



From The Shop



The newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Woodworker's Guild

Issue 12.2008

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 16th 7:30 PM

Location: Lehigh County Senior Center

December Meeting! Annual Family Christmas Party

Christmas is a religious holiday for many and a foundation of peace on earth and good will toward others for those in the rest of the world who do not share in the religious sense. All are free to embrace the spirit. The concepts of redemption and goodness are rooted in all civilized religions or philosophies of life. Wherever your beliefs are rooted, there is hope that mankind should share the spirit of this time.

November Meeting Highlights.

Freud Demo by Jason Muchler, local Freud rep and raconteur extraordinaire.



Jason Muchler got a hold of Freud's latest and greatest – the doweling machine – for our November meeting.

Thanks again to John Schaeffer of Woodcraft for lining up a great speaker. John and Woodcraft continue to be a friend to this guild.



John, Thanks for all you do for this guild!

Freud. Sigmund. Before I got into woodworking (if you call what I do to wood woodworking as opposed to wood molesting), the name Freud conjured up all sorts of thoughts. Like I get road rage on route 78 and yell at people with more than 10 items in the express checkout because I feel my mother hated me and my father forgot I lived in the same house till I was 12 and all my sisters cute friends thought I was a dork because my mother hated me and ... well you understand. Everyone has these pent up feelings, right? Then I got into woodworking. I heard there was another Freud. A kinder Freud. A useful Freud. A Freud whose bits and blades were true and sharp. I used these products. My wood molesting began to look like work working! And now I'm good enough, I'm smart enough, and, doggonit, *people like me!*

Then I learned a horrible secret about Freud. He did not invent the Freud company. He was not even a woodworker on the side. He had nothing to do with Freud, the company that I credited with my mental salvation. The company is not even GERMAN! It is ITALIAN! The company name is actually from an Italian abbreviation of two words **Fre** short for Fresa (Cutter) and the abbreviation **Ud** for the city where they were founded Udine, to make "**Freud**" or "Cutters from Udine." Italian! Like my parents who hated me. And many of my sister's friends. My life is hell.



Freud's Ultimate cutoff blade. Some details about this and a couple of others in the article, Freud blades were always known as very good – and they compare well with high end blades.

But most of my bits and blades are not from hell. I first discovered that the trick to making my old Craftsman Contractor's saw work like a charm was half alignment and half using a high quality blade. My first one was a Freud. The bits and blades are made in Italy and the power tools are made in Barcelona, Spain. Freud makes 27 grades of their own carbide. Perhaps the only tool manufacturers to do so. Not all cutters are used for the same purpose so one grade of carbide makes no sense.

When it comes to saw blades, the carbide tips are brazed to the blank with tri metal brazing – silver / copper / silver. This makes for a stronger bond and it a more involved process. The steel blanks are hard steel (48 on the Rockwell scale of hardness) and are laser cut. Most blades are stamped out and for that reason are made of softer material. Freud blades have laser cut anti vibration reeds in them that are then sealed or semi sealed with a polymer material. This dampens the vibration for real. The blades are also coated with a sort of lubricant material that helps the blade pass through material and reduces burn. The red coating on the blades commonly available to woodworkers is called Permashield. The production blades are coated with a chrome like material and come with a complimentary set of fuzzy dice.

Freud makes over 2000 different blades. Sizes, tooth configurations, levels of quality, you name it. In Europe, they do a very brisk industrial business. They are no slouch here either.

