Volume XXXXVIII, Issue XII

December, 2023

Activities Unlimited
December General Meeting
Tuesday December 12, 2:00pm
Heneveld Hall, 580 Wyckoff Ave.,
Wyckoff, NJ 07481

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT DECEMBER IS THE CLOSE OF OUR YEAR

As 2023 is ending, I look forward to our Christmas Dinner Dance and the installation of our new officers for 2024. Welcome to Jim Atieh as our new president and to Gaspar Lesznik and Scott Japko who are new members joining the Executive Board. Many thanks are extended to Mark Cohen who will be leaving the Board after 7 years of service.

Important leadership changes include Joe Pullaro assuming leadership of the History Club from Pablo Catangay and Jim Webb assuming leadership of the Membership Committee from Dave Voehl.

It has indeed been a pleasure serving as your president for 2023. I wish to thank you all for the confidence and support you have given me and the rest of the Board, Committees and Club Chairmen throughout the year. It has been an exciting and challenging year. Attendance at events and club meetings has risen sharply following COVID interruptions during 2022. At least one new club, The Safe Shooting Club, has been formed with more in the planning. Marty Valerio, Tom Van Lenten, and Mike Kelley have led the Board through a review and update of our Constitution and By-Laws which you approved at our November meeting. A review and update of our Policies, Practices and Procedures is almost complete. The May Luncheon and October Breakfast were great successes. The 2nd June BBQ was strongly attended in spite of smoke from Canadian wildfires polluting the air.

Although we had to raise dues for 2024 to \$60, our fiscal position is strong. We will continue to subsidize some of our major events to offset the challenge of inflation on some of our major events. We will be moving our May Luncheon from Indian Trail Club to Portobello in Oakland in 2024 to avoid major cost increases and maintain a reasonable charge to our members. This year, I am pleased to welcome 22 new members to Activities Unlimited. At the same time, we all mourn the loss of 7 members who have passed away in 2023.

I wish all of you and your families a safe, and joyful Holiday Season and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Harry Bennett

President

December 12 General Meeting Guest Speaker: Jack Warner, AU Member

If you love music...if you love movies...if you love Italian culture...then you won't want to miss our December General Meeting because we'll be celebrating all three. Our program is called..." Musica Del Cinema Italiano"...which means "Music from Italian Films." And if you attend, you'll experience the remarkable music of Italy's two greatest film composers—Nino Rota and Ennio Morricone—who composed and conducted over 200 of the greatest film scores ever written. You'll not only hear their music, you'll also see film clips from some of their

most acclaimed films—including:

- The Godfather
- The Mission
- The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly
- Cinema Paradiso
- Romeo & Juliet
- Once Upon a Time in America
- Death on the Nile
- The Hateful Eight
- And a selection of Fellini's greatest films.

Plus, you'll see and hear performances by Andrea Bocelli, Itzhak Pearlman and several more.

So please come...bring your wives and your lovers. After all...it's Italian!!!

ACTIVITIES UNLIMITED ANNUAL DUES

The Executive Board has approved annual dues of \$60.00 effective for 2024. Unfortunately due to inflation, significantly increasing costs, both for events and in AU operating costs, annual dues have been increased to \$60.00.

Mail checks payable to 'Activities Unlimited" & send to our Assistant Treasurer, Tony DiIorgi (113 Schindler Ct., Parsippany, NJ 07054). **Due no later than December 31, 2023.**



Trips & Tours







Upcoming events

January 16, 2024 — Tuesday. The beefsteak dinner will be held at the VFW in Midland Park (this is a corrected address NOT FL Ambulance Corps). Doors open at 6:00 pm and dinner is served at 6:30pm. Water and soda are included. This is a BYOB affair. If you want to drink anything other than water or soda bring it with you. Cost is \$50 pp. Menu: salad, all-you-can-eat Nightingale Beefsteak, french fries, ice cream sundae, and coffee.

Entertainment is by "The Magic of Marco". Marco is a professional close-up sleight of hand comedy magical entertainer.

Make checks payable to "Activities Unlimited" and mail to Jim Webb, 970 Pines Terrace, Franklin Lakes NJ 07417. There is a capacity limit at the VFW. This event may sell out. About one third of the seats are already committed. This is a Members Only event.

