



Meeting: Thursday, December 21, 2017

December 21, 2017

Jazzy Holidays
Ian Frenkel

December 28, 2017

Tales from the 1970 Census
Lorraine Allen

Invocation:

December 21: Tracee Reiser
December 28: Deb MacDonnell

Greeter:

December 21: Bill Schmidt
December 28: Deb MacDonnell

Song Leader:

December 21: Julia Kushigian-Secor
December 28: Deb MacDonnell

Reporter:

December 21: TBD
December 28: Deb MacDonnell

Birthdays:

December 26: Pam Akins
December 27: Roderick White

Anniversaries:

December 28: Ivan & Andy Sadler

December 14, 2017 Noon Meeting Notes

The meeting began with our brief Annual Meeting to vote on a slate of officers to begin their terms on July 1, 2018. John Bysko from the nominating committee listed the names of officers for voting by the membership. President Tom called for a vote and the slate was approved unanimously.

During announcements, we were reminded that our January Rotary After Hours (RAH) will take the form of a pot-luck Holiday party at a Bill Schmidt's house starting at 5:00 on Tuesday January 9.

Updates on the local Syrian Refugees and Start Fresh were given by Rick Gipstein, Julia Kushigian-Secor and Tracee Reiser.

Rick Gipstein then gave an update of the Pavilion project. The threshold for being required to pay prevailing wages for projects like ours has just been increased from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. This change is likely to save us around \$60,000 in labor. However, the demand for building materials in the wake of this fall's devastating hurricanes has pushed up the cost for materials. The lowest bid for the Pavilion was from G. Donovan Associates in North Franklin. That bid was \$541,000, with options to reduce the cost by shortening the pavilion.

Jerry Fischer gave us a history lesson on the origins of Hanukkah, involving the Assyrian Greeks who captured the First Temple in Jerusalem, and the subsequent Maccabean revolt. Hanukkah means rededication – the Maccabean Jews ousted the Assyrian Greeks and rededicated the First Temple. Jerry pointed out that the history of the Jews is represented on the 4 faces of the dreidel. We concluded the meeting by singing the dreidel song.

Typically this meeting includes a celebration with students and teachers from a local preschool, along with a book distribution and a sing-along. This year, however, weather prevented the school from attending. Their presence was missed and everyone wishes them a wonderful holiday season.

Thank you to Alan Lyon, Reporter

Celebrate the Holidays with your Rotary Friends!

On January 9, 2018, you are invited to celebrate with your *New London Rotary* friends. We will gather for this annual post-Holiday event, at Bill Schmidt's home (8 Hillside Road in New London) beginning at 5:30pm until whenever. A sign-up sheet will be distributed at all upcoming Rotary meetings.

As always, spouses, significant others and/or friends are welcome. Please join us!

