

LAKE PLACID NEWS

ROTARY CLUB NEWS: Rotarians open up with ‘Getting to Know You’



Rene Jacoby (Photo provided)

The brainchild of long-time Rotary member Bob Hanna, “Getting to Know You” is an opportunity for Rotary Club members to shine a spotlight on themselves.

Held every couple of months, members tell their peers more about themselves – information that in the short 70-minute weekly meetings they wouldn’t necessarily have time to share.

Recently one of the club’s newest members, Rene Jacoby, shared highlights about her fascinating life.

Newcomer to Lake Placid, she grew up in the East Oak Lane, a neighborhood north of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania which in 1683 William Penn settled as the first neighborhood.

After receiving a bachelor’s degree in architecture from Temple University, she realized she had grown up without any connection to the greater downtown area. So, for 10 years she discovered what urban life had to offer a young architectural professional, living, working and teaching in the city.

After marrying her husband Joel Trexler, also an architect, they balanced living in Philadelphia with their mutual need for mountain air to hike and ski. This desire led to wanting a closer connection to a mountainous area.

In 1994, they moved to Ebensburg, a small town in central Pennsylvania. Much to their surprise, they found the town was home to a large architecture and engineering firm. They both quickly found positions in the health care division of the firm. Within a short period of time, they became passionate about designing healing environments for hospitals and medical centers.

Fast forward to 2002 when their two sons started school, they grabbed an opportunity to open their own health care design firm, JPT Architects, a “mom-and-pop shop,” in the basement of their home.

As their boys grew, so did the firm. Today their sons are in graduate school and JPT has three offices and 25 architects and engineers. They carved out

a niche for the firm in design, engineering and construction solutions for health care organizations.

At about the same time they started their business, they accidentally discovered the Adirondacks on a family ski trip to Gore Mountain in North Creek. This led them to Whiteface, which then led to all-season vacations with a base in Lake Placid.

Each trip made it harder and harder to leave. They realized this was where they wanted to spend the next chapter of their lives. Not wanting to wait until retirement, they decided to work remotely and split time between central Pennsylvania and Lake Placid.

In 2015 they sold their home in Ebensburg, purchased a small condo nearby their main office and built a new home in the town of North Elba.

Last winter on a ride on Chair 6, Rene met Mary Liz Alexander, co-president of the Rotary Club of Lake Placid, who invited her to a breakfast meeting.

“I felt an instant connection with the club’s commitment to both local community service and the larger scale international organization’s zeal to do some good in this world, so I joined. We feel at home in this wonderful community and look forward to living here full time,” Rene said.

The Rotary Club of Lake Placid is one of more than 30,000 clubs worldwide. Members from more than 200 countries are part of a global network of 1.2 million people who come together to make positive, lasting change in communities locally, nationally and internationally.

The club meets every Thursday at 7:20 a.m. at the Marriott Courtyard hotel. To learn more about the good deeds of Rotary, go to rotarylakeplacid.org or rotary.org or visit our Facebook page.