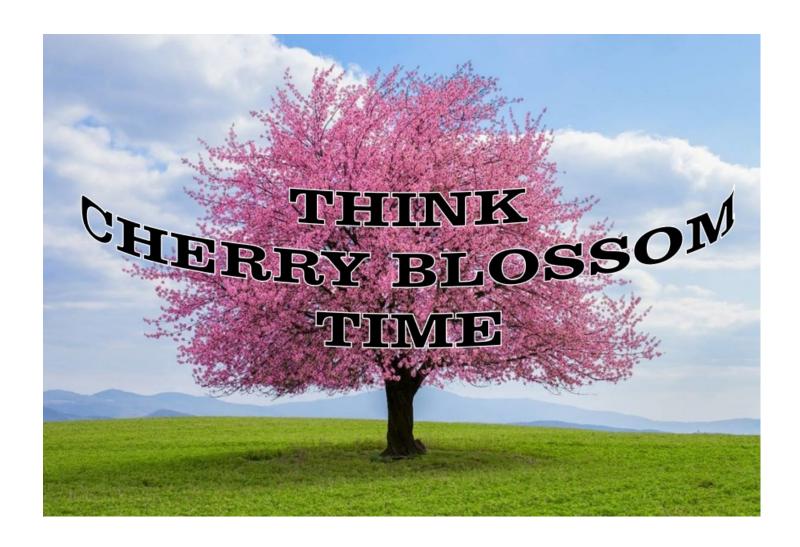
February 16, 2024 — T&T has arranged for a great evening of entertainment. We will be going to the Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown, NJ to hear the beautiful singing of six time Grammy Award music legend Dionne Warwick. This event is sold out, no more tickets are available.

March 13, 2024 — In celebration of St. Patrick's day we will be attending an Irish Cabaret staring Andy Cooney, Irish America's favorite son. Price is \$81pp. Price includes the show, full table served entree featuring corned beef and cabbage, unlimited desserts (Venetian table), coffee, tea, and gratuity. The venue is the Hunterton Hills Playhouse, at 88 Route 173W, Hampton, NJ 08827. Must arrive by 11:00am for seating,. Tickets are limited. Send your checks payable to "Activities Unlimited" to: John Caikowsky, 26 Donna Drive, East Hanover, NJ 07936. Email at: johncaikowsky@optonline.net; 973-599-1056.

Thursday April 11, 2024 — Branch Brook Park Cherry Blossoms, Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, and lunch at Don Pepe Restaurant. The bus will leave Wyckoff at 8:30am. On arrival at the park our guide will board the bus and take us through Branch Brook Park. Then a guided tour through the Basilica of the Sacred Heart Cathedral.

(continued on next page)

Finally, lunch at Don Pepe Restaurant. Lunch includes salad, choice of Seafood Paella, Wild Fish or NY Sirloin Steak and desert. Wine, sangria, beer, soda and coffee are included. Wives/significant others are invited. The estimated cost is \$95pp. To reserve a seat, please send a \$10pp non-refundable deposit check made payable to Activities Unlimited to: Lou Guarneri, 84 Fisher Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430. Deposit checks must be received no later than Wednesday, December 20, 2023. Any questions call: Lou Guareri 201-847-1981 or email lguarneri03@gmail.com.





ACTIVITIES UNLIMITED



2023 OFFICERS







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 Dilorgi Assistant Treasurer 973-428-0431

<u>2024 new officers effective January 2024</u>: President-Jim Atieh, 1st Vice President-Tom Donch, 2nd Vice President- Gaspar Lesznik, Secretary- Richard Bernarde, Treasurer- Mike Kelly, Assistant Treasurer-Scott Japko

Welcome New Member			
Frank J. Melia (Janet)	918 Huron Road Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417	Book, Discussion, History, Investment, Luncheon, Stock Club	H: 201-723-9893 C: 201-723-9893 meliafrank@hotmail.com (Educator)

The donations to the Food Pantry at the November General Meeting were \$159.00.

