



Catholic Kolping Society Of Brooklyn

Newsletter

Spring, 2018



Kolping Calendar

- **Very Happy Mother's Day Sunday, May 13th.** Let's take a minute to pay tribute to all our mothers and grandmothers. We know we owe you for molding us into the people we are. We send all of you our appreciation and very best wishes. May all the mms be spoiled this Mother's Day!
- **Happy Memorial Day, Monday, May 28th.** Over the years this has become the unofficial start of summer, but it was created after World War I (The Great War) to be a special day to decorate the graves of those who served our country with American flags and show our thanks for their sacrifices. Decoration Day has evolved to Memorial Day, but it still the perfect day to pay tribute to our American heroes.
- **Board Of Directors Meeting; Monday, June 11th at 7:30 PM** in the Kolping Center.
- **Flag Day Thursday June 14th.** A special day to display our American flag! Allow yourself a moment to reflect on our freedom as Americans, and the flag, which is the symbol of that freedom.
- **Happy Father's Day Sunday, June 17th.** Our dads and grandfathers also deserve our appreciation for all the hard work and sacrifice to they went through to benefit us and the family. Thanks for all you have done and continue to do for the family, for quiet strength and setting a good example. We hope our dads and grandpas are all treated to a special and fun family day this year.
- **Summer Begins, Thursday June 21.** According to the internet summer will arrive at 6:07AM! This had some snow this winter but avoided any huge storms that cripple our area. Bitter cold in January, a tolerable February, then mother nature messed with us with a series of nor'easters in March, and a cooler than normal April! Enjoy the one day with more daylight than any other in 2018!
- **Please Note:** Due to a date conflict at the Kolping Center, the General Meeting that was previously announced for Sunday, June 24 is cancelled. We are sorry for any inconvenience and we expect to schedule this event again next June.
- **Future Dates: Saturday, October 27th: Mass & Dinner at the Center,** commemoration of the Kolping International Day of Prayer & All Soul's Day Observance. The Kolping Family Christmas Party is set for *Saturday, December 8th.*
- **Don't Forget Our Charity Project!** We will collect staple food items as well as cash to be used to feed the homeless and provide food to parishioners in need at St. Matthias. **PLEASE BRING FOOD ITEMS ALONG WHENEVER YOU ATTEND AN EVENT AT KOLPING!**



Kolping News

Annual Meeting, Annual General Meeting. Many of you will remember when Annual Meeting was held in January, the month our Society was founded. Sometimes bad weather kept people away, so our time the meeting crept later on the calendar, a little bit at a time. It has settled into the first Sunday in March, and that has brought us luck with milder weather in recent years! We welcomed 28 adults and 2 children to our Kolping Center on the afternoon of Sunday, March 4 for our 94th Annual Meeting. We also had a surprise guest drop in-our dear friend Father Christopher Heanue, who stole some time from his other duties to be with us!

We began the day with a prayer of Thanksgiving, then enjoyed the buffet of sandwiches and salads provided by the Society. Deacon John Sands was our scheduled speaker; he had asked for a few minutes to personally thank us for our ongoing support of St. Matthias parish's Social Outreach Program. Deacon John assured our members that everything we donate is being put to good use either for the food pantry or for meals served to the homeless population. After Deacon John concluded, the meeting formally got started.

Chris Gerage offered to read the minutes from last year's meeting, which were accepted as read. Next on the agenda, Bill Conte presented the State of our Society. We discussed both our accomplishments and challenges and hopefully got everybody thinking-a perfect preface for the rest of the meeting.

We began with the Treasurer's report. Despite some unexpected expenses we finished 2017 in the black. We talked about our general financial status and some things we can expect in 2018. Bill especially thanked Anne Novotny for all the trips to the bank, and making sure our bills are paid in a timely manner.

Next we moved on and discussed membership. It seems that people who enjoy coming to our Center resist becoming members and making a commitment. If we are to survive we must focus on figuring out how to attract like-minded people and growing the membership if the Society is to survive. Financial Secretary Pat Gerage that we are currently at 63 members, but some members have relocated to Florida and this number is likely to go down. Pat also reported we do not have any 25 or 50 year anniversaries coming up in 2018.



