



# The Chamber Chatter Box



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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



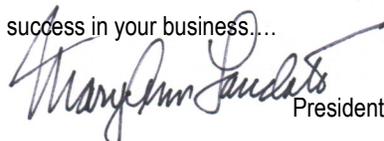
I recently heard the expression "we are approaching the giving time." The space from Thanksgiving to Christmas is famously the time where most charities will look to both businesses and individuals to reach into their pockets and donate. Aside from being a generous thing to do, could an act of giving actually be a very good business decision as well? In an article from Entrepreneur.com, the writer suggests that not only donations but charitable acts can benefit the community and the businesses that contribute. When businesses help other people, those people tend to want to support the company in return. "I've found that customers really want to know how you're making the world a better place," says Erin Giles, an Aiken, S.C.-based business philanthropy consultant who helps entrepreneurs find causes they're passionate about and incorporate their message into their business. Companies that encourage community involvement distinguish themselves from their competitors, and see many benefits, including loyal customers and happier employees. Consider a volunteer program in your business to routinely make volunteering opportunities available to your employees and reward them for participation.

Our chamber communities have many charitable needs starting with our November focus for donations, SHIM (South Hills Interfaith Ministries) is a human services organization dedicated to providing struggling families in **our communities** with direct assistance with food, clothing and other basic needs. At our November lunch monetary donations are being collected for SHIM. Please give generously. Also, you can contact SHIM for information about becoming a corporate partner.

For a volunteering opportunity, consider sending employees to the GBU building on November 7<sup>th</sup> to help with care packages for our soldiers away from home for the holidays.

As wonderful as the holidays can be, they can often take our focus away from our personal and business goals. One issue that I would like to make sure we stay on top of is our Strategic plan for our Chamber. The board is moving forward towards the goals we outlined for ourselves this year. One goal is to increase participation of the chamber membership to serve on committees. The board is currently actively seeking members to form a "membership committee." We need 6 – 8 members who can brain storm and implement strategies for increasing and retaining membership in our Chamber. Please see any board member at both the November and December lunches for more information or to sign up and get involved!

All my best for your continued success in your business...

  
President

## LUNCHEON & GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING November 5, 2015

**South Hills Country Club**  
4305 Brownsville Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15227

Noon

**Guest Speaker**  
**Jay Speyerer**

*What's your story? This isn't just an expression.*

Owner of Legacy Road Communications, Jay Speyerer ghost-writes people's biographies because he believes we are defined by our stories. Abducted as an infant and raised by a clowder of feral house cats, his story telling skills were solidly established at an early age. Now he helps others tell their stories, both by teaching and by writing. What happened to you -- good and bad, business or personal -- and how did you deal with it? Those are stories. (Collect enough of them and you have a memoir.)

## Thanksgiving Food Drive



The chamber will once again collect monetary donations for the SHIM (South Hills Interfaith Ministries) food pantry at the November luncheon. Please consider helping those in need during the upcoming holiday season.

SHIM operates two fully-stocked pantries from which families may select groceries. Their Bethel Park site operates twice a month and the pantry in Whitehall Borough operates once a month. The SHIM pantries distribute more than 350,000 pounds of food annually and in 2014 grew over 10,000 pounds of fresh produce in their Veg2Table Food Pantry Gardens.

### Advance reservations requested:

\$20 with reservation

\$25 for non-members and those without a reservation

Contact Mary Dilla - secretary@bbwchamber.com

Next luncheon and general meeting December 3rd at  
The Georgetown Center

## WOMEN'S NETWORKING LUNCHEONS



**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Bazaar**  
**Friday, November 13**  
**11:00 AM**  
**South Hills Country Club**

The monthly luncheon meeting\* of the Women's Networking of the Brentwood Baldwin Whitehall Chamber of Commerce will meet on **Friday, November 13, 11 AM, at South Hills Country Club**. Please plan on attending and bring a friend. We welcome members and non-members.

To help us with our holiday shopping, and to provide greater opportunities for local and home-based businesses, the monthly meeting of the Women's Networking of the Brentwood Baldwin Whitehall Chamber of Commerce is hosting our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Bazaar.

