

Activities



Unlimited

Volume XXXVIII, Issue I

January 2024

Activities Unlimited
January 2024 General Meeting
Tuesday January 9, 1:30 pm
Henneveld Hall, 580 Wyckoff Ave.,
Wyckoff, NJ 07481

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to thank Harry Bennet for everything he has done in 2023, especially mentoring me. I am very proud to follow in his capable footsteps.

This year the church has been completely remodeled, along with the installation of a brand new sound system that will be available for our use. In 2024 we will no longer have the AU Guys Band playing before our General Meetings. Instead the AU Band will be performing once a month for the pleasure of Members and their Spouses. I will announce times and dates in the near future.

During the time before the General Meeting, our Social Hour will begin at 12:30pm. Bring your lunch, enjoy the coffee and cookies provided for you. The General Meeting will begin at 1:30pm. Use this social time as current members can welcome new members and tell them all about the many experiences that help make us the best club in New Jersey.

Please welcome the 2024 Executive Board members: Tom Donch—First Vice President, Gaspar Lesznik—Second Vice President, Richard Bernarde—Secretary, Mike Kelley—Treasurer, and Scott Japko—Assistant Treasurer. Jim Webb is Membership Chair and Jim Mallen will continue as WRC Liaison,

In closing I would like to paraphrase JFK (sort of...), (Do not think of what Activities Unlimited can do for you, but think of what you can do for Activities Unlimited.) Join us this year in volunteering your services to keep AU the best men's club in New Jersey.

I hope you have a very Prosperous and Happy New year!

James Atieh, President

January 2024 General Meeting

We will have a representative from AARP. speaking at the January General Meeting. The speaker will be Kathy Nolan. Kathy is the District Advisor for the Bergen County tax aid group. This is a volunteer organization that assists those who need help filing their income taxes. She has been doing this for more than 16 years and held leadership positions in the tax group. She will talk to us about the changes in the tax code and other issues in 2023 income taxes that we will be faced with in fulfilling our tax returns.

Activities Unlimited Individual Members Support for Kevin O'Neil

Kevin is an Eagle Scout candidate in Wyckoff Boy Scout Troop 309. Kevin's Eagle Scout Project, which is nearly complete, is to build a Bocce Ball Court in Community Park in Wyckoff. The court will be open to the public. Individual Activities Unlimited Members have supported Kevin with contributions totaling \$209.00.

In addition to earning his Eagle Scout Certification, Kevin is applying to colleges and has already received one acceptance. Activities Unlimited wishes Kevin continued success.

Activities Unlimited Annual Dues

The Executive Board has approved annual dues of \$60.00 effective for 2024. As of December 30, 2023 108 members have not paid their dues. Checks were due by December 31, 2023. When you read this Newsletter, if you have not already sent your check, it is late!! Make checks payable to 'Activities Unlimited' and mail to Scott Japko, 15 Sturbridge Drive, Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458. Scott is our new Assistant Treasurer for 2024.

The goal of the monthly Activities Unlimited Newsletter

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.

Tom Van Lenten, Editor



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 is almost sold out. 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.

March 13, 2024 — In celebration of St. Patrick’s day we will be attending an Irish Cabaret starring Andy Cooney, Irish America’s favorite son. Price is \$81 pp. 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 8:30 AM. On arrival at the park our guide will board the bus and take us through Branch Brook Park. Afterwards there will be 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 dessert. Wine, sangria, beer, soda and coffee are included. Wives/significant others are invited. The estimated cost is \$95 pp. To reserve a seat, please send a \$10.00 pp non-refundable deposit check made payable to Activities Unlimited to: Lou Guarneri, 84 Fisher Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430. Any questions call: Lou Guareri 201-847-1981 or email lguarneri03@gmail.com.