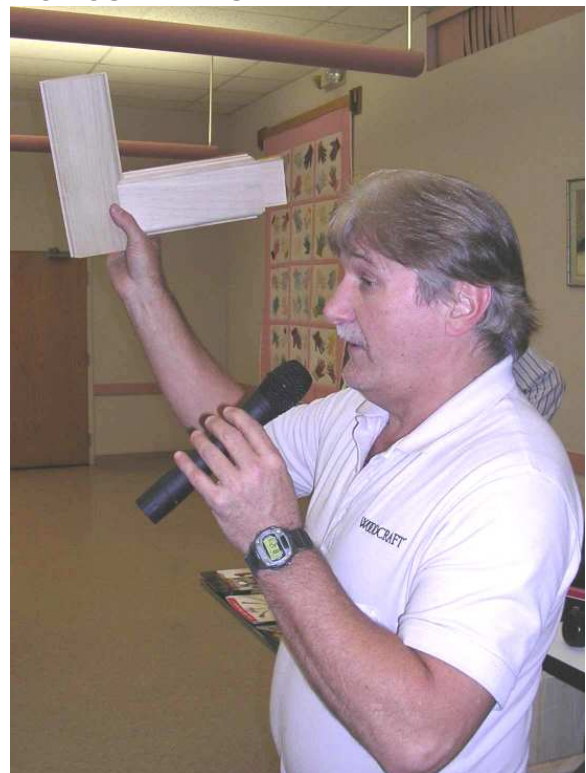
As most woodworkers know, you can use one "combo" blade for everything. But try to rip 8 / 4 ash with a combo blade. You need a rip blade for that. Per Jason, the thing that really differentiates blade performance is the number of teeth cutting into the wood at one time. ON a typical piece of 4/4 stock, a rip blade has 3 – 5 teeth going through, a crosscut 5 – 7, and a combo in between. Jason had one of each type of blade to pass

around. Heavy. I mean HEAVY blades. The teeth on the ones he passed around were like razors. The Premier Fusion combo blade looks like a winner. The Alternate Top Bevel on this blade is very aggressive, yet the wood samples passed around were almost sandpaper smooth.

There are blades for every purpose. And, while we are at it, let's talk about shop safety, as Norm would say. One of the most hazardous things in the shop, aside from inattention and misalignment of tools, is a dull tool. Any time you have to do something to "convince" a blade to cut, you are taking a risk. Use sharp, high quality cutting tools and, especially on a table saw, make sure the blade is aligned to the table and the fence at both 90 and 45 degrees. The best article I ever read on this was in the OLD American woodworker magazine. I think Paul Anthony wrote or edited it and that article changed my appreciation for proper tool alignment from then on. And I did not even know him at the time.

And always wear these, safety glasses.

ON TO ROUTER BITS!



"Yes – one of you got it right! It is the letter "L".. Don't be shy – Stand up, Craig!".... John Schaeffer holds up one of the rail and stile pairs made by Jason..

The method of attaching cutter heads to shafts and carbide to cutter heads is a little more complicated to describe than the tri metal brazing of teeth to a blade. In addition to the plain old Freud bits (perhaps the best available today), Freud has a higher priced, higher quality bit called a Quadra cut that has 2 main cutters

and 2 fine cutters that sort of back cut the initial cut that produces a smoother cut and a smoother edge. We have all used contour cutters and seen the little ripple effect. And these are places you do not want to sand because it messes up the sharper edges of the contour, so you sort of live with it. The carbide they uses is proprietary to Freud as well. They call it TiCo, a trademarked name, (Titanium / cobalt) and it is one reason why the edges are superior. The manner in which the shaft of the bit is attached to the cutter head is also unique to Freud and Jason described it as kind of mushrooming to prevent the cutter head from coming loose and assures a solid attachment.

Freud makes over 2000 different saw blades as stated earlier, I would hesitate to guess at how many different router bit types they make. Jason has not yet committed all of the bits and model numbers to memory. I have used the non Freud bargain bits myself, and they work OK, but when the work I am doing is important, I always run out to get a Freud bit. There is a noticeable difference between a quality bit such as a Freud, and after some use, a Big difference in quality of the cut. Cheap bits do not hold up over time.



Pretty cool – the rail set separates so you can make tenons to fit in the stiles.

Jason demonstrated a panel raising set designed to make doors. It more or less mimics the popular rail and stile kits for cabinet doors but on steroids. This can work stock from 1 3/8 – 1 3/4 thick.

I asked if Freud makes a stackable rail and stile set. They do, but not for full sized doors. Another member advised that the advantage to a 2 – bit (Not 25 cents!)

set is that you do not rely on placement of spacer washers to ensure cuts match up, AND you can set up 2 router tables, one for rail cuts and one for stile cuts, align them, and just go at your work. While I never thought of that, it would be almost a must for a production shop, and, if one is rebuilding their own kitchen cabinets, I can see where this would be a time and accuracy save to perhaps have a second router table (perhaps a mini or portable one) so that you were not busy switching bits if you have to make another piece. Sweet. Jason aligned the stile bit by using the cut rail tenon as a reference point and that seemed to work well.



Rail set in the router table ready to go.



