



## Reporting Meeting of Monday Jan 6, 2020

### Calendar of Club Events.

**This Week:** Carolyn Huston – BHBL Special Ed .PTA

**Next Week:** Annual Meeting- Speaker TBD  
1/15 District Membership Training  
1/20 MLK – No meeting  
1/27 – Potential Service Project

**President Silas opened the meeting with his new BIG WELCOME followed by the traditional activities. Silas reminded us of Rotary's vision:**

*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

- 1.) Polar Bear Plunge- Silas survived the Plunge! Mike has video evidence and Silas has circulated photos. Our support raised \$1,110.
- 2.) Club Committee Updates- Membership Committee – There will be a District Membership Training Jan.15 at the Clifton Park Library. Darlene, Gregg and Mike will attend with one more seat available.  
**Service Committee** – Jon asked who would be available for a service work project on 1/27 at the Regional Food Bank. More information to follow. A committee meeting is held with Ballston Spa Rotary and 4H Leadership for planning a family-oriented service project that connects families of our members, youth program participants and others.  
**Foundation Update** – The Polio Plunge event generated support and can be used as a part of EREY.
- 3) No more Community Breakfast- It has been decided that due to the failing condition of the grill created by Jack Wolfe and used for many years, the cost of replacement is not equal to the anticipated profit. Ken spoke about the disposal of the grill. Anyone willing to help should speak with him.  
Thank you notes: 1) A nice, long note from Dick O'Rourke expressing gratitude for the Poinsettia but also 50 years of meaningful Rotary membership.  
2) From Sue Stec, Secretary for Seeds for Peace thanking us for support.

Interact: There is a Rotary District Youth Event on Jan.20 at Spare Time in Clifton Park. Cheryl Bach is checking with our Interact members. Future Interact Plans: Interact is making various crafts: Christmas ornaments, knitted and crocheted things, painted decorations which they plan to sell at the 2020 BHBL craft fair. All of the money will be going to help local students pay for things families cannot afford. Ex. Cosmetology kits, necessary safety gear for VO tech students, etc. It will be given through the "giving tree" which is organized by the HS guidance counselors. They expect an eclectic collection of items. If any Rotarian or friend of Rotary would like to donate something they make, Interact students will be happy to sell it as a part of this project at the craft fair next November.



Mary Ellen Smyer receives her official BHBL badge from President Silas.  
Welcome aboard, Mary Ellen!

Service above self

### Program Presentation: Carolyn Huston

Carolyn Huston is the President of BHBL Special Education Parent Teachers Association. She is also the mother of an autistic son. She gave some statistics indicating that the numbers of special needs students have been increasing and in the BHBL schools as well as all schools. Helping parents find information and resources for a child with a disability is challenging. Currently there are 70 members in the Special Education PTA .



Carolyn has written and produced 11 books for children and adults with illustrated stories about living with a disability. Many of the books show local people and local places.

She described several programs which involve students of all abilities.

- Besties – the pairing of a high school or middle school student with a younger student with special needs to help the younger student participate in after school activities, athletic events, music events or any extracurricular activity.
- PALS – the pairing of a student with a special need with a general education student in the same grade to hang out with during lunch, on field trips, at recess, or other activities.
- Guest speakers and program presenters on topics such as guardianship issues, Special needs Trusts and ABLE accounts, paths to graduation and parent to parent programs are being planned.

Because individuals with a disability or a parent of a child with a disability have trouble trying to gather information, materials, and resources that will enable them to live life to the fullest.... **Carolyn is working with SEPTA to host a Special Needs Resource Expo on Saturday, March 28 at O'Rourke Middle School.** The event will run from 11-2 pm. The goal is to host at least 50 vendor tables. The event will be promoted through all Capital Region school districts and NYS Regional PTA. The event should provide for great networking for all attending. A directory of the exhibitors and sponsors will be prepared for distribution. Spartan Catering is participating with box lunches for preorder.

Silas presents Carolyn with the honorary BHBL Speaker's mug in thanks for an informative and moving presentation



**JAN SET UP:** Ken, Peter P., Ryan Baker **CLEAN UP:** Darlene, Suzette, Fred, Mary Ellen

**FEB. SET UP:** Silas, Dan, Bill W.. **CLEAN UP:** Pete S., Alec, Steve G., Joe D., Beth