### We will have lots of great shopping!

If you or any of your friends are looking for new marketing opportunities to showcase your products and services, please reserve a table and share this information. Display tables are limited and will be reserved on a first come first served basis. **Deadline to reserve a display table is November 9.**

**We will once again hold a raffle at the luncheon with the money raise going to the SHIM (South Hills Interfaith Ministries) food pantry. Please bring a prize item to donate. It can be a promotional item from your business, a gift card, or anything you would like to donate. We will sell raffle tickets and when your number is drawn, you can choose your prize!**

**See you at South Hills Country Club, 11 AM!**

**Lunch for Chamber Members - \$20 - Bring a friend!**

**Lunch for Non-Members - \$25**

**Display Table \$10**

**Please make a reservation by contacting our secretary:**

**Mary Dilla - secretary@bbwchamber.com**

## Welcome New Members!

**Massage Envy Pleasant Hills**—Marci Carothers  
 (Opening November 24th, Southland Shopping Plaza)

**Mercy Behavioral Health**—Becky Cavanaugh  
 724-263-7168 bcavanaugh@mercybh.org

**The Crack'd Egg** — Kimberly Waigand  
 412-881-3000 thecrackedegg250@gmail.com

**Steve Kreis State Farm** — Matthew Bartko  
 412-653-4300 Matt@SteveProtects.com

### 2015-2016 Officers

President ..... Mary Ann Laudato, Pittsburgh Asphalt Co.  
 Vice President ..... Virginia Weida, Virginia Weida Design  
 Treasurer ..... Sean J. Hayes DC, Hayes Chiropractic  
 Secretary ..... Mary Dilla

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT!



**TWO MEN  
 AND A  
 TRUCK**

**"Movers Who Care."**

It has been over 10 years since Ray and I opened the Pittsburgh franchise of **TWO MEN AND A TRUCK**® and we were determined to succeed by exceeding our customers' expectations! We are a full-service moving company. We can move your home or your office. We go locally and we go long distance too. We will do as little or as much as you need to have done. Since opening in 2005 with two trucks, we have increased our fleet to 20 trucks. We are proud to employ over 50 employees who live by our core value of "The Grandma Rule": to treat everyone the way you would want your Grandma treated!

It has been an amazing ride, and the members of the Brentwood Baldwin Whitehall Chamber have played a big role in getting our message out to the public. We are delighted to have moved so many of you, your homes and your businesses. You referred us to friends and family. Thank you for your trust. Additionally, you have helped us facilitate opportunities to give back to this community. Each fall we transport the books for the Whitehall Library Book sale and fund raising event. Our signature event, **Movers for Moms**, occurs during the month of April when we collect items for the Greater Pittsburgh Women's Shelter. The shelter gives us a list of needed items, and we do all the logistics and sorting so that the items are at the shelter for Mothers Day distribution. Our participating partners from this chamber include: all of the Baldwin Whitehall School buildings, Benson Lincoln, First Commonwealth Bank, John F. Slater Funeral Home, South Western Healthcare, and Whitehall Library. Thank you for your generous caring nature. It has been a joy to work with all of you.

Without a doubt, this chamber has been an asset to our growth!

Dottie Coll, President

## UPCOMING CHAMBER MEMBER EVENTS...

**November 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>** – Old Allegheny Shoppe's 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Open House - <http://www.oldalleghenyshoppe.com>

**November 7<sup>th</sup>** – Whitehall Library Holiday Craft Show at Caste Village Commons (inside the mall) 10 AM – 4 PM

**November 7<sup>th</sup>** – GBU "Operation Reach Out" packing day, 9:00AM, GBU Building

**November 9<sup>th</sup>** – Passport to Pittsburgh Lady Luck Casino #1 tour....Spaces available

**November 21<sup>st</sup>** – Brentwood Light Up Night

### Board of Directors

Amy Burch	Andre Hulsman	Jennifer Scott
Dottie Coll	Mary Ann Laudato	Terry Unger
Steve Gardiner	Randy Lutz	Virginia Weida
Sean J. Hayes	Debbie Maddock	George Zboyovsky