



Rotary Club of Red Hook, New York

Weekly Bulletin

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

December 8, 2020

<http://www.redhookrotaryclub.org/>
www.facebook.com/RedHookRotaryClub

Marking the 38th week of “stay at home” meetings required by the coronavirus outbreak, Jennifer Van Voorhis opened the “zoom” meeting at 8:00am. Club members in attendance totaled fourteen. Included were Jen, Linda Greenblatt, Susan Ezrati, Susan Simon, Rebecca Kent, Fred Cartier, Michael Shafer, Hon. Jonah Triebwasser, Chris Chale, Dave Wright, Carl Dowden, Tim Lynch, Bud Weaver and Rob Latimer. The meeting started with the pledge, the Rotary 4-Way test and a blessing led by Rev. Fred Cartier. Our guest speaker, also pictured here, was Dan Budd, restaurant owner and leader of “Red Hook Responds” a charitable organization which came into being in response to the needs generated by the pandemic.



Photo by Fred Cartier, pictured above taking the photo: Present by row from top left to bottom right are Bud Weaver, Fred, Linda Greenblatt, Jen Van Voorhis, Rob Latimer and Abigail, Dave Wright, Carl Dowden, Susan Ezrati, Rev. Mike Shaer, Tim Lynch, Susan Simon, our guest, Dan Budd (in his car), and Chris Chale. Jonah Triebwasser also attended.

Jen caught us up with activities that had taken place since the prior meeting. She thanked all Rotarians who had been present for the Library's photo shoot thank you for our contribution to establishing public Wi-Fi at the Rec Park. She reminded us that she needed volunteers for the RH UMC Christmas dinner distribution. Packing will take place on Saturday, December 19 and distribution of meals will happen on Sunday, Dec 20, 2020 at the church. Times to be announced. Linda Greenblatt urged us all to read the article on the food pantry's Thanksgiving distribution in the Daily Freeman. An interesting development is that the Food Pantry will have ducks to distribute at Christmas. (Rob Latimer has volunteered to cook for a family that doesn't know how to cook duck). Jen noted that the food pantry is regularly feeding up to 50 families and that new families arrive weekly.

Jonah informed us that on Sunday, Radio Rotary will be hosting a speaker who will talk about the challenges that Toys for Tots is facing this year and how they hope to reformulate their usual gift giving.

Rob Latimer then introduced our guest speaker, Dan Budd, leader for Red Hook Responds. Dan led his talk with a review of the challenges that his restaurant, and the people that he employs have faced over the past 9 months. It has been a rollercoaster ride, stomach turning and sometimes thrilling. In April, revenues fell 90% and he laid off all of his staff and operated with volunteers for takeout. Then, he adapted. He revised his supply chain, stocked his shelves with groceries, and sold everything takeout. By summer, when he could open to 25% capacity indoors and some outdoor dining, he began to rebuild. Interestingly, the influx of customers from NYC created new challenges. He reached out to Bard and delivered meals there. By October, his sales had recovered, then, Thanksgiving, brought new highs in virus contagion and new lows to his business. His hope for December is to increase sales of specialty items (Yule logs, fruit bread, and homemade chocolates that can be ordered online. And to keep his employees employed.

In the midst of his business challenges, however, Dan saw a larger need. He hoped to bring compassionate leadership to the problems his community faced. He started by engaging with teens, one was the Rotary scholarship winner, Chris Donahue. Dan's mission was to "coordinate and orchestrate ongoing good", in short to facilitate and then get out of the way. He developed an online platform that enabled the community, both those in need and those who wished to be useful, to find each other and the right resources. He supported food pantries with videos that directed people to specific tasks such as meal drivers. The volunteers could go online to find the schedule for any job. Red Hook now volunteers 2000 hours, weekly. 2000 hours is a full work year – in other words it is like having 52 full time workers bringing people what they need. On Christmas Day, 400 meat loaf dinners will be delivered.

Dan talked some about the way he brought various software solutions together through Ring Central – a platform with which he was already familiar. He has been able to create a local food exchange that connects food banks, farms and people. It has enabled donations that might not have occurred to occur, such as fresh milk from Del's Dairy or cases of fresh lettuce. He noted that Jeff Anagnus, a local excavator has built a concrete platform for his food truck. So far, Red Hook Responds has delivered over 20,000 meals, has facilitated neighborly chats, enabled professional services to get where they are needed.

Among the agencies engaged are: Town of Red Hook (provides liability coverage to the enterprise), Village of Red Hook, VFW, Elks, and Bard. Even Rhinebeck gave \$5000 toward a new freezer which cost the Community Center \$100,000. Anyone can help with this endeavor. All donations flow through the Acienzo Family Foundation's 501C3.

Dan Budd has been nominated to receive an award from Mid-Hudson Heroes. Please go on line and vote for Dan. Taste Budd's Christmas Yule Logs and gifts bags can be shipped nationwide and purchased online.

Jen adjourned the club meeting at 9 am.

Next Club meeting: December 15, 2020 at 8am by Zoom.

The Red Hook Rotary club currently meets every Tuesday online at 8:00 a.m. Check our website at www.RedHookRotaryClub.org or our Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/RedHookRotaryClub/>



Red Hook Rotary Club normally seeks host families for our inbound youth exchange students. During this year, due to the Pandemic, the YEX program is suspended. Watch this spot for information on its reappearance. At that time, contact Chris Chale with volunteer families

Radio Rotary

This weeked on RadioRotary: Toys for Tots, reformulated.

Listen to Radio Rotary on WBPM 92.9 FM Sundays at 6:30 a.m. or one <http://www.wbpmfm.com/> or ask Alexa to play WBPM

Real Country WGHQ-AM 920 AM and 92.5FM, WBNR 1260AM and 96.5FM, WLNA 1420 AM Sundays at 9:30 a.m. or <http://realcountryhv.com//> or ask Alexa to play WBNR

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See our video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rzF-3SU-UA>