

# PARTNERS

A Publication by the JCPenney National H.C.S.C. Alumni Club for Former Associates of JCPenney

**SPRING 2024**





### FEATURES



#### 10 Partner of the Quarter

Thomas Clarke of the North Central and Southwest RMGs has been named the next recipient of the Partner of the Quarter Award.



#### 13 J.C. Penney Museum

The J.C. Penney Memorial Library and Museum in Missouri was dedicated in 1976. It attracts several hundred visitors from all over the U.S.



#### 16 Bill Littlejohn

Bill Littlejohn of the Southeast RMG was profiled for the latest issue of Partners.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- 5 Membership
- 13 Feature
- 15 Profiles
- 20 I Remember When
- 34 Foundation
- 36 Donors
- 39 In Memoriam



28

- 22 Indiana
- 23 Mason Dixon
- 24 Mile High Denver
- 26 North Central
- 29 Ohio
- 30 Southern California
- 31 Southwest



**Steve Strom**  
President  
sstrom58@gmail.com

Dear Partners,

Happy New Year 2024 from your National Officers, John, Manny and Steve!

We are looking forward to a positive year for our Alumni Club! But before we look forward to 2024, let's celebrate the achievements of our President, Bill Kruder and his team in 2023:

- Introduction of our small group "get togethers to engage our members"
- Creation of our fresh and updated National website
- Introduction and use of National emails to better communicate to members
- Membership growth via social media
- Introduction of our online dues payment application

We thank Bill for his leadership and contributions during a great year for our Club. And, for Bill, it was a family affair. His wife Debi sends out our H.C.S.C. Club emails and his daughter Maggie created the website. We are grateful to Debi and Maggie for their support.

We ask for your continued support for our 2024 goals which you will find on the next page.

In Partnership,

*Steve*  
Steve Strom  
President



# 2024 Goals

Dear Partners,

Your new board members have been working diligently to set goals for 2024:

**1. Membership Growth**

Engage all Regional Meeting Groups in actively recruiting new members to achieve our annual goal of 120 new members.

**2. Member Engagement – Get Togethers**

Encourage small group get togethers once each in the first half and second half of the year as well as the holidays.

**3. Volunteerism**

Engage our members to contribute to their local communities through their volunteer efforts like the Feeding America program in collaboration with the JCPenney Company and then to recognize their efforts through the new Golden Rule Award for Community Service.

**4. Plan for the Future of the H.C.S.C. Alumni Club**

Bill Kruder, Past President, will create a special committee to gather member input and project where our Club will be in 3, 5, and 10 years and what actions we will need to take now to ensure our future health.

With appreciation for a great year in 2023 and anticipation of a great year in 2024, we thank all H.C.S.C. Alumni Club members for your membership and support!



Steve Strom  
President



John Gresham  
First Vice President



Manny Fernandez  
Second Vice President



Steve and Marcia Strom



John and Linda Gresham



Manny and Yvonne Fernandez



## Recipients of the 50-Year Pin for 2021

Members who started their career with JCPenney 50 years ago (1971) are eligible to receive the JCPenney H.C.S.C. Alumni Club 50-Year Pin. Part-time years are included in this honor. To be eligible to receive the 50-Year Pin, you must be a member in good standing of the H.C.S.C. National Alumni Club and of course have not already received your 50-Year Pin.

If you know someone who is eligible for this recognition and they are not on this list, please let us know. Send any inquiries to the National H.C.S.C. Club Secretary at [natclubsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:natclubsecretary@gmail.com).

**Agresta, Richard** (Mason-Dixon)  
**Anderson, Mark S.** (Southwest)  
**Baricelli, Marianne** (Southwest)  
**Becker, Eileen** (Mason-Dixon)  
**Bitner, Jo Ellen** (Southeastern)  
**Bruno, Joseph G.** (Mason-Dixon, Southeastern)  
**Bunn, Richard** (Southeastern)  
**Burns, Bruce** (Southeastern)  
**Butler, Alan** (North Central)  
**Caldwell, Robin M.** (Southwest)  
**Conover, Anne** (Mason-Dixon)  
**Davis, Michael E.** (North Central)  
**De Muth, Tim** (Mason-Dixon, Ohio)  
**DiRienzo, Robert** (Southwest)  
**Doyle, Rikki P.** (Ohio)  
**Hutson, Suzanne**  
**Johnson, Howard** (Southeastern)  
**Langell, Lin**  
**Last, Richard E.** (Southwest)  
**Mappes, Henry** (Southwest)  
**McCormick, Nancy** (Southwest)  
**McKane, Herbert** (Indiana)

**McNamara, Robert D.**  
**Michelsen, Kathleen** (North Central)  
**Miller, Dennis** (Southeastern)  
**Pierce, Mark** (Southeastern)  
**Putman, Tom**  
**Ringey, Joe** (Northern California - Nevada)  
**Seftar, Jeanne** (North Central)  
**Sheppard, Rick** (Southern California)  
**Simmons, Gary** (Southeastern)  
**Skinner, Marybeth** (North Central)  
**Smith, Marie** (Southeastern)  
**Sorenson, Idonna Avery**  
**Sparks, Kenneth** (Southeastern)  
**Sutton, Terry**  
**Talarico, Marge**  
**Usilton, Betty** (Southeastern)  
**Vilott, Mrs. Jim (Barbara)** (Southwest)  
**Wheaton Jr, James E.**  
**Winti, John** (Southwest)  
**Yee, John** (Ohio)



# H.C.S.C. Century Club

The H.C.S.C. Alumni Club established the Century Club to recognize the most senior members of the Club for their distinguished service and contribution to JCPenney and the principles of H.C.S.C. The criterion for inclusion in The Century Club for 2024 is a birth date on or before 1934 and are current on their dues. Going forward new members will be added annually based on becoming age 90 during the coming year. On behalf of the nearly eighteen hundred H.C.S.C. partners around the country, it is a true pleasure to congratulate and thank you for your many years of partnership. You, and your fellow Century Club members, paved the way for those who followed in the true spirit of H.C.S.C. which is a wonderful legacy.

Please let us know if you or any member you know who is eligible for this honor is not on this list. Please send any inquiries and date of birth to the National H.C.S.C. Club Secretary at [natclubsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:natclubsecretary@gmail.com).

Allen, Richard F.  
 Arnone, Frank S.  
 Bacskay, Jack A.  
 Becker, Bill E.  
 Bergman, Lois  
 Birkins, Rodney M.  
 Bishop, Ed  
 Boyle, Virginia K.  
 Braby, Lawrence E.  
 Bradley, Frank T.  
 Brodie, Russell J.  
 Brown, Charles L.  
 Browne, Dave  
 Caison, Willie P.  
 Calik, Robert J.  
 Canchola, Gilbert C.  
 Carney, Gerald  
 Castleton, Leonard  
 Christenson, Wayne C.  
 Clark, Donald D.  
 Collette, Betty J.  
 Coursey, Don  
 Dahlquist, Eugene C.  
 Dazet, Patricia F.  
 Delmez, Arthur L.  
 Drake, Charles  
 Drury, Charles J.  
 Eckhardt, Jack W.  
 Erickson, Richard T.  
 Freund, Gordon E.  
 Friesenhahn, Jerome  
 Gill, Robert B.  
 Gomon, Bernie  
 Hancock, Irvin W.  
 Hand, Bruce E.