ACTIVITIES UNLIMITED



2024 OFFICERS



Jim Atieh
President
[:201-315-5346](tel:201-315-5346)



Tom Donch
1st Vice President
201-376-8824



Gaspar Lesznick
2nd Vice President
201-774-8608



Rich Bernarde
Secretary
201-3375238



Mike Kelley
Treasurer
973-879-4590



Scott Japkco
Assistant Treasurer
201-788-5516

Welcome New Members

Steven B Horvitz	11 Wayne Rd Fair Lawn, NJ 07410	Book, Care & Concern, Discussion, Gardening, Hiking Long, History, Photography, Science	H: 551-427-5781 C: 551-427-5781 stevenhorvitz@gmail.com (Market Research)
David Reitsma (Marjo)	47 Suncrest Avenue North Haledon, NJ 07508	Discussion, Golf, History, Science	H: 973-427-0062 C: 551-206-0289 marjodave@verizon.net (HVAC Contractor)
Wayne J Latawicz (Rosemary)	548 Hobart Road Paramus, NJ 07652	History, Pickle Ball, Stock Club, Tennis	H: 201-961-2086 C: 201-961-2086 waynej863@verizon.net (Accountant)
Alex Zapolanski (Laurel)	256 Bearwoods Rd Park Ridge, NJ 07656	Discussion, History, Photography, Tennis	H: 201-312-5565 C: 201-312-5565 azcardiac@gmail.com (MD)
Skip Tietjen (Lorraine)	325 Pearsall Ave Ridgewood, NJ 07450	Discussion, History, Science	H: 201-445-1476 C: 201-800-1493 palorskip@gmail.com (Builder)
Peter Bieszard (Sharon)	151 Payne Ave Midland Park, NJ 07432	Gardening, Hiking Long, Luncheon	H: 201-739-3584 C: 201-739-3584 pmbieszard@optonline.net (Finance)

The donations to the Food Pantry at the December General Meeting totaled \$517.00. (\$117 put in jar and there was a \$400 check from John Abrahamsen).

Current Month Club Activities

AU Guys

The AU Guys band meets Wednesdays, 10:00 AM at the Larkin House. The AU Guys Band will be performing once a month for the pleasure of Members and their Spouses.

Co-Chair: **Frank Altomare**: 201-410-4712; frank@altomare.us
Co-Chair: **Barry Glick**

Book Club

Books to be discussed at the January Book Club meeting on Wednesday January 24 at 10 AM at Walt Widmer's house are: *Agent Josephine* by Damien Lewis, a little known history of Josephine Baker, the singer/dancer's life. During the years of WWII she was a member of the French Nurse Paratroopers, operating mostly in Vichy France, a cover for her spying work. Although an American citizen she lived most of her life in France, becoming attached to Paris and the country, which spurred her desire to go undercover for the country. *Against All Odds* chronicles the extraordinary courage of four WWII soldiers in the same unit against Germany, among them Audie Murphy who won the Congressional Medal of Honor, springing his acting career.

Chair: **Vince Tortorelli**: 201-316-29961; cavince@aol.com
Co-chair: **Marty Valario**

History Club

The next History Club meeting is on January 23, 2024, at 1 PM. The meeting will be at the VFW, 28 Faner Road, Midland Park. Steve Joern will be talking about STORIES AND FACTS ABOUT IBM Steve had a long-term executive career at IBM and will relate many stories about this preeminent firm.

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 leaders are Don Chucka, Tim Hudson, and Allen Demby for first, second and third places, respectively. The monthly winner was Joseph Moriarity. The month-to-month increase for this portfolio was 21.7%..

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

Current Month Club Activities (cont.)

Science Club

The next meeting of the Science Club will be on Tuesday January 16 at 1:00 PM at the Midland Park VFW. The topic will be German Automobiles. Jay Bouton will speak on his experience with VW and Audi design; both while working in USA and Germany.

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

Public Discussion Club

The next meeting of the Public Discussion Club will be on January 10 at 10:00am. The Ambulance building is not available to us this month. Our meeting will take place in the F L O E M building. Agenda topics: 1. Should Trump be excluded from state primaries, 2. Will the destruction of Gaza make a two state solution likely? 3. Why are Americans so angry with the government? What can anything be done to reverse this seemingly widespread feeling?

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

Co-chair: **Tom Butler**

Safe Shooting Club

The next meeting of the Safe Shooting Club will be at 1PM on Wednesday January 24th at the VFW Hall in Midland Park. Various members of the club will lead a discussion on the 5 levels of force that can be used to defend ones self or someone else as well as the criteria that need to be met to do so. Other items on the agenda, are: 1. a discussion on New Jersey's Castle Doctrine, 2. the mandate to retreat, and updates to the law governing ownership and transporting a gun.

All AU members are invited.

