

Calendar of Events

Last Week: 08/24 Black Lives Matter – Paul Collins-Hackett
08/27 Community BBQ Dinner (Thursday)
08/29 Golf Tournament (Cancelled)

This Week: 08/31 Nursing Home Card Project –Rachel Bennett

Next Week: 09/07 Labor Day – No Meeting

Coming Up:09/13 Golf Tournament (Rescheduled)
09/17 Pints for Polio – Wolf Hollow Brewery THURS
10/5 Alex Capo, Executive Director-Charlton School

Note: Regular meetings are held Monday evenings on Zoom at 6:00 pm. The meeting ID and Password and the phone number are distributed the afternoon of the meeting by email.

*Please give suggestions for future programs to 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

Bottle Drive – All bottles are in Darlene’s garage. They will be returned tomorrow at 2:00 pm. Anyone available, please meet at Darlene’s.

Food Drive – What was received will be delivered on Wednesday morning to a food pantry in Ballston Spa.

Coin Drop – We raised \$133!

Golf Benefit – Steve Caine reported that the Golf Tournament was rained out and will be played on September 13 at Holland Meadows Golf Course: Eleven teams are registered. There are sponsors for the tee boxes, Mulligans for sale and a Putting Contest. Participants will get a box lunch prepared by the sponsor, Hannaford.

Community BBQ Dinner – There was a discussion about the barbecue. Gregg Schorr was commended for his leadership and requested feedback from anyone that participated. He asked if anyone knows someone that may be upset because they did not get food to please let him know privately. The event had a lot of positive energy and comments from the community. There were some “hiccups” that we will address prior to the next barbecue. Gross

income for the event is estimated at \$6,000.00. Rotary has yet to be invoiced by Spartan catering. There has been discussion about doing the barbecue again in the spring.

District Rotary – Gregg shared that our club had asked to have information about what we learned about BLM into the Rotary Toolbox. The district notified Gregg that Rotary is apolitical so they will not be adding the BLM information we shared with them to the toolbox.

Nursing Home Card Project Rachel Bennett

Gregg introduced Rachel Bennett. Rachel coordinates the Nursing Home Card Project that was recently highlighted on morning news shows. She currently lives in NYC but grew up in Glens Falls. Gregg had sent Rachel information about Rotary since she was not familiar with what a “Rotary” was when he contacted her. She read the mission of Rotary and indicated that she loved the mission and vision of Rotary. Rachel shared that she lost her dad when she was only 19 and her mom developed early onset of Alzheimer’s when she was in her early 20s. She was able to keep her mom home initially but then required additional care. She finally had to place her mom in a nursing home, which was hard, but love got her through.

Based on her experience with her mother, Rachel found that nursing homes could be sad places. Rachel shared that she believes faith, hope, love, and trust will get people through. During COVID 19 no visitors have been permitted in nursing homes and all external programs have been cancelled. Upon hearing this and reflecting on her mom’s experience, Rachel asked, “What can I do?” Her answer was the Nursing Home Card Project. She created a website (caringbycard.com) and also posted on Facebook. Word quickly spread and it has become an international project. The premise is to write a card (or however many you want), pick a nursing home in your area, and send them. She suggested rather than individual client names she writes—Dear Friend, Dear Beautiful Soul, etc. People have written notes, poems, quotes, etc. Once you have a contact (preferably the Activity Director) at the nursing home, cards can be mailed in a large envelope. It is important to find out the name of the Nursing Home’s Activity Director and send them directly to that person. She also suggested a follow-up phone call to be sure the

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cards have been received. If you can spread the word on social media tag it with #nursinghomecardproject (Instagram and Facebook).

Rachel reviewed Rotary's four-way test and indicated that this project passes the four-way test. Gregg shared that his father-in-law is in a nursing home and they are still unable to visit. Rachel emphasized that the cards are a way to uplift one another. There was a question about how many cards should be sent at once and Rachel said 5, 10, 25—depending on how many are created. She made the following suggestions to the group if interested in participating:

1. Pick a nursing home
2. Call the nursing home. Get the name of the Activity Director and the number of residents in the home.
3. She suggested sending 25 cards at a time.
4. She emphasized that it is important to understand that the project takes time, planning, and organization.

Her Website: www.caringbycard.com

Her Instagram and Facebook email: racheldardenbennett@gmail.com

Rachel was very uplifting and her project is one that makes a difference for people. After Rachel signed off, there was a follow-up discussion about the best approach for us to take on this project. Gregg will send out a list of nursing homes and we can identify a procedure after we target a nursing home.

Happy Dollars were collected by Mike Brewster.

Reported by Maryellen Symer

Serve with us. The world is waiting.