



The Rotary Club of Williamstown, Massachusetts

Club Number 6549; District 7890 Every Tuesday, Noon, The Williams Inn

June 2017

Anne R. Skinner, Editor

Another Summer Preview



Doug Jones, executive director of Images, has been in the area for about 2 years. His first job was selling candy at a South Dakota movie theater, and he has worked in film ever since. Recently he was connected to the Los Angeles Film Festival. Images has just completed 100 years of continuous operation, making it one of the oldest in the country. The building began as a college fraternity before Hiram Walden bought it as an office for his shipping

business. In 1916 it was converted to a 'Nickelodeon', opening in November 1917 with "The Patriot", starring William Hart. In 1930 it was converted to sound film and in 2012 it went digital. Community support has saved it several times, making it now a non-profit. It is still supported by volunteers, memberships (which are increasing) and annual fundraising. Per capita Doug notes that Berkshire County has the top ratio of cultural organizations to people. Programming is a challenge – he has to coordinate with distributors and films makers about what is possible. Images has less control over this than one might imagine. Images shows 80-90 films per year, a mix of big names and small indies, some documentaries and some programs suggested from outside. In the near future, Images will screen "Jaws" at Sand Springs on July 1st, and will have a program of shorts on July 4th, called "After the Parade". Summer Sunday outdoor screenings will feature both adult and children's films. Check the website for details – check it often! www.imagescinema.org is the URL.

What has changed (and what hasn't) for women in business?

A panel of three women, representing three generations of business experience, spoke to us about their experience. Susan Clarke has had a wide range of jobs. She started, not surprisingly, as a secretary in the art department of Duke University; she eventually became VP for administration at RPI! To do this she volunteered for extra activities, building both her resume and her confidence. However her path included stories such as the time that she interviewed for a job at the National Academy of Sciences. Men with her credentials were offered assistant manager positions; she was offered, again, a secretarial job. This time, she pointed out she deserved the better job and was told "I never thought of



that!” She got it, but when a chance to travel in connection with negotiations came up, her boss said that if she was included, everyone would conclude they were having an affair! When she did travel to Japan, later, she experienced significant problems, including an attempt at seduction. She noted she is still working but now she pays those for whom she is working (such as the Williamstown Historical Museum and the Clark Art Institute). Margaret McComish, currently overseeing gift planning at

Williams, obtained a master’s in divinity from Yale but decided to go to law school. There she became interested in trusts and estates. Some of her best experience was clerking for the Connecticut Supreme Court for a year. She has continued to work in trust management, broadly construed. Her workplace problems resulted from her decision to have children. She looked for family-friendly workplaces, but the only reason she had choices was her top rank in her class. A working mother has problems, even with a supportive spouse. Finally we heard from a ‘youngster’, Ally O’Rourke who is executive director for finance at Berkshire Bank. She also got a foothold in an all-male environment with a seat on the NYSE, which was 98% male. She has a lot of horror stories about Wall Street, mostly about being excluded. Overall, for her gender has been a 50:50 issue. She does feel pressure to curb her personality to avoid allowing people to stereotype her. Sometimes peers have been more problematic than bosses; she noted other women criticize her for considering getting an MBA when she has a small child. Overall the panel says things are improving, albeit definitely still imperfect. Some women Rotarians chimed in with their own stories, including Deb Kushnet who also had a “I never thought of that” when she applied to be a VP. Cynthia Payne noted that her mother worked for “Ma Bell” at a time when getting married was grounds for being fired.

Our 2017 Scholars

Three of our scholarship recipients came to our June 20th meeting, with parents and support staff from their high schools. From McCann, we met Chuck O’Neill of the counseling staff; from Mount Greylock, Mary McDonald, the principal, and Bev Maselli and Jessica Casalinova of the counseling office. In addition, we welcomed Carla Metz, from the Optimus Group. Optimus has



provided scholarships for several years now, emphasizing promising entrepreneurship. From McCann, Dakota Jennings received a club scholarship. She studied business technology and plans to

attend BCC and become an interior designer. Emily Shanley was the Optimus recipient from McCann. Also a business technology graduate, she will attend



the University of Louisville. What do we associate with Kentucky? Horses!



Emily intends a double major in accounting and equine business management; and hopes to play on the polo team. Claire Whitaker graduated from McCann and received the Janet Wallace Ley and Janet Upjohn Stearns scholarship. Her college plans will take her to Northeastern where she will study engineering. Other recipients will be attending other meetings. We wish all of them the best.

Club News

We pay for our latest project!



DG Frank Wargo came to our June 6th meeting to present a check from the District for the district share of our grant to buy the stove for BFP. He pointed out that hunger is not standard here, and so easy to overlook (in comparison, for example, to India). He noted that the grant application process can be complicated (we have noticed), but it is worth it, and we are to be congratulated for our efforts.

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE!

On July 17th our club will be 90 years old! That makes us one of the oldest Rotary clubs. At our July 18th meeting we will take note of what the years have meant.

All work and no play....

On July 24th we will meet at Noel Field at 6 p.m. to enjoy a SteepleCats game. In case of rain, we'll give it a try on Tuesday the 25th. These games are really fun, and feel free to bring young people (my grandchildren love chasing fly balls behind the stands).

Another Community Event



On the 15th we went to help the Commons with their Senior Picnic for all seniors in North Berkshire. A small but fervent group helped feed and entertain the participants. The least we can do for the Commons, that does so much for us!



Joint Meeting

North Adams has invited us to a joint meeting on July 25th to hear from an MCLA group that is planning a civil rights bus tour. Come to Boston Seafood at noon!



Update on "Quarters for Water"

Mary Anne Herron sent some photos from the last distribution of water filters in Cambodia. She distributed some 200 to families and with our help will do the same this year.

Newsletter News

Cynthia Payne has agreed to take over the editorship of the newsletter, for which I thank her greatly. Please send her any items you think would be of interest at momcorgi@aol.com.

PREVIEW OF COMING ATTRACTIONS

July Schedule

July 10th — Board Meeting, 5 p.m., Williams Inn

July 11th – RYLA

July 18th – Photographer Amanda Jones and our ‘birthday’

July 24th – SteepleCats Game

July 25th – Joint Meeting with North Adams

The editor thanks Fred Ley and Linda Sweeney for photos and notes.