

Activities Unlimited

Volume XXXVI Issue XII

March, 2023

Activities Unlimited General Meeting Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 2:00pm Wyckoff Reformed Church, Heneveld Hall 580 Wyckoff Ave., NJ 07481

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

General Meeting Guest Speaker:

Our guest speaker for the March 14 AU General Meeting will be Dr. Allison Hughs, Audiologist. Allison received a Bachelors Degree in Psychology from Fairfield University, a Masters in Audiology from Northwestern University and her Au.D. in Audiology from Pennsylvania College of Optometry. Allison is licensed as an Audiologist Allison will discuss improving communication through amplification and aural rehabilitation in adult populations. She

Obituaries:

-**John Aloysius Plunkett, Jr.**, (93) passed away on February 21. (See page 12 for full obituary).

- **Jack Di Piazza** (96) passed away on February 9 (See page 13 for full obituary).

-**Rosemarie Widmer** (92) passed away on February 14. (see page 14 for full obit)

This has been an exceptionally mild winter. Perhaps this and our continued recovery from COVID has contributed to continued growth of face-to-face attendance at our general meeting and many club meetings. Whatever the reason, it is good to see a strong return to the fellowship that is a core goal of Activities Unlimited.

Please be reminded that the grace period for payment of 2023 dues expired on February 28. If you have not renewed your membership, attendance at our club activities will not be permitted.

As announced at our last General Meeting, Don Kirkpatrick will be stepping down from his Chairmanship of the Computer Club and our Website support after the next Computer Club meeting at the VFW on March 28th. We are all grateful for his more than ten years of service to these vital parts of our organization. Don will continue to devote his efforts to leading our Long Hiking Club. I am also thankful that John Abrahamson will assume the leadership role for the Computer Club, along with Fred Theile, beginning with the April meeting. Watch for some changes in the format and meeting schedule. In the midst of these changes, we will correct the synchronizing of meeting date, time and location information between Marty Valerio's biweekly announcements, Club Announcements, and the Website Calendar. I apologize for confusion some of you may have experienced.

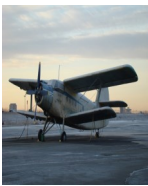
(President's Note is continued on Page 2)

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.

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT (continued)

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.

Finally, John Caikowsky, as Chair of T & T, has connected with Midland Park Continuing Education to make all MPCE events open to all AU members. This is exciting news for AU.



Trips & Tours



2023 events being planned:

March

Regretfully, due to last minute cancellations by other groups, Jersey Dreamers have canceled our March 8 luncheon. Happily, however, we have booked with the Jersey Dreamers the Elvis-inspired "Viva Las Vegas" show on March 30. The luncheon on March 30 will have the same menu, time (11am-3pm) and price (\$58pp) as the March 8 event.

If you have already paid and will attend the March 30 event, nothing more needs to be done. If you have not already paid, please send your check in the amount of \$58.00pp (tip included in this price). Checks to be received **NO LATER THAN Monday, March 27, 2023**. Please include your cell phone number on your check. Send to **Bob LaSalvia**, 80 Glasgow Terrace, Mahwah, NJ 07430. 201-529-4784

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR:

The Spring Luncheon will be held on **May 9th** at the Indian Trail Club in Franklin Lakes. More details will follow in the April Newsletter.

June— A repeat of the highly successful summer picnic at the Wyckoff YMCA.

September — AU Social.

October — Annual breakfast / General meeting at the Brick House (Spouses welcome).

December — AU Christmas Dinner / Dance.



Trips & Tours (Continued)



As noted in Harry's "President Note" above, John Caikowsky 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 (\$149.00),
- The Bronx You Never Knew (\$125.00),
- Longwood Gardens (\$89.00)
- The Immigrant Experience - NYC (\$99.00)
- Essex Steam Train & Riverboat Cruise, Conn (\$140.00).

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.

Current Month Club Activities

Computer Tech. Club

The next Computer Club meeting will be on March 28 at 10:00am It will be zoom and in person at the VFW in Midland Park. John Abrahamson will be taking over as Chairman of the Computer Club in April.

History Club

The History Club meeting is on March 28 at 1 PM. The speaker is Murray Perl. The topic of his presentation: "The USS Liberty Incident: The Day Israel Attacked the United States." During the Six-Day War in 1967, Israel attacked and nearly sank the USS Liberty, a ship belonging to its closest ally, the United States. Thirty-four sailors were killed

Public Discussion Club

The Discussion Club will meet on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 10:00 am at the OEM Bldg., Municipal Complex, Franklin Ave., Franklin Lakes, NJ. Topics:

1. Global population growth. How does this impact the USA?
2. How can we ensure Medicare/Social Security will survive?
3. There is a lot of debate about "Globalism." What are the pros and cons for the US?

