

Reporting Meeting of November 16, 2020

Calendar of Events

Last Week: 11/09 Jere Blackwelder – Brookside Museum
This Week: 11/16 Michael Saccocio – City Mission
Next Week: 11/23 Club Assembly
Coming Up: 11/30 Virtual Card Making Party
12/01 Community Tree Lighting and Santa Visit- (Tuesday)
12/07 Boyhaven to Camp Stomping Ground

Note: Regular ZOOM meetings are held Monday Evenings at 6:00 pm. Check your e-mail box 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 Gregg Schorr
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

- Linda LeTendre reminded the club that Seeds for Peace needs help on Tuesday morning (tomorrow) to pick up a delivery of seeds at the Regional Food Bank in Latham.
- Gini Whetten announced that she will pick up for "Books for Troops" & Care Cards this Friday AM at Gil's drop off facility. Our updated understanding of the resident population at Maplewood Manor is that there are approximately 90 residents who will appreciate receiving cards and approximately 45 who could appreciate receiving gifts.
- Tom Brownell announced that Tuesday December 1st is Giving Tuesday for the Rotary Foundation.
- Mike Brewster updated us on the plans for the Community Tree Lighting drive thru at the BHBL High School. Set up will begin around 4:30 PM and take down will begin about 7:15 PM. Santa will be in a weather protection shelter. Decorations will include many inflatables and candy canes will be given out by elves. Rotary, BPA, Friends of the Library and High School staff will all assist in making this a meaningful event for the community. We are encouraging Rotarians who have not

been participating in our Zoom meetings to drive thru the Tree Lighting and reconnect with our club members.

– The Holiday Party will be virtual on December 14 at 6 PM. Linda LeTendre will send an email this week with the details.

Schenectady City Mission Michael Saccocio

Michael Saccocio, Executive Director of the Schenectady City Mission, a Schenectady Rotarian, discussed the City Mission in our Zoom meeting. The Mission's goal is to provide not only *help* for today but for tomorrow. They want to help people who are in need now by providing basic needs like food, shelter & clothing. In addition, they hope that they can transform lives by helping people to begin to dream again & think about what their future will look like. The mission helps people achieve their future dreams by providing spiritual guidance, counseling, classes in life & job skills. Michael highlighted the following activities:

- Provide shelter, meals and clothing for the homeless
- Sponsor a medical clinic in association with Ellis Hospital
- Provide health care ambassadors at the Ellis emergency room
- Provide a new counseling program
- Launch a new "freight farm" with support from SEFCU where they grow vegetables in a shipping container for their kitchens and for sale to local restaurants.
- Provide meals to offsite learning centers

36 of the staff of 43 are former residents of the City Mission and have discovered purpose in life. They greet new residents and can help them because they can relate to their situations. He thanked our club for participating in their coat-collection drive which Silas coordinated for our club. He related many inspiring stories of successes and of volunteer efforts and donations. He concluded his presentation with the following thoughts: little things are the real things in life and small things done with love creates great things.

Reported by Pete Parker