



Rotary Club of Red Hook, New York

Weekly Bulletin

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

January 19, 2021

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

Marking the 44th week of “stay at home” meetings required by the coronavirus outbreak and the third meeting in 2021, Jennifer Van Voorhis called the Zoom meeting to order at 8 am. Thirteen club members attended including Jen, Susan Ezrati, Fred Cartier, Bud Weaver, Dave Wright, the Hon. Jonah Triebwasser, Chris Chale, Tim Lynch, Carl Dowden, Susan Simon, Erik Johansen, Mike Shafer, Rob Latimer and our guest and fellow Rotarian, Bianca Neff. The meeting started with the pledge, the Rotary 4-Way test and a blessing by Rev Fred Cartier.



Screenshot provided by Rob Latimer. Attendees by row from top left to bottom right: Bud Weaver (under the table?), Rob Latimer, Fred Cartier, Jennifer von Voorhis, Jonah Triebwasser, Susan Ezrati, Michael Shafer (halo'd), Bianca Neff, Tim Lynch, Carl Dowden, Chris Chale, Susan Simon, Dave Wright, and Erik Johansen.

Jen led the meeting off by reporting on the trip to the Dutchess County Stadium by Susan and Tim to retrieve 2000 masks from the Million mask challenge. The Red Hook

club participated in a part of the Northeast region's distribution of 100,000 masks (a portion of the million mask challenge.) Jen requested and confirmed volunteers to distribute the masks and schedule photo shoots with the Red Hook Fire Department, the UMC Food Pantry, the Red Hook police and the Tivoli Fire Department.

Rotarians were reminded that a leadership conference will be held on Saturday, February 6 via zoom. Similar to the PETS conference, it provides information on specific leadership positions and what the jobs require. The \$25 fee will be waived for new members.

Jonah then introduced our speaker, Bianca Neff (Founder & CEO, Petra Peacebuilders PetraPeacebuilders.org). Jonah interviewed her on Radio Rotary over the weekend. Bianca has been interested in peacebuilding all of her life. She has dual citizenship in the US and Spain, was educated at the Bradford, UK Peace Center in conflict resolution and is a certified Coach Humanitarian. She is now based in Spain which gives her convenient logistical access to the areas where she works most of the time. The Petra Peacebuilders organization created Peace Centers in the US (Duke University), Sweden, UK, Uganda, Japan, Thailand, and Australia. 1300 Peace Fellows have been fully funded since 2002 by the Rotary International Foundation.

Bianca noted that global peacebuilding relies on a system that promotes the resilience of peacebuilders. The focus is on resolving mental health issues that are derived from trauma. To build peace, an organization need resilient people. These people need to be able to care for themselves mentally and emotionally. Many operate in countries that have been at war for decades and generations. Many are impoverished. Many have suffered the trauma of bombs and sexualized violence. Her organization sponsors "Resilience Retreats" for the peacebuilders.

Interestingly, Bianca does most of her work remotely, sometimes through apps like zoom, but often via chat rooms that rely on typed responses. Her focus is on working with individuals rather than organizations. In response to the question, "Why did you get into this field?", Bianca told us that her father comes from the Basque region of Spain, where conflict has reigned for decades. It was a natural affinity.

Bianca spoke very highly of the Rotarian organization, its support and outreach throughout the world. She empathized with the situation in the US currently, which she noted is a bit "Waco".

The February 2nd speaker is Thomas Maiello.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 am.

Radio Rotary

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