

Crystal Cogs



Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Corning NY

Chartered 1921 District 7120 CorningNYRotary.org

President: Bill Boland
President-Elect: Ted Goldwyn
Vice-President: Brian Klotz
Secretary: Scott Bloor
Treasurer: Wendy Daines
Past-President: Buddy Cutler
District Governor: Tom Rogers

Thursday 5:30 p.m.
Vol. 88 No 36

Radisson
103 Members

NEXT WEEK

Mar 16, 2017 **St. Patrick's Day Celebration**
Introduction by Dick Pope

IN THE WINGS

Mar 23, 2017 **Deb Tally**
Diabetes treatment and diagnosis - Introduction
by Nancy Dubendorfer

Mar 30, 2017 **Corning Fire Chief**
Introduction by Nancy Dubendorfer

THIS WEEK

Rotarians gathered for nourishment of both spirit and stomach in the Keuka/Seneca Room of the Radisson Hotel Corning. **Stu Sammis** spontaneously served as greeter, while **Jim Hudson** tickled the ivories. **Pauline Emery** led us in reflection. **Dick Perry** captured the whole affair on camera

while **Paula Smith** captured our antics in pen. **President Bill Boland** presided.

GUESTS



Lisa Caracci invited Mathew Harmer. **John Brown** brought Interact students Daniel Sakona and Brad Sweet. Even though he didn't know she was there, **Dick Pope's** guest was Harmony Ayers-Friedlander. **Nancy Dubendorfer** brought Faye Guild Nash, and **Brian Klotz** invited Brice Pearce. Our speaker Dr. Stephen Coleman even had a guest - Tom Seem, a producer at CBS News who produced the inauguration coverage as well as the Pope's visit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nora Anne Smith announced Corning Rotary's 0.0K Race for Literacy will be held Friday March 31 at the Corning Library. The race starts at 6:30 p.m. immediately followed by the post-race party. **Nora** predicted everybody will finish the race.

Wendy Winnett advised Rotarians to get our wallets ready for the March Madness



Pool to benefit Rotary Foundation at the March 23 Rotary meeting.



Brian Klotz announced the International Dinner will be held Saturday, March 11 in the Radisson Hotel Corning. **Pauline Emery** piped in saying tickets may be purchased at the Radisson Hotel Corning as well as online and talked up the Cornell Bhangra dancers who will be performing at the event. **Brian** also mentioned he had raffle tickets for sale for the Mac Book Air being raffled off at the Dinner.

Deb Joseph described the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee, which started at 12:30 p.m. with **Dick Pope** giving a history of the Bee, **Mayor Rich Negri** speaking words of encouragement, and Sriram and Jairam Hathwar dispensing advice for spellers to take their time—advice that ultimately was not employed as spellers rushed through their words. The Bee went 16 rounds, ending at 4:30 p.m. with Nikhil Lahiri, an 8th grader from the Alternative School for Math and Science spelling the winning word “decamorous,” meaning having 10 parts. The Hathwars will be helping Nikhil prepare for the National Bee in May.



Deb went on to say the second and third place winners were both 5th graders so they should both continue to be in the Bee for the next three years. The third place winner is from Corning-Painted Post school district and the C-PP Board is going to honor him at their meeting Wednesday, March 15.

Deb has copies of the book written by Sriram and Jairam Hathwar for sale as well as extra programs if anyone is interested. **Ernie Danforth** played Vanna with the

Hathwar boys’ book and read off a list of Spelling Bee volunteers, including **Pauline Emery, Wendy Winnett, Stacy Ward,** and **Penny O’Sullivan**, who served up pizza and pie; **Jeff Ugoretz** and **Paula Smith**, who worked the registration table; **Bill Boland**, who forgot to bring the Rotary banner and had to leave retrieve it; **Ray Defendorf** and **Ted Goldwyn**, who fielded people as they came in the front doors; **Lucas Vasconcellos** as a very “pun-y” Bee; **Gil Sweet** as the photographer; and judges **Dr. Geraldine Wolfe** and **Dick Pope**.



Brad Sweet announced the C-PP Interact Club will be hosting a skating event Friday, March 10 from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. to benefit House with Heart in Nepal and American refugee charities. Tickets are \$5, and there will be baked goods, water, and food for sale.

Lisa Caracci’s guest Mathew announced a Pasta Dinner & Silent Auction event to benefit Steuben County Habitat for Humanity on Saturday, March 18th from 5 to 10 p.m. at the Elks Lodge #1071, 148 Walnut Street in Corning. Tickets are \$8 for

adults and \$6 for children in advance, or \$10 for adults and \$8 for children at the door. Tickets may be purchased at the ReStore on 414 or at habitatcorning.org on the Donate page. For more information, please call (607) 936-4444 x407 or email info@habitatcorning.org.

