



December, 2020

Dear Kolping Members and Friends,

2020 has been a VERY different year all right! We have not officially been together as Kolping Members since March 15, right before life changed. Several of our members had bouts with Covid 19. Some cases were very severe, others less so - happily none proved fatal. The shift for many to 'work from home' has blurred the line between what is work time and what is family time. Others never stopped going to their workplaces; and some of our members have been laid off. Parents have become part-time teachers as well as doing outside jobs. We worry most of all about the older folks, and hope everyone is following protocols to keep as safe as possible. The last official letter went out in early 2020. Those with email addresses received a few updates, but it is time to reach out to the whole family and bring everyone up to date.

Kolping News:

Condolences. Sadly, we lost three older members since our last meeting in March.

Arlene Heller passed away on April 15 after many years of chronic health issues. As most of you remember, Arlene was married to Frank Heller Jr, who we lost in 2019. Although we did not see her all the time, Arlene was a Kolping member for many decades and we will miss her. ***We send our best wishes to the Heller family.***

Evelyn Heller Blatz, 90, passed away just fifteen days after her sister in law Arlene. Evelyn was born into the Society and was an adult member for over 70 years. She was an active in activities since childhood, and a very dedicated Kolping member. Most notably, she was our Brooklyn Kolping president for over 20 years. She had a dry sense of humor, loved old movies and the NY Mets, and was a very social person who was always open to making new friends. We shall miss her. ***Our sympathy to her family, Jeff & Michelle Blatz and Allison Hart.***

Steve Wenzler, 93, and another Brooklyn Kolping legend, passed away on July 26. Steve was also a Brooklyn Kolping member for over 70 years. He met his late wife Rosemarie at Kolping, they had an enduring marriage and three lovely daughters. Steve also served as our Brooklyn President for many years starting in the 1970's; he helped to guide us from the old Kolping House to the Kolping Center, and later helped us recover from two fires at the Center in the 1980's, then served as house manager after that. He never stopped caring, and as he slowed down he tried to come to a Kolping function when possible. We last saw him at the 2018 Christmas Party. He moved to an assisted living facility in 2019 and was doing very well there, passing somewhat unexpectedly. ***Our sincere condolences go to his family, especially his daughters Terri, Barbara and Diane.***

Anne Novotny's family has had a year of both joy and sorrow. In September Anne became a great-grandma for the first time when her grandson Patrick and his wife Kelly gave birth to their first child, Madisen. What a happy occasion to now have four generations in this family! ***We send our congratulations.***

Sadly, two months later Anne suffered the loss of her son, Hans-Peter Novotny, 60, who passed unexpectedly on November 3. We know this was a tremendous loss for Anne, her daughter Patty, and her grandchildren Nicole and Patrick. ***We send them all our best wishes and regards, and ask you to please keep the Novotny family in your prayers.***

Our sincere sympathy also goes to our longtime member, Arnold Ruf, who lost his wife Andrea J. Ruf on March 26, Mrs. Ruf was a well-liked teacher who enjoyed cooking, sewing and reading in her spare time. ***We are very sorry for the family's loss and send our best wishes.***

In Memory of Albert Heurich. We reported in our last newsletter earlier this year that a long time member, Albert Heurich passed away on December 28, 2019. His sister, member Erika Zinser, was nice enough to send a letter filling in details of Dr. Heurich's life for us: *My brother led a very full life. He graduated from Regis, Fordham and then went to get his medical degree from Georgetown University. He worked at Kings County Medical Center in the Pulmonary Department. He was a professor at Long Island University and director of the respiration therapy department at Kings County until he retired. Prior to working in the hospital he served his country as a Captain in the army in Vietnam. He was awarded the Bronze Star and the Combat Medal. He also volunteered as the organist for*

the German Mass at St. Matthias for over forty years. Throughout his life he was known as a kind, humble and gentle man who always had a smile on his face. He led a happy and full life.

Sincerely, Erika Zinser

Our Amazing Praeses, Fr. Chris Heanue, set an example for all of us this summer. You may have also seen this story in the *Tablet* or the *Kolping Banner* a few months back. With so many people out of work right now Father Chris saw a need to give the Holy Child Jesus food pantry a financial boost to help his parishioners in need. To that end he challenged himself to a 150 mile bike ride from Richmond Hill to East Hampton, Long Island. He found people to sponsor his effort by making donations to the food pantry. This was quite an undertaking in the summer heat, and we admire and congratulate Father Chris! When this crisis is over we will count on him to give us the energy and enthusiasm to jump start our Kolping Society so it is there for the next generation.