This is the bottom end of the rail bit ready to tenon!

A really interesting detail of this bit is that the RAIL bit top section can be removed and you can work one side of the rails to create a tenon. Sides of the created tenon were surprisingly clean and accurate. Glue ups with just a rail cut are usually OK, but the ability to create a tenon is a real advantage to the strength of a piece like a door.

These full sized door bits are not small and horse off a decent amount of wood. Jason was using the Freud portable router table and fence and a Freud

FT3000VCE router for our demo and did the cuts in two passes. The router itself went through the stock without slowing down and the cuts made by the bit sets were accurate and clean. The small setup worked very well. Obviously, the pieces of stock Jason had were small for demo purposes, but I feel the setup would be fine for larger pieces of stock with proper supports. Jason later made a cut in one pass and there was almost no difference in performance or quality. In router shopping, Freud routers have always been priced a little less than comparable models in other brands and yet are regarded as workhorses by most folks who have owned them. Note that in the 2 pass cutting, Jason was careful to adjust the router fences for minimal clearance to either side.

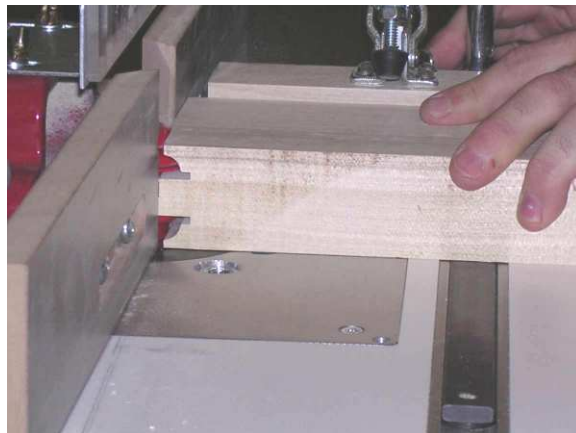


Fine tuning the stile set is easy with the above the table fine tuning knob. Use the tenon flat as a reference. Shims are included for fine tuning but Jason did not need them to make a serviceable joint in our demo.

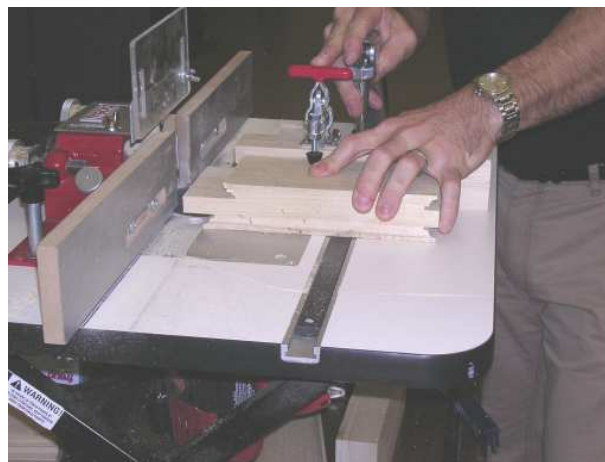


The business end of the router under the table.

The aforementioned router itself is a 3 ¼ hp 15 amp router weighing in at about 13 pounds. Freud builds them from the ground up, including windings, and seals it all up to prevent dust from getting into the works. There is a neat little knob that fits into the bottom of the router through the top plate for fine tuning and the bit itself locks from the top of the table. It has all the bells and whistles of most competing models. Freud has an excellent web site that even provides a PDF file template for cutting router bases.



Cutting in progress for the rail. As stated, the bottom of the bit cuts tenons – just move the fence back and flip the work.



...just like this....



A few of Jason's Quadra cut bits he demos.



Made at our meeting. A great fit.



All of this work was done on a mini router table that worked great. Nice little setup.



Pretty beefy split fence with built in dust collection.

Jason had a couple of monstrous cove molding router bits – again a two bit set for each side of the profile – and had some sample cuts with him. Make huge coves that would cost a fortune if you bought them pre-made. My kid loves cove molding and I have to show him what these can do. I hate molding of any kind because mitering it calls for accuracy. Some folks are from the “measure twice, cut once” camp. My kid is from the “Measure really carefully 3 times and cut once” camp. I am from the “eyeball it, cut once, curse, call it a day and have a bottle of good ale..” camp.