Hatcher, Quinton  
 Haws, Irv  
 Hinkle, Wanneda A.  
 Hodapp, Ralph J.  
 Hollabaugh, James R.  
 Jones, Mildred L.  
 Jordan, Donald C.  
 Jordan, Jim E.  
 Joyce, Francis G.  
 Keating, Norma C.  
 Koberna, Franklin J.  
 Koebele, Paul J.  
 Lang, Gerald  
 LeLand, Jack A.  
 Lenz, David H.  
 Lewis, Donnie Ray  
 MacLellan, George  
 Mammone, Frank  
 Marcacci, Lloyd  
 McCarthy, Joseph A.  
 Mittelberg, Orland H.  
 Monroe, Harold W.  
 Montgomery, Gerald  
 Moore Jr., James M.  
 Nall, Delwee  
 Nelson, John H.  
 Noel, Reginald N.  
 Norman, Joan  
 Olander, Les  
 Otis, Anita  
 Parratt, Robert  
 Paschke, Oscar E.  
 Pearce, Leon  
 Pfeifer, F. William  
 Phelps, Sr., Louis

Powell, Kenneth R.  
 Powell, Richard D.  
 Renner, Eugene H.  
 Rueckert, H. Sperry  
 Schmidt, Jr., Theodore  
 Scoville, Richard Lee  
 Seaman Jr., Roland H.  
 Serrani, Nicholas  
 Sherwood, Richard C.  
 Shipp, Larry  
 Shults, Kimberly J.  
 Siebert, Jack  
 Siefken, Gene W.  
 Sivelle, William J.  
 Smart, Harry B.  
 Smith, Kenneth A.  
 Stahler, James L.  
 Statler, Joseph N.  
 Stavrakas, E. James  
 Stiglets, James C.  
 Strand, Clarence G.  
 Sturm, Gordon C.  
 Sutter, Albert  
 Sweeney, Marie  
 Turner, Billy D.  
 Tuttle, Donald A.  
 Ures, Jack  
 Wadas, Leonard F.  
 Watkins, Ernest C.  
 Watros, Charles  
 Wetherington, James  
 Wheeler, Frank R.  
 Williams, Philip A.  
 Wright, Jr., William L.

# James Cash Penney

## COMMEMORATIVE STAMP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

***Dear Partners,***

***Below find the latest updates from our effort to have the USPS Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee approve a 2025 Commemorative Stamp to honor Mr. Penney on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his birth:***

1) Angela Marshall Hofmann, Head of JCPenney Corporate Relations, has been working with the Governor's Staffs of Missouri, Texas and Wyoming to have the Governors write a letter of recommendation. No progress reports yet, but Angela is continuing to motivate the Governors and their staffs.

2) Our Alumni Club built a petition program that was implemented in Kemmerer for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golden Rule Days. We acquired 46 signatures from citizens of Lincoln County and we will mail the petition with explanatory documents to the USPS Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee. We will then be looking for other locations to have the petition signed in the coming year.

***Special Note: If your RMG would like to have a petition drive at one of your group's events, a petition form can be emailed to you. All petition forms are to be sent to this address when properly completed (see instructions on the petition itself.) Please include a letter of nomination.***

Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300  
Washington, DC 20260-3501

3) U.S. Senator John Barrasso, Wyoming, attended the 3rd Annual Golden Rule Days in Kemmerer this past August. He committed to writing a letter of nomination to the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee! Wyoming's other U.S. Senator, Cynthia Lummis, has already submitted her letter of nomination!

4) Our friends at the Penney Retirement Community in Penney Farms, Florida, who originated this campaign, continue to reach out to members of Congress in Florida to have them write letters of recommendation. They also plan to run a petition campaign!

***Please contact me if you have any questions.***

***Steve Strom, President***  
***sstrom58@gmail.com***

# Golden Rule Award for Community Service

The H.C.S.C. Alumni Club has created a new award to recognize and honor Club members who are active volunteers in their community!

Here are some key points to the program and please note the deadline of April 15, 2024 for our first recognition!

- This will be an Annual Award beginning in 2024 recognizing H.C.S.C. Alumni Club members for service in their community.
- Nominations due April 15 of each year; RMG nominee winners announced by June 1.
- One nominee recognized from each RMG and one from National Only members.
- One National awardee selected by a committee comprised of H.C.S.C. National Board members.
- A consistent form will be provided for RMG Presidents to complete for their nominee with guidelines provided.
- Each RMG nominee winner and National awardee will be recognized by:
  - Receiving \$50.00 to donate to their charity (+\$100 for the National awardee)
  - Certificate (to be framed and presented by their RMG President at a local meeting or presented to a National Only member by the Executive Board)
  - Partners Magazine recognition – Summer Edition article with pictures
  - National Website recognition – Special link on the main landing page

If you have any questions, please contact your RMG President or one of our National Officers, 1<sup>st</sup> VP John Gresham, 2nd VP Manny Fernandez or President Steve Strom.

Special Note: You are welcome to nominate yourself within your RMG by contacting your RMG President or if you are a National Only member to self-nominate to one of the National Officers noted above.

## Tell Your Story in Partners

Do you have a favorite memory of your time at JCPenney? A special promotion that you ran while you worked in the store? Launching a new product line in the buying office? Fun or funny experiences you had on the job?

Send your story to Partners at: 1902partners@gmail.com OR mail it to Jeannette Siegel at: 16610 Cleary Circle, Dallas, TX 75248. **NOTE: THE DUE DATE FOR THE SUMMER ISSUE IS JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>**



# 2024 H.C.S.C. Member Dues Payment Objective

We are asking for all Alumni Club members to support our dues payment objectives for next year in order to save our treasurer, Karen Bell, time and expense and to complete this part of our business on a timely basis. As of this past August, we still have \$7,314.00 of unpaid dues for 2023. That's 23% of our expected dues payments for 2023! We know that many times there are valid reasons for these dues to be late, but we also know none of us would want to run a business with these kinds of results.

So, with your support, we are establishing these payment objectives for 2024:

1. Please pay your 2024 dues (National and RMG) online when you receive your first notice via email in December 2023. Online payments save us time and expense. If you are uncomfortable with online payments, please pay your dues after receiving your first hard copy invoice in the mail.
2. Our goal is to have 100% of our dues paid for the year by 6/30/2024.
3. For any members still unpaid by 6/30/2024, we will suspend the mailing of our popular Partners Magazine until their dues are paid.
4. If you have not paid your National and RMG dues by April 1, 2024, expect your Regional Meeting Group President or an RMG Board Member to contact you to help facilitate your payment or assist you in resolving any problems.

If you have not received a 2024 dues payment notification via email by February 1, 2024, we may have an incorrect email or home address in our H.C.S.C. database. Please notify us at [natclubsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:natclubsecretary@gmail.com) if you have not received notification by February 1!

Again, we thank each and every member in advance for supporting these objectives. Let's save time, expense, and receive the dues both at the National level and Regional Meeting group level that allows us to operate in a healthy manner to support our shared H.C.S.C. Alumni Club goals.

Steve Strom, President

## See the Interview with JCPenney CEO Marc Rosen

Bill Kruder interviewed JCPenney CEO Marc Rosen at the Southwest RMG holiday party on December 6, 2023. During the interview, Marc talks about the Company's performance and future plans, recruiting and retaining talent, new merchandise lines and more!

You can view the interview at [www.jcpalumniclub.org](http://www.jcpalumniclub.org).

Scroll towards the bottom of the page under the Latest News section.



# Thomas J. Clarke

Tom's JCPenney career started on January 13, 1965, in Store 1001, Springfield, Illinois.

Tom and Sandra, newlyweds, just welcomed the first of five children, Tom, Jr., to their family. Children to come were Madonna, Edward, Mary, and Katherine.

His first job at JCPenney was as a salesperson in work clothes. There he learned his selling skills and began to learn the process of merchandising.

Tom enjoyed his job and in two years was offered the opportunity to begin as a Management Trainee. His training assignment was in the Boys Department.

In mid-1967, he received his first department manager position managing the main floor, which included Men's and Women's Accessories. In 1968, when the Women's and Children's Department Manager was promoted, he asked for and was promoted to that position. He remained in that assignment until May of 1970.

In that year, he was transferred to Store 0655, Kewanee, Illinois, a smaller store, but larger assignment. He was given the opportunity to manage Home and Children's, and eventually added Men's and Women's Accessories to his assignment.

Tom and Sandra really enjoyed their four years in Kewanee, and as it turned out, it was a great learning and family experience which provided an opportunity for promotion to a second level position.

Tom was promoted in April 1974 to his first second-level position as Sales and Merchandising Manager (renamed General Merchandising Manager in 1975) in Store 358, Quincy, Illinois. This brought another great learning

experience with merchandising a six-story downtown store. In the three years at Quincy, the sales rose 29% and presented Tom with another promotion opportunity.

In April 1977, he was promoted to Operations Manager-in-Training in Store 1942, Des Peres, Missouri. It was a great store to learn in.

Not long after in August of 1977, Tom was assigned to Store 1876, Bloomington, Illinois, as Operations Personnel Manager. A challenging assignment for sure, but he successfully handled the assignment. Bloomington was

a full-line store but was in transition to a limited line store with an auto center. This was another opportunity with a great team which he would keep in touch with for years. As that store grew under the new configuration, it became very profitable, achieving the second highest direct controllable profit in the Central Region.

