

THE VALE NEWS

Sept. 8, 2010

Vol. 35 Issue No. 10

New Generations Youth Services - A time to highlight Rotary's commitment to youth.

Club Calendar & Speaker Assignments

Sept. 15	Ralph Walker - Restaurant Raffle kickoff
22	Karen Winchell - Hal Cohen (CVCAC)
29	Dave Ellison - 'Shelter Box' Presentation
Oct. 6	Leon Bruno
13	Dave Ellison -Tapes from Dist. convention
20	Walter Brink II - Classification Speech
27	Vickie Walluck - Classification speech
Nov. 3	Open
10	Wini Thorsen
17	Rosemarie White
24	No Meeting (day before Thanksgiving)
Dec 8	Restaurant Raffle Drawing

Editor's Note: Please inform Wini (496-6710) of the name of your speaker at least 2 weeks in advance. If you can't get a speaker for that date, please try to trade with another person on the list.

Birthdays: Adam Greshin - 9/9; Len Rubin 9/11

Anniversaries: none

Nice crisp morning and I thought we had only one guest, Robin McDermott our speaker but I missed John Daniell, therefore he did not get announced today.

Announcements

Audrey informed us that the next BOD meeting will be on the 22nd of this month. She then gave a big thank you to Leo and his team for the success of the Duck Race this year.

Leo announced the winners are:

Claudia Becker \$1,000

Donna Cusson \$500

Peter Laskowski \$250

Lottery Ticket Winners

Marie St. John

John Daniell

Lynne Williams

Ted Hengstenberg

Betsy Jondro

Larry Ryan
Paul Kidder

The BFD was amazed that last Saturday the crew sold over \$1,200 at the Farmers Market with Jack Simko being the leading salesman. Total net is \$13,586.

Leo did some statistics and discovered that the average weekly sales were: \$154 at Mehurons; \$101 at Shaws; \$75 at the Warren Store and \$330 at the Farmers Mkt. He was grateful for all the duck 'wranglers' managing the Ducks before, during and after the race - made the job easy.

Carol Hosford thanked us for help with the voting and orchard planting. Eleven Rotarians were among the 50 people who put in the fruit trees at the Medical Center which will eventually provide fruit for the local Food Center.

Leon Bruno spoke to us about the Benefactor program asking each member to consider leaving R.I. a \$1,000 in his/her will. This fund is not used for the organization expenses, only for charity.

Mega Bucks- \$943 to the winner. Doug Stoehr drew the 8 of spades for \$5.

Happy Bucks

Al Barillaro- Happy Birthday Len

John Crump-Someone bought a DR ticket in memory of Chas. Biederman

Dave Koepele - Great BFD

Ken Amann - Good summer and successful Farmers Market

Peter Laskowski- Mushroom farming going great

Larry Ryan - Son is up for the weekend

Jack Mansfield - Thinks we have a great group

Leon Bruno - Sad Lorraine is no longer the youngest member

Note: Walter Brink is now both our newest and youngest member!

Jim Leyton - Jewish New Year- Be inscribed in the Book of life

Doug Stoehr - Happy for all the member participation in the DR

Joe Koch - great wife

Tom Byrne - Wife going to visit So. France

Bob Holden - Kudos to BFD

Art Conway- 4 days spent with 10 year old grandson

John Basile - \$ we took in for the DR

Len - Happy to have made it this far

Monk - wind blew down stream at the DR

Stan Needleman - just happy

Dave Ellison - In-laws arriving

Joe Klimek - Grand daughter's wedding in the vineyard

Carol Hosford - 22 soccer players - all went well at camp out

Caryn Crump - Incredible selling technique of Jack Simko

John Daniell - chance to be Vermont Lottery Millionaire
Jack Simko - no more rejections until next raffle

Program

Joe Klimek told us that together with George Schenk, Kate Stephenson, Helen Whybrow and Linda Faillace, Robin founded the Mad River Valley Localvore Project in February 2006. Robin also serves on the BOD for the Vermont Fresh Network.

Robin and her husband Ray moved here from Connecticut in 2004. Together they own Resource Engineering, Inc. , a technology company that provides web-and computer based productivity and quality training to manufacturing companies worldwide.

Robin and Ray grow much of their own food in their garden and enjoy cooking, cross skiing and building their business.

Robin asked why we came to this Valley. Most of us moved here for the skiing. Many come for the beauty of the area, and maintain working landscapes.

She said we need to maintain the local farms. We counted only 5 dairy farms currently in MRV where there used to be 5x that many 10 years ago. We need to buy local to help keep the farms successful. The NY Times stated that local food is expensive compared to the produce from the large farms in California but \$ going to local foods boosts our economy.

When polluted food shows up from huge operations, many thousands of units have to be recalled to locate the source of the bad food. While foods from small farms can be traced immediately. An example is the recent spinach recall.

MRV has lost a lot of dairy farms, but new farms- such as the MRV vineyards are creating a permanent culture as the grape vines can live for 75 years. Two more have started in the Valley. They take time to start, but then pay off for many years.

The Von Trapp farm young boys have returned to enter the family business but realized that dairy pricing is controlled by big farms, making it unprofitable for small farmers. They started producing a gourmet cheese and are now making a good living.

Peter Laskowski and his son started a shitake mushroom farm - bought 1000 logs, 3' long, 6-8" in diameter, inoculated with mushroom spores. They received a grant to grow the mushrooms and hope to produce 1,000 # this year.

The Kingsbury Farm produced 800# of winter squash, which were donated to the Food Shelf.

Things we can do to help: Shop at the Farmers Market and from local food Stands. Look for local food at grocery stores and restaurants. Eat "local week" and get points for each purchase (turn cards in for the drawing)

Many of our members have veggie gardens.

The reason local products are more expensive is that most of the work is done by hand.

Tom Byrne stated that we need more local support for local stores in order to keep the money in the Valley. Locavore has only 3 people with no staff, thus limited resources. At present only about 5% of the people buy local. More farms are needed as customers increase.

THE FOUR WAY TEST

of the things we think, say or do:

- 1) Is it the Truth?
- 2) Is it Fair to All Concerned?
- 3) Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friendships?
- 4) Will it be Beneficial to All Concerned?

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