



# THE COURIER

## THE PALMERTON CONCOURSE CLUB

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Those who know me best, know that I am a big maker of New Year's resolutions. I try to evaluate my life each year and see where I could make improvement. The past few years, tops on my list has been to clean out the section of my basement where I threw the packed boxes from the last move. I literally threw the last house into boxes, placed them in an amazingly haphazard fashion, closed the door and never looked back. Enter 2020. When discussing my resolutions with Morgan, she reminded me that the basement has been a resolution for a while now. So I had to pivot. My resolution became "I will organize and transform my art studio basement, so the basement will not be a resolution again in 2021."

What would it take for this to actually happen? If you had asked me this in January, I would have responded that a few things would need to happen:

1. No travel
2. No visitors
3. No outside activities

In essence – a total lockdown inside my house. None of us could have envisioned a worldwide pandemic that would actually bring this scenario to fruition. I won't keep you in suspense, 5 months in and the basement is not finished. I try to be a glass half full person, so I will tell you that it is over half painted and at least half the boxes have been sorted through.

Beside the basement project, there have been other silver linings to my quarantine. I was able to spend a lot of quality time with my granddaughter last spring working through her online schooling. Time that is special as she becomes a teenager and begins to develop her own life. We started writing short stories as a family where each of us incorporates the same paragraph into our story and we meet to read them aloud. It is fascinating to see the different approach each of us writes. Another surprise, I reconnected with a group of friends that I studied with in Europe. Some of us had not spoken in almost 40 years while others have remained in contact, and now we talk weekly on a group phone call. Together, we are reading a new book that takes place in Vienna where we studied. It has been a lot of fun incorporating our common past into everyone's present day life.

While adapting to the current situation, 2020 has forced all of our lives to take on a new look. Our club is no different. It will be an interesting year for us, but I truly believe if we are all open and flexible to some new ideas, we will come through this. We were able to keep some traditions alive this spring. We awarded our scholarships to some very deserving young students, assisting them in continuing their education. Additionally, we were able to schedule 5 Sunday concerts. We received a lot of positive feedback as people were glad to be able to get outside and enjoy the music. We planted flowers for the Borough in the round flower bed and would like to thank Alex Saas, a local boy scout, for volunteering to water the flowers in what turned out to be a hot summer.

For the upcoming year, we are required to abide by the safety guidelines set forth by the CDC and the State of Pennsylvania. Presently, indoor meetings are limited to 25 people. I think it would be nice for us to hold our elections, induct our officers, adopt our annual budget and most importantly get together in person – something that we have all really missed these last 5 months. As we average more than 25 people at our general meetings, I would like to hold our first meeting in the Borough Park. This way we are outside, we can safely distance, yet still conduct some very important business.

To accomplish this, we need to move the meeting to Saturday, October 3rd at 11 am with Sunday, October 4th at 12 pm as a rain date. We will meet by the Bandstand so some benches are available, but if you prefer, bring your own lawn chair. Wear your favorite facemask for a Facemask Fashion Show and bring along a non-perishable food item for a Fall CACPAC food pantry donation! If you would like to stay and socialize after the business meeting, feel free to bring your own snack and beverage.

You will also notice an additional donation line has been added to your dues slip. As club members, I know it is important to all of you to keep our common goal of community service alive. It is sometimes the small things that keep people's spirits high in difficult times: roses and flowers in the park, a summer evening concert, a scholarship to a local student. We have enough money in the bank to keep these traditions alive short term. We realize the toll that COVID-19 has placed on all the local non-profits to whom we generally donate thousands of dollars annually through our basket spectacular proceeds. At Advisory Board, we thought we would begin a Step-up Challenge. As most of our member supported fundraisers have been canceled or postponed for the foreseeable future, we wanted to ask our members who are able, to contribute an extra \$10 (or any amount they wish) to their annual dues and this money would be set aside to assist the community where needed in the coming year. We have set a goal of 50% member participation and we thank all of you for considering this as an option for helping our neighbors in crisis.

I truly hope to see you at our outdoor meeting in the Park. We look forward to coming together and hearing your ideas for serving our community in a new fashion that keeps you safe and still provides the community service that Concourse Club is known for, and maybe some new traditions may be formed along the way! As always, feel free to contact me at any time with your ideas and opinions (cacc@ptd.net or 610.393.4625). I look forward to seeing you at our first meeting!

Best regards,

***Carol***

## **WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Greetings! I want to take a moment to thank Judy Borger for her guidance and leadership on this committee. I look forward to learning the ropes from Judy in the coming year and helping our club to be as successful as possible!

