

Reporting Hybrid Meeting of 20 September 2021

Calendar of Events

Last Week: 9/13 Ann Fantauzzi – Giving Circle - Africa

This Week: 9/20 Charlton School – Alex Capo
9/22 (Wed) Drive-Through Dinner – BHBL High School

Next Week: 9/27 Service Project Painting 4H Training Center

Coming Up: 10/2 (Sat 11AM-1 PM) BHBL Rotary Apple Run
10/4 Club Assembly – (Respond to Gregg's email)

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 give suggestions for future programs to Darlene Bower and 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

ALEX CAPO – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – THE CHARLTON SCHOOL

The hybrid meeting was held both on Zoom and in-person at The Charlton School's outdoor pavilion, as guests of the school.

The school is a therapeutic learning community for girls located in Burnt Hills, that is focused on delivering the right treatment in the right environment in ways that fits the students. The unique program includes committed professionals and a carefully selected set of peers who can help the students feel safe, connected, and empowered. Services are provided to students struggling with anxiety or school refusal; who are fragile, guarded or withdrawn, lacking self-esteem, motivation, or social skills, depressed, bipolar, on the high end of the autistic spectrum, struggling with relationship or identity issues.

The school was founded in 1896 as the Charlton Farm School for boys, and changed to its present mission in the 1960's. Student are referred by their school districts who pay the associated costs. There are about 45 boarding students, largely from downstate and 13 day-students from local districts. Most students are in the 13 to 18-year age range. A typical stay is two years.

Alex Capo introduced a student, Natalie, who discussed her experiences and the benefit to her of the program.

The Charlton School is in a 20-year cycle of building new facilities and revitalizing the campus. An underutilized chapel has recently been updated to an art space. A new learning center has been built. The next phase includes upgrading the dorms and rearranging the campus. Twenty-seven million dollars will be needed, of which \$9.4M has already been committed by the NYS Dormitory Authority. Private contributions are needed. A Development Director has been hired to raise funds. Booklets describing the plan were distributed to those attending the meeting in person. Alex mentioned that Rotary Clubs across the state contributed the swimming pool in 1968. Our future participation will be very welcome! In closing, we were invited to use the pavilion at most any time.



CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Community Drive-Through Dinner is Wednesday, 22 September. Darlene Bower requested members to help as greeters and food runners.
- The next meeting is a work night, painting at the 4H training center on Middle Line Road. More information will follow.
- The meeting on Monday 4 October will be a Club Assembly to discuss improving the club in the future. Please support the meeting by providing the information requested in Gregg Schorr's 6 September email to the club. What should be stopped, started, continued?
- Remember to take Operation Hunger food donations to Gil's by Thursday noon. Maryellen Symer reported that food donation has been continuing steadily.
- Happy dollars were not collected at the meeting. Members were requested to make payments at Gil's Garage or send them to Steve Geene.

Reported by Fred Baily