<u>The goal of the monthly Activities Unlimited Newsletter</u> 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

AU Guys

The AU Guys band meets Wednesdays, 10:00am at the Larkin House. On Tuesday December 12 at the General Meeting the AU Guys will-meet at the Midland Park VFW at 12:30pm, and will be performing Christmas music and other selections.

They will also b performing at Horizon Senior Facility in Franklin Lakes, NJ on Friday, Dec. 15th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm.

Chair: **John DeSantis:** 201-447-0256; Blueiii@earthlink.net; Co-Chair: **Frank Altomare:** 201-410-4712; frank@altomare.us

Book Club

Books to be discussed at the December Book Club meeting on Wednesday December 27 at 10 AM at Walt Widmer's house are *Tortilla Flat*, by John Steinbeck, a novel about mixed breed homeless men who cheat each other constantly but somehow have selfless values when they have an opportunity to help others. The Club will also discuss *Between War and Peace* by Victor David Hanson, conservative scholar and military historian. In a series of essays he discusses the September 11, 2001 attack, as well as the war on terrorism, from America to Iraq, from Europe to Israel and beyond.

History Club

Our next History Club meeting is at 1pm on Tuesday, December 26th at the Midland Park VFW. Our speaker is our own Ed Houlihan, who will speak about comparing Chairman Mao Tse Tung and Chiang Kai Shek. How did Mao march into Beijing as the leader of China and Chiang arrive in Taipei City, Taiwan as a loser in 1949? What personal traits and characteristics brought them to positions of leadership? This was a competition which resulted in China becoming an ally of Russia today and not the United States.

Chair: **Joe Pullaro**; 201-357-0018; josephpullaro@hotmail.com CoChair:**Gaspar Lesnik**; 201-774-8608; gaspar.lesnik@gmail.com

Stock Picking Contest Year-to-date leader is John Abrahamsen. The monthly winner was Rich Bernarde: month-to-month increase for this portfolio was 13.1%..

Chair: John Abrahamsen: au.club@optimum.net; 201-739-8589

Current Month Club Activities (cont.)

Science Club

Meetings on Artificial Intelligence were held October and November. A Power Point was presented, which has been posted in the SC Archives available on the AU Website. It includes links to 2 excellent Google Videos, useful references from Kahn Education and brief history of AI.

Agenda for the December meeting is TBD.

Chair: Jack Yursask: email jyurasek@aol.com; 201-337-4433

Public Discussion Club

The next meeting of the Public Discussion Club will be on December 13 at 10:00am at the Franklin Lakes Ambulance Corps Building.

The topics are:

- 1. Has Presidential power grown too large and extensive over the last 50 years?
- 2.. Why have incidences of anti-semitism risen so dramatically over the last few years?
- 3. Do current voting procedures ensure a secure and accurate counting of lawful ballots?

Chair: Walter Widmer: Walter HWidmer@gmail.com; 201-562-8666

Safe Shooting Club

In December there will be one shoot. The date and time have not been determined yet. There is no fee for shooting but you must bring your own pistol or rifle and ammo. All AU members are invited. Please contact Dave Hubschmitt.

Gardening Club

The next meeting is on Tuesday, December 5 at 1:00pm at the Midland Park VFW. Topics are:

- 1-Tree Diseases in Bergen county (Ash Borer and Beech Tree Disease).
- 2-Pruning now and in winter months
- 3- MossEx for lawns
- 4- Power washing pavers and replacing with Polymetric sand (grey or tan color available from Home Depot).
- 5- Subjects from the Group, such as: Deer, squirrels and Chipmunks and Fred's Top Deer Tips

Guest Speaker: Leonard Levy's Floral and Gardening expert tips! Chair: **Fred Theile**: 201-825-7541; fredtheile@gmail.com

Current Month Club Activities (cont'd)

Computer Tech. Club

At the Tuesday December 5 meeting Fred will review three new technologies, including AirForce B21 Stealth Fighter. John will review some of the new features of Windows 11 and new Adobe Express. At the Tuesday December 19 meeting John will review the latest Apple features and discuss using the Icloud. Fred will review the latest in Food Science and Robot technology. Both meetings which are at the Midland Park VFW start at 10:30am.

