

## Reporting ZOOM Meeting of December 7, 2020

### Calendar of Events

**Last Week:** 11/30 Virtual Card Making Party  
**This Week:** 12/07 From Boy Haven to Camp Stomping Grounds  
**Next Week:** 12/14 Virtual Holiday Party  
**Coming Up: 12/10 BOD** 12/21, 12/28 TBD

Note: Regular ZOOM Meetings are held Mondays 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 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

A Moment of Silence was held in memory of Len Porter and in memory of all those who were lost on December 7, 1941.

1. Mike reviewed the Holiday Drive-Through saying that Santa arrived just in time and that there were over 300 cars starting just before 6pm. All of the Rotary workers remarked on the excitement of the children as they saw Santa. Darlene showed her drive-by video. Dan mentioned that talks are underway to repeat it next year.
2. Jon reported that the Apple Run earned approximately \$2,000  
Linda LT reminded us that Friday, Dec. 11 is the final date to register for the virtual ZOOM Holiday party. This year's swap theme is "Taking Care of Local Businesses" and she is asking members to shop locally.
3. Rey reviewed the Troops for Books project, explaining that it is more successful than anticipated, and that at present we have 11 cartons of 40 books each ready to mail. It was planned to end the program at Christmas. However, a generous Rotarian has donated funding which will keep us in business a while longer.
4. Gini reported that the Nursing Home Care Card project has "caught on" with the community. Ninety cards will be delivered tomorrow, another batch the first of next week, and another delivery on Christmas Eve. A lot have come from our club, others from Interact and more by word of mouth.

### FROM BOY HAVEN TO CAMP STOMPING GROUND

**JACK SCHOTT AND LAURA KRIEDEL**



Stomping Ground was started in 2015 by Laura Kriegel and Jack Schott in Binghamton, NY. They began a nationwide search for a larger and more beautiful location for Stomping Ground. They found Boy Haven.

The mission of Stomping Ground is, "to partner with young people to inspire the next generation of radically empathetic decision makers. Together we re-imagine a more perfect world".

Jack met John Munter in March 2018. This is where Stomping Ground's connection to Boy Haven began. They walked the property and John told Jack its history. Financially the Boy Scouts were having a tough time due to lack of camper enrollment. The board decided to sell the property with the hope that the land could remain wild and better yet become a summer camp. After a year of negotiations with the town of Milton, it became clear the town could not agree to purchase the land. They had "developers" interested, but John Munter stepped in to keep the land from being commercially developed, buying all 300 acres! John sold Stomping Ground about 70 acres and is working with the state to have the remaining 230 acres become a part of Middle Grove State Forest.

Jack continued, "After meeting with John and explaining our goal to have campers with limited resources and campers with lots of resources all playing, learning and living together at camp, we shook hands and started moving forward."

Jack states that a summer camp is one of the best ways to build trust. Each summer kids come to camp, and they have a chance to be themselves with kids that aren't exactly like them. They leave inspired to take others' perspective, energized and more confident. Kids see too many examples in the media of people angry with each other and yelling, but not enough examples and tools for how to work through tough situations. "We give kids the space to make mistakes and then work through that conflict in a real way."

Laura continued, "We bring kids together from as many different backgrounds as possible: rich and poor, black and white, urban/suburban/rural and from under resourced communities. Activities are "choice based." There are one-hour programs such as boating, fire building, painting and drawing and much more...even something called "Tea with the Queen". There is always time for silly fun.

Emphasis is placed on leadership development, social/emotional development, and team building. Screen time is replaced by a walk in the woods or swimming or sitting by a campfire, but not denied.

Jack mentioned the psychological importance for kids "to have a second place (other than home) in their lives where they can go (in their imagination) when they are not actually there.

Stomping Ground is funded primarily through tuition and individual and group donations. In 2019 about 40% of campers received tuition assistance of some kids, and about 20% received full scholarships. They are a 501(c)(3).

Forty percent of both campers and staff are people of color. Because of COVID, Stomping Ground was not able to open this past summer, but they have invested over \$500,000 in revitalizing the property and bringing it back up to code. There is still a lot of work to do after a decade of deferred or no maintenance, but the property is looking great.

John Munter, at 82, is a constant presence at Stomping Ground, showing up nearly daily with his bulldozer and excavator, ready to go to work! Jack and Laura both say that *without Jack there would be no Camp Stomping Ground.*

A lively question and answer session followed.

The video that was shown can be viewed at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fB0gPaP3K71&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fB0gPaP3K71&feature=emb_logo)

Camp Stomping Ground's web site is at: <https://www.campstompingground.org/>

Waterfront at Stomping Ground



*Reported by Gini*