

# THE AMITY TIMES

## AMITY CLUB OF WASHINGTON - 100 YEARS OLD AND GOING STRONG

by Steve Wollins

Washington, DC - The Amity Club of Washington, a men's philanthropic and social club espousing Jewish values and traditions, is celebrating its 100th birthday this year. Amity began during the Calvin Coolidge administration. It was founded in part because of the widespread discrimination against Jews, who were excluded from joining most local social organizations. Alas, a century later we see that antisemitism continues to fester.

A century ago, several Jewish merchants and professionals formed a card playing club and met in the basement of one of the merchant's stores. Today, that small club has come a long way and has evolved into one of the premier mens clubs in the Washington, DC area with more than 200 members. It is doubtful that many clubs in the DMV have been around for that long and have had so many members.

Amity emphasizes friendship, camaraderie and fellowship. These values among members are best experienced at a variety of monthly events. We meet for summer golf outings at various courses in the area and in the off-season we have monthly dinner meetings at restaurants and country clubs. Our special guest speakers over the years have included:

- Entertainment legends Milton Berle, Jackie Mason, Howard Cosell, Myron Cohen and Diane Carroll
- Art Buchwald, Dana Milbank, George Solomon, Bob Levey and Tom Boswell from the Washington Post
- Sportswriter and columnist Norman Chad
- Sports and Gaming legend Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder
- Former Washington Redskin greats Roy Jefferson, Mark May and Shawn Barber
- ESPN Senior baseball analyst Tim Kurkjian
- Local television and radio personalities Leon Harris, Lindsay Czarniak, Pat Collins, Andy Pollin, Bram Weinstein, Johnny Holliday, Dave Feldman, Steve Buckhantz, Chick Hernandez, Phil Wood, Dave Johnson and Glenn Consor
- Tom Ridge, 1st US Secretary of Homeland Security and former Governor of Pennsylvania
- DeMaurice Smith, former executive director of the National Football league Player's Association

On occasion, our events include spouses, significant others, family and friends, enabling them to share some of the wonderful experiences that Amity has provided.

Amity also values charity and community. Amity members volunteer their services by, among other things, assisting MANNA Food Center in its food donation program, participating in card games with Senior residents at the Hebrew Home, quarterly road clean ups along a mile stretch of Falls Road in Potomac, MD, and house renovation projects with Rebuilding Montgomery County. We also dedicate a portion of our annual dues towards charitable organizations through the Amity Charitable Foundation.

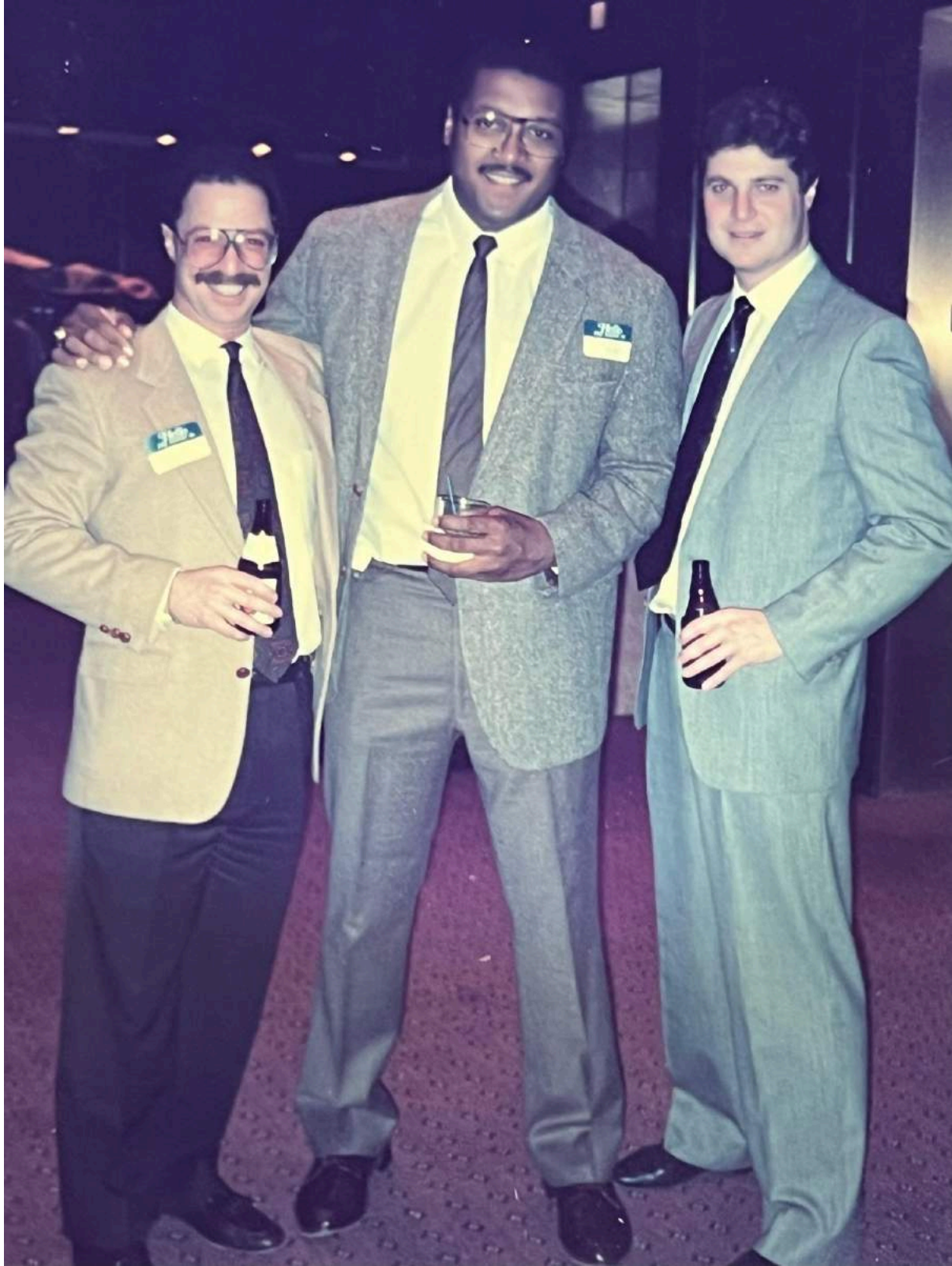
Russell Rothstein, whose father, Ralph, was born the same year that the Amity Club was founded and was a Past President, recalls, “My Grandfather was one of the Founding Fathers of Amity in 1924. His enthusiasm for the Club rubbed off on my father and uncle, both who had joined Amity and have been active members ever since — and then to my brother Randy and me, who have been members for over 35 years. We have all made lifelong friendships.”

Added current President David Merkin, “Amity’s roots run deep in the Washington, DC region. The Club’s rich traditions of fellowship, camaraderie, and charity are alive and well in all its members.”

For further information, including membership, please visit our website:  
[www.amityclubofwashington.org](http://www.amityclubofwashington.org)



*Amity members volunteer at MANNA to help assemble packages for food donation*



*Washington Redskin All Pro Tackle Mark May, flanked by Rothstein brothers Randy (left) and Russell (right) at an Amity Club dinner in 1988. Their Grandfather was a founding member of Amity and their father was a Past President*



*At our Quarterly Road Clean up on Falls Rd. in Potomac, MD*



*Members socializing during Cocktail Hour at Amity event*



*David Merkin, Amity President during our 100th Birthday, addresses the group at one of its premier events*



*Former Washington Post columnist Bob Levey addresses the Amity Club in February 2024*

Steve Wollins is a Past President of Amity