Photos above taken by Rotarian Fred Cartier. Pictured here are Josh Bardfield of the Red Hook Library (left, Tim Lynch seated) and Barry Ramage, President RH (center) and Bruce Martin, representing the Red Hook Central School District (far right).

May 7, 2019 was a regular club meeting at Cancun’s in Red Hook from 7:30 to 8:30 am. Fifteen members, 83% of our membership attended. With the school budget and related matters coming up for approval by voters registered in Red Hook, on May 21, 2019, our speakers were Josh Bardfield of the Red Hook Library Board and Bruce Martin, representing the Red Hook Central School District.

Josh explained that budgetary increases for both the Red Hook Library and the Tivoli Libraries would be on the ballot at the May 21 election. The Red Hook Library is requesting a 3.25% increase in their budget line. He noted that Library usage, programming, and wireless usage are up this year. The Library is housed in an historic building that requires constant maintenance and restoration. Finally, the state has increased the minimum wage by 38%, which impacts the Library’s operating budget. The Library has secured more than $53,000 in grants, this year but still needs the increase in tax revenue to maintain its current level of service. He urged the club members to vote in favor of the Library request on May 21.

Bruce Martin presented an outline of changes in the Central School district’s budget. While the current budget is enjoying a brief reduction in its debt levels, revenues also drop by nearly the same amount. The balance of the budgetary year will experience a 2.61% increase, but remain under the tax cap. He noted that the incoming kindergarten class will be a full class size smaller and that those savings will go to resources aimed
at meeting increased emotional/social needs. No new programs will be introduced. Voters can still register at the Mill Road School, during school hours. The election will take place from noon to 9pm also at the Mill Road School. Several initiatives will seek voter approval, including the annual increase in expenditure for buses, two new school board candidates (uncontested), election of this year’s student representative to the Board and an opportunity to place solar panels on the school roof. The later are only cost-effective if combined with State Aid – which should be forthcoming. Bruce also updated the club on the construction of the auditorium. The project will be tight to its budget despite cost-effective, value-engineered plans. State Assemblyman, Kevin Cahill, is seeking to provide $500,000 in state grants to the project and the Red Hook Education Foundation may offer and additional $100,000. This project will be the subject of a special vote on June 18. All additional expenses are tax-cap compliant. Absentee ballots are available in the District Clerk’s office.

Rotary Club members are reminded that our annual fundraiser, Apple Blossom Day, will take place on May 11, from 9 to 5 pm. It will include food, food vendors, craft vendors, the McCann Brothers band in the evening, dancers, and much more. Attendance is expected! Barry reported on the tree planting initiative on Pitcher Lane and read a thank you note from Cathy Michael, of the Red Hook Tree Committee. Rotary District Assembly was held this past weekend in Millbrook. Chris Chale, Jonah Triebwasser and Rob Latimer attended. The purpose of the event is to train incoming officers. Further information can be found on the website. The 2019-20 district conference will be held at the Resorts World Casino in Monticello, NY from November 9-11, 2019. Save the date and watch for more information.

Attendance: 15 Members - 83%!
Happy dollars: $72

[Image: Red Hook Rotary Club seeks host families for our inbound youth exchange students. Watch this spot for further information. Contact Chris Chale with volunteer families]

On May 13, the club board will meet at J&J’s. On May 14, 2019 we will have the club business meeting at Cancun’s.

Future Club Meeting Schedule and member responsibilities:

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<tr>
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Radio Rotary and other information sources.
This weekend on RadioRotary: A Taste of Goshen
Tune in to the award-winning RadioRotary on Saturday, May 11th at 11:30 a.m. (on WTBQ 93.5 FM and 1110AM or http://www.wtbg.com) and Sunday, May 12th at 6:30 a.m. (on WBPM 92.9 FM or http://www.wbpmfm.com) and at 9:30 a.m. (on WGHQ 920AM and 92.5FM, WBNR 1260AM and WLNA 1420 or http://www.realcountryhv.com/) when we talk with Rotarians Ken and Doris Obremski about Rotary's Taste of Goshen festival.

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(photo by Jonah Triebwasser)