

Rotary



Club of Fox Chapel Area

Club Meeting

Fox Chapel Area
Meets at Pittsburgh Field Club
121 Field Club Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
Time: Wednesday at 11:45 AM

Birthdays

JIM HOLLINGSWORTH
July 13th
Jan C Swensen
July 16th
MARVIN A DASH
July 21st
JAMES P CAULEY
August 5th

Local Family Visits Antarctica, Our 7th Continent

By Thomas P. Benic



Kate and Joe Vavpetic of Aspinwall have traveled extensively in the past and have lived overseas. But the family trip they mapped out with sons Blaz and Niko for last Christmas promised to be special. It was. Antarctica. For three weeks. December 19, 2021, through Jan. 6 of this year.

They will tell us all about it at Wednesday's luncheon at

the Pittsburgh Field Club, as part of our regular meeting that begins at 11:45 a.m. If you would like to Zoom in, here's the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84248298231?pwd=bFF5UWh1OjMwNW0zc0RMM09hSk9Jdz09>

The Vavpetics signed on to the expedition with Abercrombie & Kent, sailing to isolated South Georgia Island (population 30) in the middle of the South Atlantic and then on to Antarctica, via the Argentinian cities of Buenos Aires and Ushuaia. Their talk will focus on South Georgia and Antarctica, including a quick survey of some of the wildlife, history and scenery they experienced.

Kate Vavpetic is a board member of the Cooper-Siegel Community Library and of the Canadian-American Debate Camp Foundation, President of the Fox Chapel Area High School PTO, and a part-time admissions reader for Carnegie Mellon University Undergraduate Admissions. Most recently, Kate was Head of School/CEO of GEMS United School in Dubai, UAE.

Joe is currently the Director of Technology at Saint Edmund's Academy in Squirrel Hill. He worked previously at GEMS Dubai American Academy and GEMS United School, where he served as Director of Innovation and Chief Innovation and Digital Officer. Prior to working abroad in the UAE, he served as an Information Systems Manager at Shady Side Academy

Blaz, a rising senior at Fox Chapel Area High School, recently returned from the Rotary Youth Leadership Award camp at Outdoor Adventures. He is co-captain of the crew team, an avid debater and public speaker for the Fox Chapel Forensics and MUN teams, a student ambassador, a member of the National Honor Society, and active in the Environmental and Asian Culture clubs.

Niko will be a 9th grader at Fox Chapel Area High School in the fall, where he'll represent Aspinwall as senator in the Student Government, sing in the chorus, be a novice rower with the crew team, compete in speech and debate, and play defense on the JV ice hockey team. He also plays for the Steel City Ice Renegades U16 hockey team.

Our New President: Marsha Pomeroy-Huff

By BOB TRIMBLE

We welcome our new president for 2022-2023, **Marsha Pomeroy-Huff**.

We are in luck because Rotary is in her blood. Her grandfather was Rotary, her dad still is (as the long-serving Clovis, NM Club secretary), and her sister and brother-in-law are both past presidents in New Mexico. And that's not all. During her senior year in high school, Marsha made friends with the visiting Rotary exchange student from France, who persuaded Marsha to apply for the Rotary Youth Exchange program. She was selected to participate and got her first choice, to go to France. She spent an adventurous 11 months in a new culture with a new language and enjoyed the hospitality of five host families. Ask her about it, and she will tell you that it was "life changing" in many wonderful ways.



A few years later, this New Mexico girl found her way to San Jose, California along with her husband, USAF Lieutenant Cliff, a graduate of the Air Force Academy who later moved into the academic world for IT and, you guessed it, landed on the IT mountain top - CMU's Software Engineering Institute (SEI). Marsha left sunny California for the 'Burgh on New Year's Eve 1986, to be welcomed by three feet of snow! A true "we're not in Kansas anymore" moment. A few years later, the couple welcomed their son, Spencer, who is now a technical writer working in Pittsburgh for a multi-national software development company.

After a short career as a science teacher in the Pittsburgh Public schools, Marsha enrolled at Pitt for her Ed.D. and joined CMU on staff as a specialist to develop new techniques for software developers to optimize their work processes. The goal was to improve product quality, reduce development costs, and increase delivery-schedule predictability. She's well-published on this subject after 22 years at SEI. In 2013, Marsha left CMU to start a consulting business that helps software companies to customize and implement their own process-improvement training programs. That business continues today. Also, two years ago, she went "back to the future" and accepted a part-time position as a veterinary technician (her weekend-and-summer job during high school) at a local animal clinic.

As we noted, Rotary is in her blood. She actually selected our club from a short list given to her by the DGs of both New Mexico and our area. She chose us after visiting several local clubs because of the distinct structure of our meetings and the club as a whole. She also felt that the Rotary Club of Fox Chapel Area had the best programs by far, which she valued for the interesting community and world views. Marsha has been with us for just over four years now, and Bonnie Cardinali is her club mentor. Thanks Bonnie!