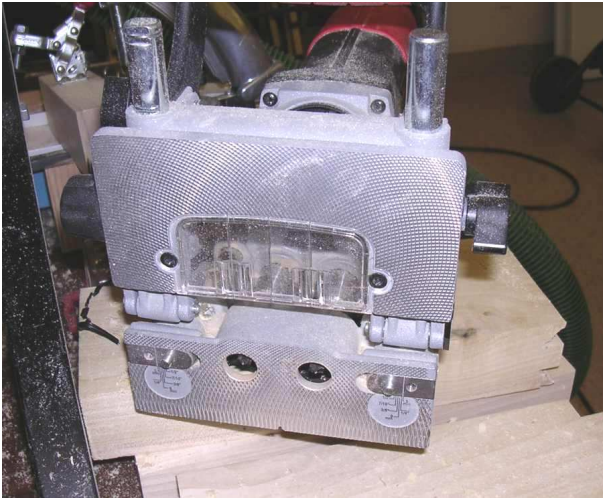


Cove molding set – WOW! These are probably pricey, but have you priced good cove lately (NOT FINGER JOINT!!)

Jason also demoed a brand new, hardly any in existence, doweling machine. Looks like a biscuit joiner. It can create dual dowel holes and can make holes from 5 mm through 1/2” in diameter. Once the first set of holes is made, succeeding sets can be made by using alignment pins that fit in to the last set of holes made. These pins are adjustable for different size of dowel bit sizes. It is expected to retail for about \$300.



Looks like a biscuit joiner, this cuts indexed dowel holes.



Index pins on either side adjust for different dowel bit cutter sizes.

Pretty amazing – Biscuits used to be “da bomb”. I do not hear a lot about them any more.

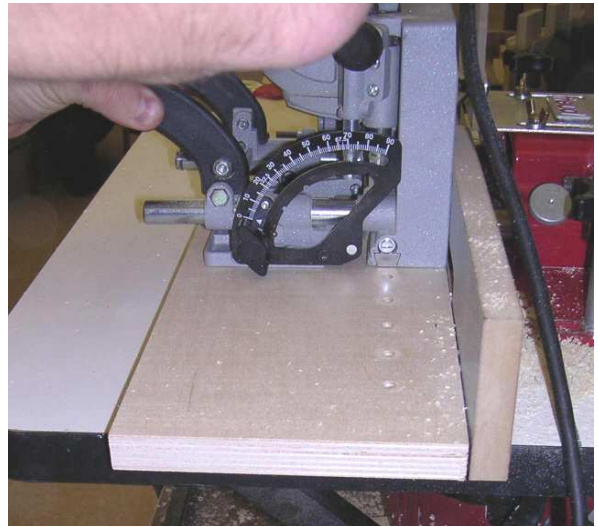
A member asked if Freud makes shaper cutters and they do, but these are usually sold to industrial users. Another question was asked as to a Freud sharpening service. They do sharpen blades but do not really market this service. The thought is that there are plenty of quality sharpening shops around that can handle this or a blade owner can do it themselves.

A very good presentation by Jason Muchler who did a very fine job on all aspects of the demonstration and handled all questions tossed out while moving through the physical aspects of the demo without missing a beat.

Freud's web site: www.freudtools.com
 Jason's contact info: jmuchler@freudtools.com



Cutting some holes.



And some more holes. Get the first set aligned and have at it. Would be great for those shelf pin holes too.

Block bag Benefactors – The Enot's



Father and Son - the Enot family has some special stuff going for it. Not only do Tim and Bob attend every meeting but Tim's wife Pamela made over 100 bags !! Nice people. Very nice people



And just so we know who our benefactors are, here is Bob, Tim, and Pamela! A shot from last year's Christmas party. Say thanks at this party.

Drag and Brag



Steve Kirk with a great looking radiator cover – unusual pattern rather retro. Patter cut from MDF.



A better look...



John Uhler was inspired by Bill Grumbine's tool handle turning seminar in September!

November Newsletter

– and –

Thanks to the Pattersons!

I confess that I was not really much into the last newsletter and it showed. You folks deserve better. That said, I have seen much worse.

As I related in the November meeting, I was in Sedona, Arizona on the morning of October 18th, sitting in front of a great stone fireplace in the lobby of our hotel sipping some Hazelnut coffee. It was maybe 6:30 AM and I was still on Eastern time. Peace. Vacation. No worries.