Local Food Pantries. Our adopted charity project of the past few years has been to support St. Matthias' social outreach programs which include a parish food pantry and a daytime program for the homeless. We have also been working with Father Chris and including Holy Child Jesus' food pantry as well. As you can imagine, both these facilities are feeling the strain of hard times right now. The homeless program at St. Matthias had to be suspended due to covid restrictions, but the food pantry is busy trying to help parishioners in need stretch their food budget. The food pantry at HCJ is working just as hard to help out at this time. As the holidays approach we encourage you to make a tax deductible donation (*no donation is too small*) to one or both worthy causes. **St. Matthias:** send checks payable to '**St. Matthias Parish**' to Mrs. Gail Sands, 75-26 60th Lane, Glendale, NY 11385. **Holy Child Jesus:** send checks payable to '**Holy Child Jesus Parish**' to Father Christopher Heanue, HCJ Parish, 111-11 86th Avenue, Richmond Hill, NY 11418. **Thank you in advance for your help.**

Special Mention. Unlike many of us, one Kolping member has not stopped serving during all this upheaval caused by covid - Chris Gerage. Those who attend our meetings know the NYC Department of Buildings reviewed our Public Assembly plan and required us to reduce the usable floor space with permanent fixtures which had to be put in place. Chris did the legwork for us by setting up appointments with contractors and being at the Center. Our small committee selected a contractor, then Chris was there on a daily basis for the installation started. We now have three built-ins in the main hall: a long counter and storage unit in the front right side of the hall (*behind the Myrtle Avenue staircase*), a display cabinet in the coat room alcove, and, best of all, a built in buffet area in the corner adjacent to the kitchen. We still have more to do in the meeting room, but the biggest part of the project is out of the way. We really owe Chris a debt of thanks for giving us so much of his personal time when we needed it most, and we really appreciate it.

Happy Birthday! Let's send out good wishes to those who celebrate in the next few months. Happy **December** birthdays to *Barbara Autstein, Agnes Hopeck, Gary Meyer, Jessica Meyer, Rosemarie Rom, Robert Wittreich* and *Erika Zinser*. In **January**, our New Year's Babies are *Jeff Blatz, Chris Gerage, Gillian Guile, Larisa Heiser, Ernie Lauth* and *Arnold Ruf*. In February we salute Evelyn Infante, Chris Meyer and Alfred Wittreich. Wishing you all lots of warm wishes for good health and happier times to come.

Good and Welfare: Please keep those who are homebound or maybe just need a prayer in yours, including (but not limited to): *Rosemarie Elgass, Eleanor Gartner, and Irene & Ernie Lauth*.

Don't forget...Brooklyn Kolping is on Social Media! There has not been much activity to report these past months, but bookmark these Kolping locations. **Webpage:** <http://www.kolping.org/brooklyn/>. **Facebook and Instagram:** Search under **Catholic Kolping Society of Brooklyn**. Check it out!

In Memoriam: Let's take a moment to remember deceased Kolping Family members. **Passed in December:** *Rev. Eugene Erny (1970), Gertrude Bittel (2000), Rose Ehrbacher (2003), Adele Hartmann (2008), Dr. Albert Heurich (2019), Rev. Joseph Heitz (1970), Frank Heller Sr. (1987), Marie Lohrer (1991), Leonard Melscheid (1970), Louise Rapp (1970), Ida Sommer (2007), John Sommer (1989), Frank Schottenhammel (1970); Willy Sellerberg (2007), Lorraine Tuzzo (1999), Ida Vogel (1951), Frank Wachter (1989), & Josephine Zoeller (1999).* **January:** *Hedwig Alt (1988), Fanny Bange (2002), Emma Blatz (1986), Fred Haller Sr. (2008), Rev. Joachim Von Kerssenbrock (2015), Ernst Knapp (2020); Rose Linsmaier (2006), Frieda Muller (2006), Lucy Pecnik (2002), Max Rapp (2004), Alfred Rein (1980), Josef Vogt (1983) & Rose Zernis (1967).* **February:** *Max Buchte (1970), Anna Fleish (1969), Hildegard Gartner (1978), Edward Hopeck (2011), Mary Kuhn (2005), Josef Loeschinger (2012), Anton Oettinger (1989), Lena Tiedeken (1986) & Bernhard Tiedeken (1989).* May they all rest in peace.

Christmas Greetings to Everyone! We are not letting covid prevent us from wishing each other a very Happy Christmastime! ***Wishing all of you the blessings of Advent and Christmas; and that we slide into better times in 2021!***



Some photos of the renovations in progress at our Kolping Center:



