



From the Board President

Remaining Seized!

By Judy Zimmerman Herr

One of the roles of the Downtowners Board is to lead the organization in envisioning broad directions. During the coming year, the Board will once again be engaged in strategic planning. We'll be inviting members to join us in asking what we want Downtowners to look like in five years, and envisioning ways to get to that point.

One of the roles of strategic planning is to look at our organization in its context and ask what that context might mean for how we should move forward. As part of that, we see the need to intentionally educate ourselves about issues of diversity, equity and inclusion, and how they affect our organization. We will be seeking conversations with folks who can help us examine ourselves.

One month ago, Downtowners' members received a message from the Board in response to the conversations going on in our city and our country sparked by the killing of George Floyd, which highlighted the racism of our society. As part of our strategic planning process, we will be asking the kinds of questions we raised in our June 15 message:

- How do we address the issues rooted in racism that affect the lives of older adults in our community?
- How do we understand and break down biases and barriers that have prevented our neighbors of color from engaging as members in our organization?
- How can we develop and demonstrate our commitment to a stronger and more inclusive community?

An expression that is often used in the proceedings of the United Nations is "to remain seized." If there's an issue or situation the committee or UN body has not resolved, they signal that this will remain on their agenda with the statement: "The UN remains seized of this issue." It means we haven't come to a conclusion, but we won't forget this.

For the Board of Lancaster Downtowners, how we as an organization address the reality of racism is not something we will quickly resolve. But it is something about which we will "remain seized."



Program Highlights

BYOP (Bring Your Own Picnic)

Saturday, August 8th 6-8pm

Wolf Museum Lawn (423 W. Chestnut Street)

BYOP (Bring Your Own Picnic including drink) and distance yourself socially from others as we gather for our annual summer picnic. Smells of hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill will only be a memory but interacting with other Downtowners (appropriate social distancing of course) will be real.

Bring your own picnic blanket or chairs. **DO WEAR YOUR MASK PARTICULARLY DURING OUR GATHERING TIME.**



Downtowners enjoy the Socially Distanced Ice Cream Social at Buchanan Park on July 16th.

Check the [Event Calendar](#) for Walking Group, Book Clubs, Afternoon Teas, and Koffee Klatch gatherings throughout August.

See you on Zoom on August 19th for a special presentation on Intergenerational Shared Housing and Home Safety by Platinum Sponsor Landis Communities. We'll hear from Downtowners Jim and Pat Kalish as part of the session!

From Your Reporter

-Andy Berfond

I hope everyone continues to stay safe and well, as we navigate our new schedules and adapt to new norms and practices. For me, I've been cautiously trying to get back out there, doing the things I like to do, but in a much different way.

Today though, my morning reminders before leaving home contains more on my checklist, including keys, wallet, phone, mask, little bottle of hand sanitizer and a consciousness of where I'm going and how many people will be there.



I've been watching much less television news coverage, and since it's the summer season, I'm sitting outside more listening to favorite music on my new ear pods, while doing some good reading.

I've come to a conclusion it's the little things that give us joy that are today more meaningful than ever. When the Downtowners put out a call for a socially distanced meet up for ice cream on the F & M Campus, many of us signed up, eager for the opportunity to get together again.

It's amazing that just over a year ago, we all gathered at the Ware Center dressed in gold attire to celebrate the big news of the city receiving Age Friendly City status. There was no need to worry about how many people were in attendance, or how many people were sitting at a table. We picked our foods from a long display of tasty looking offerings, never thinking twice about how they were being served.

Even though our routines have changed there is one thing I am certain. We are part of a resilient generation whose lives have certainly been challenged by events of the past and this time is no different. We will get through this, hopefully unscathed, and be able to add living through a pandemic to our personal stories.

Resource Committee Corner

Service Provider Recommendation -- by Dave Parse

DMS Construction was a pleasure to use. Dave Schreck, owner of DMS, was always present and the work completed was high quality work and delivered on time - he did our roofs and gutters, as well as some general carpentry work. I would highly recommend DMS. Best reached at 717-471-1432 (cell). He is prompt, courteous, thoughtful and was professional in all aspects of this project. -Recommendation added in July 2020

Have you been impressed with service completed by one of the recommended providers in our [Resource Directory](#)? Let other Downtowners know and share the kudos!

How to Leave a Review:

1. Go to [this page on the Downtowners website](#).
2. There is a button at the bottom that says "Add your Review/Feedback Here".
3. Complete that 3 question form and your notes will get entered into the directory.

Do you know a great painter, house cleaner, or auto mechanic? New providers can also be recommended via the Review Form described above, or call the office at 717-584-1224 and share your experience.

Rescheduling that Elective Surgery? Here's What you Need to Know

[Click for full article from Next Avenue.](#)



You might want to try....

Joining the [History of Slavery and Discrimination, 1970 – 2020: The Struggle Continues \(Virtual Seminar\)](#) hosted by Gibbel Kraybill & Hess with Bethel AME Church. Wednesday, July 22nd at 6pm; pre-registration required.

From Two Downtowners

Masks Required -- by Eileen Gregg

In doing some research on Rocky Springs Park, I came across an advertisement for the Rocky Springs Entertainment Center.

