



# Activities



# Unlimited



Volume XXXVII, Issue V

June, 2023

## Activities Unlimited

### General Meeting

Tuesday, June 13, 2023, 2:00pm

Wyckoff Reformed Church, Heneveld Hall 580 Wyckoff

#### Guest Speaker:

**Joe Lennox** is a renown space historian who has been a student of space exploration for over 60 years. He is the creator of the extensive private space history museum that has been called the largest and most complete collection of this type in the country. The history museum will be donated to The Astronaut Hall of Fame at Kennedy Space Center. To see a large portion of this memorabilia you can view the photo-sharing site at: <http://teachspace.smugmug.com/>.

Joe has taught classes to children and adults of all ages and given presentations at many schools, libraries, civic organizations, scout troops and other groups for the past 35 years.

**(Continued on page 2)**

The donations to the Food Pantry at the Indian Trails Club luncheon were \$142.

#### President's Note

#### **SUMMER IS THE TIME FOR ENJOYMENT AND SOCIALIZING**

AU spring is off to a great start with fantastic turnout for the Spring Luncheon. Many thanks to Tom Donch for coordinating this very special event.

We are all looking forward to our June 8th BBQ at the Wyckoff "Y" as our summer event. It is not too late to join the fun. Please send your \$30 check to Joe Pullaro to reserve your spot for this event.

Many thanks to John Abrahamsen, Marty Valerio, and the group of Web-Masters for continuing to build a robust Web Site and enhancing our ability to communicate all types of messages to our membership.

Many of our club meetings are showing enthusiastic attendance as we exit Covid. Don't be selfish; share the fun with a friend. Bring a friend to your favorite Club Meeting or to one of our General Meetings. Encourage them to view our Web Site ([activitiesunlimited.org](http://activitiesunlimited.org)) and to fill out an application for membership.

Expand your own enjoyment of Activities Unlimited. Explore the events planned by Trips & Tours. Read the plans posted by other AU clubs in this Newsletter and on the website. Try something new and make a few friends.

Be well and be active,

**Harry Bennett**

President

# 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 Dilorgi**  
Assistant Treasurer  
973-428-0431

## Welcome to our New Members

Name(Spouse)	Address	Interests	Phones/Email/(Occupation)
<b>Domenic DeVincenzi (Marie)</b>	<b>265 Monroe Ave Wyckoff, NJ 07481</b>	<b>Luncheon, Refreshment, Trips &amp; Tours, Safe Shooting Club</b>	<b>H: 917-655-3624 denamdevincenzi@yahoo.com (NYPD)</b>
<b>Jeffrey Johnson (Jeanne)</b>	<b>325 Mastin Place Ridgewood, NJ 07450</b>	<b>Computer, Long Hiking, Pickle Ball, Safe Shooting Club</b>	<b>C: 201-452-8545 johnson903@gmail.com (Finance)</b>

### More on Joe Lennox (continued from page 1):

Some of Joe's classes are 1-2 hour sessions while others are a week or semester long. Joe was a member of the teaching staff at The Gifted Child Society, Glen Rock, NJ for over 15 years and The Journey on Saturday program in River Vale, NJ for 5 years. Joe is on the staff of BRAINYAKID, The Institute of New Dimensions and was a presenter for Project Impact. He has been the space consultant / advisor for museum and planetarium functions and has worked with NASA Astronauts and NASA Teacher Resource Specialists on numerous occasions.

Currently Joe is working with the Education Director at CASIS - the Space Station Education Office in an effort to advance and enhance their educational programs.

Joe is also currently an instructor for The Institute of New Dimensions where he has taught over 20 college level courses for seniors.

Joe is a member of The National Space Society, Vice President of the Northern New Jersey chapter.

**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, AU Newsletter Editor**

**The below tribute was submitted to the AU Newsletter by Rich Bernarde**

**Memorial Day, which was celebrated on Monday, May 29, 2023, is a significant holiday in the United States that honors and remembers the men and women who have served and sacrificed their lives while serving in the country's armed forces. This day serves as a solemn reminder of the profound gratitude and appreciation we owe to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedoms and way of life.**

The origins of Memorial Day can be traced back to the aftermath of the American Civil War. As the nation was recovering from the devastating conflict that claimed the lives of over 600,000 soldiers, various communities and cities across the country began to organize tributes and ceremonies to honor the fallen.

One of the earliest recorded observances took place on May 1, 1865, in Charleston, South Carolina, where a group of newly freed African Americans gathered to honor Union soldiers who had died while being held as prisoners of war. They exhumed the bodies from a mass grave and reinterred them in individual graves, decorating each with flowers. This act of remembrance and respect laid the foundation for what would become Memorial Day.

In 1868, General John A. Logan, the national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, issued a proclamation designating May 30 as a day for the purpose of decorating the graves of fallen soldiers with flowers, calling it "Decoration Day." The first national observance of Decoration Day took place at Arlington National Cemetery, where 5,000 participants decorated the graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers.