That success opened the opportunity for Tom to be transferred to his first new full-line store assignment in Store 2025 Evansville,

Indiana, as Operations Manager. Tom reported to the store in mid-September 1980 with the store opening February 1, 1981. This was a significant experience for Tom. The store well exceeded its sales and profit goals all four years.

They say that everything that goes around comes around and in 1984 Tom was transferred to the Chicago Market to store 237 Orland Park, Illinois, as Personnel Manager reporting to Dick Johnston, the manager who hired him in 1965! In 1986, he was assigned as Operations Manager.

In the three years he worked in Orland Park, the sales grew by 60%, making the store the second largest store in the Chicago Market.



Orland Park Store 237 Management Team.  
FRONT: Amy Flowers, Ceil McDermott, Tom Clarke, Ron Fazio, Tom Gorski.  
BACK: Bill Kruder, Paul Cornwell, Mike Ambler.



Tom and Sandra with the Wingers at the Fountain of Youth

Tom's next stop was District Personnel Manager in 8314, Indianapolis, Indiana.

He was fortunate to work with some very high-quality store managers and store management staff, learning from each of them.

In 1994, Tom received his first assignment as Store Manager in 2357 Plymouth, Indiana. He was blessed with excellent management staff and store associates. In the two years he managed Plymouth, store sales grew by 25%, making it possible for his first corporate management position.

Tom was promoted to the Home Office in late 1995 as Manager of Store Operations and Merchandising Systems and assigned to finish the Integrated Purchasing System (IPS) and roll it out to all stores. In addition, he was responsible for all the store merchandising systems. In 2000, he was promoted to Systems Applications Director with additional assignments.

In addition to his IPS, IAS and Store Merchandising Systems, he was also selected to work in several areas during the Office Simplification Project and later to work with Tony Haake on the project to transition to centralized buying.

Tom moved into the merchandising operations position in 2001 which added some of the buying department systems to his current assigned duties.

In 2003, Tom was promoted to Divisional Operations Director with additional buying department responsibilities including Men's and Children's operations to his responsibilities.



Tom and Sandra enjoying Naples, Florida, with the Wingers. Left to right. Jim and Bobbi Winger, Sandra and Tom



Tom with San Antonio Grandchildren, Joseph, Joshua and Makenzie



Children in December 2023. Left to right. Amy Clarke, Tom Clarke Jr., Tom and Sandra, Edward Clarke, Kathy Moore, Bill Moore



Completing a satisfying and wonderful career, Tom retired on April 30, 2004.

During his just under 40-year career with JCPenney, while not occupied with his responsibilities within his family, his hobbies included fishing and being a member of the Knights of Columbus since 1972, Tom also had opportunities to volunteer in many charitable activities, including starting a youth group, Columbian Squires, while assigned to Bloomington, Illinois.

His volunteer activities continued while living in Plano, Texas, holding offices in the Knights of Columbus. He is a third- and fourth-degree member.

After retirement, Tom and Sandra moved to Frisco where they were interested in joining the Empty Nester Group at their church. Learning that there was no room in the current groups, they volunteered to start the new group. This became a fantastic opportunity to meet new people sharing similar interests. This has led to almost 20 years of friendship with couples, traveling together, attending events, plays/shows, game nights and, of course, enjoying each other's company.

Right before retirement, Tom received a call from Tom Arthur inviting him to join the Southwest RMG. Tom enjoyed meeting new friends, reacquainting with old friends, and ultimately becoming an officer of the Southwest RMG. He held the position of Vice President for three years and President for four years. He remains on the board of the Southwest Club as a Director Emeritus.

During his term as President, he was asked to join the Board of Directors for the National H.C.S.C. Alumni Club. Tom and Sandra remain very active in the National, Southwest and North Central Clubs, where he serves as the Club Representative to the National Board and the H.C.S.C. Foundation Representative. He is also a National Director Emeritus of the National Club and is responsible for membership and the member database.

Between Empty Nesters, H.C.S.C., wintering in Florida, fishing and traveling, the last 20 years have been very busy but filled with a great deal of friends and family.

Over the years, the Clarke children have provided Tom and Sandra with five grandchildren. (Madonna with two and Katherine with three). They also have six step grandchildren.

Three of the children have migrated to Texas from the Chicago area; Tom, Jr., to Frisco (retired from JCPenney), Ed to Little Elm and Katherine to San Antonio. Madonna and her family remain in Kankakee, Illinois. Sadly, they lost their daughter, Mary, to cancer in 2013.

The Clarke family continues to be connected to JCPenney. His son, Tom, retired (VERP), but as many have done, he has gone back to work for Sally Beauty as a Senior Allocation Manager. His wife, Amy, continues to work for JCPenney as a Director. Amy's son Cade resides with them and is employed by Market Street Stores.

Daughter Madonna worked for JCPenney for five years and continued part-time while raising Nicholas and Jacquelyn. Madonna and her husband Chris (retired from Tootsie Roll in Ford City, Chicago) also have three children from his first marriage, Jeremy, Melissa, and Liz. Their families reside in the Chicago area. Madonna works for Cleveland Steel Container Corporation in Logistics and as a Customer Service Representative.

Tom's son, Ed worked for JCPenney part time in Matteson (Chicago), Castleton Square (Indianapolis) and Orland Park (Chicago) while working towards his degree in Computer Science from DeVry, University. He is currently the Information Technology Director for Community Service Partners, Inc., in Mokena, Illinois. Their daughter Mary was Director of Finance and Inventory for the Jobs Corp location in Dallas, Pennsylvania, when she passed away.

Their youngest, Kathy and her husband, Bill, live in San Antonio, Texas, with children Makenzie, Joshua, and Joseph. She has been an elementary teacher in Northeast Independent School District in San Antonio at Hidden Forest Elementary School. Bill (retired USAF) has two grown children, Jake and Virginia.

The Clarkes are continuing to enjoy children, grandchildren, family and friends in a very active life in Frisco, Texas! ■



Sandra and Tom enjoying a winery outside of St. Louis, Missouri



# J.C. Penney Library and Museum

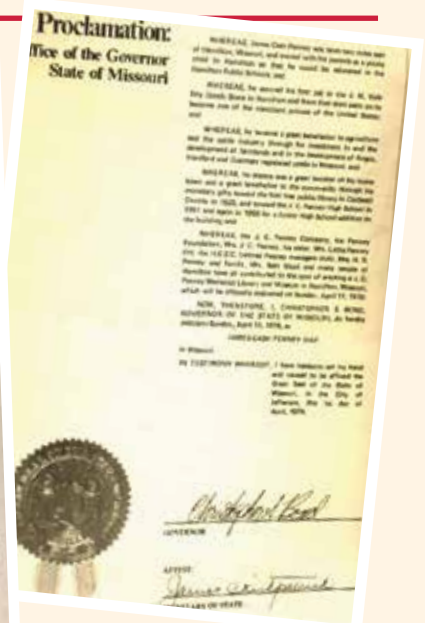
The J. C. Penney Library and Museum---Hamilton, Missouri. The Missouri Transportation Department has designated US Route 36 as the "The Way of American Genius." Notable innovations and innovators along the route include Samuel Clemens, Walt Disney, General John "Blackjack" Pershing, sliced bread, the Pony Express, and Hamilton's James Cash Penney.

The J.C. Penney Memorial Library and Museum was built with donations, many from former Penney Company managers, and dedicated in 1976. It attracts several hundred visitors from all over the U.S. each year. The basement of the building serves as a community room for meetings and receptions.

The library and museum in Hamilton would not exist if it were not for the vision and drive of a few individuals who understood that being the birthplace of J.C. Penney was something special and deserved recognition as a place in American history. Bob Penney, J.C. Penney's nephew, recognized two Hamiltonians as the leaders in the effort. Bob Penney said of Dean Hales and Marion Ridings for the part they played in the museum project, "If it hadn't been for their insistence, this museum would never have happened." The two championed the idea for the project at various times before it was finally accepted by J.C. Penney (the company) and the Penney family. At first, Bob said he wasn't very excited, but their enthusiasm was contagious. "Hamilton owes a debt of gratitude to Marion and Dean."

The story starts before J.C. Penney's death. In 1969, Jim Mogg and Dean Hales wrote to J.C. Penney in New York offering him the use of a vacant lot owned by them in Hamilton for a memorial or museum. Penney's reply was a courteous denial, saying he didn't want any memorial built in his lifetime.

