

Reporting Meeting of 13 January 2020

Calendar of Events

Last Week: 1/6 BHBL CSD Special Education
This Week: 1/13 Mid-Year Report to Membership & Shakespeare – The Authorship Controversy, Walter Grattidge
Next Week: 1/20 No Meeting MLK Day
Coming Up: 1/27 To Be Determined
2/2 Better Senior Living Choices

Meetings are held at the Ballston Town Hall at 6:15 PM

Check us out at bhblrotary.org and on Facebook

MID-YEAR REPORT

President Silas Schrader reviewed the materials he had transmitted by email to the membership on 12 January. His PowerPoint presentation framed Rotary's vision and goals for 2019-2020, particularly the need for more focus on Service for the next six months.

Secretary Mary Anderson presented her report for the first half of the Rotary Year. Club membership now stands at 35 members. Gini Whetten distributed her updated BHBL Rotary Data Base detailing 38 members. Mary described her process for issuing the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors, and listed the nominees for officers for 2020-2021.

Treasurer Steve Geene presented financials for the half year. The Operating Fund continues to lose money on meals; work continues on deficit reduction. Charity funds are up but giving has been down. Fund raising needs improvement.

Committee reports were presented by Jon Costolo, *Service*; Mike Brewster, *Membership*; Silas (for Beth Brownell), *Public Relations*; Silas, *Foundation*. Silas discussed BHBL's participation in the Rotary Foundation Annual Fund based on the handout *Club Fundraising Analysis*. 2018-2019 was the most recent complete year. The club had 21 members qualifying for *Every Rotarian Every Year*, 17 *Sustaining members* contributing \$100 or more, and two qualified for *PHS eligibility*, \$1,000 or more

President Silas closed with "Thank you for all that you do!"

SHAKESPEARE – THE AUTHORSHIP CONTROVERSY – Walter Grattidge



The authorship of Shakespeare's works has been a popular topic for question and speculation since the mid-19th century. Wikipedia reports frequent challenges going back to the 1850s, and over 250 books written on the subject by 1884. His humble origins and obscure life seemed incompatible with his poetic eminence and his reputation for genius. The leading contenders for authorship have been Sir Francis Bacon; Edward de Vere (pictured left), 17th Earl of Oxford;

Christopher Marlowe; and William Stanley, 6th Earl of Derby. The underly theory is that the true author was too prominent to get away with expressing the opinions in the works, and hid behind a created strawman.

Walter's interest was captured by the books *Shakespeare by Another Name*, and *Contested Will – Who Wrote Shakespeare?* both promoting Edward de Vere as the true author. De Vere was the only son of John de Vere, 16th Earl of Oxford, and Margery Golding. After the death of his father in 1562, he became a ward of Queen Elizabeth and was sent to live in the household of her principal advisor, Sir William



Cecil. He married Cecil's daughter, Anne, with whom he had five children.

Walter believes that de Vere may have been the son of Queen Elizabeth. He has written QE II requesting access to the royal archives for more information, has received a polite response – but no invitation.

Reported by Fred Bailly

January Setup: Ken Crotty, Peter Parker, Ryan Baker; **Cleanup:** Darlene Bower, Suzette Stewart, Fred Bailly, Maryellen Symer