



Activities



Unlimited



Volume XXXVII, Issue VII

July, 2023

Activities Unlimited

General Meeting

Tuesday, July 11, 2023, 2:00pm Wyckoff Reformed Church,
Heneveld Hall 580 Wyckoff Ave., NJ 07481

President's Note

Guest Speaker

Michael Devincenze

Michael is the adult services and programming librarian at Wyckoff Public Library.

He received his first computer, a Commodore 64, from his father on his 4th birthday. The card attached said, "Learn how to use this. It is the future."

Michael has had many roles in the tech sector, including a web developer for Intel, as well as sales and leadership roles for Apple. He was part of the team that developed the retail strategy for selling the Apple Watch.

More recently, he served for two years as the Technology Librarian at the Montville Public Library, before joining the Wyckoff Library.

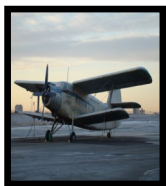
The donations to the Food Pantry at the June General Meeting were \$47.

Welcome our New Members

We are halfway through 2023. We have had nine new members join AU through June with more joining us in July. New member announcements can be found on page 3 of this newsletter. New membership is vital to the success of our organization. AU's principal goal is to provide fellowship to retired and semi-retired men. Whether you are in a General Meeting or a specialty club Meeting, please try to introduce yourselves and make new members welcome to AU. Club chairmen receive a notice of new members who express an interest in their club on their application. The new member is also automatically added to the specialty club rosters. Chairmen, please be sure to update your mailing list regularly from the website to be sure new members receive your communications.

Also, make new members welcome at our meetings. Sponsors, you are the main conduit for new members to enjoy all the benefits of Activities Unlimited. Please take the time to inform new members of variety of activities within our organization and introduce them to as many members as possible. Also, make new members aware of leadership opportunities in clubs and general leadership. Activities Unlimited has a specialty club for just about any interest a member has. If a member does not find a club for their particular interest, he can start one! My experience with AU tells me that within our 300+ members, one will find a dozen or more others with the same interest.

Be Active, Have Fun,
Harry Bennett
President



Trips & Tours



Upcoming 2023 events

July Luncheon—July 17 at the Portabello Italian Restaurant, 175 Ramapo Valley Rd., Oakland. Lunch will include several delicious entrees (Something for everyone) plus a special dessert. Coffee, tea and soda will be served. Cash bar. Wives/Significant others are invited.

Cost will be \$24.00 pp (AN INCREDIBLE PRICE). Make checks payable to "Activities Unlimited" and mail to Don Wasson, 4 Appert Terrace, Mahwah, NJ 07430. Please include your cell phone number on the check. Any questions contact Don Wasson at 201-891-1873 or cell 201-739-7046.

September 21— AU Social, at the Ridgewood Tennis Club.

October 10— Annual breakfast / General meeting at the Brick House.

October 11— Trips & Tours is hosting a bus trip to the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY.

This is a couples event. The cost is approx \$85-\$90pp which will include bus transportation. We will ride through New York foliage; tour the campus; and have a full Italian Style luncheon (cash bar).

Due to the rising costs of bus transportation, we must ask for a sign-up period with a \$20 per person deposit. The deposit period will end on July 15, 2023 at which time a decision will be made whether of not to move forward.

December 4— Dinner/Dance at Seasons.

January 2024— Beefsteak at the Brownstone, date TBD.

John Caikowsky (as T&T Club Chair) johncaikowsky@optonline.net; 973-599-1056 has arranged to make all Midland Park Continuing Education events open to AU members. Several examples of such MPCE events available to us are:

- Beautiful Maine (July 24—28) 4 nights, 4 breakfasts, and 4 dinners (\$699, double,\$949)
- Lancaster Show Trip (August 7—9) 2 nights, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners, Admissions to "Moses" Show.\$579 pp.
- 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"

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

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

Welcome New Members

Name(Spouse)	Address	Interests	Phones/Email/(Occupation)
Thomas Mergola (Carla)	34 Silverrock Way Franklin Lakes, 07417 07417	Pickle Ball	H: 201-206-4910 gemrfncons@aol.com (executive)
Paul S Dreifuss (Patricia)	129 Schindler Ct Parsippany, NJ 07054	Short Hikers, Computer, History, Luncheon, Project Outreach, Bocce	H: 973-632-1230 C: 973-632-1230 pdreif@aol.com (Manager)
Gabriel Carifi	299 Sicomac Ave. Apt 1202 Wyckoff, NJ 07481	Discussion, History, Invest- ment, Luncheon, Science, Stock Club	H: 201-738-8323 C: 201-738-8323 gearifi@hotmail.com (CPA/CFO)

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 meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10:30am at the Midland Park VFW Hall. The next meeting is on July 18 at 10:30am. Recent technological events will be presented in the Technology portion of the meeting.

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

Fred Theile Chairs the Technology portion of the Club: 201-825-7541; fredtheile@gmail.com

Public Discussion Club

The Public Discussion Club will meet on Wednesday July 12 at 10:00am at the Franklin Lakes Ambulance Corps Building.

Topics:

1. Slavery Reparations; Are they justified, and who would get the benefits?
2. Is the 1st. Amendment right to free speech under threat from government and social restrictions?
3. Can the news/media be objective/factual and still be objective?

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

Trips & Tours

The next meeting of Trips & Tours is on Tuesday July 11 at 10:30am; the location of the meeting is the Midland Park VFW. See page 2 of this Newsletter for a descriptions of the many great T&T events being planned.

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

Investment Study Group

There is no Investment Study Group Club Meeting in July or August. See you in September

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

Current Month Club Activities (Cont.)

