

Grapevine

Rotary Club of Naples, NY

Lunch Meeting, January 16, 2017

Well, wasn't it nice to see that sunshine, on this, our Martin Luther King Holiday? Twenty-five members and three guests filled the dining room in, what I think, was eager anticipation of today's program! Bo started us off in reciting The Pledge, and Jack saw us through God Bless America, which seemed a fitting song for today. Bo called upon Steve to say Our Blessing. Steve thanked The Lord for the closeness and commitment to service that we have within our club, and, in honor of Martin Luther King, for the hope that peace and unity will abound in Our Nation. Bo introduced our guests, Sharon, and granddaughter, Madolyn, who was off from school today. Speaking of being "off from school", it was also nice to have Judy, Carrie, and Kayc join us for a noon meeting!

Jack introduced our very special guest, our own Meghan Musnicki, who presented our program today. You could say that the Club was "teeming" with excitement to hear the success story of our own Naples Girl, who represented Team USA at the Olympics, or should I say, Winning Team USA? Meghan told us her story of how her hard work and perseverance led to her eventual triumphs. She attended school in Naples, and graduated from Canandaigua Academy. She began her college education at St. Lawrence, finishing her college degree at Ithaca, in the hopes of becoming a nurse. Keeping physically fit during her years at Ithaca, she welcomed the invitation to take part in a rowing test. She went to Boston to train, and worked diligently both mornings and evenings to prepare herself physically for this goal. Again, in 2008, she was invited to live with, and train with the team in Princeton. "It was mentally and physically challenging", recalls Meghan, who trained with about 24-30 others. You would think after being cut for a third time, one would give up, but not our Meghan! She had one more chance to try, and with that, she said. "I'm going to do this!!" She was determined to "get into better shape", as she put it, and while her family was spending time at The Cape, Meghan was working out every morning, running three miles. That Fall, she returned to Princeton with renewed confidence, and by golly, she "crushed the test", as she says! She made the Olympic Team at last! Meghan and her Rowing Team not only won gold in London in 2012, they went on to win gold in Rio in 2016!! "It's not a typical track to success, but it's my story", said Meghan as she brought her presentation to a close. Meghan, who obviously is very articulate and relaxed in front of a group, entertained several questions afterwards from the group. Among some of the aspects that she addressed were mental visualization, maintaining a healthy diet, rigorous daily practice, preventing injury, and use of strategies. Meghan mentioned that her dad had given her a bracelet the Christmas before he passed away. When it no longer could be worn, because of constant use, Meghan had it made into a pendant in the shape of an oar, which she wears. "That way, My Dad is always with me", she said. (Al added that he had known Meghan's great-grandfather, and said that all of the family was wonderful, hospitable people). Meghan was the added ray of sunshine today! Thank you for doing us proud, Hometown Heroine!!

Next, in honor of MLK Day, Mike and Jack treated us to a beautiful song called "Up To The Mountain". Our Fines came next. Bill C., Mike, and Joyce had missed meetings. Jack paid a fine regarding some lyrics. Al appreciated his picture being on the Rotary Calendar, and he had been a guest at the Eagle Dinner. Almost every one put in a Happy Bill in appreciation of Meghan and her awesome achievements. Jack and Sharon were very proud of grandson, Jacob, for reaching Number One in the Nation for his time in track in his age group! Bill C. was glad to be seated next to his friend, Al. Judy enjoyed Mike's and Jack's song. Carrie was glad to be at 2 meetings in a row. Steve was happy for the 8th Naples Creek Senior Housing Program. Many others also liked Mike's and Jack's song. Our Win-Win today was based on a picture that Bill C. passed around. He wondered if we might know what the outfits the women wore (in the photo) signified. Pictured were his mother and aunt, and

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they were welders! Also, it was interesting to note that the check , (dated 09/02/45), and in the amount of 257.00, would be worth over 3000 dollars by today's standards! My ticket, #883, was selected today, and I drew the 9 of Hearts! I had the right suit, at least!

Kayc reported that, again this year, the Valentines For Vets will be collected at the two school locations, the Naples Library, and at Mitchell-Joseph Agency. Alex mentioned that extra Rotary Calendars are available, should anyone wish. She also said that there will be a MLK Celebration at Trinity at 7:00 this evening.

Bo gave a short synopsis of the Board Meeting. We are going to help monetarily with the proposed project at the Elementary Courtyard. We are also going send funds to help furnish a classroom for Building Minds In South Sudan. Naples Rotary will form a team to take part in The 2017 Spelling Bee in February. Jamie and Bessie will leave for 5 weeks, to spend time in Cambodia doing their ministry through teaching. Safe travels to you both! We'll miss you!

Whew! That was a great deal of information to impart in this week's bulletin! I hope everyone has a splendid week, and we'll gather again at noon on the 23rd! See you then!

