

Reporting ZOOM Meeting of 29 March 2021

Calendar of Events

Last Week: 3/22 Laura Marx & Charlie Buchanan –
Capital Region Sponsor-A-Scholar

This Week: 3/29 Dr. Eric Yager, Virologist

Next Week: 4/5 Linda Conley – Who killed Betty Conley?

Coming Up: 4/12 TBD

Note: Regular ZOOM Meetings are held Mondays at 6:00 pm.

Check your e-mail inbox the day of the meeting for the computer ZOOM ID# and Password, as well as the phone number you can use to phone in if using your cell phone to participate.

*Please suggest future programs to Darlene Bower & Dan Stec.
Find us at bhblrotary.org and on Facebook*

*Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create
lasting change - across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves*

Announcements

- All were welcomed to the meeting by President Elect Dan Stec who recited the Rotary-International Vision Statement.
- Ken Crotty led the recitation of the Rotary Four-Way Test.
- Darlene Bower has created and sent out the order form for the Drive-Thru Dinner scheduled for Wednesday 21 April. It can be filled in, scanned and emailed to Gregg Schorr, or filled in and photographed with a cell phone and texted to 518.258.2906 or called in to that number. All meals are to be pre-ordered. Promotion by members to their friends and relatives will be important. Members are encouraged to sponsor meals for folks in need. Mary is looking for volunteer helpers. More information can be found on the website, the Toolbox and Facebook.
- Mary Anderson assigned some jobs/duties for the Drive Thru Dinner. Please reach out to her if you would like to help out that evening or in preparation.
- Gini reminded folks about the Care Card project and said that the next delivery date to Kingsway is set for April 19. Keep cards coming!
- Operation Hunger continues with the collection of food and its delivery to the Galway Food Pantry.
- Mike Brewster conducted Happy Dollars with his usual enthusiasm and good humor.

Dr. Eric Yager, Virologist, Albany College of Pharmacy and Medical Science -- COVID 19 One year later

We had the pleasure of having Dr. Eric Yager present to the club again, and we are all smarter for it due to the amount of information presented and the excellence of his presenting skills. He talked about what is known about Covid 19 and its vaccinations almost a year after its initial outbreak in the United States.

As of 29 March 2021, there had been over 30 million cases and over 546,000 deaths due to Covid in the US. The data show that the most of those infected were in the age range of 18-64, but the range of age of most of those requiring hospitalization was 50-85+. There was also a disparity in hospitalizations between minorities and whites. This is in large part due to the more limited access to healthcare on the part of minorities, and a resulting higher incidence of pre-existing co-morbidities.

We are still learning about treating those with severe cases. The antiviral drug Remdesivir was successful in initial treatment to fight the infection. Corticosteroids support the body's immune system in resisting the virus and suppress the body's excessive response in causing too much inflammation and long-term damage.

He then talked about the success of Operation Warp Speed and the successful and extremely fast research and production of the vaccines. Most vaccines take years to research, test and approve but covid vaccines had to be sped up and given emergency use authorization (EUA) rather than full FDA approval. He then talked about the design and how each of the different covid vaccines work and their efficacy. He also mentioned that despite the amount of vaccines that are available and the rapid roll out here in the US there are lots of countries that haven't had a single vaccination administered.

There is a Global Initiative, COVAX, that is working to making access to the vaccines more equitable around the world. This is needed as this is global pandemic and the virus will continue to mutate and the current vaccines may not be as effective against the mutations in other countries.

We will work to get a copy of his presentation slides and send out to everyone.

Serve with us – the world is waiting

Reported by Jon Costolo