But five years after James Cash Penney died in 1971, a memorial to him was opened in his home town. Those five years between his death and the construction of the museum were somewhat of a struggle for the originators of the idea. Dean Hales, Marion Ridings, and P. A. Frederickson attended the funeral of J.C. Penney in New York and mentioned the idea of a museum to





Company officials. They also approached Bob Penney, without results. According to Dean, "We let it ride for awhile." But it seemed like everyone else was doing something, including the town of Kemmerer, Wyoming, where Penney opened his first store in 1902.

Finally, Dean called Miss E. Virginia Mowry, former executive secretary to J.C. Penney, and told her they'd like to build a \$40,000 museum in honor of Mr. Penney. He told her the town of Hamilton would raise half of the money and wondered about the possibility of the Penney Company raising the other half. Miss Mowry arranged for Dean Hales and Marion Ridings to come to New York in April of 1974 to present their proposal. Before leaving Hamilton, they raised \$20,000. A total of \$6,000 was contributed by the Hamilton Development Corporation, with the remaining \$15,000 donated by friends of J.C. Penney living in the area.

The trip to New York proved fruitful. The JCPenney Company and Mrs. J.C. Penney promised to help with the project and to work with them on preparation of the museum displays.

When the Company and Mrs. Penney expressed interest, Bob Penney began to feel more enthusiasm about the project. But one thing bothered him. On a recent visit to a museum on a college campus, Bob was dismayed by the condition of the displays and by the fact that apparently no one visited the museum. He expressed this concern in a conversation with his brother, R. E. Penney of Modesto, California. His brother suggested moving the library from its old building to the museum to insure that people would always be visiting the building. Bob liked the idea and began writing to friends and associates all over the country

soliciting donations for the project. His efforts were guided by the thoughts, "the more money we can raise, the nicer we'll make it."

One weekend, Bob Penney attended funerals in Hamilton and Gallatin. It was at the traditional family dinner in the church basement that he got the idea of putting a community room in the museum. The room could be used by community organizations and individuals, ensuring that the library museum would be visited frequently.

In June of 1975, an architect was employed and a building site prepared for the J.C. Penney Museum and Library. The general contract for the construction was awarded in July to the Richardson Construction Company and excavation began in September. The museum and library were dedicated seven months later. Many people contributed funds to the project, including Mrs. J.C. Penney, the Penney Foundation, and the JCPenney Company, with each contributing \$25,000. Honor, Confidence, Service, Cooperation, a club for retired management personnel, donated \$15,000. Other contributors were Mrs. Letha Penney Ott (sister of J.C. Penney) \$20,000, Mrs. Bert Nicol \$7,500, and the many friends and former associates of J.C. Penney, as well as many local people.

In 1988, his boyhood home was saved from razing and moved to the center of Hamilton. It sits on the site of the former railroad depot and has been renovated outside.

Many thanks to The Caldwell County News for the use of its archives. Thanks and appreciation to the City of Hamilton for permission to print this story. ■



# Gerry Joyce Celebrates 100!

Gerry Joyce celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Plans are to celebrate his 100th birthday on March 17 (St. Patrick's Day) because Gerry is 100% Irish. He and his wife Mary are still in good health. They sold their condo three years ago and now live in independent living in a retirement community. He still drives his van. As Gerry says, "Mary and I are both blessed to be together for almost 72 years." They have five children, 16 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Here is Gerry's story.

I started with Penney's when I was 18-years old at the bottom of the ladder cleaning rest rooms, cleaning floors, trimming windows and other jobs at the Emmetsburg, Iowa store. On Saturday, if I did a good job, I got to sell merchandise. When I reached 19-years old, I went into the Army for about three years. When I returned home, I rejoined the Penney Company. Eventually, I climbed up the ladder and was promoted to manage the men's clothing department in Fremont, Nebraska. Things went well. In about three years I went several steps up the ladder to Assistant Manager in the Fremont store.

After a few more years, my next big step up the ladder was manager of the Miller, South Dakota store. We were able to have some great sales and profit in that store. I was surprised when I got a letter from the Personnel Department saying, "We noticed that you manage a Penney store differently and it seems to be working well." Well, I really noticed that the man (Sam Walton) who started Walmart was managing his stores like he was the manager and all the rest were players on his team. You may remember how you used to see him on TV with his ball cap on giving them a pep talk and probably he wanted all of them to hit home runs. I used that approach on the rest of that ladder with promotions to Montevideo, Minnesota; Jamestown, North Dakota; the Grand Forks, North Dakota store and then to the top of the ladder in 1972 to the downtown Grand Forks store. In 1978 I was transferred to the JCPenney Columbia Mall store also in Grand Forks. It was pretty much a full-line store with 250 associates.

I think that is a good story of pulling yourself up by your boot straps and ending at the top rung of the ladder. When I retired after 42 years with Penney's in 1984, our store won the Chairman's Award of Excellence which was awarded at the Mayflower Hotel in Chicago. I remember W.R. Howell, Chairman and CEO, shook my hand and said "Gerry, do you have anything to say?" I said, "You know with a Company as large as we are, one person can make a difference." He



Gerry and Mary Joyce

said why is that? I said I retired and the next day Penney stock went down. He shook my hand and gave me a great big smile. ■

# Bill Littlejohn

In late 1970, while a senior at Western Carolina University, I attended a job fair and scheduled an interview in Asheville, North Carolina. It was a pivotal point in my life because I was offered a Management Trainee position with JCPenney at the Gateway Mall store in Jacksonville, Florida. I graduated in June 1971, moved to Jacksonville and began my career with JCPenney under the guidance of Marvin McCutcheon. That fall, as an Army reservist, I was called to complete boot camp in Fort Knox, Kentucky. I returned to work and had the good fortune to learn the business with a group of excellent merchants: Jim Burke (Gateway) Tom Hutchins, Jim Maginness and Cecil Ranzino (Regency Square) and Kevin Leaderer (Cedar Hills).

I moved to the downtown Jacksonville store as the Men's, Home and Children's Merchandiser. This store had a rich JCPenney history due to the likes of Dave Miller; Jim Moore, Store Manager; Maury Jones, General Merchandise Manager (GMM); and John Wells, District Manager, all from whom I learned so much.

While in Jacksonville, at a JCPenney Restaurant, a mutual friend introduced me to Jane Hendon. We had lunch and 46 years later we are still together. In all, my life in Jacksonville was a great experience, it launched my career and introduced me to the love of my life.

'We' were transferred to the Porter Square store in Dothan, Alabama, where I ran the Men's Department, Accessories, and Lingerie. Store Manager C.B. Reavis and Jim Burke, GMM, Brad Wonnacott, Harold Harper, and Ernie Gooding ran a great store at the time and customers loved it! Jim and Brad let you do your job, but knew how to keep you pointed in the right direction. We all worked hard and played hard and it was truly a joy to work there. Jane and I bought our first house, and three months later we were transferred to Birmingham.

I was excited to be the GMM at the Roebuck store, working for Bill Pruitt, store manager and later, Alan Goforth. This store had great people too. Janice Dunn did a super job as Women's Merchandiser and she later became a store manager. While at Roebuck, I learned from Mr. Pruitt and Mr. Goforth the art of buying closeouts and we supplied a major portion of closeouts to the entire market. While



searching for a closeout for a major event, I came across a future great friend, Billy Kendrick. In 1981 we would become Merchandise Specialists (MS). Billy always had a good closeout up his sleeve while in Columbus, Georgia.

The next stop was Tuscaloosa as GMM. This was a new store and I still have photos of workers building its infrastructure. I truly enjoyed working for Fred DeLozier, store manager, and Virginia White, women's merchandiser, and Raymond Low in the Home Division. They were great.

While living in Tuscaloosa, we became avid 'Bama fans and our passion for Alabama football has remained. Who wouldn't be excited about the hometown team with a coach like 'Bear' Bryant? Jane finished her masters at the University of Alabama and as fate would have it, our daughter, Jennifer, and our son, Jay, both graduated from 'Bama. Currently, Cecil Naftel, Bob Cote, Brad Wonnacott, and I have a text thread we utilize during all the 'Bama football games.

I became the Merchandise Specialist in the District Office in Birmingham working for Jim Moore. Our staff consisted of Cecil Naftel, Dave McDaniel, Brad Wonnacott, James Deese, and Bill Hester. I regularly traveled to the Home Office in New York City where I bought labels, dresses, and accessories for the Women's Division in our district. MS's from other districts in our region included Ron Campbell, Dan Wooley, Billy Kendrick, Hazel Bumgardner, Deloris Chewning, Phyllis Christopher, and Laura Hubback. Our leaders were Art Kaplow, Earl Land, Brad Wonnacott, Will Arant, and Roy Kelsey. We were a well-oiled machine!





