

## Reporting Meeting of 31 January 2022

### Calendar of Events

**Last Week:** 1/24 How to Die Online, Dr. Carla Sofka  
**This Week:** 1/31 If Rivers Could Talk, Joe Doolittle  
**Next Week:** 2/7 Rotary Alive with DG 6990, Joe Schumacker  
**Coming Up:** 2/14 Paws in Paradise, Alice Berke  
2/21 Presidents' Day – No Meeting  
2/28 Metrofix, Combative Comeback of a Company Town, William Patrick

**Note: Regular Zoom Meetings are held Mondays at 6:30 pm, effective 1/1/2022.** Check your e-mail inbox 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 Darlene Bower & Dan Stec.  
Find us at [bhblrotary.org](http://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*

### Joe Doolittle, Accomplished Storyteller and Producer

Joe Doolittle delivered the presentation: ***If the Waters Could Talk...the Stories They'd Tell.*** Alden (Joe) Doolittle is a Schenectady native and longtime resident of Glenville. He specializes in stories of home & family, historical events, places and people, with a base at [www.StoryCircleatProctors.org](http://www.StoryCircleatProctors.org). Joe has an interest in healing stories, which stems from a 30-plus-year career in healthcare administration, and a 20-year experience as a volunteer chaplain at the Albany (NY) Medical Center.

Joe shared with us some stories of Europeans and Native American Indians who settled in the Saratoga area. The presence of water, either lakes or rivers, was key to how the area originally became established in 1772. Notable mention was given to Sir William Johnson from England, for whom the

town of Johnstown is named. His nephew was Gideon Putnam, for whom key sites in Saratoga are named. Phila and Caroline Streets, are named after two of his daughters.

Another fellow was Laurens Van de Volgen, of Dutch descent, who as a boy was captured in the Schenectady Massacre of 1690, and raised in Canada by Native Americans. He eventually made his way back, married, and became involved in the fur trade and language interpreting. He is memorialized in a statue in the Stockade as "Lawrence the Indian."

Worth mentioning is the meaning of the Indian word "Adirondack." It means "bark eaters," as they had to eat bark to live, as well as "The place where the mountains stand up together."

Everyone enjoyed the warmth and ease with which Joe shared his stories with us. He expressed his utmost admiration for the Rotary Club, and we in turn expressed our desire to hear more stories from him in the future.

### CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Maryellen Symer reminded everyone to bring food pantry items to the bin at Gil's Garage. Ray Callanan committed to delivering the donations to the Galway Food Pantry every week in February.
- Three Fireside Chats were held recently, for new members Jessica Sinopoli, Emily Grattidge and Cindy Peterson.
- Peter Sawyer reported that there will be upcoming service projects on Feb. 12 and April 2 at Camp Stomping Grounds.
- Laura Lee shared a historical event that will be taking place in the Stockade on Saturday, Feb 5. An email with the link of all the details was sent out.
- The meeting ended with "Happy Dollars."

*Reported by Cindy Peterson*