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Our Mission Statement

We, the members of the Catholic Kolping Society of Brooklyn, extend the vision of our founder, Blessed Adolph Kolping, by promoting the development of the individual and family, we foster a sense of belonging and friendship through our program of spiritual, educational, charitable and social activities.

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Kolping News

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Next, we talked about the house/Center. Everyone agrees that our greatest asset are the members themselves, but the Kolping Center is what holds us all together. We talked about the general condition of the house, and some repairs that were made in 2017. The Center was also used by people from the local community for family functions, bringing the Kolping name and ideals to ideals to non-members. We do not have a house manager, Bill thanked the officers, board members and a few others who do their best to keep the Center functioning and in good shape.

We moved onto our 2017 Entertainment functions. Last year we held the Annual meeting, a Spring Mass and Dinner, a General Membership Meeting (Picnic Theme) at the end of June, and a Fall Mass in October, which incorporated the Kolping International Day of Prayer and an All Soul's Day Observance. We finished the year off with our Christmas Party. Apparently our North Pole theme attracted an early snowstorm that day. About 20 people could not attend but those who made it had a lot of fun! Bill thanked everyone who organized and helped make Kolping events successful.

The Good & Welfare report noted the members we knew about who were ill, hospitalized or are homebound in 2017 included Irene Bamach, Evelyn Blatz, Eleanor Gartner, Claire Heiser, Arlene Heller, Ernst Knapp, Jean Seidl and Steve Wenzler. We appreciate that Anne Novotny creates cards for these members on her home computer and sends them out, and visits them when possible and thanked her. It is admirable that Anne manages all this using public transportation to get around.

Other topics discussed included the upcoming National Convention to be held the weekend after Labor Day, the National Lenten Project, and our ongoing charity project with the St. Matthias Social Outreach Program.

The slate of Officers was presented and Recording secretary Valerie Meyer cast one vote to make it official. Our officers for 2018 are: President, Bill Conte; Vice President, Jessica Meyer; Treasurer, Anne Novotny; Financial Secretary, Patricia Gerage; Recording Secretary, Valerie Meyer; Center-Outside Parties, Alice Kokasch and Scott Stahl; Center-Maintenance, the Entire Board of Directors; and Member, National Board of Directors, Christopher Gerage. Our board consists of all the officers plus Inge Jellen, John Jellen, Ernie Lauth, Monica Meyer, Albert Tscherne and Theresa Wiederhold.

As the meeting was winding down, we learned from Albert Tscherne that longtime member Freddy Wittreich recently turned 90. Although he was not present we wished Freddy well and toasted his continued good health! Elfriede Struna also let us all to know that there is Catholic programming on Relevant Radio, 1430 on the AM dial every day.

Bill thanked everyone for coming out and attending. The meeting was officially closed with a few prayers. Bill thanked everyone for coming out and attending-but not to leave quite yet! Coffee and dessert was on its way, and our members lingered to enjoy socialization along with their coffee.



Condolences are sent to members who lost loved ones recently. The Meyer family lost Valerie's dad, Fred Keller, after a long illness in February. The members of the Kokasch and Wiederhold families suddenly lost Alice's sister, Marilu George in early April. We send our best wishes to the members of these families.

Happy Birthday to all who celebrate their special day in Springtime! In April we belatedly congratulate Fred Augstein, Frank Heller, Anne Novotny, Scott Stahl

and Albert Tscherne. In May, best wishes are sent to Rosemarie Bayer, Ann Conte, Sonia Juran Kulesza, Bernhardt Poschmann and Theresa Wiederholdt. And our June celebrants are Pat Gerage, John Jellen, Margarete Knapp, Irene Lauth, Herbert Roethel and Ivette Stahl. Best wishes to everyone for a year filled with good health and happy times.

Please Remember to keep our members who have health concerns or are homebound your prayers, particularly Irene Baunach, Evelyn Blatz, Eleanor Gartner, Claire Heiser, Arlene Heller, Ernst Knapp, Jean Seidl & Steve Wenzler.