Trips & Tours

The March 8 luncheon has been canceled and replaced by a "Viva Las Vegas" luncheon on March 30 (see page 2 of the Newsletter for details).
The next meeting of T & T will be March 14, 2023 at the Midland Park VFW at 9:30.AM. All AU members are encouraged to join T&T and to provide ideas for future Trips. & Tours.
If you would like to join T&T, please contact **John Caikowsky** at: johncaikowsky@optonline.net or 973-599-1056

Investment Study Club

The Investment Study Group will meet at 12:30PM Wednesday March 15 at the VFW in Midland Park. **Lunch will be served!** The topic is "Managing Your Retirement Income." Guest Speakers will be Russell Grimm, Edward Jones, and Tom Toomey, Vice President JP Morgan. If you are interested in attending please RSVP to: dennis.labarbera@yahoo.com.
Club Chair is Dennis LaBarbera: 201-391-0471 or email at dennis.labarbera@yahoo.com.

Science Club

The February 21 meeting was a presentation by AU member Gaspar Lesznik, truly a Master Blacksmith. (See page 8 of the newsletter)
If you have any questions, about the Science Club please contact:
Jack Yurasek: 201-314-0258 , yurasek@aol.com

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

[CLICK HERE](#) to go to the page providing information on each club.

<https://auclubwyckoffnj.com/AUclubsPage.html>

Welcome New Members

Name(Spouse)	Address	Interests	Phones/Email/(Occupation)
Joseph P Arahill (Elizabeth)	60 Barrett Lane Wyckoff, NJ 07481	Short Hikers, Computer, Golf, Luncheon, Bocce	H: 201-891-1885 C: 201-723-4126 joe.arahill1954@gmail.com (IT Consulting)
Edward M Kelly (Kathleen)	19 Junard Dr. Morristown, NJ 07960	Short Hikers, Hiking Long, History, Investment, Pickle Ball, Trips & Tours	H: 973-538-5829 traumaramak@aol.com (Lawyer)
Donald J Hayek (Anindyarl)	727 Kennedy Ct. Wyckoff, NJ 07481	Bridge, Care & Concern, Short Hikers, Gardening, Pro- ject Outreach, Pickle Ball, Tennis, Trips & Tours	H: 201-891-8190 donald.hayek@gmail.com (Banking)
James E McKeown (Teresita)	131 Vreeland Ct Mahwah, NJ 07430	Book, Discussion, History, Luncheon	H: 201-327-3411 C: 201-446-6264 jimmckeown@optonline.net (Self-Employed)

Don Kirkpatrick's 86 Birthday Party was held at Portabello in Oakland. He was surrounded by his Long and Short Hiker friends.



Annual AU Bridge Christmas Luncheon at Ossy's Restaurant in Hawthone



February 21st Science Club Presentation by AU member Gaspar Lesznik — Truly a Master Blacksmith



A terrific exciting and educational presentation by Gaspar Lesznik, an artist, blacksmith and engineer! Gaspar shared his expertise on being a professional blacksmith, right here in Wyckoff. He demonstrated skills from working raw steel, to

The Short Hikers Club on top of Campgaw Ski Area on February 6



On February 13th, the **Short Hikers** hiked 3.3 miles under the George Washington Bridge along the Hudson River down to Edgewater. Then they had lunch at Dino's Restaurant in Edgewater. The hike ended with a walk around George Washington Park in Fort Lee with a view of Bridge from the top! All in all a beautiful and fun day!!



Activities Unlimited Newsletter Appendix

On the Lighter Side

Things to Ponder As You Age

The inventor of the treadmill died at the age of 54 .
The originator of gymnastics died at the age of 57.
The past world bodybuilding champion died at the age of 41.
The best soccer player in history, Maradona, died at the age of 60 .

And then . . .

KFC inventor died at 94.

Inventor of Nutella brand died at the age of 88.

Cigarette maker Winston died at the age of 102 .

The inventor of opium died at the age of 116 in an earthquake.

Hennessy cognac, Irish inventor died at 98.

How did doctors come to the conclusion that exercise prolongs life?

The rabbit is always jumping, but it lives for only 2 years.

The turtle that doesn't exercise at all, lives 400 years.

So . . .

Have a drink,

Take a nap,

And if you wake up, have bacon and eggs.

Activities Unlimited Newsletter

Obituary

John Aloysius Plunkett, Jr., (93) passed away on February 21. A native of Niagara Falls, NY, John was the eldest child of John Aloysius Plunkett and Mildred Green. He served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict and was honored for his service as Grand Marshall of the 2022 Wyckoff Memorial Day parade. He attended Ohio Wesleyan University '54, where he met his future wife, Evelyn Colbeth '52 of Ridgewood. John was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi. Shortly after graduation, John and Evelyn were married at Mt. Carmel R.C. Church, Ridgewood, in June 1954. They lived in Midland Park before moving to Wyckoff in 1963.