Over time, Decoration Day evolved into Memorial Day, and its significance expanded to encompass all American military personnel who had died in service to their country. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a federal holiday to be observed on the last Monday in May, providing a three-day weekend for Americans to reflect on the sacrifices made by those who served.

Memorial Day was commemorated in various ways throughout the nation. It is a time for individuals, families, and communities to come together to honor the fallen by visiting cemeteries, attending memorial services, and participating in parades. The American flag was often flown at half-staff until noon, and at 3:00 p.m. local time, a national moment of remembrance is observed to pause and reflect on the sacrifices made by those who served.

As we celebrated Memorial Day on May 29, 2023, we took a moment to express our deepest gratitude and pay tribute to the men and women who have selflessly served our country. Their courage, dedication, and sacrifice have allowed us to enjoy the freedoms we hold dear. May we always remember and honor their memory.

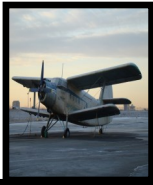
God Bless America



This is the wreath that AU dedicated in memory of the the Veterans who sacrificed their lives for their country. AU has done this every year for the past decade. . This is done together with the Wyckoff Reformed Church and placed in front of the Church.







## Trips & Tours



### 2023 events being planned:

*June 8 summer picnic at the Wyckoff YMCA Lake House, from 4:00pm—8:30pm. This is always a fun AU social gathering. Burgers, fried chicken, hot dogs, soda & desert are being served. Wives/significant others are invited. Send in your checks for \$30pp ASAP payable to Activities Unlimited. Mail to Joe Pullaro, 866 Iron Latch Rd. Franklin Lakes 07417.*

*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 / October— Bus Trip to Culinary Institute in Hyde Park, N.Y. Date TBD.*

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

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

*December — Dinner/Dance at Seasons*

John Caikowsky (as T&T Club Chair) [johncaikowsky@optonline.net](mailto: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:

- The Immigrant Experience (6/15) NYC (\$99.00)
- Essex Steam Train & Riverboat Cruise, Conn (6/22) (\$140.00)
- Cape Cod & Martha's Vineyard (6/26-30) (4 nights \$629pp)
- 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](http://www.mpsnj.org/continuing_education/programs/springbrochure)”

## 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 June 6 at 10:30am. The new Excel roster will be introduced with a review of it's scope. Demonstrations of Excel commands will show various ways that the information can be used.

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 June 14 at 10:00am at the Franklin Lakes Ambulance Corps Building.

Topics: 1. What does the term "Patriot" mean? 2. 90% of the population favors universal background checks, why can't Congress legislate the change? 3. Why has American trust in the Supreme Court as an institution gone?

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

### Trips & Tours

The next meeting of Trips & Tours is on Tuesday June 13; the location of the meeting is the Midland Park VFW. See page 3 of this Newsletter for a description of the many great T&T events.

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

### Investment Study Group

The next Investment Study Group meeting is June 21 at 12:30pm at the VFW Hall, Midland Park. The guest speaker will be Justin Lubinow from Senior Advisors. He will lead an Educational Medicare Workshop. Topics include:

- Parts of Medicare
- Enrollment and Enrollment Penalties
- Original Medicare vs Medicare Advantage
- Medicare Supplement Plans
- Recent changes to Medicare

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



## Current Month Club Activities (Cont.)

### Book Club

The June meeting of the Book Club will be held Wednesday June 28, at 10 am, at Walt Widmer's house, 38 Hamilton St., Allendale. Books to be discussed are: Campaign of the Century: Kennedy, Nixon and the Election of 1960 by Irwin Gellman, an extensive narrative of the first televised presidential debates, and Under the Banner of Heaven by Jon Krakauer, a critical and thorough look at the extreme Mormon Fundamentalists and the mainstream Mormon Church of Latter Day Saints.  
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 June 28th at 1:00pm.

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

### History Club

The next History Club meeting is on June 27 at 1:00pm at the Midland Park VFW Hall. . The speaker is AU Member Gaspar Lesznik. The title of his talk is " A Study on the History of Blacksmithing and Ironwork."

Club Chair: **Pablo Catangy**:201-394-3832; pcatagay@optimum.net

### Stock Picking Contest

Year-to-date leader is Timothy Hudson. Hank Willen is the monthly winner with an amazing 17.5% month-to-month increase.

The Club 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.

Click > [www.activitiesunlimited.org/AUclubsPage.html](http://www.activitiesunlimited.org/AUclubsPage.html) to go to the web club page.

On May 1 the Short Hikers walked around the beautiful Darlington Lake, Darlington County Park, in Mahwah. Lunch was at one of our old favorites, the Country Café. Sadly, the current location of the Country Café is closing soon as they lost their lease. The proprietor is looking for a new location.