Bill with fellow Merchandise Specialists in New York

In March 1982, I actually missed my first trip to NYC. Mike Timmerman, former MS, stepped in for me so I wouldn't miss the birth of Jennifer. Then, three years later our son, Jay, was born.

After six years in the MS position, I became the Remix Coordinator and then Special Events Manager. It was time to return to a store, and I became the Women's Business Planning Manager at the Galleria Mall store run by Jim Davis. What a great man! He and his wife, Judy, were particularly kind to me and my family.

In 1992, I was promoted to store manager at the new store being built in Russellville, Arkansas. This was a special store with a staff that loved JCPenney. Bob Cote and Steve Dunn from our Regional Staff were a great support. Brad Wonnacott and Nick King were our District Managers and we could not have opened without them. The store took off like a rocket and the customers loved it! So, I was asked to report to the regional office.

In Atlanta, I became the Women's Geographic Regional Merchandiser. This position enabled me to meet many of our Penney Partners throughout the region and to work with Carroll Jones and Bob Cote.

Next, I followed Bob Cote, as store manager at the North Pointe Mall store in Alpharetta, Georgia. It was a beautiful store in a great location in Atlanta. Frank Coleman, District Manager, was a 'Manager's Manager.' We were able to experience the 1996 Olympics and the World Series as a family and as great marketing events for the store.

1998 was the year of the VERP at JCPenney and I reported to Hamilton Place Mall in Chattanooga as store manager, replacing Roy Kesley. This was a challenging move for our kids from middle



Golf Trip in Asheville with JCP Buds



At the Lion Monument in Lucerne



Santorini, Greece



Venice



Porto, Portugal with Jane

and high school friends in Alpharetta, but they adjusted and soon considered Cleveland as 'home.' Chattanooga was another jewel where the associates loved the store and took pride in their work. Dottie Ray, Raymond Low, Tom Duff, Brian Wheler, Stephen Fields, and Brian May were excellent merchants who all would go on to become store managers. I had the privilege of working with Brad Wonnacott again, as my District Manager.

2006 marked a turning point in our lives. A two-week vacation in England with our church group kindled a wanderlust that would change our perspective. Since then, Jane and I have traveled, taking at least one trip abroad each year. It has been a remarkable journey for us to see the world.

In 2007, I retired from JCPenney, and a new chapter unfolded for Jane and me.

We've led a fulfilled life, buoyed by the success of our children. Jennifer is the Director of Marketing for the Tennessee Education Lottery in Nashville, Tennessee. Jay is the Senior Manager of Supply Chain Analytics leading the Business Intelligence Team with Home Depot in Atlanta. We enjoy four grandchildren: Addie-Laine 16, McClain 13, Eliza 9, and Rock 6.

Retiring after 27 years as a public-school teacher, Jane began a part-time career with the local Public Education Foundation as a grants manager and projects coordinator. Over the past nine years, she has helped fundraise over





\$8 million to provide support for innovative instruction in the Bradley County and Cleveland City Schools.

When we are not traveling, I've channeled my passion into organizing a golf group in Chattanooga comprised of 21 remarkable individuals who tee off two times a week, 52 weeks a year. Over the past decade we've all seen our golf games improve, and this year, I proudly achieved the milestone of shooting my age-74!

I have been active over the years with our church, St. Luke's Episcopal Church. I have served on the vestry, as Senior Warden, then as Treasurer for the last 15 years. It has been my privilege to serve such a wonderful church.

We also enjoy time on the water, as we have a dock on the Hiwassee River where we keep our boat. It's been a source of great enjoyment, especially during the summer, when it becomes a haven for our grand kids. In fact, even at my age, I continue to slalom ski, a testament to the joy of life's adventures.

JCPenney played a significant role in shaping my life, providing not just a career but a platform to forge lasting relationships with people who shared a deep love for the brand. I will forever be grateful for the opportunities JCPenney afforded me, especially the memories and camaraderie with fellow colleagues. ■



# I remember when...

## District Buying

from Bill Littlejohn

*Before centralized buying, stores would select merchandise from the assortment plans offered by the various buying offices. Occasionally, store and district merchandisers would supplement the assortments with close-out items that they found on their own and could sell for low prices to drive customer traffic.*

In the 1980's while on the District Staff, we regularly bought for and built ads for major holiday events such as Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Three Big Days. Two districts, Birmingham and New Orleans, combined their buying power and expertise to construct these ads. This buying group was later referred to as the "Hoochie Coochie Combine" (HCC)!

We all worked hard to find the right items for our stores. Sometimes that required a trip to the Dallas Buying Office by the HCC to look for closeouts with Clayton Kilgore and Jim Moore. While there on one visit, we were in session with the women's bottom buyer. He had a slack that he presented to us at a certain price. Mr. Dennis asked him to go back to the manufacturer and propose a price of \$2.00 per garment. He was very reluctant to do that and Mr. Dennis asked him "if he worked for the manufacturer or if he worked for us?" Well, we ended up with the \$2.00 price. Do you remember how many y'all bought. Ballpark it. What price did you sell them for?

I also remember when Liz Claiborne shirtwaist dresses were selling well in competition. I tagged along with Bob Mantle and we went to one of our suppliers in Dallas. We told them what we were looking for and supplied a sample for them to duplicate. They were able to knock off that dress at a much lower price and we used it in one of our ads.

These experiences were just a glimpse of the excitement and challenges involved in buying merchandise for our markets during that era.



# The Great Depression

from Gerry Joyce

I was born in my folks' bedroom on February 9, 1924, in Iowa at the time the economy was recovering from a depression of 1920-21. It was the start of the Roaring Twenties. Americans were speculating on the stock market. That set the stage for the stock market crash in 1929 and then the Great Depression.

Folks had to really cut back on buying things. We lived on a 120-acre farm and raised chickens, pigs, cows and grew oats and corn. We had a one-acre garden where we grew vegetables and had three apple trees. Even though money was really scarce, we did not go hungry. My brothers and I had chores on the farm... feeding chickens, gathering eggs, cultivating with our two horses pulling the plow. On Saturdays, we would take 30 dozen eggs and cream to the local ma and pa grocery store. Instead of money, we would receive staples like flour and sugar. Occasionally, the owner would give us a bag of candy.

Sometimes we would go to a show where they had a drawing and then go to the JCPenney store. I remember one time that a friend of mine got a new pair of shoes. I told my mother that I wanted a pair. She said that I couldn't have them and that "it is better to give than receive."

Mother was a devout Irish Catholic and loved to sing. She was very good. We would sing "My Wild Irish Rose". She also prayed the rosary every night. I think that is what brought all four of the boys back from World War II.

We would walk to school a mile away. There was a neighbor on the way to school. We would make a lot of noise as we got close to her house and she would come out and give us cookies.

Saturday night was bath night. It was a big tub and we didn't change the water. The cleanest would get in first and the dirtiest would get in last.

With people out of work and no money to spend, many farmers and business owners couldn't pay their loans. Then bankruptcies started up on farmers and businesses. With the banks closing, that was no big deal for common folks because about the only money they had was in their pockets. They didn't have bank accounts. Often, they borrowed from their life insurance policies and were unable to pay it back. My folks went through bankruptcy and had to leave the farm we were living on, but they did find a place.

Not a lot of kids went to a four-year college those days. I actually went to a junior college that was in our high school. I worked part-time at a men's clothing store.

Programs like the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corp) and the WPA (Works Progress Administration) put people back to work. I remember the men in khakis working to build a park.

Most older folks don't want to talk about those not so good old days. About the only two good things about the good old days was that there were no drugs. Back then cigarettes were not considered a drug. Also, folks and kids did not leave their home area.

When we think of the Depression it was pretty much all of the thirties. If you lived on a farm, you at least had food. I have heard it said that the things gradually started to improve when Roosevelt became President. Then, when WWII started, jobs were plentiful.

# Indiana Pre-Holiday Gathering

On Thursday, October 26th the Indiana H.C.S.C Alumni Club held a gathering in Indianapolis, Indianapolis. We welcomed all who attended and enjoyed “catching up” on the latest news with their family and friends.

