Wed. 10:00
Gardening	Joe Lamela Rick Sneyers	201-327-8137 973-248-6625	1st Wed.10:00
Golf	Bill Bryne Jim Webb	201-447-5064 201337-7982	Thursday
Hiking	Long Don Kirkpatrick Rick Sneyers	201-337-5666 973-248-6625	Mon 9:00
	Short Fred Theile	201-981-1801	Mon 9:30 WRC
Historian	Victor Pizzolato	201-612-0038	
History	Pablo Catangay Tony Mastandrea	201-684-1217 201-327-8832	4th Monday 1:00 pm
Investment	Al Connelly	973-616-0755	Thru after the AU General Meeting 9:30
Luncheon	John Abrahamsen Mark Cohen	201-848-8037 201-337-4198	

COMMITTEES & CLUBS			
GROUP	CONTACT	PHONE	MEETING
Membership	Walt Widmer Dick Hensch	201-562-8666 201-891-1309	
Newsletter	Lou Guarneri Dick Hensch	201-847-1981 201-891-1309	
Pickleball	Tim Tracy	201-560-8911	Tues,& Thus. 9:00 am.
Project Outreach	Marty McGonigle Joe Pullaro	201-529-1941 201-337-0018	
Photography	Murry Perl Sam Ohan	201-261-7276 201-825-0437	1st Tuesday 10:00 am
Public Disc.	Walt Widmer Tom Butler	201-562-8666 201-934-8161	2nd Wednesday 9:30 am
Refreshments	Jim Forbes John Gannaway	201-825-0523 201-485-7881	
Science	Jack Yurasek	201-337-4433	3rd Tuesday 10.00 am
Skiing	Bud Brooks Jack Yurasek	201-327-6649 201-337-4433	Snow
Sponsor Liaison	Jim Mallen	201-485-8589	
Stock Market	Mark Cohen John Abrahamsen	201-337-4198 201-848-8037	2nd Tues. 9:00 am 4th Tues. 9:00 am
Tennis	Dave Burleigh Bob Meyers	201-762-3707 310-254-8699	M,W,F
Transport.	Frank Nusspickel	201-891-9099	
Trips/Tours	John Caikowsky Don Wasson	973-599-1056 201-891-1873	Morning of AU General Meeting 10:30 am
Web-Master	Don Kirkpatrick	201-337-5666	

**P**lease remember that WRC is a smoke-free environment. **This includes E-Cigarettes.**

**A**t the **Jan** meeting \$115 was collected for the Wyckoff Reformed Church Food Pantry.

**T**he deadline for March 2019 Newsletter articles is 5 PM, Sunday, February 24, 2019. When submitting articles, please use font: Times New Roman 11 pt. (not bold). Email: [lguarneri03@gmail.com](mailto:lguarneri03@gmail.com) and [jrhensch62@gmail.com](mailto:jrhensch62@gmail.com) or mail to: **Lou Guarneri**, 128 MacLeish Court, Mahwah, NJ 07430

## **Trips, Tours & Special Events Calendar**

**Checks for these events, payable to Activities Unlimited accepted at the monthly meeting. Sign up sheets are nice, but money talks. Get your check in ASAP, don't wait 'til it's too late.**

### **Wednesday, March 13, 2019 St. Patrick's Day at the Brownstone**

#### ***ACE IN THE HOLE PRESENTS MY WILD IRISH ROSE***

Well it's that time of year again when the Irish spirit captures your heart!! And what better way than a sweet Irish Colleen to steal yours. Award winning movie actress and singing sensation Ryan Kelly will sing some of your Irish favorites and get you feeling the joy of St. Patrick's Day! Enjoy comedian, Dale Grand Esq. and bagpiper Brendon Rigler. Family Style Menu: 2 complimentary drinks, warm rolls, fresh salad, Irish pea soup, corned beef & cabbage, roasted chicken, Irish soda bread, baked potatoes, buttered carrots, deserts, coffee, tea. Free soda on the table all day. The event is at the Brownstone, 351 W. Broadway, Paterson, NJ. It starts at 11:30 am and lasts until 3:30 pm. Wives/Significant others are invited. Cost: \$52.00pp including tip. Mail check made payable to ACTIVITIES UNLIMITED to: **Bob LaSalvia**, 80 Glasgow Terrace, Mahwah, NJ 07430. Questions, call Bob 201-529-4784