John worked for Grief Bros. Container Corporation for 42 years, rising to the position of District Sales Manager of the New York/Metro area before his retirement in 1995. During these years, he volunteered as a Boy Scout troop leader and baseball coach, as well as served on the Wyckoff Board of Education, Planning Board, and Board of Health. In his retirement years, he volunteered at the Valley Hospital, and for the Board of Elections, enjoyed his time as member of the Ridgewood Gilbert and Sullivan stage crew, and was an active member of the Trips and Tours Club within Activities Unlimited, John and Evelyn also traveled extensively through the United States and Europe.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his brother, Robert F. Plunkett; his children, Susan Plunkett Fasano, John E. (Julia) Plunkett, and James T. (Michelle) Plunkett; grandchildren Patricia (Joseph Schiraldi) Fasano, Joseph (Victoria) Fasano, John S.B. Plunkett, Kevin Plunkett, Joshua Stone, Brianne Stone, Matthew (Samantha) Jobin, Ashleigh (Jeremy) Andrews and seven great-grandchildren.

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Obituary

James T. “Jack” DiPiazza, 96 of Pompton Plains, formerly of Wyckoff, passed away on February 9, 2023 with his wife of 67 years, Lila, at his side. He was loved and respected as a man devoted to his family and his faith.

Jack was born and raised in Garfield, NJ. Industrious from the start, while a student he worked at the Garfield YMCA. Among his fondest memories were those of the Garfield Pioneers, a basketball team formed by boys from the Y who remained lifetime friends.

Growing up, the house in Garfield was filled with music. At age ten Jack began playing the bugle and soon a battered old trumpet purchased from an uncle who played professionally and gave Jack lessons. He played throughout his life, including college, then with “Phil Krop and his Knights of Rhythm” to earn extra money as a young man, and much later as a member of the “AU Guys.”

Jack was a graduate of Virginia Tech University and proud to be a “Hokie.” When Jack attended Virginia Tech it was a military school. His time in college was interrupted by a stint in the Merchant Marines serving on the crew of ships delivering airplane fuel to Allied forces during World War II. Jack worked in the engine rooms of tankers traveling in convoys that were hunted by enemy submarines, first in the Atlantic Ocean and later the Pacific.

After completing his Army service, Jack shifted gears and accepted a position with Esso Research and Engineering in Linden, N.J. His successful 30-year career with what became Exxon included roles in research and new product development, as well as sales leadership roles serving major accounts.

Once Jack retired from Exxon he and Lila traveled to Europe and spent many happy summers at their vacation home on Long Beach Island. They loved when their children and grandchildren vacationed with them. Jack was a golf enthusiast and enjoyed many rounds of golf with his Activities Unlimited friends. He also continued to play the trumpet into his early nineties.

Jack and his family lived for more than 55 years in Wyckoff, where he was a devoted parishioner of the Church of Saint Elizabeth. Jack is survived by his wife Lila; their five children: David DiPiazza (Debbie) of Ramsey, NJ, Paul DiPiazza (Patricia) of Silver Spring, MD, Carl DiPiazza (Lori) of Montville, NJ, Lisa Potash (Tom) of Oakland, NJ, and Thomas DiPiazza of Woodcliff Lake, NJ, fourteen grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

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Obituary

Rosemarie Widmer (nee Hartkopf) (wife of AU Member **Walter Widmer**) passed away on February 14 at Brighton Gardens hospice in Saddle River, NJ. Rosie was born in Duisburg, Germany on August 16, 1939. Shortly thereafter, she, her mother and older sister joined her father in the US, eventually residing in Ridgewood. In 1960 she married Walter H. Widmer and moved to an apartment in Bergenfield.

Rosie worked as a lab technician at Englewood Hospital until she had her children. Rosie and Walter raised their daughters in Upper Saddle River choosing to move to Allendale nearly 20 years ago. Rosie loved the Opera and Placido Domingo in particular. She was also a regular supporter of WQXR classical public radio. She was an active bird watcher who traveled far and wide to see those special birds. She also enjoyed birding spots closer to home like the Celery Farm in Allendale, Hawk Mountain in PA, Brigantine Nature Preserve and especially Cape May Bird Observatory in NJ. She was an active and involved participant in many a hawk watch in Cape May and loved nothing more than being on the platform counting the hawks as they migrated in the fall.

Rosie leaves her husband Walter of 62 years, two daughters, Leslie Widmer Woodworth and Susan Widmer Ellis, their husbands, Alan Woodworth and Brad Ellis and 6 grandchildren, Sarah, David and Patricia Woodworth and Andrew, Sydney and Paige Ellis. Rosie was a loving and supportive mother who always encouraged her daughters to do more and go beyond the constraints of the day, and she was very proud of all her grandchildren.