



ROTA-BITS



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

VOL. 13, NO. 33 * FEBRUARY 16, 2012 * EDITOR: * DOUG GROSE*

February is World Understanding Month in the Rotary International Calendar

LAST MEETING

Reported by Linda Clements



Sgt.-at-Arms: Michael Brodnan

Prayer: The prayer was led by Bill Snow who asked for blessings for all Rotarians.

Guests: Since this is our Valentine's meeting, all spouses and partners were welcomed to today's meeting. Vicki's guest was past Rotarian, Dale Craig. Maureen Kelly from Painesville was also with us.

Rotabuck: The lucky number was ... 583. Cliff picked the 2 of hearts.

Word for the day: Cliff knew that the word was support!

Upcoming/ Special Events: Vicky Wil-deman talked about the planning for the Wine Tasting Event. We have many sponsors including Visiting Angels, Fredon, Dollar Bank, Honda, LaMalfa, Royal Plastics, Lake National Bank and Bob Sustar's company. Lisa Nelson is

donating a \$1000 package that will include a 4 day stay in Charlottesville, Virginia with lots of goodies included. Pamela Morris will be the auctioneer. We are in need of an MC. There is a clip board going around for people to sign up to help.

Announcements: Pres. Wayne encouraged us to get on the website and sign up for the March 10th Wine Tasting. All proceeds will benefit the Council on Aging and our Foundation.

Dianne is still selling Super Raffle tickets for the United Way.

Bill Robertson announced that the Drama Awards will begin on March 2nd.

Fred reminded us that Wood-working will take place at Broadmoor at 1:00 on Monday with lunch at Panera at route 306 at noon.

Our seminar this year will be in March and we will be collecting used eye glasses.



A special "Thanks" goes out to Amy and Marty and the LaMalfa staff for this special Valentine's luncheon today. Photo by Dan Welker

Program: John Solich asked us to close our eyes and then say "chocolate"! What could be a more appropriate topic for our Valentine's meet-

ing than a presentation from our two ladies from Brandt's Candies, Barbara and Mary. Brandt's is located at 1238 Lost Nation Road. They have been in business since 1948 but these ladies bought the business from the original owners over 6 years ago. They use the same recipes that the Brandt family used. All the chocolate is made by hand and no wax or oils are used.

Barbara began by telling us that in 1910 her grandparents had a small chocolate shop on 110th and Superior. The recipes were in German from her grandfather. All candy at Brandt's is made in the kitchen using big copper pots.



Barbara gives us the history of Brandt's Candies. Photo by Dan Welker.

Barbara's daughter, Mary, took over the discussion. Mary is a teacher by day and a candy maker by night! She described the process. They begin with a 10 pound slab of chocolate which they purchase from Wilbur Chocolate in Pennsylvania. They only buy from this company as the chocolate has no wax. They break this chocolate into pieces with a hammer and put it in a melter. Copper pots are used over an open flame. They actually use paddles. They pour out the chocolate and it must be tempered to 90 degrees and coat the

candy. There are metal molds and the chocolate is poured into the molds and clipped. It is dried and set in the molds for 3 hours. Mary had her grandfather's thermometer to show us. She then filled a large tray with corn starch and the candy is molded there. She showed us how the coconut crème gets into the chocolate.



Mary shared the secret of candy making. Photo by Dan Welker.

There were several questions asked. The reason cornstarch is used is because it is very dry and no bugs can get into it and live and it does not retain flavors. What is the shelf life of chocolate? At Brandt's the shelf life is about 6 months because they do not use wax. If wax is used, the shelf life can be very long. One member remembered that Brandt's used to be distributed at May Co.

Mary and Barbara believe that their secret ingredient is the type of chocolate they use from Wilbur's which only sells to businesses. There was a discussion about European Chocolate and "American" chocolate. European chocolate has a higher standard use of cocoa. Most here use less than 50%. Dark chocolate can have as much as 70-79% of cocoa which is the standard in Europe. There is no mild in dark chocolate.