After the Three Mile Island disaster in 1979, people were afraid to come to the park, but the Rocky Springs Entertainment Center that included a bowling alley continued to function. An undated advertisement for the Entertainment Center reads:

"Rocky Springs Entertainment Center will reopen for business Friday, June 26 at 4:00. Masks required when entering and leaving bowling area. Leave shoes and bowling balls at lane - staff will clean and sanitize."

I wonder if any Downtowners remember this.

Concerned about Pedestrian Safety?

Downtowner Mimi Shapiro encourages everyone to take this survey offered by the City of Lancaster as they gather community input for their Vision Zero. Vision Zero looks to eliminate traffic related fatalities and serious injuries by 2030.

[Click here for survey and more info.](#)



Mysteries, Coffee, and Conversation

Looking for some titles to add to your library list? Here are some mysteries discussed at the recent Downtowners book gathering. Join via Zoom on July 24th for more recommendations.

The President is Missing
By J. Patterson & Bill Clinton
Read by Barb Breneman

The Long Call
By Anne Cleeves
Read by Peggy Harbison

Eight Perfect Murders
By Peter Swanson
Read by Brenda Hayasaka

The Bookwoman's Last Fling
By John Dunning
Read by Susan Leinberger

Arthur and George
By Julian Barnes
Read by Nancy Warshawsky

To Zoom...or not to Zoom

I would be willing to bet if you asked anyone back at the end of last year if they had ever heard of Zoom, the answer would be no.

Aside from conversing with a toddler child while playing with a toy car, I can't imagine having the word in our every day vocabulary.

But that has changed quickly. Zoom has become one of the most important internet platforms that exists today, enabling us to continue to do business and socialize in our newly created daily routines.

Whether it's a business meeting or a social event, with just two people or a crowd, the Zoom platform has exploded in it's popularity and there is no sign of stopping.

Early on in our lockdown days, Downtowners had turned to Zoom for multiple meetings and conversations. It has been comforting to know we still have the ability to meet up in this strange new way, to share our experiences, talk about the books we've read and even present the adventures of our vacations. Downtowners Judy and Bob did just that and shared all about their exciting trip to France last year.

Perhaps you've heard of Eric Yuan. He is a 50 year old self made billionaire who is helping millions of people to survive social distancing by giving away his Zoom videoconferencing tool during the global crisis. You can read his story in a recent special edition of Forbes Magazine's World Billionaires List.

Downtowner Rod has hosted some koffee klatches and casual meetings utilizing Zoom and shared those who have attended always look forward to getting back for more.

The good news is we can now cautiously get back out in the community as long as we follow the rules and guidance of the professionals. The challenge for many of us is when we observe others who don't particularly care to heed the caution of the experts and proceed with their daily routines as if they never paid attention to current events. This is why perhaps many folks, including Downtowners, are perfectly content by interacting remotely.

I hope to run into you soon, either on Zoom, or outside of Market. –Andy Berfond

Downtowners enjoy a Zoom presentation about the Beauty, Food, and History of Provence, France.

If you'd like to see the presentation, [click here.](#)



From the Executive Director

By Melissa Ressler

I was recently asked a thought-provoking question: *what is still normal for you?* Put another way, what is something that COVID-19 hasn't changed? The only normalcy I could report out at the time was my morning routine – making my coffee, preparing breakfast, getting my daughters awake and ready for the day. After that it seemed as though every task had to be altered through COVID-colored glasses.

But just because it isn't normal, doesn't mean it can't produce a meaningful outcome. While some of us may suffer from Zoom fatigue, the Downtowners board and committees continue to serve our organization well virtually. Just One Call volunteers provide delivery, transportation, and technology assistance under a new set of health & safety recommendations. And gratefully, with a growing understanding of how to protect one another, we can enjoy in-person fellowship like the Ice Cream Social.

A highlight of the Downtowner's year has always been the Annual Meeting. While we will not bump into one another over a spread of appetizers this year, we are reimagining the evening of celebration with a COVID lens. An engaging speaker and an organizational update will be broadcast virtually, with opportunities for Downtowners to tune-in independently or in socially distanced small groups. It is our hope that our time together on Thursday, October 22nd will still produce a time of meaningful connection among our vibrant community. More details to come!



Do you have a story, opinion, or article to share? Email your contribution to director@lanasterdowntowners.org by the 15th of each month!

Old Housing, New Needs

- Only 10% of America's housing is ready for older populations – only 6% in the Mid-Atlantic region.
- "Ready" means a zero-step entry, bedroom and full bath on the first floor, and at least one safety feature in the bathroom.
- How have you made decisions that support long-term living in your city home, condo, or apartment?

[Click here for the full article from census.gov.](#)



NEW TAX DEADLINES



Installment payers:

- 2nd installment due date moved to 8/31
- 3rd installment due date moved to 11/30

Regular payers:

- 2% discount period extended to 8/31
- Base payment period moved to 9/1 through 12/31
- Eliminated 10% penalty period completely

If any taxpayer pays at the base amount during the extended discount period, we will refund the over-payment amount.

Visit [the City of Lancaster Website for more information.](#)

No Longer Along Family Support Group

Offering support for those who have a loved one experiencing mental illness.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the upcoming **No Longer Alone Family Support Group** (FSG) session will be held via Zoom from 3-5pm on Sunday, July 26.

Click the [Join Zoom Meeting link here.](#)

- **Topic:** "Minds Renewed"
- **Presenter:** Cathy Meyers, Facilitator of Minds Renewed at Calvary Church

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