



Rotary Club of Red Hook, New York

Weekly Bulletin

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

November 24, 2020

<http://www.redhookrotaryclub.org/>

www.facebook.com/RedHookRotaryClub

Marking the 36th 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 eleven, including, Jen, Linda Greenblatt, Susan Ezrati, Rebecca Kent, Michael Shafer, Hon. Jonah Triebwasser, Chris Chale, Dave Wright, Carl Dowden, Tim Lynch and Bud Weaver. The meeting started with the pledge, the Rotary 4-Way test and a blessing led by Rev. Michael Shafer.

Jen reported on the packing and distribution of Thanksgiving bags by/from the Red Hook United Methodist Church. In all, 67 families received Thanksgiving bags, which included chicken or turkey and all the fixings plus personal hygiene items, paper goods and cheese and eggs. The photos below celebrate the joy that all enjoyed on Saturday and Sunday – first packing and then distributing the food packages.



Photos above show Rotarians packing and distributing Thanksgiving bags in the playground at the Red Hook United Methodist Church. Pictured are Bud Weaver, Jonah Triebwasser, Susan Simon, Rebecca Kent, Chris Chale and Jen Van Voorhis who made up the Rotary team that turned out to help. 67 families were served.

At our meeting this morning Jen noted that Red Hook Responds has been serving 70-100 meals daily to families in Red Hook. The meals are prepared at the Elks Club on Rte 9. Dan Budd has arranged for Red Hook Responds to have membership with the regional food bank and to receive donations from local farms and food stores, including Hannaford. A phonenumber has been set up to disseminate information in 2 languages. Volunteers are coordinated by Shannon. The Daily Freeman has been telling the story. Linda Greenblatt noted that the Red Hook Central School District is providing daily lunches to students in need. At the Red Hook UMC, Janice Williams has taken on the job of food pantry organizer. Steve Ernst is the pastor.

Dave Wright introduced John Kuhn, the morning speaker. John is a former Red Hook English teacher and now runs the town's recreation program. He reported on the amazing work that has been achieved at the Red Park, giving credit to all of the volunteers involved. The Advisory Group is chaired by Doug Strawinski and manned by 7-8 community volunteers, including representatives from Bard and Tivoli. The park now features a refurbished tennis court, pickle ball court, skate park, basketball court, a soccer field, baseball/softball fields and a field for the physically challenged as well as the pool and the newly refurbished playground (where the turtle has been refurbished and returned). The focus of the refurbishment has been to improve safety and resilience of the installations and to make them all ADA accessible. Care has been taken to re-use materials while rebuilding better and safer. Winnikee Land Trust purchased the field to the west of the West Red Park and a trailhead to those community lands is at the west edge of the park. Look for dedications and sponsorships for many of the new amenities. These testify to the breadth of community support for these efforts. John noted many challenges and innovative solutions that included supplementing taxpayer funds with volunteer efforts that reduced the overall cost of this massive achievement. He also noted that all of the parks can be reached on foot, avoiding traffic related problems. His has clearly been an effort that brought the community together to create a project that serves all in the community.

We also received a letter of appreciation to Linda Greenblatt from the Community Action Partnership for her generosity to that organization. The letter was addressed to Rotary. Let's get an explanation of just what the gift was. The letter is quoted below:

Hi there! I'm Mary, the VP of Education at your nearby Taconic Toastmasters Club. With the recent partnership of Rotary International and Toastmasters International, I thought it might be helpful to reach out and connect with you. If any of your members are interested in attending a Toastmasters meeting, feel free to contact me for our Zoom link. We meet every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month 5:30-6:30 PM. Additionally, if you are looking for speakers, we have several members able to provide speech content on short notice. I look forward to hearing from you and meeting some of your members!

***Mary T Howard, LD5, EH1 VP Education
Taconic Toastmasters Hudson, NY***

Next Club meeting: December 1, 2020 at 8am by Zoom. It will be a business meeting.

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 at <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 weekend on RadioRotary: An interview with Rotary International's new President – Canadian and the first woman to serve as President

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