



Reporting Meeting of Monday Dec 16th

Calendar of Club Events.

This Week: NO MEETING – HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
Next Week: NO MEETING – HAPPY HOLIDAYS
 1/1/20 Polar Bear “Plunge for Polio” – Lake George
 1/6 Carolyn Huston – BHBL Special Ed PTA
 1/13 Meeting/Event TBD
 1/20 MLK -No meeting
 1/27 Social Meeting- Cock n Bull Restaurant – Guest Night



President Silas opened the meeting with his *new BIG WELCOME* followed by the traditional activities. Silas reminded us of Rotary’s vision:
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

- 1.) Polar Bear Plunge- The District will be participating in the Polio Plunge at Lake George on 1 January 2020. Please consider participating or pledging towards those brave enough to take the plunge. So far between pledges at our Annual Holiday Party and this past week’s meeting Silas has pledges of just over \$1,000 dollars to take the plunge.
- 2.) Club Committee Updates- The Membership, Service and Public Relations committees all gave brief updates of the great things accomplished in 2019 and planned for Rotary year in 2020. We have a new membership application from Dave Haughey just submitted who will be joining the club in the new year. Also with deep empathy and understanding, the club will be losing a great member and friend for a leave of absence by Lisa Rice as she continues to get better. She is in our thoughts and she is always welcome anytime to any of our events/meetings.
- 3.) BHBL Rotary Annual Holiday Party-
We had a great time at our Annual Holiday party the week prior at the Charlton Tavern. Special thanks to Linda LeTendre for hosting a great evening of fun and fellowship!
- 4.) NY Botanical Gardens Holiday Train Show- Linda LeTendre is organizing a trip with Wade Tours to the New York Botanical Gardens Holiday Train Show on Wednesday, January 15, 2020. Experience New York’s favorite Winter tradition as enchanting model trains zip through a display of more than 175 New York landmarks on nearly a half-mile of track, each painstakingly re-created from natural flora. Cost is \$79, \$75 Seniors and \$65 for 12 and under.



- 5.) Paul Harris Presentation:
Bill Lonergan receives Paul Harris #4. Congratulations, Bill!
- 6.) Mike cheerfully collected Happy Dollars, which were quite extended with many wonderful stories and announcements.

Service above self.

JAN SET UP: Ken, Bill L., Peter P. **CLEAN UP:** Darlene, Suzette, Fred

Rotary Citizen of the Year Presentation to Matt Shell



It was with great honor that our Rotary Club presented the Rotary Citizen of the Year award to Matt Shell.

Matt Shell is well deserving of this award as he is a truly humble and empathetic person who is a tremendous pillar in our community. His family’s strength and perseverance through trying times is remarkable and stands as an example for all to follow.

In November 2005, at the end of the BHBL Spartans High school football season Matt felt tired beyond what he typically experienced at the end of the demanding football season. He was shocked to learn that he had stage 2 squamous cell mouth cancer that required him to undergo surgery to remove a tumor from his tongue and lymph nodes from his neck. Thankfully in May of 2006, he was declared cancer free. He returned to his normal life the next year coaching the football team and raising his family. However, in the spring of 2009, Matt and Kim’s son Jacob was diagnosed with stage 4 neuroblastoma, a rare form of childhood cancer. He immediately began treatment at the Melodies Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders at Albany Medical Center. He completed numerous clinical trials and underwent surgeries to remove tumors in his abdomen and 6 rounds of chemotherapy and followed by a stem cell transplant at Boston’s Children’s Hospital. At the beginning of Jacob’s treatment, the Shells were told that there were no guarantees that Jacob would respond to the new treatments, let alone be cured, but in July of 2010 Jacob was declared cancer free.

In May of that year in 2010, the BHBL community honored the Shell family by naming the SHELLSTRONG STROLL for them, which was an all-night walk and celebration of life and community. That event raised thousands of dollars for the Melodies Center, the Shell Family and the Giving Tree at Burnt Hills Ballston Lake High School.

In August of 2011, the Shellstrong Foundation was established as a New York State not-for-profit corporation with the mission “to help kids who need it”. It has flourished as a foundation such that in that in the past 8 years, each year, it has raised over \$40,000, whose funds has been used for donations to the Melodies Center, the Double H Ranch, a high school scholarship and local families in need.

Matt graciously accepted the Citizen of the Year Award with his son Jacob in attendance. He said he was honored by the recognition and accepts it on behalf of the Shellstrong Foundation. He and his family are extremely thankful for all the support for the BHBL community.

Matt continues to be a pillar in the community serving as our high school football coach and on the board of the foundation. Jacob is currently in his freshmen year at college and was happy to be home for the holidays. Jacob also serves a Double H Ranch camp counselor.

For more information about the Shellstrong foundation, please visit their website at:

www.shellstrongfoundation.org



Reported by Jon with photos by Dick Arthur

FEB. SET UP: Silas, Dan, Bill W.. **CLEAN UP:** Pete S., Alec, Steve G., Joe D.