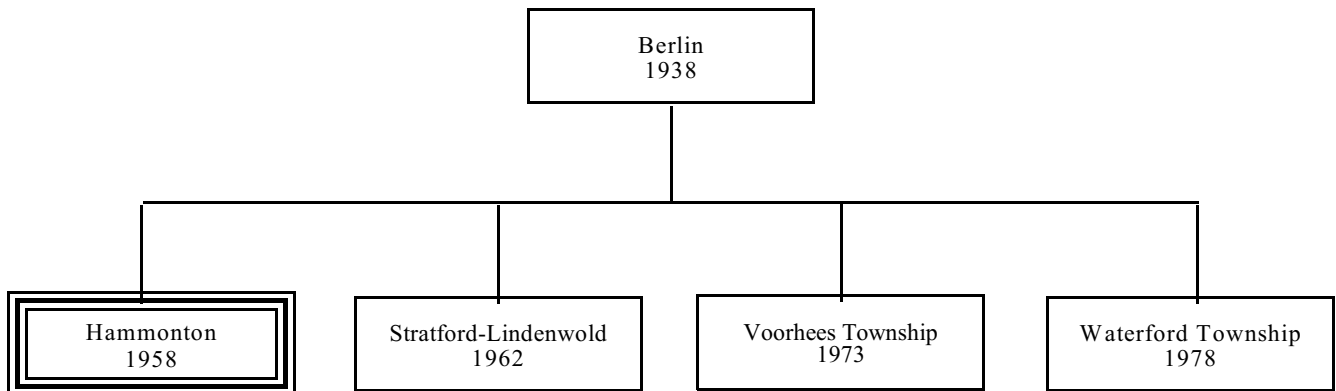


# Chapter 40

## Rotary Club of Hammonton, N.J.



# 75th Anniversary History of District 764

Hammonton, NJ

Chapter 40

Organized	October 17, 1957	Meets :	Thursdays at 7:00 pm at
Chartered	March 15, 1958		Café San Rocco,
Sponsored By	Berlin		21 N. 3rd Street,
			Hammonton, NJ 08037
			(609) 561-9384

## Charter Members

OFFICE	NAME OF MEMBER	CLASSIFICATION
President	Domenick M. Garofalo	Education-Public School
Vice President	Joseph Perrone	Overhead Door Distributing
Secretary	Donald G. Lawson	Cookie Mfg. (Additional Active)
Treasurer	Chester Johnson	Hardware Retail
Director	Herbert Fisher	Radiologist
Director	Clarence J. Mattioli	Attorney at Law
Director	Leonard J. Ramaciotti	Air Conditioning
Director	Warren E. Soot'	Florist Wholesale
	Joseph D. Battaglia	Fruit Packing
	Peter L. Carnesale	Funeral Director
	Ameelio Cashan	General Insurance
	Morton Epstein	Men's Clothing Mfg.
	Harry L. Fairbairn	News Publisher
	Alvin Frank	Motion Picture Theater
	Amerigo F. George	Radiologist (Additional Active)
	Paul Gugliotta	Frozen Foods Wholesale
	Andrew F. Jannett	Surgeon
	Fred H. Kilburn	Protestantism
	Walter Lorenz	Physicalists
	Gerson G. Malinsky	Department Store
	Thomas J. McCarthy	Business Management
	Andrew McCloskey	Service Station Equip. Inst.
	Carlton C. Measley	Blueberries-Growing & Packing
	Richard G. Newman	Textile Chemical Mfg.
	Richard E. Ochsner	Liquor Sales Retail
	James A. Ordille	Road Construction
	Louis Piraino	Liquified Petroleum
	Frank J. Pitale	Highway Transportation
	Louis A. Pratt	Finance
	Cosmio A. Ricca	Bakery
	Richard J. Ruberton	Real Estate
	R. Louis Ruberton	Fuel Oil Distributing
	George Ruggero	Auto Sale
	Anthony J. Scoglio	Fruit & Produce Buying
	John Thee	Cookies Mfg.

### Hammonton's Efforts Helped Start Kessler Hospital

First correspondence relative to the formation of Hammonton Rotary Club was dated Oct. 17, 1957. On that date, Beth Maveety of Rotary International sent a letter to Berlin Rotarian Armand Ravelli which indicated District Governor Herbert W. Letts (Bridgeton) had authorized a survey of the Hammonton area to determine the feasibility of a new Rotary club.

The machinery worked quickly. Hammonton Rotary was formally admitted to R.I. on March 15, 1958, and charter night for 35 members was April 9, 1958, at Lillian on the Lake.

Dr. Domenick M. Garofalo, Superintendent of Hammonton Public Schools, was installed as the charter president.

Interestingly, Hammonton Rotary meets today (Thursdays at 7) at the same location it did when it started, Café. San Rocco, formerly known as Town House. It was purchased in 1983 by charter club member, Rocco Louis Ruberton, now deceased. It was renovated and is now operated by Louis' sore Dave, also a Hammonton Rotarian, and Steve.



