



NEWS & VIEWS



LEHIGH VALLEY LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO
"UNIONS JOINING TOGETHER AS ONE"

January 2025

www.lehighvalleyclc.org



Allentown's Roosevelt Elementary School children greeted Santa on December 20 in an annual Lehigh Valley Labor Council community service project. Local families visited the school later to "shop" for donated toys. We thank all our supporting labor union affiliates and our many community partners, such as the Greater Lehigh Valley United Way, Dickinson Cranes, Allentown Police and Fire Departments, and Lehigh County Sheriff Joe Hanna and his officers. A special thanks to Cohen, Feeley, Altemose & Rambo for sponsoring the event.

Union Energy holds founding board meeting

President Ferritto, Secretary-Treasurer Bair describe coalition's goals for 2025

by the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO

Union Energy held its founding board meeting on December 4, 2024, in Harrisburg. Board members from a dozen unions joined the PA AFL-CIO and the PA Building and Construction Trades Council to discuss the coalition's goals and set priorities for 2025.

In opening remarks, Union Energy President Angela Ferritto discussed how the coalition is working to shape policies that will create good paying union jobs in a forward-facing energy economy. President Ferritto talked about Union Energy's eight days of action, held in late August, which brought together stakeholders invested in the coalition including leaders from unions, businesses, and the faith community, as well as academics and students. She also discussed legislative wins, like the passage of Solar for Schools, which will create union jobs and ensure Pennsylvania schools can run on renewable energy.



Angela Ferritto

"We are tackling a broad issue that affects everyone. We are reshaping what our communities think about when they hear the word 'union,' and we are growing in a way that is not happening across the nation," said Ferritto. "This is reshaping and reframing people's views on unions."

Union Energy Secretary-Treasurer Rob Bair highlighted the impact of the union apprenticeship factory tours, one part of the campaign's eight days of action. After the event, the PA Building and Construction Trades Council received more than 300 calls from educators or students interested in getting involved in union apprenticeship training programs. These programs can help to build out the middle class.



Rob Bair

"Labor cannot afford to be on the outside of the conversations anymore," said Bair. "Environment and union jobs do not have to be mutually exclusive. We can build anything we need and make it successful and safe. We want to create opportunities, uplift more people, and make PA the number one job creating entity in the nation."

Concrete recommendations from the "Pennsylvania Climate Jobs Plan: A Worker-Centered Approach to an Equitable Clean Energy Future," authored by Cornell University's Climate Jobs Institute, were also shared during the meeting. The report's recommendations have been shared with local, state, and national elected officials.

Board members discussed how the coalition can focus on both advancing its objectives and on growing union membership in the Commonwealth. They also discussed the industries that can become involved in renewable energy solutions

and how the products can get to the market. Members talked about the importance of embracing this movement, as other states are moving forward with sustainable energy projects. Areas of Pennsylvania are well suited for creating and hosting data centers, which can bring jobs for union members. By collaborating with community partners, Union Energy can help frame public perception about data centers and innovative technologies. For more information, visit: unionenergypa.org.



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UNION ENERGY

Capitalism is dead—long live capitalism

A path forward to shared prosperity

Mike Shupp, Executive Vice-President
United Auto Workers #677



For generations, we've been told about the virtues of capitalism—a system that balances industry with accountability, encouraging businesses to compete by offering superior products or competitive prices. At its core, the free market thrives on this principle, fostering innovation and social responsibility as businesses vie for the loyalty of consumers.

Central to this equation are employees—the backbone of any successful enterprise. Historically, businesses and workers shared a mutual dependency. Workers sought stable careers in companies they respected, while employers offered competitive wages, benefits, and a sense of security to attract and retain talent. This dynamic was the hallmark of true capitalism: a partnership between employers and employees that fueled both prosperity and progress.

But in recent decades, the rise of corporate greed has disrupted this balance. In pursuit of ever-growing profits, many companies prioritized cutting costs over investing in their workforce. The easiest solution? Outsourcing manufacturing to countries with cheaper labor, often at the expense of ethical practices. Even today, the global market is flooded with products made under exploitative conditions, including forced and child labor. This race to the bottom has suppressed wage growth domestically, eroding the foundation of the free market.

You might argue, "Isn't this just capitalism?" Perhaps—but the story doesn't end there.

Corporate greed during the Second World War.

Mike Shupp described the rise in corporate greed in recent decades, but its roots extend back much further. "We believe it is outrageous," *The Easton Free Press* declared in an editorial after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, "that the American public is being taken for a 'sleigh-ride' through bonus profiteering by company executives who have the government and the American people to thank for the money that is pouring into their coffers through war contracts."



When War Production Chief Donald Nelson called for a joint management-labor committee to boost wartime production, corporate chiefs objected to "giving labor a voice" and feared that Nelson's plan was "a first step toward 'sovietizing' industry." (Credit: Easton Free Press, March 28, 1942)

As the cost of living outpaces wage growth, workers are finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet. This imbalance forces many to rely on government assistance to survive. For businesses offering low wages or limited hours, this system is a windfall: public programs like housing aid, food stamps, and Medicaid subsidize their workforce, allowing them to underpay employees while taxpayers foot the bill.

This practice not only exploits workers but also disadvantages ethical businesses that provide living wages without leaning on government aid. In essence, taxpayers—whether they support these companies or not—are involuntarily subsidizing them. When corporations further secure subsidies, grants, and tax breaks under the guise of "job creation," the cost to taxpayers multiplies.

How can this be called capitalism? A free market requires choice. If you reject a company's employment or refuse to buy their products, you shouldn't still be forced to support them through taxes. This distortion of the free market betrays the very principles it claims to uphold.

How Do We Fix This? Change won't come easily. Corporations won't abandon profitable but unethical practices without intervention. We need innovative solutions that level the playing field while maintaining access to vital safety-net programs for those in genuine need.

One approach could involve applying the same scrutiny that businesses use to evaluate their employees to the companies themselves. By establishing benchmarks for corporate responsibility—like fair wages, ethical labor practices, and reduced reliance on public assistance—governments could reward businesses that meet these standards while holding others accountable.

The factors for reform must consider:

Worker Compensation: Ensuring living wages and benefits that reduce dependency on public programs.

Corporate Accountability: Transparency in labor practices, including the use of domestic vs. outsourced labor.

Taxpayer Equity: Ending subsidies for companies that profit from exploiting public resources.

Fair Competition: Creating incentives for ethical businesses to thrive in the marketplace.

By reimagining capitalism, we can restore its promise: a system that rewards innovation, respects workers, and benefits society as a whole. Only then can we truly say, "Long live capitalism."

TeenWorks' Annual Banquet

Saturday, January 25, 2025

Northampton Community Center
1601 Laubach Avenue, Northampton
5 p.m./Cocktails 6 p.m./Dinner & Program

Join United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley and our labor partners as we celebrate and recognize TeenWorks' accomplishments, honor our TeenWorks' Hero, and award Project of the Year and Zach Kraus Spirit of Service Award.

Tickets: \$75/person

Table: \$500/eight people

For information and sponsorship opportunities, please contact John Werkheiser at JohnW@unitedwayglv.org



Educating the rank-and-file one union member at a time

Part II: Rick Bloomingdale, former president of the PA AFL-CIO, shares past lessons with future labor leaders

by Ron Ennis, Editor
Lehigh Valley Labor Council



Rick Bloomingdale

(Editor's note: Last month, Rick Bloomingdale described his early career as an officer with the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees. He concludes this month with his leadership at the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO.)

John Vento had reached the age of seventy and, under the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO by-laws, had to step down as the secretary-treasurer in the state federation's upcoming 1994 election. Rick Bloomingdale ran for the position and won after Ed Keller, the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employee's executive director for Pennsylvania, urged him to campaign for the office. Bloomingdale looked forward to his new statewide role and working with Bill George, who had won the federation's presidency four years earlier. To this day, the 1990 PA AFL-CIO election remains one of the most contentious in the labor federation's history. (Fig. #1)

Bill George came to Harrisburg in 1984 as the United Steelworkers legislative director for Pennsylvania. He and Bloomingdale became friends, and soon began working together in preparation for George's 1990 run for president of the PA AFL-CIO to replace the retiring Julius Uehlein.

Robert McIntyre had other ideas. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local #81 chief officer served as Uehlein's vice-president and believed he stood next in line for the state federation's presidency. Union leaders from the Building Trades, such as the sheet metal workers, carpenters and operating engineers, began lining up behind McIntyre. Meanwhile, George and Bloomingdale crisscrossed the state shoring up support among the United Food & Commercial Workers, Service Employees International Union, Steelworkers, American Federation of Teachers, AFSCME and others.

Bloomingdale remembered that McIntyre had looked at past federation elections and calculated how many delegates he needed to win. With the Building Trades solidly behind him, he believed he had enough delegates with a comfortable margin to spare as the election approached in May 1990. The first hint of trouble for McIntyre began on the convention's first day in Pittsburgh when hundreds of delegates registered. In fact, the convention attendance doubled from previous gatherings. George's and Bloomingdale's plans to flood the convention with George-supporters had borne fruit.

"Bobby, you better learn how to count," one union leader said to McIntyre. "You're not going to win this thing."



Fig. 1: Bill George, president of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO, stood outside the Allentown Post Office, 5th and Hamilton Sts., in 2010 talking with officers representing the LANTA bus drivers of the Amalgamated Transit Union #956. George joined them for a midday rally in support of labor-endorsed candidates in the mid-term congressional elections.

George, serving his last term in office when the above photo was taken, had spent twenty years as president of the state labor federation. Rick Bloomingdale, who served as the federation's secretary-treasurer, succeeded George as president.

The convention quickly grew contentious. Labor leaders made motions to challenge the rules. Others sought to limit debate, but retiring President Uehlein remained unshakeable throughout the proceedings allowing neither side to gain the upper hand over the election process.

As the election neared and the outcome appeared all but certain, McIntyre gave a hand signal to the Building Trades delegates and they all stood up and exited the convention hall. George's supporters, many of whom had stood in the back of the hall, grabbed the empty seats of the departing McIntyre delegates. "George's backers filled the room and began singing 'Solidarity Forever,' recalled Bloomingdale, the well-known labor anthem sung to the tune of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," after it was announced that he had won the election.

"The election caused bitterness among some of the opposing unions," Bloomingdale said, "but those feelings had largely faded by the end of the decade." And when the PA AFL-CIO celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 2010, he and George invited Robert McIntyre to attend. The two had run a tough campaign against McIntyre in 1990, but they admired his lifetime of service and dedication to working people. "He could not have been happier with all the well wishes he received at our anniversary," Bloomingdale said with a smile.

The PA AFL-CIO had only two full-time officers in 1994, when newly-elected secretary-treasurer Rick Bloomingdale joined President George. In the 1960s, the state federation had four paid officers but declining union membership in the following decades forced the cuts. While a prison construction boon in the 1980s fueled an increased hiring of unionized correction officers, it failed to offset the union membership declines in steel mills, quarries and other heavy industries.

Lately, the percentage of workers wanting to unionize has increased. The public's perspective of labor unions has grown more favorable, younger workers are entering the job market, and the Biden-Harris administration's pro-worker policies created an optimism among those wanting a voice at work.

During Bloomingdale's nearly twelve year tenure as president of the state AFL-CIO, the failure to raise the minimum wage in Pennsylvania represented one of his "biggest disappointments." The federal minimum wage stands at \$7.25 an hour, a rate that has not changed since 2007, and inflation has steadily eroded its value since then. Our commonwealth's neighbors have increased the wage floor well above the federal rate over the past twenty years, but Harrisburg legislators have shown little interest.

"Nothing will be done about the minimum wage unless politicians see consequences," Bloomingdale argued. "If we beat a Republican on the issue of raising the minimum wage, I think you would see a turnaround on the issue." Opponents of raising the wage floor reply that no one pays \$7.25 an hour. Yet, \$8 or \$9 an hour is still a poverty-level wage rate. Union voters need to hold anti-labor politicians accountable.

While the minimum wage struggle stands as a disappointment, the story of the Employee Free Choice Act of 2009 represents "a missed opportunity," according to Bloomingdale. The EFCA amended the National Labor Relations Act of 1935, a foundational labor law that granted workers the legal right to form, join, or assist a labor union. By the early twenty-first century, most labor and economic experts agreed that the nation's economy had greatly changed since 1935, demanding serious changes to an antiquated NLRA.

The EFCA proposed three major reforms to the NLRA. First, it allowed certification of a union in a workplace if union officials collected signatures of a majority of the workers. Second, the bill mandated that bosses and the newly-unionized workers begin negotiating to reach a contract within a prescribed time, putting an end to the lengthy delays that had grown commonplace in organizing drives. And finally, the bill increased penalties on employers who discriminate against workers involved in the organizing campaign.

Republican US senators vigorously opposed the EFCA and promised to kill the measure with a filibuster. Needing only one GOP senator to cross the aisle and join all fifty-nine Democratic senators in breaking the expected filibuster, Bloomingdale visited the most-likely GOP senator to help, Arlen Specter.

Sen. Specter had arrived in the US Senate nearly thirty years earlier and had considerable seniority by the time Bloomingdale talked with him about the EFCA. He suggested changes to the labor bill, wanting Pennsylvania voters and his senatorial colleagues to see him as crafting legislation and not just putting his name on the bottom line. He had reservations about "card check," the collecting of signatures from workers wanting to join a union. "Can you scale back your proposal?" Specter asked me when we met in his Philadelphia office.

"I can't make that deal," Bloomingdale replied, "but I'll take it back to the AFL-CIO in Washington."

Bloomingdale told AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, his advisors and other labor leaders about his visit with Sen. Specter and his reservations with the EFCA.

"No deal," they said to Bloomingdale, urging the secretary-treasurer "to put pressure on Specter" and "bring him around," as he was up for re-election.

"He's not coming around," Bloomingdale shot back. Specter will not support the EFCA unless his objections to the bill are addressed, he added. Labor leaders refused to budge and, as Bloomingdale predicted, he withheld his support of the EFCA without his amendments. The measure died in the Senate, an outcome that Bloomingdale believed could have been avoided had we continued negotiating with him.

The failure to enact the EFCA hurt union organizing, but it has not stopped workers from demanding a voice on the job. Throughout history, workers often organized against enormous odds – the 1902 Coal Mine strike, the 1919 Steel Strike, and the 1937 sit-down strikes. But "extreme sacrifices should not be the norm for workers wanting a union in the twenty-first century," Bloomingdale argued. "We need laws to level the playing field" and prevent bosses from firing employees who join a union, or thwarting a successful campaign by endlessly delaying contract negotiations with workers.

Some politicians have no idea that all elections in America are not the same. Republicans and Democrats vie for voters on a fairly level playing field, but that doesn't happen when workers are voting in an organizing election. On the one hand, company bosses can talk to employees daily and usually cast the union in a negative light. On the other hand, organizers don't even know who the workers are until weeks before an election is announced. Once the organizers have the list of workers, they can only speak to them off the clock or at their homes, provided workers will answer their front door. Sometimes the list of names and addresses given to the organizers is inaccurate. And when workers win an organizing campaign and prepare for their first contract, the outcome is delayed for years while the company drags out negotiations hoping workers grow frustrated and give up. None of those obstacles exist for either Republicans or Democrats in political elections.

After Bill George retired in 2010, labor delegates elected Bloomingdale as president to the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO. One of the high points of his career came at the end of his tenure, when labor leaders joined him in Harrisburg to greet President Joe Biden for his 2021 Labor Day address.

Bloomingdale believed that Pennsylvania has so much fascinating labor history that no one person could know it all. For example, he never knew about the labor unrest on the Lehigh Canal during the 1840s until he read about it in the *News & Views*.



Fig. #2: Labor-endorsed candidates Penna. State Rep. T.J. Rooney (left to right), US House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, Lehigh Valley congressional candidate Ed O'Brien and Penna. State Auditor General Bob Casey posed with Rick Bloomingdale at the Bethlehem Steelworkers union hall during the 2000 Presidential Election campaign.

(continued next page)

Businessmen, military leaders and presidents are the chief subjects for our history books, leaving out entire groups such as workers. Workers helped businessmen succeed, defended our country in battle, and voted in elections that changed history. “Their stories, however, are rarely taught in schools, read in newspapers, or seen on television,” Bloomingdale explained. “In fact, even union members have a limited understanding of labor history.”

Bloomingdale hopes to see a map someday of all the Pennsylvania historic markers related to labor history. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has a list of all markers celebrating our state’s historic sites on its website, but he thinks union leaders should work on a labor history map for our commonwealth.

Over the course of Bloomingdale’s forty-five-plus year career in the labor movement, he has known countless politicians and believed that too many union members “become enamored with them.” They seem awed by a state senator or representative. (Fig. #2)

Bloomingdale offered a different perspective regarding the politicians he has seen in Harrisburg and in Washington, D.C. “They all put their pants on one leg at a time. Most of them were not doing well at their previous occupation, but becoming a legislator has given them the best job they ever had. That’s why they seek re-election. Furthermore, they’re not necessarily smarter.” Bloomingdale told the story of his visits to Pennsylvania Dept. of Transportation workers, acknowledging that “they probably knew more about road building than many of their state legislators.” He reminded them that they had elected these legislators to spend billions of our tax dollars on highway projects.

In fairness to our state legislators, Bloomingdale conceded, there are roughly three thousand pieces of legislation introduced in Harrisburg each session. It is impossible for anyone to be knowledgeable about each proposal. But he urged labor leaders to find the bills that affect their members, and union members to educate their lawmakers about the proposed measures.

Bloomingdale grew acquainted with dozens of union locals across the state during his long career and recognized two ingredients essential in creating a strong labor organization: a strong leader, who avoids being a bull in a china shop; and an active membership that is coordinated and focused. Bloomingdale learned that these ingredients can be nurtured with training sessions held by state and national labor organizations. Training sessions could extend to all aspects of a labor organization, such as union local finances and reporting, grievance representation, and the use of Roberts Rules of Order for union meetings. One of his earliest assignments involved teaching members how to run a phone bank campaign for a candidate. The list goes on.

It’s also important for union officers and representatives to be seen by their members, added Bloomingdale. Workers will not support someone they don’t know, and union leaders confining themselves to their offices hurt their effectiveness. Union reps need to engage members at their worksites. And they should not forget worker engagement through traditional communication methods, such as mailing newsletters, and more recent methods, such as websites, e-mails and social media platforms. “Members look to their leaders for information,” Bloomingdale said, “and we should never allow our opponents to fill that gap.”

According to Bloomingdale, while every union had its share of talented leaders, he “never met an ineffective leader from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW).”

“I don’t know how the IBEW does it,” Bloomingdale added, “but they have always churned out one good officer after another. The union has a knack for spotting talent within their ranks.”

Occasionally, union locals face severe challenges and their members switch or decertify the local. The reasons are varied, according to Bloomingdale. For example, the ranks of the state corrections officers grew in the 1980s and 1990s as Pennsylvania embarked on a prison construction spree. The guards felt they deserved more attention from their union officers as a result of their rapid growth, said the former PA AFL-CIO president, and they left AFSCME to form their own independent union. Their ranks are now shrinking as our commonwealth closes prisons to save money.

Decertification in the private sector often is the result of employer opposition. Bloomingdale believes that is what happened in 2006 at Yuengling Brewery in Pottsville after a new generation in the family-owned business began exerting control over the company’s direction. “They may have viewed the union as an obstacle to their plans rather than partners that can add value to their brand.” Bloomingdale concluded.

The former state federation president observed a third threat to undermining unions during the course of his labor career. Union-busting firms, all with benign sounding names to cloak their true motive, have grown over the years. “They send mailers to public-sector employees describing to them how they can stop paying union dues but still get all the benefits of the union,” Bloomingdale noted. “And they have their political friends in Harrisburg who have written laws to benefit them and their efforts in dividing workers.

Bloomingdale remembered when he would occasionally receive a call from a union member unhappy with his or her local. “We never see anyone from the union,” they would claim. “We’d like to go to another union.”

In response, he urged them to contact their local officers with their complaints. And if that did not work, he encouraged them to take it up with their state or national leaders. It is the easiest and quickest solution compared to others. In general, he never saw a spike in union decertifications during his career with the PA AFL-CIO, but added that there will always be someone or a group unhappy with their union local. “That’s another reason why unions should always be organizing workers.”

“Some in our ranks blame those that the right-wing media claims are the cause of their problems rather than hold our wealthiest corporations accountable for closing factories, moving jobs offshore, or laying off workers to automation,” Bloomingdale argued. Beginning in the 1980s, AM talk radio hosts, and later Fox TV pundits, accused “the deep state,” the poor, and immigrants as threats to America. Bloomingdale remembered one of the earliest voices preaching a far right-wing message: Pat Robertson, a media mogul and religious broadcaster famous for starting *The 700 Club* in 1966. He launched the Christian Broadcasting Network in 1977, the first satellite television channel in America, and he sold it to the News Corporation for \$1.9 billion twenty years later. He created a template for many other far-right voices on cable network television, as well as in the newspaper and talk radio industries. “What Donald Trump represents can be attributed, in part, to the messaging from Robertson and others over the past forty years,” observed Bloomingdale.

Robertson passed away last year, “but his imitators are still around and even more extreme,” Bloomingdale warned. “We have our work cut out for us for the indefinite future.”



The world keeps spinning, But many people feel it's going to Hell

by Ron Ennis, Editor
Lehigh Valley Labor Council



The Civil War had ended two years earlier, and *The Bethlehem Daily Times* editor hoped that bloodshed and brutality would be a thing of the past. “It was supposed a few months ago that crime was on the decrease again,” he wrote on October 28, 1867.

Instead, he found that little had changed. “In looking over our exchanges daily we find that crime is as rampant now as it has been any time since the close of the war. There is hardly an exchange which reaches us that does not give the details of some murder, robbery, or great crime of some kind.”

During last year’s presidential contest, some commentators described a nation that had gone dark. “Ask most Americans what they think of public life in the U.S. now,” Daniel Henninger wrote a few days after the assassination attempt on Donald Trump. “A nightmare.”

“From what Americans have been saying the past few days,” *The Wall Street Journal* columnist continued in his July 17 post, the attempt on Trump’s life “was simply the last straw of living in a nation beset by anxiety and dread.”