OH CRAP, I FORGOT TO MAIL THOSE SILLY ASS POST CARDS! AND THE MEETING IS IN WOODCRAFT! Yes, in the list of things to do preparing for my first vacation in years, I forgot to mail the post cards. And folks would have been showing up at the Senior Center waiting for the doors to open. Some of them may have still been there waiting even now. I know some of the folks who get post cards – know some of the names by heart - as I am deeply in love with the printing process on card stock and the meticulous cutting of the calendar and meeting info and pasting it onto the 4 ¼ x 5 ½ templates in Word. I cherish each and every name and address as they jam in my printer.

However, while I grew up in a computer environment and would be dead without one (I started my work career running an IBM computer in Prudential Insurance company in Newark in 1965 at the age of 17!), many people have had no need to ever touch one and I appreciate that, believe it or not. Hell, I cannot even write any more as I never use paper – except the post card stock and to print an occasional recipe from FOODNETWORK.COM. I could not remember all the names. OK, what do I do now?

Well, I look over at the computers in the corner of the lobby. We have a web site and the phone numbers of our steering committee are on there. I used those computers in the corner of the lobby to look up our web site and call Quentin Patterson, keeper of the guild roster. Jim answered the phone and Quentin and I went down the entire list (I felt like James Cagney in Mister Roberts going down the list of sailors to see who tossed his palm tree overboard “No. No. Yes. No. Pulver? He wouldn't have the guts.”) So Quentin had a list of 18 or so people to call to tell them Bonehead Manturi forgot to send the cards and the meeting is moved to Woodcraft. And we got all this done before my wife was done fixing her hair for the day. I do not have that sort of chore.

Quentin and Jim, Thanks very much for being there and I know how much fun it is to make all those phone calls. I made a few during the last Presidential campaign. Man, People are RUDE!

The October and November Woodcraft gift cards!



Doc McQuire.



Doc McQuire's lab project.
(I could not resist, Andy!)

2009 – WOODCRAFT Meeting Place!

The Senior Center has been good to use but there are a few drawbacks. One is that one meeting a year we need to find other quarters. Another is that we cannot keep a small cabinet there with supplies. Paper plates and cups and our PA system and such – people lug them back and forth. We cannot find a good broom to clean up. So John Schaeffer, Ray and the good Woodcraft folks offered their meeting room. No, you

will not have tables. But we will have the capability of close up TV shots of work being done and also benches with overhead mirrors to better see work. Dust collection facilities. And –what the heck – you can also do a little shopping while you are there and save yourself a trip. Mind you, Woodcraft has stuff you cannot get anywhere else anyway in many cases, so it is not like they are going to gain a lot by having us there. They are good partners. AND – it is free.

Starting with the February, 2009 meeting, we will be meeting at Woodcraft on Lehigh Street in Allentown, and meeting dates will continue to be the 3rd Tuesday of each month. This means that the LAST meeting at the Senior Center will be January 2009. Just in case the first sentence of this paragraph was not clear.

Start time will be 7:30 as it is now.

Thanks again.

ONE MEETING, PLEASE! Or...

We pay people to come and speak. In some cases, people speak for free. In either case, it is rude to have side conversations while a person is speaking. You want to pass a comment back and forth, ok. I see side meetings going on at tables for minutes at a time. We politely ask folks to be quiet or take it outside and a couple of minutes later it starts again. Why in the name of hell do you bother to come to a meeting if you are not going to listen to the speaker? You know more than the speaker? Fine. Be polite to the speaker and be quiet and then approach the steering committee and tell us you want to do a presentation because you are so smart. Or just shut up.

You want to discuss something RIGHT AWAY, step outside with your friend who is just dying to hear what you have to say. You see friend you want to chat with about the meeting subject, grab a coffee or a beverage of choice on the way home. A word back and forth is one thing. A mini meeting is another and steering committee members WILL ask you to kindly cease the chat. If that offends you, well, deal with it or ask for your money back. Good luck with that.

Please be polite. Being rude is easy. That I know all too well.

Next issue, we will discuss the new dress code.

**Book information received by Russ Reinhard
Russ forwarded this to me and I include it here for
your consideration.**

Hi Russ

My name is Spike Carlsen, the author of *A Splintered History of Wood: Belt Sander Races, Blind Woodworkers and Baseball Bats*, recently released by HarperCollins.