The meeting highlights were:

- Discussion regarding new home page for the National H.C.S.C. website and review of each section.
- An update on the JCPenney Foundation campaign information provided by Larry Noble and Ron Salzetti. We discussed the “Holiday Launch” providing contribution levels for our members. We included a pass out from prior meetings on how to use your RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) from a standard IRA to your advantage after you have discussed with your financial advisor.
- An update on the “2024 Feed America” volunteer program was reviewed. Several members expressed interest in volunteering for next year.
- The Indiana H.C.S.C Alumni Club 2024 meeting dates will be April 18, 2024 and October 24, 2024.
- We discussed the need to continue to build our base of membership and need for everyone’s commitment on following through with personal contacts.

We appreciate everyone’s input and suggestions going forward. ■



Gabby Tamler, Mary Jane O'Brien, Jack Fields, Jack O'Brien, Bill Wright, Jerry Barth



Jack Fields, Deryl Benz, Bill Wright, Jerry Barth



Deryl Benz, Jack Fields, Mary Jane O'Brien, Jack O'Brien



Jerry Barth, Bill Wright, Linda Hachey, Bill's daughter, Gabby Tamler



# Mason Dixon Holiday Luncheon

by Patrice Cason

The Mason Dixon group met at our favorite restaurant - The Alpine Chef - in Fredericksburg, Virginia, for the annual Christmas lunch.

We are thankful we can still meet at least once a year as so many members no longer travel long distances. During conversations, names of associates were mentioned and someone else knew them. Memories were discussed which led to more JCPENNEY folks we had in common. It is a small world! We may be small in numbers now; those that meet for this annual lunch, but have such a good time. ■



Chuck and Elaine Slupe



Patrice Cason and Pat Louque



Steve and Susie Davis



Joe and MaryAnn Gagnier

# Mile High Denver/Rocky Mountain



## Christmas Luncheon

The Mile High Denver/Rocky Mountain RMG held its Christmas Luncheon and Annual Board Meeting December 6th, 2023. We met at our favorite location Maggiano's in south Denver. We started our time together with a welcome reception with hors d'oeuvres. The meal was served family style. We all enjoyed some great fellowship catching up on what has been going on in 2023 with family and friends and travel plans for 2024.

At the conclusion of our lunch, we opened our annual board meeting. Royce Bervig gave an update on plans for 2024 events including a new event in August in Salt Lake City. Ed Trujillo gave an update on the H.C.S.C Foundation Holiday Fundraising Campaign. Donations were encouraged and collected at the close of our time together.

Don Sheely presented the RMG board candidates running for a two-year term starting 1/1/2024-12/31/2025. All candidates were approved with Royce Bervig, Don Sheely, Steve Strom, Ed Trujillo starting new terms January 1, 2024.

FRONT: Shawn Bervig, Bob Enders, Mary Beth Trujillo, Ed Trujillo, Steve Strom  
MIDDLE: Phil Riordon, Arleen Cassidy, Margie Stewart, Mary Brown, Jan Malone  
TOP: Royce Bervig, Griff Griffith, Don Sheely, Tom Cassidy, Ivan Stewart, Jim Malone, Norm Prince



Jim Malone, Bob Enders, Arleen and Tom Cassidy, Norm Prince, Jan Malone, Griff Griffith



## Fifth Annual Food Drive

The Mile High Denver/Rocky Mountain RMG held its 5th annual Parker Task Force Food Drive Saturday October 21, in honor and memory of our own beloved member Chuck Vogel. We had a great turnout at the Cottonwood King Soopers in Parker, Colorado, collecting 77 large cases of food, over \$1,100 in cash and gift cards, 44 lbs. of butter, 34 gallons of milk, and 42 packages of cheese.

Many thanks to our food drive volunteers this year: Steve Strom, Marcia Strom, Shawn Bervig, Teri Vogel and a heart-felt thank you for a job well done! ■



Ivan and Margie Stewart, Mary Brown, Mary Beth Trujillo, Don Sheely, Dave Simpson



Phil Riordan, Shawn and Royce Bervig, Steve Strom



Shawn Bervig, Marcia Strom, Teri Vogel



Steve Strom and Royce Bervig

# North Central Christmas Lunch

On December 6, 2023, several Minneapolis area retired managers and spouses gathered for a Christmas lunch at the Loop Restaurant in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. In attendance were John and Betty McNallan, Glenn and Linda Wiesjhan, Burt and Nancy Fairchild, John Cassady, Glen and Kathy Thompson, John and Sue VanBoening, Regina Marshall, and B'Layne Stoeckel. Many stories were shared from the nearly 300 collective Christmas seasons worked by these managers and endured by their spouses. It is hard for me to believe that it has been more than a quarter century since John McNallan last opened the store doors on a Black Friday.

We enjoyed great company, delicious food, and caught up on news about kids and grandkids. I am also happy to report that absolutely no business was conducted.

For those of you who are planners, you can mark your calendars for the first Wednesday in December 2024 when we will plan to meet again for a Christmas lunch. ■



Glenn and Linda Wiesjhan



John and Betty McNallan

## Minneapolis Christmas Lunch

Same time same place in 2024  
December 4th, 11:00am - 2:00pm

The Loop Restaurant - West End  
St. Louis Park, Minnesota





Burt and Nancy Fairchild



Glen and Kathy Thompson



John and Sue VanBoening



John Cassady, Regina Marshall, and B'Layne Stoeckel



# Gathering in Green Bay, Wisconsin

## JUNE 4-6, 2024

The North Central Meeting Group's 2024 Gathering will be held in Wisconsin's oldest settlement which dates back to the 1634 French fur-trading center. However, we will have much more modern accommodations at the Oneida Hotel in Green Bay (formerly Radisson Hotel and Convention Center).



Coach Lombardi



Your hosts



Lambeau Field

Here is a brief outline of the Gathering activities:

- June 4 - Tuesday: 4:00 p.m. hotel check-in, happy hour, tailgater dinner, celebration of life service, football-centric entertainment for all.
- June 5 - Wednesday: breakfast, activity choice of either a golf outing at Crystal Springs Golf Course or the Packer Hall of Fame and Classic Stadium Tour of Lambeau Field, followed by happy hour, dinner, and entertainment from Daddy D Productions.
- June 6 - Thursday: buffet breakfast, business meeting, and farewell. Of course, you could always extend your stay to explore more of Green Bay. Other top attractions are the Titledown District, the Oneida Nation Museum, The Automobile Gallery, and the National Railroad Museum.

The Registration Form can be found at [www.jcpalumclub.org/north-central](http://www.jcpalumclub.org/north-central) or by contacting Glen Thompson.

You may make your room reservations directly with the hotel by calling 920-494-7300 and asking for a room in the "JCPenney HCSC Alumni Club Reunion 2024 room block." The negotiated rate for their standard room is \$139.00 per night (plus taxes and fees). Reservations must be made by Friday, May 7, in order to guarantee the negotiated event price. Any requests for special room arrangements must be made at the time of your reservation. Room availability and/or pricing after that date cannot be guaranteed.

Please contact Glen at [glen.thompson@gmail.com](mailto:glen.thompson@gmail.com) or 763-486-0561 if you have registration questions.



# Ohio Gathering



David and Pam Keller, Tim DeMuth, Ben and Marcia Preston, Michael Brown, Ann DeMuth (and a mysterious photo bomber)

The Ohio RMG met at the new Carfagna's Italian Market in Columbus, Ohio. After a brief meeting, the group enjoyed an immersive Italian experience including the Italian Market, Cafe, Bakery, Butcher, Deli, Pasta, Wine and Spirits.

## Want more information about future RMG activities?

Go to [www.jcpalumniclub.org](http://www.jcpalumniclub.org) and check out the schedule of upcoming events.

Several RMGs have Facebook pages. Visit these pages for current news:

- JCPenney National H.C.S.C. Alumni Club
- JCPenney HCSC Southeast Alumni Club
- JCPenney Indiana H.C.S.C. Alumni Club
- JCPenney North Central H.C.S.C. Alumni Club
- JCPenney Southwest H.C.S.C. Alumni Club



# SoCal Holiday Luncheon

by Larry Noble



FRONT: Larry Noble, Sue Steele, Vince Caporusso, Dick Scoville, Helene Siebert. MIDDLE: Cheryl Noble, Lucy Rau, Judy Moore, Audrey Schultz, Betty Bidwell, Donna and Ron Salzetti, Jack Siebert. TOP: Don and Vickie Gergovich, Doug Rau, Mark Schultz, Jim McKeown, Ron Hudnall, George Steele, Alan and Melissa Rogers, Ross Willour.