Chair: **Dave Hubschmit**: (973-650-0052); ski3100@aol.com

Co-Chair: **Rich Berger**

Gardening Club

Fred is planning a Special Quarterly Gardening Club meeting for January. Details will be included in a Special AU Email blast.

Chair: **Fred Theile**: 201-825-7541; fredtheile@gmail.com.

Current Month Club Activities (cont'd)

Computer Tech. Club

There is no Computer Tech Club meeting on January 2. The next meeting will be on January 16 at the Midland Park VFW starting at 10:30am.

Fred will review some new technologies. Following that, John will review using the new Power Automate and Sticky Post-it note applications on the MS Windows platform.

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 10:00 AM on January 9, 2024 at the Midland Park VFW. See pages 3 & 4 for more details on T&T events.

Chair: **John Caikowsky:** 973-599-1056; johncaikowsky@optonline.net
Co-chair: **Don Wasson**

Photography Club

There will be a Photo Club meeting on January 23rd at 10:30 AM at the Midland Park VFW. We will discuss environmental portraits.

Chair: **Murray Perl:** 201-446-7357; mperl@gmail.com
Co-chair: **Sam Oban**

Investment Study Group

There will be no Investment Study Group meetings in January or February 2024.

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

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**

The AU Golfers wrapped up the 2023 season with their annual awards lunch. The golf season began in mid April and concluded at the end of October. Over 30 members participated this year.



2001 champion Guy Cappello (center) presents the Ralph Caputo Memorial trophy to our 2023 champion, Dennis LaBarbera (left). Golf Club Chairman Jim Webb (right) congratulates Dennis on his victory.



Other prize winners were: Guy Cappello, Gaspar Lesznik, Nelson Ramirez, Dennis LaBarbera, and Jim Webb.

Twenty AU members joined on December 5th, at the AU Garden Club Meeting, to learn how to kill Moss, fight Ash and Beech Tree diseases, use Polymetric sand in pavers and driveways, and how to fight Deer!
In the picture below Fred is demonstrating how a shiny aluminum strip attached to a fence or rope twine can repel deer; deer hate to cross the aluminum strip line!! It works!!



Jim Cinquina of
USR gave
additional
information on tree
and shrub
trimming!
Excellent advice!

Stay tuned for the
AU Spring Garden
Club meeting
when we will give
additional tips!



Activities Unlimited Newsletter Obituary

Robert A. Yampell

It is always difficult saying goodbye to someone we love and cherish. Family and friends must say goodbye to their beloved Robert A. Yampell (Fair Lawn, New Jersey), who passed away at the age of 87, on November 8, 2023. You can send your sympathy in the guestbook provided and share it with the family. He was loved and cherished by many people including : his wife Bernice Buchalter Yampell; his children, Richard Yampell, Sharon Yampell (late Roie Some) and Sandra Yampell (Robert Schwartzberg); and his grandson Daniel Enden.

On The Lighter Side

(Contributed by George Lewis)

OLD FART PRIDE

I'm passing this on as I did not want to be the only old fart receiving it. Actually, it's not a bad thing to be called, as you will see.

Old Farts are easy to spot at sporting events; during the playing of the National Anthem, Old Farts remove their caps and stand at attention and sing without embarrassment. They know the words and believe in them.

Old Farts remember World War II, Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Normandy and Hitler. They remember the Atomic Age, the Korean War, The Cold War, the Jet Age and the Moon Landing. They remember the 50 plus Peacekeeping Missions from 1945 to 2005, not to mention Vietnam.

If you bump into an Old Fart on the sidewalk he will apologize. If you pass an Old Fart on the street, he will nod or tip his cap to a lady. Old Farts trust strangers and are courtly to women.

Old Farts hold the door for the next person and always, when walking, make certain the lady is on the inside for protection.

Old Farts get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women and children and they don't like any filth or dirty language on TV or in movies.

Old Farts have moral courage and personal integrity. They seldom brag unless it's about their children or grandchildren.

It's the Old Farts who know our great country is protected, not by politicians, but by the young men and women in the military serving their country.

This country needs Old Farts with their work ethic, sense of responsibility, pride in their country and decent values. We need them now more than ever.

Thank God for Old Farts!

I was taught to respect my elders... it's just getting harder to find them.

On The Lighter Side

Some call it multi-tasking, I call it doing something else while I try to remember what I was doing in the first place

For our attorney members:

