

Grapevine

Rotary Club of Naples, NY

Lunch Meeting, February 6, 2017

It was a splendid meeting today, as we welcomed back our Susan, who has been away for a while. It was a pleasure to be greeted by her warm smile, along with Pastor Linda's, as we paid for our meals and bought our tickets. Her friendly greeting added to today's sunshine, that's for sure! President Bo invited us to join him in reciting The Pledge. The words to God Bless America resounded heartily throughout the dining room as we were led and encouraged by Jack. Bo called upon Susan to say The Blessing. Susan's words echoed thoughts of praise and thanks to the Lord for the chance to be together again, and for the opportunity to serve others.

Before the program began, there were a few announcements to be made. Donna said that the Grape Fest Committee Meeting has been moved to this coming Friday, 2/10, same place, same time. Bo read a thank you note from Heidi Ostertag, thanking us for our \$500 donation to the Heart of the Matter project. Joyce reminded those who volunteered that the cookies and supplies for the Oratorical Semi-Finals are due to her Saturday morning. I believe Joyce said that the contest starts at 11:45. Skip asked us to keep Warren and his family in our thoughts and prayers, as Warren lost his dad recently. Skip also mentioned that the Spelling Bee will be this Sunday at Geneva High School at 1:00. Don't forget to turn in your Valentines for Vets! Kudos to Bo for doing such a lovely job revamping our Badge Case! Bo says that if the club exceeds 60 members, he'll have to build a new one!

Then it was time for Jack, our program coordinator, to introduce our very special guest, Petra Page-Mann. Jack's words of introduction couldn't have been more fitting as he said, "Here is yet another shining example of the good that comes out of Naples!" Petra began her talk by telling us how good it was to be back, as 20 years ago, she was a Rotary-sponsored exchange student to Australia. The program that Petra spoke so passionately about, is known as Seeds of Fruition. She has made many visits to The Dominican Republic where she has helped the inhabitants to have access to seeds that grow well. She brought these seeds of fruition with her, and shared her knowledge of seed saving with the people. She has helped them to come to understand that "seeds are life", as she stated. She has helped them grow and save seeds such as beans, corn, and mustard. This has been a valuable tool for these farmers, and will help them through future generations, according to Petra. She hopes to continue to help these people for many years! Petra welcomed some interesting questions after her presentation. Questions were asked about the soil and fertilizer. She said they use composts of worms, which add a perfect PH to the soil. Her program collaborates with Cornell and with organic farmers in the Finger Lakes. Petra is part of the Adams Farm Complex, where she has her business and supplies. After listening to Petra speak with such intense feeling about her mission, I think we would all agree that here is the Rotary motto personified! She even treated us each to a packet of kale fruition seeds! Thank you, Petra, for a most enjoyable presentation!

Donna paid a fine for not having her badge, while Mike, Matt, Joyce and Donna had missed meetings. The majority of "Happy Bills" poured forth in praise of Petra's pleasing program, (how's that for alliteration?), the Super Bowl outcome, and of course, the return of our Susan! Frank's grandson did well at the Empire State Games. Joan's Jim celebrated his 85th birthday. Alex's daughter and son-in-law returned safely to Alaska. Jack's and Sharon's grandson, Jacob, improved his race time. (I think they said by 4:40!)

Jack's ticket, #979, was pulled by Petra, and Jack yanked the 10 of Spades out of the pack. John F. had our Win-Win history moment for us today. At the Rotary Convention of 1910, speculation took place as to when Rotary would add its 1000th club. It happened in 1921! It only took 11 years!! FYI, we were informed that anyone who wishes to remember Warren's Dad, may make a donation in his memory to St. Jude's. Our next meeting will be on the evening of February 13th, and our special guest will be Tom Mannella. Have a wonderful week, everyone, and we'll see each other then!

Turn the page for a nice picture of vice president Jack and Petra, courtesy of pres-elect John.

Grapevine

Rotary Club of Naples, NY

Lunch Meeting, February 6, 2017

