

Grapevine

Rotary Club of Naples, NY
Dinner Meeting, June 11, 2018

It was a gala evening as we joined together with Our Wayland Friends, The Australian Rotarians, The Trinity Bells, and other special guests, to celebrate The Friendship Exchange, hosted by the Wayland Rotary Club. Jack noted that there were 65 of us who filled the back dining room of The Redwood last night for an evening of fun and fellowship. Along with our Wayland hosts, a few of our Naples Rotarians are hosting some Australian guests for the next few days as well. These visitors will continue on to The International Convention in Toronto later this month.

President John opened our meeting, as we joined him in reciting The Pledge. Jack didn't lead us in the singing of our National Anthem, The Star-Spangled Banner. Instead, he led the Trinity Bells in a beautiful rendition of it. He thoughtfully gave us copies of the Australian National Anthem, and we sang those words for our special guests. Steve, in his Invocation, welcomed the opportunity to meet our new friends from abroad, and he thanked The Lord for the many occasions that we have to serve others. We welcomed our special guests from Australia. Those Rotarians included Di and Ken Hall, Robyn Paull, Jonathan and Nada Hartley, Ashleigh Hickman, Max and Jenny Post, and Liz Gill. Our Wayland visitors included Jean McMillan, Dave and Anne Bastine, Rick Henchen, and Paul Lindenfelser. The addition of The Trinity Bells provided some splendid entertainment. Other welcomed guests were Kathleen D., Judy's cousin, Sue, and (Mom), Marian, Bessie's friend, Michelle, Lauren's Dad, Dan, who plans to join Rotary, and our outgoing exchange student, Phoebe Neubauer. The entire room was filled with lots of friendly chatter and camaraderie!

President John proceeded to make some announcements. He shared a message from The Alzheimer's Association, which warmly thanked us for our generosity. He welcomed The Friendship Exchange Guests, and The Trinity Bell "Ringers". The next Rotary Lite Meeting will be on 6/20. Next week, 6/18, the program will be The Good Shepherd Maternity Home. John gave us a "glimpse" of the July Calendar, and it seems busy! Of course, our "Big Event" is The Walk of Life on July 28th, and there were events outlined in purple that have been designed to raise funds prior to The Walk of Life. We applauded Frank in appreciation of his involvement with The Camp O. Golf Tournament. (Mike won the Golf Package, and Rick Hawks won the flat screen T.V.!) Penny talked about the W.O.L. Teams are being formed and shirts are being sold. Kudos to Mike J. for all his hard work in preparation for this special day! We each have received a copy of the By-Laws, and voting on this will take place next week. Rochester Red Wings Day will be 7/21. The sale of tickets will help Camp O. There will be two Paul Harris Awards given at the Gavel Dinner on 7/01. July has been deemed "Fellowship Month".



It was then time for the entertainment of the evening for our guests and friends! The Trinity Bell Ringers each took a podium, and raised their bells in harmonious tones, led by Musical Director, Jack. We were treated to four beautiful melodies, two of which were "Simple Gifts" and "All Glory, Laud, And Honor". Afterwards, Jack graciously answered any questions we may have had, and we learned much about these "Beautiful Bells". The Bells, which include 37 bells, and three octaves, were begun back in 1996! The first two octaves were purchased by Skippy Hawks, Tom's mother, and the third octave was purchased in

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memory of Jean Meeker. Though they take the Summers off, the TB practice each Sunday, and play at the Ecumenical Concert, and Light Up Naples. Thank you from all of us for your beautiful music tonight!!



The Rotary Friendship Exchange provided the second half of our evening's entertainment. Di Hall was the spokesperson for The Australian Team. She explained that the RFE was the "unsung hero of Rotary". The connection between D9650 and D7120 2018 demonstrates that, although we are an ocean apart, we have a commonality in Rotary which makes us friends with similar ideas and goals. It could have been compared to a PBS Travelogue with Rick Steeves last night, as Di took us on a journey, via many detailed pictures, to her beautiful country of Australia! We saw, on the map, where many major cities were located, and what the topography of Australia was like. Along with telling us about the indigenous flowers and animals of Australia, Di told us of some of their Rotary Projects.

Among some of these initiatives were "Towers of Strength" around the beaches, Toilets For Girls in India, and Water Fountains. Judging from the many colorful slides that accompanied Di's presentation, it certainly seems clear that her lovely country of Australia is worth a visit!! The finishing touch on this extraordinary presentation was when Ken and John exchanged flags. We now have a flag from the Rotary Club of Tamworth! Thank you for a great presentation, and we look forward to spending more time with you in the next few days!!



There was a great deal to cover, regarding tonight's meeting, thus, I will try to summarize a bit for the next few items. The Fines were as follows: John F. called Judy "Joyce". Bo forgot his tee at the Camp O. Tourney. Laurie called Jane "Joan". Warren couldn't read his notes. It was a wrong measure for Jack. Robin missed the Anthems. Missed meetings were Lauren, Gary, and Brenda. Our Happy Bills poured forth in three major areas tonight! We were all glad to have our Australian Friends with us, we thoroughly enjoyed the program, and we were delighted to have The Trinity Bells play for us!

Well tonight, (for a change), I didn't draw my own ticket! It turned out to be Jack's, #390, that won! Wouldn't you know that he won the "Jack" pot? So pleased that you won!

We learned in our Win-Win that a koala sleeps 20 hours a day, and that they're known as "koalas", not koala bears!

Penny announced that a Walk For Alzheimer's is taking place in Canandaigua on 9/6, and that teams are being formed. The Gavel Dinner will be in The Event Barn on 7/1. Tom had Walk of Life shirts for sale at the meeting, and Our Rotary Moment is to focus on our upcoming Walk of Life. With that being said, may life treat you well this week, Dear Friends! See you all on the 18th!