

**Calendar of Events**

**Last Week:** July 23: Club Assembly  
**This Week:** July 30: Charlton School Picnic  
**Next Week:** August 6: Apple Run Card Labeling Work Night  
5:00pm BOD meeting  
**Coming Up:** August 13: Pine Grove Cemetery Work Night  
600pm meeting at Town Hall  
August 20: Picnic at the Whetten's  
**Attendance:** Rotarians: 21 Guests 9 adults, 3 junior  
**Invocation:** Beth Brownell  
**Note:** Regular meetings are held Monday Evenings at 6:00 PM  
Ballston Town Hall 323 Charlton Rd Ballston Spa NY

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- President Beth relayed a request from Dan Stec in support of ShelterboxUSA.org which is experiencing needs around the world due to drought, famine, infectious diseases that flare during the summer months.
- Peter Sawyer will be forwarding a survey from the BHBL CSD on community awareness of what is going on in our schools and what needs exist that may be addressed. Tom asked if the results could be used as part of the club community needs assessment.
- Happy dollars were collected by Mike Brewster



Alex welcomed the club to the school for our annual visit. Alex is now in his third year of being Executive Director after having served 15 years as Clinical Director. The majority of the students are still coming from downstate, NYC and Long Island. Slowly upstate school districts are becoming more willing to send students. Most students have had multiple psychiatric admissions and suffer from anxiety, depression and have had suicidal thoughts or gestures. The education and clinical staff continues to adapt to their changing population.

Alex pointed out some highlights of the past year.

- 1) Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the suffragette movement the students embraced their strength. Students attended a Women of Distinction event attended by the Lieutenant Governor and they created a booklet for the event.
- 2) Tracy Allen, part time art teacher is now full time and was awarded a top teacher award by Elaine Houston of television channel 13. While at the school Elaine spoke to the students about her journey in journalism. As a result of her visit, one student obtained an internship with Elaine Houston, at the station.
- 3) Forging strong family connections continues to be an emphasis of the school. It is particularly problematic since so many of the students live several hours away. One of the small cottages has been converted to a 'mini hotel' allowing parents to stay at the school for two days, participating in their child's classes and activities.
- 4) There are now 5 horses in the equitation program and all students, residential and day, have time with the horses weekly. The second equestrian expo was held and although horsemanship skills were demonstrated, they are not the focus of the program.
- 5) The expressive arts program has been expanded into the evening hours Sunday-Thursday. Evenings are particularly difficult for the girls and the program allows them to process their thoughts and feelings.
- 6) The pool has been resurfaced and a new pool deck installed.
- 7) The community was invited to participate in the planting of the pollinator circle. Benches have been installed in the circle and the students use it as a place for meditation and reflection. All students have laptop computers to aid with their schoolwork. The school continues to partner with BHBL school district.
- 8) Students who have demonstrated sufficient social and emotional growth, as well as academic growth, are able to attend 1-2 classes at the high school as part of the evaluation process to determine the proper time for them to leave Charlton School.
- 9) Alex would like to increase community participation in exposing the students to careers by having presentations and local internships.

Jon presented a Rotary contribution of \$1,000 for the Charlton School to Alex.

*Reported by Beth Brownell*

Serve with us. The world is waiting.