One of the club's first speakers was Richard Newman, who, in the fall of '59, proposed the idea for a new community hospital in Hammonton. Newman was appointed temporary chairman of the steering committee for the new hospital in '60, and, as a result of his efforts and others, Hammonton Rotary was largely responsible for raising funds - \$500,000 in less than a year - to build the hospital.

Despite Rotary's strong involvement, the hospital was named Kessler Memorial Hospital to the disappointment of some. Hammonton Rotary through the years has supported the hospital by supplying beds, equipment, and other financial backing as recently as 1986. In '86, a small plaque was placed in the hospital lobby in recognition of Rotary's contribution.

The club severed its official ties with Hospital in 1964 but continued to raise money for a general welfare account for the

### Local Group Takes Final Step To Form A Rotary Unit Here

A clipping from a March 6, 1958 Hammonton newspaper detailing the formation of the Hammonton Rotary Club and picturing the "Newly Elected Officers".

board of directors to use as they saw fit.

From the beginning, Hammonton Rotarians have supported the youth of their community. Among their first-year projects in 1958 was sponsorship of a local Little League team, a tradition that carries on to present day. Also, the club now sponsors boys' and girls' teams in a variety of other sports. In '70, it purchased uniforms for the Hammonton Hawks' midget football team.

A tradition of inviting the Little League team to a dinner meeting was started in the early years and continued. The club also purchased a scoreboard for the Little League field. Many young club members say they have been impressed to see the

Rotary emblem on the scoreboard.

Hammonton Rotarians for many years sent needy youngsters to a summer music camp at Glassboro State College. They purchased playground equipment for Hammonton Lake Park. They held a popular circus as a fundraiser.

In the early '60s the club began its tradition of inviting daughters of Rotarians to attend a special dinner meeting near Valentine's Day. Then, a few years later, it started a similar program for sons.

The club also became involved in showing children's movies on Saturday afternoons. This project, known as "The Children's Film Festival," lasted for many years and became one of the top fund-raisers.

Hammonton Rotary purchased electric typewriters for the local library and played a key role in the city's Tercentenary celebration.

In the middle '60s, the club completed a beautification project for town hall. Club members bought the flowers and bushes, and planted them. Maintenance of the flowers was turned over to another organization in '69. To the dismay of Rotary, the flowers and bushes leave died because of lack of water and attention.

Another tradition started over 20 years ago which still thrives today is an annual "splash party" for Rotarians and their families in a member's pool.

Other projects: Sponsorship of school trips to Canada for needy children; contributions to the athletic departments of the two local high schools; purchase of hearing aids for needy children; publishing of books about the abuse of drugs in conjunction with area clergy; purchase of a kidney machine; purchase of adjustable walkers; financial support of the library, Hammonton Rescue Squad, and football booster clubs; financial support of the Boy Scouts; contribution to the District 743 Disaster Relief effort; fund-raisers with Richie Ashburn and other ex-Phillies like Don Money, Cookie Rojas, Chris Short and

Sparky Lyle; donation of a Vitalograph machine to the American Lung Association of Southern New Jersey; and donation of an eye-testing apparatus to St. Joseph's High School.

In '65, when the R.I. convention was held in Atlantic City, and again in '88, when it was held in Philadelphia, Hammonton Rotarians welcomed visiting Rotarians to the homes for an evening of fellowship.

In the late '70s the club, with an assist from Nick Cassetta, erected a greenhouse at the elementary school. Hammonton Rotarians have pitched in to assist district projects such as the purchase of a high-speed scanner for Deborah Hospital.

The club has held a firm resolve to help as the district and international levels. It became a 300 percent club in the '70s. It supported the Polio Plus Fund through Paul Harris contributions. It participated in the survey preparation for the creation of Egg Harbor City Rotary.

Rocco Louis Ruberton was the first to become a Paul Harris Fellow in Hammonton Rotary.

### **Presidents**

1958-59	Domenick M. Garofalo	1974-75	Carmen Mazzagatti
1959-60	Joseph Perrone	1975-76	Richard Johnson
1960-61	Amerigo George	1976-77	Rocco L. Ruberton
1961-62	Donald Lawson	1977-78	Jack Bartolone
1962-63	Louis Pirano	1978-79	Nandkishor Gujrathi
1963-64	Peter Ranere, Jr.	1979-80	William Cresenzo
1964-65	Leonard Ramaciotti	1980-82	Joseph A. Rodin
1965-66	Charles A. Crowley	1982-83	Carl Martin
1966-67	Frank Mazza, Jr.	1983-84	Richard Brinkman
1967-68	John Sobocinski	1984-85	Anthony Jacobs
1968-69	Albert Mazza	1985-86	Anthony Rizzotte
1969-70	Sam Mazza	1986-87	John D'Agostino, Jr.
1970-71	William Ordille	1987-88	Anthony Tedeschi
1971-72	Lewis Farsetta	1988-89	Charles L. Gazzara
1972-73	Ralph Romano	1989-90	William Donahue
1973-74	John Santora		