Chair: John Abrahamsen: au.club@optimum.net; 201-739-8589 Fred Theile Chairs the Technology portion of the Club: 201-825-

Trips & Tours

The next meeting of Trips & Tours is at 10:00am on December 14 at the Midland Park VFW. See pages 4 & 5 for more details on T&T events.

Chair: John Caikowsky: 973-599-1056; johncaikowsky@optonline.net

Photography Club

The Photo Club will meet on Tuesday, December 26th at 10:00 at the Midland Park VFW. December Photo Club meeting will discuss the role of color in photography.

Chair: Murray Perl: 201-446-7357; mperl@gmail.com

Investment Study Group

The next meeting of the Investment Study Group is on December 20 at 1:00pm at the Midland Park VFW. The format of the meeting will be a round table discussion and Fred Theil has stepped up to volunteer to speak about his year-end tax savings strategies. I would also ask that everyone bring an idea about that topic as well, and what you see as the best investment opportunity for 2024. We expect a lively and informative discussion. Hope to see you there!

Chairman: **Dennis LaBarbera**: 201-391-0471 or email at denis.labarbera@yahoo.com.

2024 AU Stock Picking Contest

The Stock Picking Contest for the 2024 calendar year is open to **ALL MEMBERS** of AU.

There is no entry fee. Contest results are computed each month and at year-end. Results will be published in the Newsletter. Contestants MUST EMAIL their entry (one portfolio per member) to: au.club@optimum.net list no later than Jan 1, 2024.

Each contestant has a fictitious \$100,000 to invest. You must pick either 2,4 or 5 securities. The investment will be divided equally over the submitted securities. Each month the contestant whose portfolio achieves the highest increase from the prior month to the current month shall be declared the monthly winner. A contestant can only be the monthly winner once. At year-end, all contestants are eligible for the honor of having the largest, second largest and third largest gain. For December monthly, first, second and third place results will be published in the January 2025 Newsletter.

In your entry use the ticker symbol (not the cusip) provided by Yahoo Finance. Any security OVER \$10 PER SHARE quoted by Yahoo is eligible, including stocks, ETF's, REITs, and funds (no bonds). If Yahoo discontinues quotes on a security for any reason during the year, the value of that security at the last month-end quoted is used for the remainder of the year. The contestant is responsible for notifying the contest Chairman, **John Abrahamsen**, of a split of a submitted stock. Positions in the portfolio **will not** include interest or dividends, contestants are encouraged to avoid investments that grow that way.

In your email entry include your name (if your email does not do that) and the list of ticker symbols that you are entering into the contest.

Chairman: John Abrahamsen

On October 23, the AU Long and Short Hikers joined together at Lake Minnewaska, NY State Park, to hike the old carriage trails, admire the beautiful views and fall foliage colors from dramatic cliffs along the trails.



Carver Washburn was an enthusiastic participant of the Lake Minnewaska hike. "He is one of most supportive, strongest and enthusiastic Short Hikers in our merry group." **Fred Theile**, Chair: Short Hike Club. On November 6 the Short Hikers did two hikes in one day! The total of the hikes was 4.5 miles! Hikes were at Bear Mountain and Stoney Point Battlefield. At Bear Mountain the hikers travelled around Hessian Lake.



On November 13 the Short Hikers hiked around Parsons Pond in Franklin Lakes. The hike started at the old IBM building, now called Medco. Hiking around the old, now closed, buildings before they are torn down. Then into the woods for a short, beautiful extension and fall views.



The hike was followed by lunch at the Allendale Bar & Grill (AB&G).

On The Lighter Side

- So now cocaine is legal in Oregon, but straws aren't. That must be frustrating.
- You know you're over 50 when you have 'upstairs ibuprofen' and 'downstairs ibuprofen'.
- How did doctors come to the conclusion that exercise prolongs life, when....the rabbit is always jumping but only lives for around two years, and... the turtle that doesn't exercise at all, lives over 200 years. So, rest, chill, eat, drink, and enjoy life!
- I too was once a male trapped in a female body...but then my mother gave birth.



DAILYSQUAT.COM

Circuses struggling to find new clowns as top prospects continue to go into politics

On The Lighter Side



