

Grapevine

Rotary Club of Naples, NY

Lunch Meeting, May 1, 2017

Happy May Day Everyone! We have been having a really nice turnout of members this Spring. Today, 27 Rotarians, plus 2 guests, nearly filled the dining room! President Bo opened the meeting by inviting us to join him in reciting The Pledge. We sang God Bless America with Jack, as our song leader. In her Blessing, Susan asked Our Heavenly Father to continue to help us serve others "in the heart of The Lord". Today we welcomed guests, Sharon Fredericks and Mark Holdren. We sang a hearty round of congratulations to our members celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this month: that would include Mike, Roberta, Andrea, Joan, and Shanna. Best wishes to each of you!!

There were a few announcements before our main program today. Skip spoke briefly about our upcoming Spring Dinner. That event, of course, will take place next week at the South Bristol Fish and Game Club, with the Social Hour at 5:30, and Dinner Buffet at 6:30. There will be coffee and tea available, but if you wish, you may bring "added refreshments". Brenda has graciously offered a donation of wine for us to enjoy. Thank you, Brenda! Jamie will present various awards at that time also. See you there! Skip also told us that Naples Rotary provided trees for the Arbor Day Celebration at the Elementary School last Friday. Skip, Judy, Carrie, and Warren were the Rotarians who helped deliver the trees. Thank you so much, You Four! Bo and I have some of those Arbor Day trees planted in our back yard from our own children! Nice memories! Frank said that there are still Camp O. raffle tickets available for purchase should anyone be interested. Jack concluded the announcements with our first Rotary Moment of the day. Last Saturday, at

...And then, it was time for our special presentation! Jack introduced our guest, Mark Holdren, award-



winning journalist, who has written about life in the Finger Lakes Area. It seemed like such an appropriate program for today, since it was the First of May, and Spring is showing her signs of radiant beauty throughout Our Valley. Mark, who is a graduate of Ithaca College, has had a diverse background. He has worked at Genesee Brewing Company, and has appeared in the Geva Theater. Later on, during his career, he turned to nature and writing. Blending these two strands of interest, he has written 3 Adirondack novels. In fact, he had some of his publications available for us to purchase. These titles included Back Roads of the Finger

Lakes, The Raven, Spirit Wolf, and Lost Pond. "Our connection to nature is so important in today's world", Mark told us. In his writings, he has described how there is an innate connection between human beings and nature, and how being outdoors, close to Earth's beauty, can be very beneficial to mankind. Mark has been inspired by the writings of Henry David Thoreau, whom he refers to as America's first environmentalist. Thoreau "was ahead of the curve", Mark said. Reading to us from a Thoreau selection from 150 years ago, he quoted, "We should immerse ourselves in nature!" Wise words indeed, and Mark continued by telling us to be mindful, and to feel nature's energy all around us. What a perfect program for the unfurling of the Spring Season in our bucolic valley! Mark also recommended 2 additional good reads: The Hidden Life of Trees, and What The Robin Knows. He ended his presentation with another excerpt from HDT. Thank you, Mark, for an inspiring talk, and so timely, as we begin to "melt" from Winter's chill!

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Alex let us know that this coming Sunday, May 7th, there will be a reception at the Naples Library for our Blanche, who is retiring, (Hopefully, this means we will be able to see a little more of you, Blanche!) Next, we had our weekly fines. Steve, Brenda, Gary, and Bruce had missed meetings. Mike had his 23rd Anniversary, and Bo had forgotten to mention Sharon again! Happy Bills were aplenty in appreciation of the excellent program. Brenda was celebrating daughter Paula's birthday. John F. and Lee were looking forward to the Chorale. Many were pleased about Sam Sherwood's concert last week. John M. was married in the Big Moose Chapel, in an area Mark had talked about. Jamie felt Bessie "assisted" him in living. Alex spent time with her grandkids. Matt was proud of the 2 new Eagle Scouts, Zack Dormer and Jared Rohr. John B. for inspiration from home. Karen for the 50/50 win last week, Gary for the nature all around us. Marian for living many years in Grimes Glen. Jack for the Administrative Team in the 5-K. Finally, Mike and Susan for the Lucky Ducky Race. Wow! I guess we were a happy group this week!!

Since Karen took in "the big haul" last time, the Kitty was at 17.00 this week. Matt's ticket, #190, was drawn, and he fished the Nine of Spades from the deck. Andrea told us that The Scouts will help clean up the creek. Thank you, boys! As a finale, and a bit of a Rotary Moment, John M. had a Win-Win for us that related to Mark's talk. At one time, there were three mills at Grimes Glen. One of the best-known mills was located at the 2nd Falls. He wondered if anyone knew what was produced there. Sure enough, our Marian, with her extraordinary memory, had the answer! It was knives! Enjoy your week, and we'll see you at the Spring Dinner!