

# Grapevine

Rotary Club of Naples, NY

Lunch Meeting, April 3, 2017

Sunny, and in the sixties...now that's what I call a fine Spring day! Twenty-five members, plus 2 guests, gathered today for our first meeting of April. We had a busy meeting, with what seemed to be several items on our agenda. We joined Bo in reciting The Pledge, then, Jack led us in singing God Bless America. Jamie said The Blessing, and in so doing, he gave a nice tribute to Jim Tilburg. As Jamie so eloquently said, Jim will be remembered for his quiet generosity, his readiness, and his inspiration. Thank you, Jamie, for representing us, as you traveled to be with Carolyn and family for Jim's service. Our guests today were Sharon, (who is getting to be a regular), and Celeste Arlie, our program presenter.

Though it was wet and windy last Saturday, the Trout Derby went well. Many thanks, once again, to Joyce and Donna for their donations of special paintings for the silent auction. Today, being the first of the month, we honored fellow Rotarians who have birthdays or anniversaries in April. Our April birthdays include Ed, Joyce, Lynda, Frank, Larry, Judy, John M., Bruce, Donna, Linda, and Sharon. Our April anniversaries include Bill C., and Steve. Those are many great reasons to celebrate, and that represents about a quarter of the club! Skip handed out memos telling of our Annual Spring Dinner, which will be held May 8<sup>th</sup>, at the South Bristol Fish and Game Club.

Next on our agenda was something we've been looking forward to: the induction of Gary Smolinsky as our newest Rotarian! John F. introduced Gary, who moved to the area 4 years ago with his wife Kat. He has been involved with the Naples Town Planning Board, and he has done much work at Hospice House. Like Frank, he came to the Camp O. Board Meeting. Gary has already proven himself to be "Rotary Worthy", as he even took the "early shift" at the Trout Derby! He certainly exemplifies Service Above Self! Thanks to Jane, Bo had a packet of several Rotary items to give Gary. With a hearty round of applause, we welcomed Gary, who has already proven himself to be a worthy member!

Jack introduced our special guest, Celeste Arlie, who is running the Community Composting Program. Celeste, who had been an elementary teacher in Naples for 15 years, began by saying that it was beautiful to be here. Not only did she make a commitment to our school children, but she is continuing to serve our community through her involvement in this program. She began her endeavor to bring about change by starting with the Elementary School. By putting their food scraps in a separate bin after breakfast and lunch (at school), the kids are helping to keep food waste out of landfills. Celeste said that about 40% of landfills contain food scraps. If properly managed, these "leftovers" can become a valuable resource that can be returned to the earth. Currently, there are 12 households and some businesses, (restaurants), in Naples that are participating in this effort to



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improve our environment. Celeste showed us a video about commercial composting that correlated with her goals and purposes. This is something that we, as members of our community, can do, and what better way to become inspired than to start with our youth! According to Celeste, we each have the power to make changes within our community, and to improve the world!

Many of our April birthday celebrants paid a fine today. That included Frank, Lynda, Joyce, John M., Larry, and Linda. Larry had also spent 90 days in the sunshine, Welcome home, Larry and Peggy! Jack will celebrate Sharon's birthday next week. Steve thought he must have done something! Bo paid for having teased Linda about her lengthy blessings. (Thank goodness, Linda is a good sport!) We were all happy to have Gary aboard. We all enjoyed Celeste's program very much. Steve was glad to be married to Mindy for 24 years. Jack and Sharon had a nice time visiting family and friends in Florida. Lynda liked the warm weather. John F. said that his FB live presentation reached over 400 viewers!

Now we were down to 6 cards remaining and the Kitty was at \$361! Linda said that over 16.00 worth of tickets were sold today! Celeste picked ticket #497, which was Frank's, and he had Joan choose a card. It was the Nine of Spades! John M. quickly came up with a Win-Win. The second oldest building in Naples is the Naples Academy, built in 1872. The bricks were hand-made! Linda had a Rotary Moment for us. In the State of Arkansas, Rotary members were sought out to be witnesses to lethal injections.

Jamie wanted us to be thinking about possible candidates for the Robert Allen Award and the Paul Harris Award. Next week is our Evening Meeting, and Joyce reminded us that our Oratorical Contest Local Winners will be our speakers. That should be very enjoyable! See you on the 10<sup>th</sup>!