May 8, the Short Hikers took a beautiful & memorable hike around Rockland Lake, followed by a fantastic BBQ lunch. They dined over the famous ribs and mac-n-cheese combo at Ricks American Restaurant in Congers, NY!!





On May 15 the Short Hikers got re-acquainted with the nearby beautiful Goffle Brook Park in Hawthorne. The hike was followed by lunch at historic Shortways Barn.

There are some great sights on the hike. Below is just one of the spectacular views along the Goffle Brooke path.





On May 22 the Short Hikers took a tour around the lower lake at the Ramapo Reservation. The hikers dined at the Country Café after the hike. Note that the Hikers were without their Club Chair, Fred Theile, for this hike. Roy Straus took over the lead.

The figure below is one of several historic religious American Indian figures the hikers saw along the way.





# Activities Unlimited Newsletter

## Obituary

### John j. Alber

John J. Alber, Jr. (Jack), 94, of Wyckoff was born on Christmas Day, Jack was a gift to family and friends for his strength of character, kindness, and sense of humor.

Jack gained a lifelong appreciation for hiking, camping, and swimming through the Boy Scouts, becoming an Eagle Scout and earning Order of the Arrow honors and discovering an enduring love for High Point State Park and the outdoors. He swam competitively in high school and college and continued to swim regularly until last year. Born and raised in Jersey City, Jack earned his BS in Finance from St. Peter's University in Jersey City and worked on Wall Street before joining the US Air Force. Rising to the rank of Captain, Jack flew fighter bombers as part of Strategic Air Command's advanced strike force during the Korean Conflict.

After leaving the Air Force, Jack joined Pan American World Airlines as a pilot, eventually retiring from United Airlines as a Boeing 747 captain. Jack's life as an international commercial airline pilot allowed him many adventures throughout the world, from pre-revolutionary Iran to Moscow and Japan and hundreds of locations in between. He was featured in a May 1986 Wall Street Journal article on fuel efficiency while flying to Japan. But no matter how far he traveled, once he met and married the love of his life in 1957, his happiest days were at home with Pat and their children. Jack and Pat were devoted to each other and our fondest memories of them include their habit of holding hands, whether sitting on the sofa during cocktail hour, watching a movie or taking a walk.

Instead of slowing down in retirement, Jack filled his time with more adventures with his family and friends and out in nature. He enjoyed summers at the lake, winters in Vero Beach, FL, socializing with friends, and traveling, visiting many locations around the world with Pat, their kids, and friends. He was a member of Activities Unlimited (AU), leading their hiking group for many years.

Jack was predeceased by his beloved wife, Patricia, and son, Timothy, parents Margaret and John, and sister Mildred. He is survived by his loving family, including son John (Jack) and wife Paula, daughter Susan and partner Rich Caputo, daughter Christine, and son Michael Edney and wife Janet, as well as his devoted grandchildren Taylor Alber, James Spinella, Breanne Bauer and husband Matt, and Cooper and Colton Burns, as well as many extended family members, and treasured friends.



# Activities Unlimited Newsletter

## Obituary

Robert C. Zehm Jr.,

On April 30, 2023, Robert "Bob" C. Zehm Jr., age 96, passed away peacefully due to natural causes, surrounded by family. Born in Riverside, CA on September 1926, Bob spent most of his life in the Bergen County area of New Jersey. He graduated from Ridgewood HS in 1943 and Stevens Institute of Technology in 1946.

Bob was an Ensign in the Navy for 2 years as a Communications Officer. Bob worked for Prudential Insurance Co in Newark, NJ as a Systems and Methods Analyst for many years. In 1980, he left Prudential to start his own company - Zehm Computer Consultants, Inc. He continued this company until his retirement in 1997. At this time, he became very interested in Artificial Intelligence. He spent the last 20 years of his life working on an AI project he named HIBAM - Human Intelligence By Artificial Means. His hope was to develop an android that would substitute humans in the workforce, freeing them to pursue avocations and other voluntary activities.

Bob enjoyed playing golf and tennis and was a competitive bridge player for many years. At the time of his death, Bob was still an active member of Upper Riverwood Tennis Club, a local discussion club and a billiards group. Living alone, Bob enjoyed dining out and was a regular at many local eateries, his favorite being Savini Restaurant.

Bob leaves behind his children - Robert "Bucky" C. Zehm III and wife, Lisa; Carolyn (Zehm) Kerul and husband, Ed; and stepchildren - Lisa Taylor; Robert "Bobby" Taylor and wife, Debbie; Jaimie Taylor. Bob had 11 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Bob is also survived by his brother-in-law Robert "Bob" Hoek and family and by nieces Laurel Orr and Nancy Elkus. Bob is preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Alta; his sister Gerry Elkus; his ex-wife Patricia and wife Elizabeth, "Betty".

Bob will be remembered as an intelligent, rational problem-solver who enjoyed sharing his theories and knowledge with others. He will be missed by his family and the many friends he made on his long, life journey.