### **Thursday, April 11, 2019 Cherry Blossom Time in Newark**

Join us for a trip though Branch Brook Park where our guide will delve into the history of the park and its extensive collection of Cherry Trees. After the park tour we will visit The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Then on to Don Pepe's for lunch. Should be easy trip with little walking. Enjoy soup or salad, your choice of Paella, Chicken or NY Shell Steak and dessert; Wine, Sangria, Beer and Soda is included during Lunch. The bus will leave WRC at 9:30 am. Wives/significant others are invited. Mail your check for \$70 pp payable to Activities Unlimited to: **Louis Guarneri**, 128 MacLeish Court, Mahwah, NJ 07430. Questions, call Lou (201-847-1981)

### **Tuesday, May 14, 2019 Annual Spring Luncheon/Dance at Indian Trail Club, Franklin Lakes, N.J.**

Doors open at 12:00 noon. Buffet lunch served at 12:30pm. Music by the AU Guys Band. Please sign up as early as possible so we can set the number of tables required. The price, **\$27.00 per person**. Wives/significant others are invited. Make checks out to Activities Unlimited and mail to: **Bob Dauer**, 15 Birchwood Lane, Ramsey, NJ 07446. Any questions contact Bob at 201-327-9247 or bobdauer@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you there.

### **June — Lake Hopatcong**

### **July — High Point**

## Welcome New Members

Name (Spouse)	Address	Employment	Interests	Phone/Email
Ernest A Barnaris (Patricia)	706 Peppercorn Lane Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417	Attorney	Computers, Golf, Hiking Long, History Club, In- vestments, Luncheon and Stock Club	Home: 201-891-2839 Email: eabarnaris@gmail.com
Robert Glassman (Sharon)	55 Morley Drive Wyckoff, NJ 07481-3322	Chemist	Bridge Social & Duplicate, Gardening Club, Lunch- eon, Photography, Pickle Ball, Science and Tennis	Home: 646-675-5249 Email: robertglassman824@gmail.com
Robert C Heimburg (Linda)	7 Spruce Terrace Wayne, NJ 07470	Sr Engineer Con Ed	Book Club, Hiking short, Gardening Club, Golf, Science and Trips & Tours	Home: 973-896-9541 Email: heimburgr@yahoo.com
Lou A D'Ambrosio (Maureen)	1402 Whitney Lane Allendale, NJ 07401	Manager IBM	Investment, Newsletter and Trips & Tours	Home: 919-624-4243 Email: loutonyd@aol.com
Lou Lever (Paulyne)	162 Wayfair Circle Wyckoff, NJ 07481	Self Employed	AU Guys Band, Book Club, Hiking Short & Long, Discussion Club, Gardening Club, History Club and Science	Home: 201-891-7942 Email: lplever@verizon.net

## Obituary

It is sad to report that AU member **Sam Cassell** passed away on January 7, 2019 in the early morning. Sam joined AU in 2006.