In a nutshell, the book is a collection of 55 stories that revolve around extraordinary and unusual uses of wood. It contains segments on ancient Kauri wood, the Worlds Greatest Woodcarver, belt sander racing, wood collectors and The Spruce Goose. It contains interviews with Jimmy Carter, a trio of blind woodworkers, Mira Nakashima, and woodturners Alan Lacer and Johannes Michelsen.

Its gotten excellent reviews from American Woodworker, WoodShop News, Publishers Weekly, The New York Post and other publications. Most woodworkers find it an enjoyable read.

I'm contacting woodworking guilds and other groups in order to publicize the book. If Leigh Valley Woodworkers' Guild has a newsletter or e-newsletter that covers new publications or includes reviews, perhaps you'd consider including the book

I've included a mini-new release if you wish to use it, along with a cover image. More information can be found at www.asplinteredhistoryofwood.com.

Excerpts can be found at http://browseinside.harpercollins.com/index.aspx?isbn13=9780061373565&wt.mc_id=pub_wm_av

I've also put together a show-and-tell presentation I've been giving at bookstores and for other groups in the Midwest (I live in Stillwater, MN). Let me know if your group has any interest there. Thanks for your time.

Spike Carlsen carlsen@usinternet.com

*A SPLINTERED HISTORY OF WOOD:
Belt Sander Races, Blind Woodworkers and Baseball
Bats*

A great read for wood lovers

The world of wood is inhabited by a unique assortment of eccentric craftsmen, wacky woods and ingenious tools. Together they've combined to create some of the world's most beloved musical instruments, feared weapons, awesome architecture, stunning works of art, sacred relics, and bizarre forms of transportation. In *A Splintered History of Wood: Belt Sander Races, Blind*

Woodworkers and Baseball Bats, Spike Carlsen introduces us to the best of the best:

* Meet the artisan that carves life-size wood Ferraris—then drives them through the canals of Venice.

* Discover 50,000-year-old wood mined from the bogs of New Zealand. And track down the world's most expensive lumber.

* Meet president and woodworker extraordinaire, Jimmy Carter—as well as the Toothpick King, a world-champion chainsaw carver and the man that makes \$10,000 pool cues.

* Read the inspiring stories behind three blind woodworkers, The Miraculous Staircase and Antonio Stradivari's incomparable violins.

* Tag along with the author as he competes in the World Championship Belt Sander races.

* Visit the shops and people that craft record-breaking baseball bats, ancient archery bows, exploding table saws, James Taylor's guitars, the Spruce Goose and more.

Whether it's cracking the Lindbergh kidnapping case, raising a 400 year old sunken ship, spending a day with championship lumberjacks and lumberjills, or touring a 36 year long remodeling project, the 55 stories in this book are sure to amuse, amaze, inspire and inform.

A Splintered History of Wood [Collins, ISBN 978-0-06-137356-5, \$24.95] is available through Barnes & Noble and other bookstores, as well as Amazon.com and other Internet retailers.

More information (and some intriguing photos) at www.asplinteredhistoryofwood.com

Wood Specials

SHADY LANE TREE FARM

Louise & Mike Peters
5220 Shimerville Road
Emmaus, PA
610 965-5612 Please call

FLEETWOOD LUMBER & FLOORING

BILL BURKERT
27 Rapp Rd.
Fleetwood, PA
610 944-8364 Please call

Member discount 5%

Bailey Wood Products, Inc.

441 Mountain Rd.
RD#2 Box 38
Kempton, PA
610 756-6827

Woodcraft

Pkwy Shopping Ctr.
1534 Lehigh St.
Allentown, Pa., 18103

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2008 Meeting Calendar:

Month	Topic	Speaker
November 18th	FREUD DEMO!	Freud tools –arranged by Woodcraft
December 16th	Christmas Party!! Yes, I said Christmas.	
January 20th		
February 17th		
March 17 th	Toxic effects of wood!!	Dr Dolphin – Lehigh Valley Medical Center

Next Meeting: December 16th, 2008 (3rd Tuesday!) 7:30!! That'd be P.M.

Location: Lehigh Valley Senior Center.
1633 Elm Street
Allentown, PA

Topic: ANNUAL FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY