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Charlotte Shelburne Rotary Club

Wednesday, May 4, 2011, 7:30 a.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church Community Room

President Linda Gilbert led the group in the pledge and Kris Engstrom gave the devotional. Linda introduced our guest (and guest speaker) Meredith Angwin.

**Rotary Thought**

Linda reflected on the great district conference held at Stowe Mountain Resort last weekend, attended by a good representation of Charlotte Shelburne Club members and their spouses. Linda said that District Governor Bill Thompson and his Colchester Milton Club did an excellent job organizing the event and choosing the interesting guest speakers. One highlight was a parade of flags representing the countries we’ve hosted Rotarians from on Group Study Exchange programs. The Turkish GSE team was present (along with John Adams of Shelburne who was about to leave for Turkey on the US GSE team.

**Presidential Citation**

Charlotte Shelburne Rotary received a Presidential Citation with distinction and five zone awards: the community service award, the literacy award, the public image award, the water and sanitation award, and the health and hunger award. There were only two clubs - Charlotte-Shelburne and Colchester-Milton - that got all of these awards. DG Bill Thompson chose to give the 'Club of the Year' award to his own club - Colchester-Milton. Linda says that club was in charge of the conference and they did a really good job.

**Announcements**

* 5/4 – Rotary After Hours at Cucina Antica at 5
* 5/11 – speaker Bill Young of Maple Leaf Farm
* 5/12 – Rotary Board meeting
* 5/18 – Scholarship winners
* 6/3 – Bowl-a-thon

Please send your list of potential donors to Ric so he can get the letters ready for the mail. “Send us your lists and we’ll make some money,” he says. Gary Bergeron is selling banners - $100 to have your business represented on a banner at the Bowl-a-thon… and $2400 for the club.

***Thank you***

Sunday six Rotary members helped as parkers at the Dairy Day event at Shelburne Farms. Denny Bowen, Jim Spadaccini, Tod Whitaker, Rob Bingel, Bill Deming and Linda Gilbert. And Linda Barker and Shannon who works with her at Citizens Bank collected money at the entrance. Thanks to them all for helping make Dairy Day a success.

[View the Dairy Day photo album >](http://www.CharlotteShelburneRotary.org/PhotoAlbum.cfm)

***Opportunity for service***

John Dupee had received an extensive list of projects we could tackle at Camp Ta Kum Ta. He said many are half-day projects for three or four people. Anyone who would like to help can talk to John and help choose the best project.

***RYLA***

Sue McLellan announced that four winners of the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards have been chosen from the 12 applicants. They are sophomores and juniors at CVU, Grace Carey, Claire Mathon, Harvey Ottinger, and Elijah Cory. Alternates are Dana Kaufman and Georgia Dixon. Sue said the quality of the applicants was very high and she was proud of the group we will send to RYLA this summer.

***Slate of Officers***

When we voted on a slate of officers for the coming year, one position had not been filled. The Vice-Presidential candidate, who will be president in the 2013-14 year, had not been chosen. President Linda said that Dave Jonah had agreed to serve in that position, and in traditional CSR style he was immediately nominated, seconded and approved unanimously.

**Sergeant at Arms**

Don Condon was assisted by Sarah Rouse collecting the happy fines:

* Don commented on the skill of the Navy Seals in their recent action in Pakistan – proud to have trained them and been trained by them once upon a time.
* George Schiavone – happy Bob Sanders visited Vermont in 1994 – and stayed
* Trafton Crandall – late fine
* Roz Graham – thanks to everyone who helped make Dairy Day a success
* Bob Sanders – congratulations to William and Kate – not the royals – our own Bill Root and his fiancée Caitlin Perry
* Jim Spadaccini – a leaky roof right over Paula’s computer – thanks to Linda Barker and her bank crew for helping Sunday
* Denny Bowen – enjoyed the excellent convention
* Sam Feitelberg – rain … rain … rain
* Meredith Angwin -- a happy family visit
* Kris Engstrom – hope the water doesn’t get any higher – proud of our club
* Sue McLellan – proud of our RYLA group – and hooray for a sump pump
* Robert Maynes – his first round of golf of the season
* Ric Flood – a relief fine – Osama’s gone
* Terrell Titus – a scoot fine – busy taking claims
* Michele Lash – daughters came to visit
* Steve Dates – great convention – and left early to see Yo Yo Ma
* Elaine Dates – great trip to Charleston for Civil War history event with 12-year-old grandson
* Tod Whitaker – we had two days of sun
* Bill Root – happy
* Gary Bergeron – looking forward to bowling
* Chris Davis – trip to New York City
* Fritz Horton – compliments to the intelligence service
* John Dupee – an impromptu Rotary Social at Cucina Antica on Saturday
* Terry Kennaugh – hasn’t uncovered his bot yet
* Dennis Webster – appreciating snow
* Sarah Rouse – going to Hawaii
* Ric Flood – a courageous fine to John Dupee for wearing sandals on such a day

Lucky Draw: Our guest speaker drew Dave Jonah’s ticket number but he missed the $453 pot. Rollover.

A second draw, for a book called “Power to Save the World” presented by the guest speaker was won by Terry Kennaugh

**Vermont Yankee and You**

Guest speaker was Meredith Angwin, Director of the Environmental Education Project of the Ethan Allen Institute. The goal of the project is to help Vermonters to understand their options related to the relicensing of Vermont Yankee. Her point: renewables are important but they have been oversold.

She said that everyone wants clean, safe, reliable energy. Currently 71% of our electricity comes from fossil fuels and she showed a chart of the sources of electricity now and projected for the future. Without Vermont Yankee, even with the growth of some of the alternatives, there would be a dramatic gap in the availability of power. Her argument against renewables like hydro power, wind and solar, is that some take a lot of land (hydro with its flooding) and they only provide energy when they want to (wind and solar only produce energy when the wind is blowing or the sun is shining). The realistic choices are; nuclear, big hydro or fossil fuels.

Referring to concerns that the crisis resulting from the damage to the Fukushima Nuclear plant, she pointed out that it took a 40-foot tsunami to damage the Japanese plant. And Yankee is pretty unlikely to be struck by a 40-foot tsunami. And American nuclear plants of similar vintage and design to Yankee have survived hurricanes, tornadoes and earthquakes. They have been extensively updated.

On the subject of the tritium leak at Yankee, she said that two quarts of water with tritium at the EPA limit for tritium radiation are equal to the tritium emitted by 1/20th of a banana.

On the economic side of the discussion, she said loss of Yankee would mean a payroll loss of $60 million to $93 million for 1100 to 1300 jobs lost. The plant employs 650 people but the impact supposes the multiplier effect of a job in the community. The tax loss would be $12 million.

She said that reports on the impact of the loss of Yankee have not factored in the rise in the cost of electricity and that higher cost could drive out high tech businesses that use a lot of electricity;

For more on the subject check out her blog: <http://yesvy.blogspot.com/>