## The Bridge Club

		1st	2nd	3rd
1/2	NS	Freimuth/ MacDougall	Lewis/Smith	Anand/Foldessy
	EW	Groesbeck/Peck	Desrosiers/Warner	Altamuro/Page
1/9	NS	Milcos/Page	Bartlett/Bidwell	Freimuth/Smith
	EW	Anand/Barbera	Meloro/Peck/Spence	Desrosiers/Groesbeck
1/23	NS	Anand/Milcos	Desrosiers/Foldessy/ Yampell	Groesbeck/Levin
	EW	Altamuro/Martin	Page/Rock Warner/Zelhof	—







## The Book Club

*The Race to Save the Romanovs* by Helen Rapaport, summarized by **Vince Tortorelli**, is the complex story of the fall, imprisonment and ultimate massacre of Tsar Nicholas II of Russia and his family in 1917 and the various attempts by various monarch families and governments in Europe to offer asylum in their countries. As her narrative unfolds Rapaport makes it fairly clear that all these efforts were doomed to failure. Though some desire was probably there because of family connections (the Tsarina Alix was the granddaughter of Queen Victoria of England and born into the Hesse family of Germany and cousin of Kaiser Wilhelm) the author states there were too many obstacles to overcome – tangled political alliances, poor communication facilities, impossible logistics as well as the existence of World War I and the developing Russian revolution. The book tracks the path the family is taken, first from the royal palace, then to western Siberia and finally to a secluded city in the Ural Mountains as the Bolsheviks grew concerned that monarchists were planning to free the family. At the end she even believes the Tsar would have never really left Russia if given the opportunity because of his abiding love of the country and the people, despite all the desperation, starvation, and his seeming lack of awareness of such conditions in the country during his reign. It is a well researched book by the noted Russian specialist and historian.

*Janesville: An American Story* by Amy Goldstein, reviewed by **Marty Valerio**, starts with the closing in 2008 of the nation's oldest General Motors assembly plant, started in 1923 in Janesville, Wisconsin. It then tracks the dire consequences that decision had on the town over the next few years, as people and families were faced with joblessness after generations of presumed lifetime jobs and secure pensions. It focuses on a few individuals and families as they tried to pick up the pieces, seek other employment, as well as enroll in a local community college to re-educate themselves in hopes of starting new careers, which too often proved unsuccessful. Others with some seniority were able to obtain positions in other GM plants hundreds of miles away in order to hopefully maintain employment long enough to retire with a pension, travelling home every weekend. The work is more than the story of a shuttered workplace and its aftermath; it is also a sorrowful human interest story.

### Books for February

*Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley

*The Point of It All* by Charles Krauthammer

*Surely You're Joking Mr. Feynman* by Richard Feynman

### Books for March

*The Price of Love and Other Short Stories*

by Peter Robinson

*Educated* by Tara Westover

*5 Days In London* by John Lukacs



## The Science Club

At the January meeting, **Murray Perl** completed his presentation "Food and Nutrition-Facts Fallacies and Frauds", which discusses foods we eat each meal-time (breakfast, lunch, and dinner). His talk was exceptional.

We also reviewed the Questionnaire submitted in September, where it was noted that it is extremely difficult and time consuming for an individual person to produce an hour long presentation. The consensus was that several shorter presentations at each meeting would be desirable. It was also requested that we review material from previous meetings and other available information (talks, DVDs, videos, etc.) that might be of interest and to discuss them at the February meeting.

The plan for the February meeting (Feb19, Tuesday 10 AM) is to view an outstanding video "The Beginning and the End of the Universe" by Professor Jim Al-Khalili. This video, primarily about astronomy, is available on Netflix and You-Tube. There are additional videos available on You-Tube by Al-Kahili (on topics like Atoms, Biology, and Quantum Reality), as well as others by Professor Brian Greene of Columbia ("The "B" Theory of Time") which could be of interest at future meetings.

A Car Pool trip to the American Museum of Natural History in NY in March (weather permitting) is being considered (drivers are needed- parking is available in the basement of the Museum, with Lunch in one of the several cafeterias). The Senior Ticket includes the Planetarium, and an IMAX, as well as all of the permanent exhibitions,

Thanks again to those whose gave talks this past year. We are always trying to have additional people make presentations, and suggestions to improve our group are always welcome.