While many things have changed because of the pandemic, our spirit and commitment to our community has not! We will once again have coupon booklets for sale for Boscov Community Days, which will be held over two days this year (October 14 and 15) from 9AM- 9PM. However, because of COVID, Boscov's has decided to go paperless for this year's endeavor. Everyone will have access to a 20% off coupon and every sale will offer 5% back to our club! More details to come.

Also, our largest fundraiser of the year, our annual Basket Spectacular, will be held on April 10, 2021. We will all be looking forward to a wonderful time together, raising money and telling people about our club. It's never too soon to start planning your themed baskets!

Again, thanks to Judy for her service and for teaching me how to best serve our club in this role. As a new member of the Club and a new member of the Palmerton community, I have already seen firsthand all the wonderful things the Concourse Club does for our town. Please feel free to reach out to me with your ideas for the future. I can always be reached at 484-626-2116.

***Marci Lesko***

Chair, Ways and Means Committee



## **Concourse Club Programs for 2020-2021**

**Thursday, November 5, 2020**

### **100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S VOTING...A LOOK BACK**

**Jill Youngkin, Museum Curator for Lehigh Valley Heritage Museum**

St. John's Towamensing Lutheran Church.....7:00 PM

**Thursday, December 3, 2020**

### **A MUSICAL PRESENTATION**

**Sherry Freund**

St. John's Towamensing Lutheran Church.....7:00 PM

**Thursday, January 7, 2021**

### **WOMEN AND OSTEOPOROSIS**

**Stacey Connell, APRN, BC, Nurse Practitioner**

St. John's Towamensing Lutheran Church.....7:00 PM

Hostesses.....Lisa Green and Cindy Heimbach

**Thursday, February 4, 2021**

### **ALL ABOUT LAVENDER**

**Sheri Anthony, Owner Quiet Hills Lavender Farm**

St. John's Towamensing Lutheran Church.....7:00 PM

Hostesses.....Pat Kern and Kristine George

**Thursday, March 4, 2021**

### **VALUE, BENEFITS AND UTILITY OF NATIVE PLANTS IN THE LANDSCAPE**

**Brandon Everett, Horticulturist At the Edge of the Wood Plant Nursery, Orefield**

St. John's Towamensing Lutheran Church.....7:00 PM

Hostesses.....Laura Curcio and Kathy Elliston

**Thursday, April 8, 2021**

### **THE HISTORY AND MAKING OF PYSANKY EGGS**

**Kerry Palumbo**

St. John's Towamensing Lutheran Church.....7:00 PM

Hostesses.....Jennie Rose Serfass and Diane Huber

**Thursday, May 6, 2021**

### **ANNIVERSARY DINNER**

Blue Mountain Resort.....5:30 PM

Hostess.....Joan Turko

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE CENTER**

The Domestic Violence Service Center greatly appreciates your support of the abused and homeless women and children of Carbon County who count on our support.

Thank you,  
*Marge Porambo*

The following items are on their wish list:

socks, underwear (all sizes infant to adult), diapers (especially sizes 3&4), pull-up diapers, baby wipes, sippy cups, powdered formula, family size toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, tampons, sanitary pads, combs, hair brushes, blow dryers, laundry detergent, softener, dryer sheets, first-aid kits, ace bandages, ice packs, anti-bacterial ointment, wound care cream or spray, alarm clocks, umbrellas, crib sheets, twin bed sheets, pillow cases, pillows, coloring books, crayons, school supplies, construction paper, children's puzzles, dollar store toys, baby monitors, pre-paid phone cards, gift certificates to supermarkets, K-Mart, WalMart, Target.

*Please send only new items.*

WE WILL NO LONGER BE COLLECTING USED CELL PHONES OR RELATED ACCESSORIES.

### **Hospitality Chairs for 2021**

#### **January**

*Hostesses:*  
*Lisa Green*  
*Cindy Heimbach*

#### **February**

*Hostesses:*  
*Pat Kern*  
*Kristine George*

#### **March**

*Hostesses:*  
*Laura Curcio*  
*Kathy Elliston*

#### **April**

*Hostesses:*  
*Jennie Rose Serfass*  
*Diane Huber*

#### **May**

*Hostess:*  
*Joan Turko*

#### **Hospitality Obligations**

1. Chairpersons will meet with their committees to plan a theme, food, etc. This meeting could be held at a club meeting prior to your assigned month.
2. Be present at your assigned month meeting night.
3. If unable to attend meeting, you must get a substitute. Advise chairperson of this fact.
4. Contribute goods or money to fulfill your obligation.
5. A member of the committee must obtain the silver set, tablecloths, and key to the church hall from Cindy Heimbach, 367 Princeton Ave., 610-826-3190. **All the above should then be returned to her clean and dry, as soon as possible.**
6. **Silver Set:** Although it is not mandatory to use the silver set, please keep in mind as hostess, the set is part of the Concourse Club time honored tradition and using the silver set is a great way to be green!