

Reporting Meeting of November 27, 2017

Calendar of Events

Last Week: Nov 27: Celebrate George Bailey's life on the occasion of his 100th birthday

This Week: Dec 4: No Meeting

Next Week: Dec 11: Christmas Party at the Charlton Tavern

Coming Up: Nov 30: 3:00 PM Set up Tree for Fest of Trees

Dec 5: Tree Lighting 6:00

Dec 18: Board Meeting and Annual Club Meeting

Attendance: Rotarians: 21 Guests: 5

Invocation: Dan Stec offered the invocation

Note: Regular meetings are held Monday Evenings at 6:00 PM in the William E. Sewell Memorial Room at the Ballston Town Hall.

Please give suggestions for future programs to Beth Brownell.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- President Jon led the pledge, and Bob Youmans the National Anthem.
- Dan Stec provided us a moving prayer in remembrance of our recently departed brother Rotarian, John Fettke. He will be missed! Dan also did the same for George Baily. We also had a moment of silence for both of these men.
- Beth Brownell reminded members that the menu for the Holiday Party Dec 11 at the Charlton Tavern is on the website and has been emailed.
- RSVP to her by 12/3, with your menu selection.
- Gini recruited a few holiday elves to help put up and decorate the Rotary Tree at 3 pm on Thursday, Nov. 30.
- Gifts for the exchange should be acquired locally and not cost more than \$12.
- Mike Brewster collected Happy Dollars as he always does, with good humor and fun.

"Serve with Us. The world is waiting"

December Set Up: Beth and Tom Brownell, Bob Youmans, Ray Callanan Clean up: Gregg Schorr, Mike Brewster, Mary Anderson

Celebrating the Life of Rev. George Bailey



To this observer, this meeting was filled with a wide range of feelings and emotions. We experienced the fun and camaraderie we always do when we meet, but also felt a deep sadness in the loss of our dear friend, John Fettke.

Lastly we felt the reverence, admiration and joy for George Bailey (charter member of our club) and the life he so well lived. And to do this, we were fortunate to be joined by many of George's family – his Daughter Christine Yess, his Grand daughter Liesel Welsch, his Great Grand daughter Keira Welsch, and his Grand son-in-law Dan Welsch.



Keira Welsh cutting a cake in George's honor kicked off the remembrance. Linda LeTendre (seen at left helping with the cake cutting) then shared several vignettes that provided us a sense of the type of person George was, and what he stood for all his life. One of the stories involved giving George's watch to a person who fittingly represented so many of George's values. The recipient was a Buddhist Monk named Gyoway Kato Shonin. He is a man dedicated to the furtherance of peace and reconciliation and travels the

world promoting those values. Linda gave George's watch to him, and likes to think of George's watch traveling the world now as part of the effort to achieve these noble goals. She also read excerpts from a thank you letter George wrote before he died. Two of our Rotarians he mentioned in his letter are Linda and Mike Brewster for their steadfast efforts to bring George to meetings.

Laura Lee, who eloquently described George's funeral service, followed Linda. Apparently, George put some time into planning the content and the selection of music for the service. He included five hymns that are more than normal, and it must be said, they all optimistically spoke of love and hope.

The reflection was concluded with a slide show narrated by Christine Yess and Linda. Pictures showed George ranging from a boy of two or three until close to his passing. They showed him with his family, and key milestones in their lives and in the service of his faith. We saw pictures of him graduation from High School, Syracuse Un. and Yale Divinity School. Many were of him christening children. We saw him with members of the Vietnamese family he adopted. Pictures of our 75th Anniversary celebration of George's pastoral service were included. We saw his first car, the one he so fondly spoke of, and him with his Rhode Island Red Chickens. Lastly a great many were with the love of his life, Mavis.



Clearly, our entire membership feels that knowing Reverend George Bailey was a deeply enriching experience. George, and how he lived such rewarding and contented life of service is an example for all.

Reported by Steve Caine



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