Kolping Mass and Communion Supper. It has been a tradition that goes way back for our Brooklyn Kolping family to attend Mass together in early spring. This is done to commemorate Father Kolping's ordination on April 13, 1845 in Cologne. We attended Mass at church, then returned to Kolping for a home cooked breakfast and a speaker. We still keep up this tradition, but now everything is held at the Center. This is not only easier for our senior citizens, but it saves us all from searching for scarce parking twice in one day!

A bit over forty of us were on hand Saturday, April 28 when Father Chris came to our Center to celebrate 5PM Mass. We love when Father Chris is able to join us, bringing his youthful energy! Also on hand was our leader of song, Karl Werkmann and Bill Conte acted as lector. One of Father Chris' talents is to deliver a powerful homily in fairly short order and this time was no exception. It is safe to say that we were all enlightened by the experience. We also recited the Prayer for The Kolping Family as meditation, and we sang the Kolping Song for the first time in a long while at the conclusion of our Mass.

Unfortunately Father Chris' parish held First Holy Communion at his parish earlier and he had to excuse himself to visit some of the children's family celebrations. We understood and said our goodbyes to Father Chris and moved onto the dinner tables. We owe a big debt of thanks to Gary Meyer for organizing the serving, he saw the need and stepped up and kept things moving. We enjoyed our dinner of bratwurst, potato salad and sauerkraut, which our helpful members served in short order.

Dinner concluded, Bill Conte asked for our attention for some announcements. It was so nice to see we had a mixture of long-time and fairly new members, with all age groups represented. Everyone was reminded to sign the get well cards to let some members know we were thinking of them, to be generous to our collection for St. Matthias, and to please support our raffle. We also took a minute to call numbers for our door prizes-four flower arrangements which graced our tables...this is always a big hit with the ladies who love taking home those flowers!

Bill invited our long time member Rosemarie Rom to join him at the podium. He happily announced to those assembled that Rose had been nominated and would be the recipient of the Kolping Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor that can be bestowed on a Kolping member. Rose is one of those supportive members who has almost always been there, ready to give a hand for over thirty years. She was also a member of our Board of Directors for many years. A lovely letter of congratulations from the National Office was read and presented. Rose is well loved and she received a big hand and congratulations from those assembled.

We called the raffle and lingered afterwards, enjoying our coffee, dessert and each others company. Thank you to all who attended for the nice turnout, and special thanks go to those who helped along and contributed to the success of the evening!



In Memoriam

Here is a list of members of the Brooklyn Kolping Family who have passed away during the months of April, May and June.



Please remember the souls of the faithful departed in your prayers. If someone is missing let us know, send a note to the Center or use the email address at the bottom of page one.

April

Rita Briskelli-2010
Elizabeth Bugert-1956
John Bittel-1986
Winfried Blatz-2005
Maria Theresa (Terry) Brandel-2003
William Conte Sr.-2007
Frieda Diener-2010
Anna Hertling-1957
Paula Hartmann-1986
Frank House-1940
August Mueller-1980
Gus Mueller-1986
Elizabeth Oetting-1952
Frank Pfizter-1975
Katherine Pfizter-1996
Joe Sellaerberg-1985
Thea Schick-1991
Arthur Vogt-2005

May

Ed Farkas-2004
Peter Hertling-1962
John Huxis-1943
Wilhelmina Krauskauff-1953
Otto Roessler-1998
Janet Blatz Schields-1987
John Schober-1958
Joseph Seuffert-1956
Fanny Vogel-2005
John Weindler-2007

June

Eddie Blatz-2011
Eugene Blatz-1973
Arthur Blenkle-2014
Evelyn Bove-2005
Wilma Buchte-1975
Otto Burger-1991
John Burk-1963
Felix Christ-1976
Alfred Cerne-2013
Franz Huber-1995
Vincent Lieber-1975
Martha Olbrich-1971
Elizabeth Reilly-2000
August Ruhs-1974
Leo Trabold-1993

Consider This:

Truly, I say to you, as you did it to the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.

-Matthew 25:40