On a sunny Southern California morning in December our Alumni Club enjoyed a wonderful brunch in Santa Margarita. Each year we gather at Tutto Fresco as it offers a variety of entrees and homemade gelato. The restaurant reserves the patio for us and has a festive atmosphere, decorated beautifully for Christmas.

We enjoy catching up with each other as we celebrate the season. ■



Larry and Cheryl Noble, Ron and Donna Salzetti, Jack and Helene Siebert, Dick Scoville



FRONT: Larry Noble, Ron Salzetti, Vincent Caporusso.  
MIDDLE: Lucy Rau, Jim McKeown, Betty Bidwell.  
BACK: Mark Schultz, Alan Rogers, Ross Willour



Melissa and Alan Rogers, Ross Willour, Vince Caporusso



# Southwest Holiday Luncheon

Wow! What a fun, action packed party. We had GREAT attendance which included our CEO and several executives from the Home Office. The agenda was packed. Hedy Sawyers, Tom Clarke and Marc Rosen presented the 50-Year Pin to eight members. Bill Kruder interviewed CEO Marc Rosen about the Company. Sam the Magic Man entertained guests with mind-blowing antics and folks brought lots of toys for Toys for Tots. All was accompanied with delicious food and amazing fellowship.

At the Annual Meeting, Hedy Sawyers and Ida Gephart were re-elected Co-Presidents; Mark Radman, 1st Vice President; Pat Carberry, 2nd Vice president; Margaret Filingeri, Treasurer; John Caldwell, Secretary.

JCPenney guests included Sarah Cook, Jim DePaul, Franklin Henriquez, Jody McKnight, Pam Mortensen, CEO Marc Rosen, and Michelle Sing. ■

*Attendees: Kris Andersen, Marianne and Dan Baricelli, Denny and Jewel Beran, Carolyn Bisulca, Pat Brooker and Ron Sand, Don and Dot Brown, Gwen Brucker, Bill and Lorraine Burns, Robin and John Caldwell, Pat Carberry, Tom and Sandra Clarke, Anne Dieter, Bob DiRienzo, Gale Duff-Bloom and Darryl Bloom, Phil and Bunny Esch, Ron and Diane Fazio, Manny and Yvonne Fernandez, Margaret Filingeri, Beverly and Claud Fleener, Rod Franz, Ida Gephart, Jan Hodges, Melvin Huffstickler, Brian Hughes, Madelon Issaef, Steve Jebbia, Mike and Antonia Jones, Bill and Debi Kruder, Al and Barbara Ladwig, Kathleen Langley, Mike and Anita Meiberg, Peggy Meister, Glenn and Teri Mieritz, Veronica Mitchell, Gerry Montgomery, Holly Pendleton, Angelica Podias, Terry and Kay Prindiville, Mark Radman, Leslie and Tom Ruppert, Hedy Sawyers, Jeannette Siegel, Ted and Sonja Spurlock, Lynn Stacey and Wendy Weber, Karen Sustek, Kay Tapp, Bob Thomas, Sue and Tim Vanness, Laura Williams and Sharon and Steve Winkle.*



Sam the Magic Man mystified participants



Bill Kruder interviews JCPenney CEO Marc Rosen



50-Year Pin recipients and JCPenney CEO Marc Rosen



Proud Mama Hedy Sawyers with son Sam the Magic Man



Tom Clarke, Debi and Bill K... and JCPenney CEO Marc Rosen



Tom Clarke, Lorraine and Bill Burns (50-Year Pin recipient) and JCPenney CEO Marc Rosen



Tom Clarke, Gwen Brucker (50-Year Pin recipient) and JCPenney CEO Marc Rosen



Sarah Cook, Jody McK... Kathleen Langley, Yvonne... and JCPenney CEO Marc Rosen



Tom Clarke, Steve and Sharon Winkle (50-Year Pin recipient) and JCPenney CEO Marc Rosen



Tom Clarke, Ida Gephart (50-Year Pin recipient) and JCPenney CEO Marc Rosen



Dan and Marianne Baricelli, Manny Fernandez, B... and JCPenney CEO Marc Rosen



Tom Clarke, Ted Spurlock (50-Year Pin recipient) and JCPenney CEO Marc Rosen



Tom Clarke, Brian Hughes (50-Year Pin recipient) and JCPenney CEO Marc Rosen



Tom Clarke, 50-Year Pin recipient and JCPenney CEO Marc Rosen





...ruder (50-Year Pin recipient)  
...CEO Marc Rosen



Sarah Cook, Pam Mortensem, Franklin Henriquez,  
Jan Hodges, Marianne and Dan Baricelli



Anne Dieter, Bob DiRienzo, Angelica Podias,  
Carolyn Biscula, Holly Pendleton, Rod Franz,  
Lynn Stacy, Wendy Weber



...ight, Manny Fernandez,  
...e Fernandez, Jim DePaul



Barbara Ladwig, Sandy Anderson, Glenn and Teri Mieritz,  
Toni and Mike Jones, Al Ladwig, Tom Clarke



Melvin Huffstickler, Hedy Sawyers,  
Laura Williams, Steve Jebbia



...Steve Jebbia, Yvonne and  
...Bunny and Phil Esch



Beverly Fleener, Jan Hodges, Steve Jebbia,  
Laura Williams, Kathleen Langley



Steve and Sharon Winkle, John and Robin Caldwell,  
Denny and Jewel Beran



...recipient Steve Jebbia and  
...O Marc Rosen



Dot Brown, Lorraine and Bill Burns, Don Barber,  
Terry and Kay Prindiville



Glenn Mieritz, Mike Jones, Angelica Podias, Pat Brooker,  
Ron Sand, Mark Radman, Kay Tapp





## HONOR, CONFIDENCE, SERVICE, COOPERATION

A Nonprofit Foundation Dedicated to Assist Retired Associates and/or Spouses in Need of Financial Assistance

Dear Penney Partners,

WE DID IT! We achieved our \$100,000 goal for the H.C.S.C. Foundation's holiday fundraiser! The Foundation is very thankful to all those who contributed. The following is a breakdown of contributions.

We had **5 Honor Partners** contribute \$5,000 or more for a total of **\$34,000**

We had **6 Confidence Partners** contribute between \$2,000 to \$4,999, totalling **\$12,200**

We had **19 Service Partners** contribute between \$1,000 to \$1,999, totalling **\$20,000**

We had **108 Cooperation Partners** that contributed between \$200 to \$999 for a total of **\$31,600**

All other donations totaled **\$3,200**

The Foundation would like to thank Michelle Sing and Jodi Kaeser from JCPenney Philanthropy Department. They were kind enough to make a grant of \$10,000 dollars to the H.C.S.C Foundation Holiday Fundraiser.

Many thanks to W.R. Howell, Jeannette Siegel, and Robin Caldwell for their efforts in making this a successful campaign.

As always, the Foundation will accept donations of any size at any time.

Your contributions are tax-deductible and can be mailed to:

H.C.S.C. Foundation  
15220 Green Valley Drive  
Chino Hills, CA 91709-4267

You can also donate through our GoFundMe account by going to our website:

**H.C.S.C.Foundation.com**

Thank you in advance for donating,

Ron Salzetti  
Chairman, H.C.S.C. Foundation

# LETTERS of GRATITUDE

Once again, thank you sooooo much for the Christmas check. I used it to help make a memory for the family. We make a Christmas memory, instead of buying gifts. We all went out for dinner (about 30 of us and everyone paid for their own dinner) and then I used the money for all of us to go to the bowling alley and play one game with prizes. What fun we had!! Lots of laughs and everyone mingled. It brought tears to my eyes when I sent out text messages to the different family members to see how many would be coming and I received replies saying, "Wouldn't miss it", "We will definitely be there", "Count me in", "Can't wait".

Hope all of you had a g



JCBC Foundation  
Chairman Ron Salzetti  
I want to thank all of you,  
for all you have done for me  
this year. It has helped  
me so much. It truly has  
been a Blessing. All of you  
are wonderful people. Its  
reach out to retired JCPenney  
employees, who need help.

May the Lord Bless all of  
you, and keep you safe.

All of you are special  
to me.

