

### Calendar of Events

**Last Week:** 10/26 Bridget Simpson – Swimming Lake George

**This Week:** 11/02 Lon Penna – Amazing Alice’s Story

**Next Week:** 11/09 Jere Blackwelder – Brookside Museum

**Coming Up:** 11/16 Michael Saccocio – City Mission

12/01 Community Tree Lighting (Tuesday)

**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](http://bhblrotary.org) and on Facebook*

*Together, we see a world where people unite and act to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves”.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Silas led us with great enthusiasm in the Four Way Test.
- President Gregg noted that there is still time to sign up for the Apple Run since registration is open until 13 November. He is going to ask Jon to send out an email explaining how you enter your times and date of completion.
- Silas announced that over 100 coats, plus mittens and boots, were donated by Rotarians and community members for the City Mission. Great!! Silas also mentioned that we could use his business as a drop off point for any donations we want to make to the Lon Penna/Niskayuna Rotary project (i.e., glasses, sewing machines etc.)
- Darlene provide the following link for folks who want to donate to the BHBL School Holiday Giving Program.  
[www.bhbl.org/holiday-food-drive-donations-Oct-19-Nov-9](http://www.bhbl.org/holiday-food-drive-donations-Oct-19-Nov-9).
- Linda is providing Lon seeds from “Seeds for Peace” initiative.
- Gini is making a card delivery to Maplewood Manor from the Care Card project. She also noted that people are still dropping off Books for Troops, and that she and Rey intend to ship a box once they get enough books.
- Mike deftly, with good humor led us through Happy Dollars.

### Amazing Alice

#### Lon Penna

“A small group of thoughtful and committed people can change the world”. Thus, started an outstanding presentation by Lon Penna describing an expansive Niskayuna Rotary Global Grant initiative for the betterment of girls, and thus society as a whole, and an amazing rag to riches story of a little Nigerian girl who truly exemplifies the best of humanity.

After catching us up on the great work Helen Penna was doing with “Mooncatcher”, to be discussed later, in Malawi, and other African countries, Lon provided a description of the crying need for his project. He did so, by describing some reasons for our changing global environment, and their effects – warming, sea rise, deforestation, exploding population, cities disappearing, vast migration of people, instabilities and increased poverty. He encouraged us to watch a Netflix film, “Life on our Planet,” produced by David Attenborough.

Lon then segued into describing the elements of the Nigerian project and how it related to helping our environment and humanity. The elements are: 1. Mooncatcher – donating a reusable means to remove the stigma of menstruation in young school girls, which allows them to stay in school and get an education, 2. enhancing girls’ education by providing Micro SD cards pre-loaded with a K-12 curriculum and vocational training, and 3. though not part of the grant, encouraging folks to donate to micro loans through a website such as Kiva.org. Lon spelled out how educated women in countries like Nigeria can help their families, communities, and the world. This was followed by a detailed description of Mooncatcher.

Interlaced throughout the presentation was the inspiring story of Alice Marcus, how she stared in abject poverty in Nigeria, how she was helped and how she is now a member of the Niskayuna Rotary club, helps her village, and is a major donor to this project.

It is impossible to give adequate justice to this truly outstanding far-reaching briefing and project in one page. Thankfully the slides will be forwarded. Great job Lon.

*Reported by Steve Caine*