Book Club

Books to be discussed at the July 26 Book Club meeting are *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles, a novel set in the 1950's about 3 friends on a fateful journey to the city of New York, and *Poverty In America* by Matthew Desmond where the author debates why poverty exists in the US while the rest of us benefit by it.

Chair: **Vince Tortorelli**: 201-316-29961; cavince@aol.com

Shooting Safety Club

The Shooting Safety Club meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at the VFW Hall in Midland Park. The next meeting is on Wednesday July 26th at 1:00pm. We will have a guest speaker who will speak on a variety of subjects including gun safety.

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

History Club

The next History Club meeting is on July 25 at 1 PM. At the Midland Park VFW hall. Our speaker is Marty Valerio. The topic "Memorable Presidential Elections." There is no meeting in August.

Chair: **Pablo A. Catangay**; email address: pcata123@optimum.net;

Stock Picking Contest

Year-to-date leader is Timothy Hudson. Joe Pullaro is the monthly winner with an amazing 17.1% month-to-month increase.

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

Webmaster Club

This new club is being formed to support, test and discuss enhancements to the new AU Website. This Club is still in the organizational Phase.

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

Tom Donch, second vice president, won the Bergen County Super Senior golf tournament held at the Valley Brook golf course in River Vale.



AU had their annual golf outing at the Farmstead golf course. 34 golfers attended with trophies for the winners. Good time was had by all.



Activities Unlimited Newsletter

Obituary

Curtis P. Koster

Curtis P. Koster of Pompton Plains, NJ died June 6, 2023 after fighting the good fight against Parkinson's Disease. Curt is succeeded by his loving wife of 43 years, Susan, his two daughters, Jessica Koster Baff (David) and Kristen Koster di Gennaro (Ivano), brother Preston Koster (Mary Jean) and sister Judith Koster Rankin (Jerry). He had three grandchildren, Isabella, Ian and Valentina.

Curt was born July 23, 1938 to Frances (Petry) and Howard Koster in New York City. He attended Brooklyn Technical High School followed by Stevens Institute of Technology, where he earned his BS Degree in Engineering. His love of learning motivated him to earn three additional degrees: an MS in Metallurgy and Materials Science from NYU, an MS in Oceanography and Engineering Science from NYU, and an MBA in Finance from Pace University. Curt met Susan in 1970 where their first date was on a friend's sailboat. This was the beginning of a love of sailing for Susan which lasted all their married life. Curt was active in the Nyack Boat Club where he served as Commodore and was honored to become a Life Member in 2001. They sailed their 34ft sloop, Carpathia, from Virginia to Canada and cruised with friends and family in the UK, Normandy, Turkey, Croatia and the Bahamas.

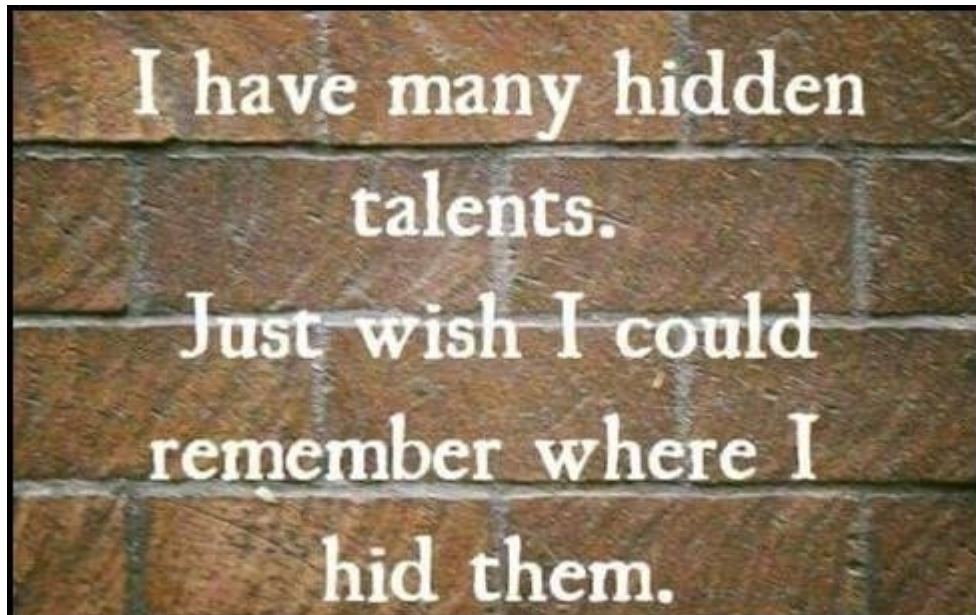
Curt retired from International Paper Company in 1998, where he had combined his engineering knowledge with his financial acumen to evaluate the effectiveness of R&D programs. Susan retired from IBM at the same time, allowing them to spend over 25 years of retirement during which they enjoyed the development of new hobbies, community service, sailing, traveling and most of all, attending family gatherings. Curt was a mentor in financial planning and investment analysis. He was active in the Investment Club in Activities Unlimited, a Men's Club centered in Wyckoff, NJ, and his input was often sought in stock analysis. He held classes at International Paper for employees to learn about investing and spent many hours with his grandchildren on the same subject.

Curt served over 50 years on the Boards of Trustees of two public libraries which included construction of the Suffern (NY) Public Library and completion of the Mahwah (NJ) Public Library. Curt will be remembered by a great many people as a mentor in many subject areas, a contributor to the community and a great and loyal friend.

On The Lighter Side

Life is not always a matter of having good cards but sometimes, playing poor cards well.

Jack London



“ Wife said, "Our new neighbours are so in love. He kisses her, strokes her hair and hugs her. Why don't you do that?"
I said, "Because I don't know her that well yet"