

Calendar of Events

Last Week: 10/16 No Meeting

This Week: 10/23 Erin Sisk, Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga

Next Week: 10/30 Club Assembly

Coming Up: 11/6 No meeting: Apple Pie Festival next day
11/7 (Tues) Apple Pie Festival, Middle School

Note: Regular Meetings are held Mondays at 6:00 pm. Dinner at 6:00. Check your e-mail inbox the day of the meeting for the computer Zoom link and password, as well as the phone number you can use to phone in if using your cell phone to participate.

Note: Fewer meetings are hybrid or on Zoom going forward.

Please give suggestions for future programs to Linda LeTendre

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

Erin Sisk, Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga

Cindy Petersen introduced Erin Sisk, PhD Psychologist, and owner of Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga. THS supports retired racehorses in leading a peaceful life, while providing mental health services.

THS is a not-for-profit organization created by Erin Sisk in 2018. A staff of 18 licensed mental health providers, 29 horses, 6 horse-care givers and 20 volunteers work on the farm. The horses have provided life-changing experiences for children, families, veterans. More attention is being paid to the results of horse interaction with humans. A retired racehorse can live for 20 years after their racing career ends. Saving these animals, who that can no longer be ridden, but can live in a herd and interact with humans has become a valuable endeavor.

We learned that insurance would cover the cost of a mental-care session and the cost of the horse care is about \$50 a session. Grants and donations can provide scholarship assistance. Volunteers who care for the horses are trained and must meet physical-ability requirements.

We watched an impressive video showing the meaningful interaction between a Gulf War Veteran and a horse.

Other events of the meeting:

We were honored with the presence of Assistant District Governor George Urciuoli.

Paul Harris Fellow: Nancy Hodes was honored with a surprise announcement and bestowal of a Paul Harris Award, made by Steve Caine. We enjoyed the recognition given by Steve to his partner in leadership, Nancy.

Rotarian of the Year: Gregg listed the criteria for this significant club award. He then called Ken, Darlene, Bill W., and Mike to join him. They each spoke about the dedication to service, both worldwide and in our community, the creative and passionate leadership, and the thoughtful friendship given to us by Steve Caine, the new recipient.

Announcements included an update on plans for the annual community Apple Pie Festival on November 7, Election Day. A signup sheet was circulated. Tickets were distributed. Members will be asked to give \$25 this year to cover the cost of the pies.

Darlene reported on a new initiative being created to work on mental health and suicide prevention by Rotarians in our club and the district. The goal is to help with building connections for a grant underway in the state. Our county is one of three neighboring counties with the highest teenage suicide rate in New York.

Pete Parker spoke about the need for a discussion at the meeting next week on our club leadership gap.

Mike announced the date for the Holiday Parade as Tuesday, November 28. Plans are underway with the BPA. A safe traffic pattern is being planned.



The Town in Bloom community beautification program has been concluded for the season with members working Saturday October 14.

Reported by Mary Anderson