Love and Prayers,

Thank y'all for all  
you do to help me.  
May God bless each  
of you.

HAPPY New Year

I'M SO grateful for all  
y'all do for me. I thank  
God every day. Hop'ns  
y'all have a safe and  
ble blessed year.



## H.C.S.C. Foundation Partners Campaign 2023

### H. Honor

Robert Gill  
John Henderson  
W. R. Howell  
JCPenney Company  
Ted Schmidt

### C. Confidence

Roger Hanson  
Larry & Cheryl Noble  
Jeff & Jennifer Paige  
John Pierce  
Terry & Kay Prindiville  
Ron Salzetti

### S. Service

Bill Alcorn  
Family Beere  
M. Dean Bjornsen  
Charles Brown  
The Casons  
Donna Dotson  
Frank Fitzpatrick  
Rod Franz  
Wayne Harmon  
Glenn Harrison

Ray Hiza  
Gloria LaRovere  
David Lenz  
Richard Marricle  
Lu Niesley  
Jamesa Schulle  
Jeanne Seftar  
Joseph Statler  
Deane Williams

### C. Cooperation

Mrs. Frederick Ackerman  
Lisa Adams-Gibbons  
Charles Africa  
Donnie Akers  
Hoyle Alexander  
Dick Armstrong  
Donald Barber  
Richard Batey  
Bob Beard  
Jean Bogdola  
Geneva Boggs  
Douglas Boyle  
Frank Bradley  
Thomas Bretzius  
Ross Buckelew  
Michael Calderion  
John Caldwell  
Robin Caldwell  
Robert Calik  
Joseph Caravella  
Mrs. Martin Carlson  
Sandy Carris  
John Chapman  
Jack Clancy  
Tom & Sandra Clarke  
Barbara Crecelius  
Roy Clowers  
Rich Daniels

Patricia Dazet  
Timothy Demuth  
Bill Doss  
Nancy Downs  
Ken Ellingboe  
Ron Fazio  
Margaret Filingeri  
Larry Foster  
Robert Gentry  
Charles Glorioso  
Lester Good  
John Gresham  
Phillip Havertine  
Kenneth Hilbert  
Richard Jante  
Jack & Kim Johndrow  
Millie Jones  
Donald Jordan  
Gerry & Mary Joyce  
Duane Kittelson  
David Kloose  
Russ Longyear  
Laraine Macfee  
Rodney Maricle  
Raymond Martinek  
Donald McCormick  
James McFadden  
Jim McKeown

Richard McLaughlin  
John McNallan  
Gerald Mickey  
Glenn & Teri Mieritz  
Carolyn Miller  
Ron Miller  
Hal Monroe  
Gerald Montgomery  
Donald Mueller  
Jim Oesterreicher  
Patricia Phillips  
W. D. Poston  
Charles Powers  
Al Preisser  
Ben Preston  
Dennis & Sheila Radabaugh  
Ronald Raih  
Lucy & Doug Rau  
Rodney Rice  
David Rosen  
Rudy Rosman  
Leslie Ruppert  
Bert Ryder  
Joseph Sapienza  
Mary Ann Sears  
Marion Shaffer  
Jan Sidelmier  
Jeannette Siegel

Gene Siefken  
James Slee  
Marty Smith  
Karen Sorahan  
Ken Sparks  
Laird Spaulding  
George Steele  
Steve Strom  
Marie Sweeney  
Virginia Taylor  
Eileen Walker  
Barbara Wandschnieder  
Ted West  
Robert White  
Beverly Whitley  
Jerry Wilhelm  
Ross Willour  
James Winger  
Sharon Winkle  
Ron Winkler  
Meridel Wooley  
William Wright, Jr.  
SoCal RMG  
Deep South RMG





**Thank you for remembering our Partners and for your support of those in need!**

*Donations made in memory of or in recognition of these valued Partners.*

HONOREE	DONOR	HONOREE	DONOR
Rod Brister	Terry Prindiville	Mirth Meyer	Ron Salzetti
Lance Edland	Phil Young	Mirth Meyer	Larry Noble
Barry Gehring	George Steele	Mirth Meyer	Ron Winkler
Ralph LaRovere	Gloria LaRovere	Don Rudd	Hal Monroe
Joni Melin	Richard McLaughlin	Milt Schulle	Ross Willour
Mirth Meyer	Steve Meyer	Susan Webb	John Chapman

#### **ALL OTHER DONORS**

Rod Baker	Patricia Deem	Oyeronke Lawoyin	Donald Sheely
Steven Beideck	Peggy Enzi	Don Lewis	Steven Strom
Royce Bervig	Carolyn Head	Evelyn Mothershead	Jack Siebert
Mary Brown	Lynn Henrich	Clara Miller	Ed Trujillo
Thomas Clarke	Mirth Henrich	Mile High RMG	Donald Waltman
James Davis	John Lanier	Carl Pyles	Lawrence Wolfe

## **HOW FOUNDATION WORKS**

The Foundation Board members are retired associates who volunteer their time. When the Foundation receives a request for help, the Board members review the applications and then one volunteers to follow up with the applicant. The recipients and their needs are reviewed annually by Board members.

Applicants for assistance should be retired associates of JCPenney or their spouse (if the associate is deceased), be at least 60 years of age, and have at least 20 years of service with the Company.

Most assistance is given to associates who currently have a negative cash flow and are very much in need of assistance in meeting their basic needs. Some are in nursing homes and require extended care.

# LETTERS of GRATITUDE

Dear Board of Directors:



Praying your Christmas is filled  
with silent wonder, simple joys,  
and sweet memories.

God Bless You at Christmas.



Thank you,



Hi! If I had a big box of "Thank you"  
cards - it would not be enough - you do so  
much for me - have a wonderful life and  
stay healthy - each & everyone one of you ~~love~~

I wish for all of you,  
A Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving.  
Thanking you for all that you  
do for me. You are the Best!  
My Love and Prayer,

for a Merry Christmas and

a bright and Happy New Year

my thanks for the gift of money. It is  
appreciated so much. You have been very  
good to us over the years!  
Hope you and yours had a wonderful  
Christmas and a new year of special blessings!  
is in store for you!!



# In Memoriam

## JCPenney Partners & Spouses we will miss

*These valued Partners passed away recently. We are grateful for their support of H.C.S.C. and most of all for their friendship. We extend our sincerest condolences to their families and friends.*

*If you would like to read the full obituaries, please go to [www.jcpalumniclub.org](http://www.jcpalumniclub.org) and click on the In Memoriam link on the right side of the page.*

**Bernard, Norma B.** (September 6, 2023)  
**Bluml, Kay Ellen** (January 29, 2024)  
**Boyle, Carol** (January 6, 2024)  
**Bremer, Dorothy (Dot)** (May 20, 2023)  
**Bryant, A.B.** (January 22, 2024)  
**Bryant, Ida** (November 21, 2023)  
**Erickson, Dewaine E.** (November 13, 2023)  
**Frahlich, A. Scott** (February 12, 2023)  
**Gartman, Ronald** (November 15, 2023)  
**Gehring, Barry William** (November 26, 2023)  
**Heinrichs, James** (November 25, 2020)  
**Hipple, John Anthony** (December 16, 2023)  
**Hyde, Richard** (October 27, 2023)  
**Kobza, John R.** (October 30, 2023)  
**Lange, Delva** (October 15, 2023)  
**Langer, Lewis (Lew)** (October 29, 2023)  
**MacAulay, Doug** (September 30, 2023)  
**Maus, William (Bill)** (November 19, 2022)  
**McPherson, Regina Elise** (December 25, 2023)  
**Melhaff, William E.** (June 2, 2022)  
**Meyer, Mirth** (December 2023)  
**Powers, Thomas B.** (November 9, 2023)  
**Pruitt, Kenneth (Ken)** (January 31, 2024)  
**Rasmussen, Carolyn** (February 18, 2024)  
**Rose, Ingrid H.** (January 20, 2024)  
**Smart, Gerry** (November 10, 2023)  
**Wadas, Leonard (Len)** (January 11, 2024)  
**Webb, Susan Voss** (November 2, 2023)  
**Whitworth, Marcus (Mark)** (December 10, 2023)

Using your mobile phone, open your Camera icon. Hold the camera over the QR Code. A message will appear. Tap on the message and you will be taken to the obituaries on the website.



**JCPenney National H.C.S.C. Alumni Club**  
P.O. Box 261978  
Plano, Texas 75206-1978

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