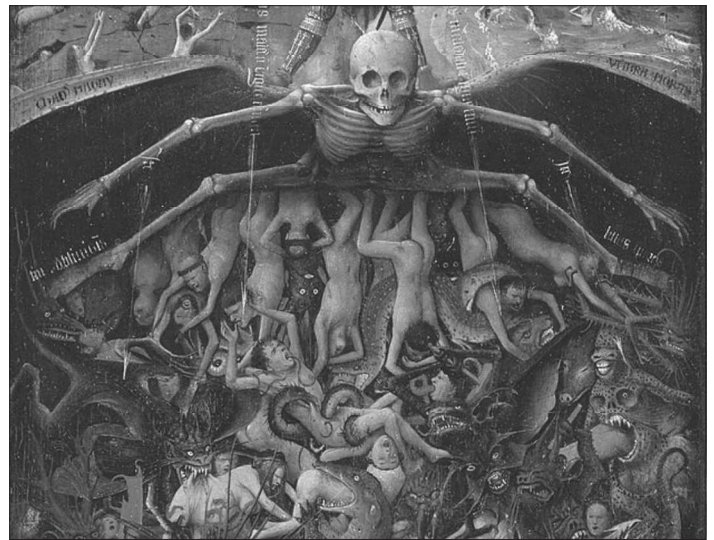
Americans beset by anxiety and dread? A nation living in a nightmare? Really?

The lamentations of *The Daily Times* editor, like those of Henninger, appeared soon after another president of far greater stature was assassinated. One hundred and sixty years later, the world still spins. It may seem as though we are living in the worst of times, but the truth is, we are not. America is not a dystopian hellscape even if Henninger and others think society is in moral decline. (See image)

A recent study by Adam Mastrianni, a research scholar at Columbia Business School and the study’s lead author, confirmed that many people believe society is in moral decline, growing ruder, greedier and less compassionate. Mastrianni described this decay in his paper entitled “The illusion of moral decline,” published in 2023. After examining decades of surveys, some dating back to the 1940s, he found that people’s behavior toward one another had remained relatively the same, despite decrying a decline in morality for generations.

Mastrianni’s research uncovered the dangers that people create when romanticizing the past. Aspiring despots take advantage of that nostalgia—“Make America Great Again”—and followers willingly squander resources pursuing a mythic past. “There are many problems facing society today,” he concluded. “Fortunately, moral breakdown is a fake problem, and we don’t need to spend any resources on it.”

The day after *The Bethlehem Daily Times* editorial, the editor offered an antidote to the world’s pessimism. “No man busy with the affairs of life can expect to do very much for the good of mankind, but every man can do something,” he wrote. “And all some-things make a handsome aggregate, as the drops of water make the sea.” Do all you can as well as you can for others. “Otherwise, little or nothing would be done, and all would be wrapt in selfishness, gloom, and want.” Sounds like good advice 160 years later as we step across the threshold into a new year.



Jan van Eyck’s Crucifixion and Last Judgment diptych, 1430-40. Eyck, a Flemish painter, depicted the damned falling into Hell, where they were tortured and eaten by beasts. Human beings have lamented about society’s decline since the Old Testament’s Jeremiah forewarned of moral decay leading to divine punishment.

A work of art illustrating Hell is called a hellscape and a diptych is any object with two flat panels which form a pair, often attached by a hinge. The above image is part of the right-hand panel. (Credit: Wikimedia Commons)

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“Politicians love to talk about unity, but our constitutional system was set up to keep unity at bay, preferring a more adversarial approach, pitting faction against faction. Checks and balances, separation of powers and the division of authority between the federal and state governments are predicated on the idea that unity will be rare and temporary. The Constitution places our most cherished liberties on a high shelf, hard to reach during moments of unifying populist passion.”

Jonah Goldberg, author and political commentator, in a May 30, 2024 *Allentown Morning Call* column.



ALLENTOWN is on the road towards doing better by the language of the country. Her school teachers have been “requested” by the school board to require conversation during school hours to be carried on in English. So far so good. But we’ll bet a big apple that this very day conversatiōn has been carried on in Allentown schools between pupils, and between teachers and pupils, in Pennsylvania German. English is not the language of Allentown, nor of her public schools.

(Credit: Bethlehem Daily Times, May 1, 1885)

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025
Executive Board @ 7:00 PM – Delegate meeting @ 7:30 PM
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