

## **Rotary Meeting – Monday, March 11, 2019**

The meeting of the Kalamazoo Rotary was brought to order by President Jeannie Brandenberger, following the singing of the “Star Spangled Banner”, with accompaniment by our own accomplished pianist and fellow member, John Dillworth.

### **INVOCATION**

President Jeannie called on Rotarian Jeff Ross, who led members and guests in the invocation, (and in line with today’s program topic, ecological permaculture), encouraging us to all to view and live our lives as a garden, taking advantage of daily opportunities to make a difference by “planting a seed and letting it blossom”.

### **ARTS NEWS**

Rotarian Kristen Chesak presented the Arts Minute News outlining the exciting variety of this week’s arts events and activities.

**Birthdays** – President Jeannie announced birthdays of fellow Rotarians Cindy Stewart and Mike Oliphant, who will both be celebrating their “special day” tomorrow (March 12<sup>th</sup>).

### **VISITING ROTARIANS & GUEST INTRODUCTIONS**

**Visiting Rotarians** – Ron from Chicago

**Guests:** Taras Berezorsky, guest of Dann Seitsma, Martin Velten, guest of Dan Ingles, Hillary Kerr, and Robert Kenickly, guests of Deb Harris

### **SONGS**

Past Prez Tim Kilmartin talked about many of the songs written about saving the planet (none which were apparently good for a “group sing”), so he and fellow Rotarian and pianist John led members and guests in “We’ve Got the Whole World in Our Hands”.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Business Sponsor** – President Jeannie recognized PP and DG Jim Cupper and Habitat for Humanity as today’s Business Sponsor. Jim (who serves on the Board of Habitat), briefly outlined the role of Habitat and responsibilities of each new owner of the homes Habitat builds, including putting in at least 300 hours of “sweat equity” and taking financial classes. He focused on Habitat’s “Restore” (located on Westnedge), a source for low-cost items to keep up/maintain homes, including items ranging from household items and furniture to building materials. Profits from purchases made at Restore help raise funds for new Habitat houses.

**Membership** – Also keeping with today’s theme, Rotarian Dann Sytsma presented a green “bright idea” lightbulb to Rotarian Nick Boyd, in recognition of the relatively new member’s immediate participation/involvement, ideas and suggestions he has shared since he joined.

**Rotary for Reading** – There will be a meeting of those involved/interested in participating with Rotary for Reading next Monday immediately following the meeting.

**HAPPY BUCKS** – Many “Happy Bucks” were presented today from Rotarians including PP Jack Hopkins, Nick Boyd, PP/PDG Rick Briscoe and Amy Remmert (who was celebrating survival of working her third trade show weekend in four weeks!)

**PROGRAM** – Rotarian Rayline Manni introduced Michael Hoag, Manager/Director of “Lillie House:”, who spoke about community-supported permaculture programs. The concept of permaculture was “invented” in the 1960’s by two “hippies” in Australia, centered on the design and implementation of permanent (sustainable) agricultural systems. It includes a system of ecologically modified sustainable designs and alternative use of large spaces used for crops. (Corn, soy and grass lawns are the top 3 uses of agricultural space.) He showed some amazing “before and after” slides, including a desert-like terrain in China transformed into a lush, green landscape through ecological design, as well as some locations within the U.S. He also discussed development of creating sense of community by establishing “town square” within city centers and a “plant-planned community”.

Also within permaculture is an emphasis on catching/storing energy (water, sun, gravity, wind, human labor, ecological succession). This “design plant ecology” concept can also be applied to private homes/residents/gardens. Among other things, suggested to “integrate rather than segregate” = Planting perennials, wild flowers and plants that are known to thrive in locale environment, combining several types of plants together, using both flowering and food generative plants. More information about permaculture can be found online and “Little House” Facebook page.

President Jeannie thanked Michael for his presentation, and followed with announcements about Satellite Club (meeting on Wednesday, 3/14) and grant submissions deadline (3/21).

Next week’s program/speaker: Dr. Edward Montgomery, WMU President.  
The meeting adjourned following recitation of Rotary’s “Four Way Test”.