Marsha has two additional roles in our club, based on her experience with and continuing interest in Rotary Youth Exchange. This year, she will serve our club's outbound student as the RYE Officer and our inbound student as RYE Counselor (per U.S. State Department requirements).

Marsha has several ambitions for our club in the new year. One of those is to make the club more visible to the community through new service projects and ongoing support for local organizations. A little marketing of all the good things we do may be in our future. Stay tuned.

All the best, Marsha. You have the gavel! This will be fun!

Thank You to Outgoing President Murphey

By BOB TRIMBLE



Thank You, Steve!

It was a great year at FoxChapel Area Rotary as we were admirably led by Dr. Stephen Murphey (yes, with the "e").

In his parting speech at the Transition Dinner, Steve spread thanks to all who made the year so good.

He thanked the Grants Committee for an excellent distribution of support spread across the community and the world.

He thanked the Presentation Committee, all one of them, for an excellent line-up of guest speakers with great stories to share.

He thanked the Golf Committee for the great event they put together.

He thanked the Service committee for taking on a long term project of value at Beechwood Farms.

He thanked those folks that keep the wheels on the bus with finance and administration of quietly keeping things rolling.

He thanked his wife Lorraine for her support for this Rotary year and always.

Finally, Steve thanked every member for all they did to make our Club even better!

That's a lot of thanks.

Now, it's time to turn the tables and for us to say **Thank You Steve** for your kindness, your thoughtful invocations, your decisions, and your calm leadership. We also thank you for all the Covid and allergy insights. You are a true professional.

As Steve moves forward, you'll find him at Beechwood Farms digging holes, working with Andrea on lining up speakers, and keeping an eye on all of us for our shots in the fall!

BTW, Steve took a sabbatical after his term of office and spent some time at his favorite golf course in the Laurel Highlands. This course is so available that Steve can play any hole that comes his way in any order he prefers. Golfers Heaven!

Save the Date: Our Rotary Golf Classic Set for Sept. 19

By H. JAMES MICHAELS

Save the date: Our **2022 Charity Golf Classic** will be held Monday, Sept. 19, 2022, at River Forest Country Club in Freeport, PA

This is our single most important fund-raising effort of the year that has contributed nearly \$150,000 in the past five years alone to local civic and charitable organizations. It also has given significant funds to international charities.

The Presenting Sponsor is once again Core, the Center for Organ Recovery and Education, headquartered in O'Hara.

This year two recipients have been chosen to be co-beneficiaries:

- Aspinwall Meals on Wheels, and
- The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Christ the King Conference.

Both groups have been serving the communities in the Fox Chapel Area School District for many years. Their volunteers serve meals plus provide companionship and financial help persons in need.

The Rotary also supports other charitable organizations within the Fox Chapel Area School District boundaries.

Past Rotary Golf Classic Beneficiaries include: Fox Families Care, the Cooper-Siegel Community Library, Circles of Sharpsburg, Aspinwall Meals on Wheels, All of Us Care, Backpacks for Hunger, Audubon Society of Western PA, Camp Guyasuta, St. Margaret Foundation Bed Fund, Family Worship Center Meals, and FCAHS Student Support Services,

A Tribute to 71-Year Rotarian Jim Simmermon

By BOB TRIMBLE on Monday, July 11, 2022

Jim Simmermon Tribute

Here is the tribute we gave to Jim Simmermon at the Transitional Dinner:

"It's not that often in life that you get to know and work with a person that has been 'around the block' more than most.

Jim Simmermon has been a member of the Fox Chapel Area club in the past and now, even as a member of the Oakmont Club, we get to see and hear from Jim weekly as he joins his longtime friends over here. Jim joined Rotary in 1950, 70 maybe 71 years now of perfect attendance. Jim was the District Governor along the way. As Jim would say, "There's no such thing as 'no time'. You make time for the things that are important to you."

Jim and his wife Lois raised five kids. Some of his kids are also part of Rotary and Jim often zooms into their meetings as well!

Jim is quick-witted and always brings a smile. He is also a very generous guy as he regularly donates cash and time when the opportunity knocks. He's a treat, and we welcome Jim as an Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Fox Chapel Area.

We're catching Jim a little off guard but that hasn't stopped him in the past. Jim, a few words?"

For those who missed the dinner, Jim did have a few words. After thanking the group for the recognition, Jim relayed the story that some years ago he told his mother that he had won an attendance award at Rotary to which she said, "I hope that your attendance at church is just as good."

Welcome back Jim!

Club Leaders



[Marsha M. Pomeroy-Huff](#)
President



[Daniel Stern](#)
Secretary



[WILLIAM P. MOONEY](#)
Treasurer



[A. Barry Leonard](#)
Membership Chair



[LANNY SEED](#)
Rotary Foundation
Chair



[Thomas P. Benic](#)
Webmaster



[Rob J. Wilson](#)
Past President
Webmaster



[Stephen M. Murphey
MD](#)
iPast President



[Harold D. Hicks Jr.](#)
Assistant Governor

Committee List 2022-23