The busiest times at Brandt's Candies are Easter, Valentine's Day, Sweetest Day and Christmas. The ladies made a very important distinction about their candy makers- they wish to be called CHOCOLATIERs and not dip-pers! The staff is all family. The hours are Monday-Friday 10-6, Saturday, 10-

3. If our members come into the store and mention they were here today for the presentation, they will receive a \$2 discount. They also very generously provided us with a lovely sample of their candy. (Which was delicious, by the way!)



Was it rapt attention to the speakers or anticipation of a chocolate treat? Photo by Dan Welker.

President Wayne presented thank you gifts to Barbara and Mary. He wished us all a "Happy Valentine's Day".

FROM OUR READERS

The following comes from Bob Ledenican:

One afternoon a lawyer was riding in his limousine when he saw two men along the road-side eating grass. Disturbed, he ordered his driver to stop and got out to investigate.

He asked one man, "Why are you eating grass?"

"We don't have any money for food," the poor man replied. "We have to eat grass."

"Well, then, you can come with me to my house and I'll feed you," the lawyer said.

"But sir, I have a wife and two children with me. They are over there, under that tree."

"Bring them along," the lawyer replied. Turning to the other poor man he stated, "You may come with us, also."

The second man, in a pitiful voice, then said, "But sir, I also have a wife and six children with me!"

"Bring them all as well," the lawyer answered.

They all entered the car, which was no easy task, even for a car as large as the limousine was. Once under way, one of the poor fellows turned to the lawyer and said, "Sir, you are too kind. Thank you for taking all of us with you."

The lawyer replied, "Glad to do it. You'll really love my place. The grass is almost a foot high."

Come on now...did you forget it's a lawyer story?

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 13 – Woodworking at Broadmoor School, 1:00PM

February 15 – Board Meeting, 7:30AM

February 16 – Cassie Shumaker - Reach Across America

February 18 – District 6630 Gift of Life Benefit.

February 23 - Bob Rosplock - Why persons with real property in multiple states should consider a trust

March 8 - Joe Charbonneau

March 10 – Annual Wine and Beer Tasting Event, 7PM to 10PM at Honda of Mentor

March 12 - Woodworking at Broadmoor School, 1:00PM

March 15 – Tim Ausperk

March 21 - Board Meeting, 7:30AM

March 22- 4-Way Speech Contest-Bob Z.

March 29 - Christy Lapaglia – CARES program for Autistic Children

April 5 – GSE Team from India

BIRTHDAYS

February 5 – Kevin Newcomb

February 12 – Amy Kapostasy

February 15 – Bob Sanderson

February 19 – Scott Marn

February 22 – Tom Hough

If I have missed anyone, please call 974-2494 or email d.grose@sbcglobe.net

THE 4-WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do...

Is it the Truth?

Is it Fair to all concerned?

Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships?

Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?

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2011\2012

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WHERE WE MEET

LaMalfa Center,
5783 Heisley Road,
Mentor, Ohio

Thursday at 12 Noon

OUR MAILING ADDRESS Mentor
PO Box 1177
Mentor, OH 44061-1177

OUR WEB SITE

www.mentor-rotary.org/

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

www.rotary.org

MEETING MAKE-UPS

Following are a few nearby Rotary
Club meeting sites and times for
makeups;

MONDAY

Willoughby at Gavi's, 12:00 PM

TUESDAY

Painesville at Hellreigel's Inn at
12:00 Noon.

WEDNESDAY

Burton-Middlefield at Punderson
State Park Lodge, Newbury, 7:00PM

Cleveland East at Nighttown Res-
taurant 12387 Cedar Road Cleveland
Hts. At Noon.

THURSDAY

Cleveland at Windows on the River
in the Flats, Bridge View Room,
Third Floor, Windows on the River,
Powerhouse. Nautica Entertainment
Complex, 2000 Sycamore at 12:00

FRIDAY

**Chagrin Highlands (Beachwood
area):** at Mitchell's Fish Market,
28601 Chagrin Blvd., Woodmere (at
Eton Square).