**Jack Yurasek** (201-337-4433) Email--Jyurasek@aol.com



## Public Discussion Group

The group began its new year by sharing comments on the President's recent national address on immigration. Most participants felt there were no new facts revealed, but that the speech did highlight concerns over illegal immigration. The description of a "national emergency" was somewhat discredited by a review of some facts, which noted that illegal immigration had peaked in FY 2000 with 1.6 million arrests and were an average of 413 thousand under Obama. In FY 2018 arrests amounted to 396,579. It was also noted that visa overstays constitute the majority of illegals. What has complicated the situation on the border is the dramatic increase in the number of parents and families and unaccompanied children trying to enter the country. Also, the number of asylum seekers has increased tremendously and overwhelmed the capacity of the system to process them. Among the group there was broad support for the DACA group, most of whom had no ties to the country of their parents. While the group had no clear agreement on a solution, there was unanimity around the need for Congress to "get its act together" and address the problem.

The group next turned to "Gen Z", those born following the Millennials in the early 1990's into the 2000's. There was no clear consensus about how to define this demographic group, but a number of characteristics were offered. Gen Z has a sense of entitlement, as if the world owes them. Some members attributed this to a failure to instill competitiveness in youngsters, awarding prizes to everyone whether winning or losing. Just participating was enough to get a reward. It is true that a larger number of Gen Z live at home and are dependent at least in part on parental support, there are also many individuals in this group who are working long hours and earning big salaries. In addition, surveys suggest that this group is very open and inclusive-the opposite of selfish and self-centered. Some commented that parents had made similar remarks about them as "baby boomers" and that our perceptions might simply reflect the fact that the world changes and those changes can often seem uncomfortable. It was an interesting discussion with many points of view.

We then turned to the issue of automation and AI and their impact on jobs. The basic take-away was that the need for labor to perform routine work and even managerial work will decline at an accelerating rate. The job decline, even as new work might be created, will require a fresh look at our market economy. The historic role of labor in production and productivity will eventually vanish, while the output will likely increase. The big problem will then be not the allocation of resources, but the allocation of output/revenues. The distant future may hold the likelihood of "all play and no work."

As a final topic we discussed the objectivity of the "news." The conclusion was that objectivity is rare as news has become a highly commercial enterprise dependent on attracting the maximum number of viewers. Although "dog bites man" was never big news, it now seems that every event becomes a "breaking news report" of "man bites dog" proportions. The rise of social networks and 24 hour news have combined to exaggerate from simple weather events, like snow storms to comments from politicians that are transformed into "sound bites" generally taken out of context. All that seems to matter is creating enough controversy to grow the viewership and thereby the advertising revenue. Although there is no solution, it was suggested that we could all pay closer attention to our own biases when reading or viewing the news.

The Discussion Group will next meet on February 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 at the Larkin House. Topics will be: China's treatment of minorities; the relationship between China and the US (Does China pose an existential threat to the USA?); and what are the major threats facing the US, today and in the near future? All members are welcome.

**Tom Butler**



## The History Club



The topic of presentation was "Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin- the New Russian Tsar." The narrative opened with the accounts of Putin's early life who was born in Leningrad to a very poor family, his childhood, education and training as KGB agent. He was assigned as KGB counter-intelligence agent in Dresden, East Germany and witnessed the fall of Berlin wall in 1989. With the demise of Soviet Union in 1991- he declared that it was greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the 20th century. The presentation continued on discussing his rapid ascension into political power. After 4 years of joining President Boris Yeltsin's administration, his rise through the ranks was remarkable: Chief of Presidential Staff, Chief of FSB (predecessor of KGB) and finally Prime Minister of the Russian Federation in 1998. On December 31, 1999, President Yeltsin abruptly resigned and appointed Vladimir Putin as his successor. He was elected twice to a four-year term totaling 8 years.

In the beginning of his early presidency, he embraced capitalism, business, some "democratic reforms" and improvement of peoples living condition. Following 9/11, he provided early support to the United States on "war on terror." He talked about Russians as Europeans, share history with Europe and would like to align with the West including membership in NATO. What did the US and the West do in return?