Dick Pope announced the winners of the Academy Awards pool. He said the scores were very low this year, with the lowest being 5 out of 100 possible points. He outed **John Brown** for this ballot, making the excuse that it was filled out by his wife, who guessed the movie right, which no one else did, but the rest of the ballot was terrible! The winner was **Paul Tick** with a score of 73 points, which was the lowest winning score ever. **Gill Sweet** took second place with 70 points. **Dick** presented the winners with gift baskets full of treats from the Palace Theatre. The pool raised more than \$200 for Camp STAR.



Dick Pope also announced the Kiwanis Club Spaghetti Dinner was that night 4-6:30 p.m. at the American Legion.

President Bill announced that a contingency of Rotarians joined him at the Elmira Rotary's 100th Anniversary Dinner Tuesday, March 7, including **Wendy Winnett, Brian Klotz, Ted Goldwyn, Dave Anderson, Dick Puccio, and Kelly Copp**. **Bill** fined himself \$5 for saying the Elmira Rotary sponsored the Corning Rotary in 1924, and he fined Club Historian **Dave Anderson** \$2 for not catching that it was actually 1921! **Dave** pointed out the Elmira program stated that it was 1920. **Bill** clarified that while the Elmira program said 1920, the Corning Directory has throughout the years said 1921. He then challenged **Dave**, for an additional dollar, to explain the difference. **Dave** offered that the sponsorship began at the end of 1920 and ended at the beginning of 1921, making them both right! In the end **Dave** paid \$1 and **Bill** paid \$5.



Rotary Youth Exchange student Lucas Vasconcellos was called to the front of the room to regale the club with tales from his week, which included joining a gym, where his experience paled in comparison to the commercials! The fun came when **Bill** asked

for the mic back and Lucas held it up high over his head out of **Bill's** reach!

PRESIDENT'S TIME

King William I warmed up the court with a little Irish Q&A in honor of upcoming St. Patrick's Day. Victims included **Barry Nicholson, Tom O'Brien, Dick Puccio** (who was specifically chosen for a particularly stupid joke), **Al Lewis, John Sirianni**, and **John Pignatore** (who, when he was called and asked to stand up, said he was standing)! What's the difference between an Irish wedding and an Irish funeral? What's the difference between a smart Irishman and a unicorn? What do you call an Irish spider? What do you call an Irish fellow who wants to break up a fight? Why can't you borrow from a leprechaun? What's black and blue and found floating upside down in the Irish sea? If you didn't know the answer, it cost you \$2.

KWI then called on **Past President Buddy Cutler**, who announced the success of the Pancake Supper. He is still chasing down a few delinquent dollars, and he's looking for ideas for projects for the proceeds.

His Highness added that the District Simplified Grant is in play, which means we can submit a grant to the District to the tune of \$4,000, and there is generally a matching aspect from the Club on top of that. He's received three ideas so far, but is looking for more. A decision will need to be made soon.



THE PROGRAM

Dr. Coleman was introduced by John Koessler, Managing Editor and News Anchor at WETM 18 News.



John noted that, over the years, Dr. Coleman has made thousands of appearances on television and radio as a political commentator. He has authored a book and has been published many times in magazines. He is a political analyst, and has his own talk show.

For the past decade Dr. Coleman has been the political analyst for WETM 18 News, making him the longest running political commentator in Western New York and the Twin Tiers. He is famous in the region for his signature phrase "That's my opinion. What's yours?"

He has emeritus status at Elmira College as Vice President, Academic Dean, and Professor. He also served for several months as acting President of Elmira College while the President was out on medical leave.

Dr. Coleman studied political science at major universities including Boston, Northwestern and Rutgers. He earned his BA with honors from BU in 1974. As an undergraduate, he was the recipient of the prestigious Augustus Howe Buck Scholarship. He also earned a PhD in Political Science and a Master's Degree in Journalism from BU.

Most recently he has created political pendant nights and forums on political issues of the day which have attracted hundreds of people to the point where people had to be turned away.



Dr. Coleman then took to the podium to present his topic, Donald Trump: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.

He framed his speech around four books recommended for evaluating presidents and politics, including:

- *Presidential Power* by Richard E. Neustadt, which is what Jack Kennedy's favorite book as President
- *The Presidential Character* by James David Barber, which talks about presidents whose characters may be described as "active negatives"
- *The Semi-Sovereign People* by E.E. Schattschneider, which talks about the contagiousness of conflict
- *American Political Tradition* by Richard Hofstadter, which talks about the history politicians not telling the truth



When interviewed after his presentation, Dr. Coleman said his main takeaway was that Donald Trump's biggest challenge will be to learn to persuade, rather than take or demand, to get support for his ideas, because the power still resides with the American people.

He also noted that the American people are more engaged in politics again, which translates in the recent spike in interest in political forums and pundit nights.

50/50

The sure prize was \$16 and the grand prize was \$653.