President George W. Bush unilaterally withdraw from the 1972 Anti-Missile treaty, we expanded NATO into Eastern Europe, and encouraged the former constituents Soviet Republic to join as well.

Putin considered these situations as disrespect and insult to him and the Russian people. As the Prime Minister, he took personal charge of the second Chechnya war in 1999 and also invaded Georgia in 2008, the first war in Europe in the 21th century.

The Russian Federation constitution was amended in 2012 so he was able to run again; the president's term of office was raised from 4 to 6 years. He was re-elected in 2012, and according to international observers, election was rigged, oppositions were cracked down and the media/journalist were censored, threatened and some were arrested and put to prison. Putin blamed the West, foreign agents and blamed Hillary Clinton as well as instigator. Putin show-cased Russia in the Sochi Winter Olympic from February 7 to 23 at a cost of \$51 billion dollars, the most expensive ever spent on an Olympic event. While the Olympic event was going on, the Ukrainian Euromaidan Revolution or Revolution Dignity started and few days later and Crimea was annexed to the Russian Federation by Putin. Then the war in Eastern Ukraine started by the Ukrainian separatists backed by Russia, with Russian soldiers penetrating into the Ukrainian territory. The ceasefire was established on February 15, 2015. Putin was re-elected for another term of 6 years on March 18, 2018 with 77% of the vote. By the time Putin's term expire on 2024, he will have a 20 years term as president and 5 years as Prime Minister with total of 25 years. Joseph Stalin ruled the USSR for 24 years. Putin is authoritarian/dictator and the richest man in the world with net worth of \$200 billion dollars. From 2014-17, Forbes magazine ranked him the most powerful man in the world. Will Vladimir Putin restore Russia to the old glory, the "Imperial Destiny?" Communism- I do not believe so, because communism is a dead ideology. Stay tune!!!!



**T**HE AUTHOR IS NOT KNOWN. IT WAS FOUND IN THE BILLFOLD OF COACH PAUL "BEAR" BRYANT, ALABAMA, AFTER HE DIED IN 1982

The Magic Bank Account:

Imagine that you had won the following "PRIZE" in a contest: Each morning your bank would deposit \$86,400 in your private account for your use.

However, this prize has Rules:

1. Everything that you didn't spend during each day would be taken away from you.
2. You may not simply transfer money into some other account.
3. You may only spend It.
4. Each morning upon awakening, the bank opens your account with another \$86,400 for that Day.
5. The bank can end the game without warning; at any time, it can say, "Game Over!" It can close the account and you will not receive a new one.

What would you personally do?

You would buy anything and everything you wanted, right? Not only for yourself, but for all the people you love and care for. Even for people you don't know, because you couldn't possibly spend it all on yourself, right?

You would try to spend every penny, and use it all, because you knew it would be replenished in the morning, right?

**ACTUALLY, This GAME is REAL...Shocked ??? YES!**

Each of us is already a winner Of this "PRIZE." We just can't seem to see it. The PRIZE is...TIME

1. Each morning we awaken to receive 86,400 seconds...As a gift of Life.
2. And when we go to sleep at night, any remaining time is not credited to us.
3. What we haven't used up that day is forever lost.
4. Yesterday is forever gone.
5. Each morning the account is refilled, but the bank can dissolve your account at any time WITHOUT WARNING... SO, what will YOU do...with your 86,400 seconds?

Those seconds are worth so much more than the same amount in dollars. Think about it and remember to enjoy every second of your life, because time races by so much quicker than You think. So take care of yourself, be happy, love deeply and enjoy life!

Here's wishing you a wonderful and beautiful day. Start spending....

**"DON'T COMPLAIN ABOUT GROWING OLD...!"**

**SOME PEOPLE DON'T GET THE PRIVILEGE!**