



Rotary Club of Kalamazoo

April 5, 2021

Editarian: Amy Remmert

Pre-meeting: If you think that the pre-meeting time is boring, you haven't signed in early (11:50 ish). It can be quite comical. Not boring by any means. Try it, you might like it.

Today's meeting was called to order by President Seth Weeldreyer at 12:15 p.m.

National Anthem: John Dillworth played the National Anthem.

Invocation: Aaron Winters gave the invocation. Learn more ways to serve our community, county and world.

Arts News: D Terry Williams presented the Art news. Virtual art event at the KIA and each child that registers will get a free art kit. Music. Join the Gilmore Keyboard Festival Friday April 9th with Jazz Musicians. Visit the Arts Council website to get more information at www.Kalamazooarts.com

Special announcement: Bonnie Sexton - Business sponsorships are being resurrected \$75 per Rotary member business, Non members \$150. This will give you a three-minute presentation to our members.

Happy Bucks: Aaron Winter – for great Operation Ray event. Jeff Ross Kevin Garrison for toastmasters. Kristen Chesak - Art Hop with alcohol outdoors. Sid Ellis – involved in a four-car pile-up thanks to a teen driver. No one hurt and happy about that.

The Program: Jeff Ross introduced Jay Berkow from WMU Musical Theater and Jeremy Koch Farmers Alley - a small professional theater in west Michigan.

Jay Berkow from WMU indicated that it has been an extremely challenging environment for young people looking for a career in entertainment. They are facing dwindling opportunities in theater. WMU is fortunate in that they have been working in a hybrid situation with acting classes in person and by having the ability to move classrooms to larger spaces. There choosing productions where there is no intimacy in performance choices. They have productions done entirely outdoors and utilize pods for the audience. There will be a production called Beginnings starting soon at Shaw and Terry Williams theater. Jay shared a short scene from "Sunday in the Park with George".

Jeremy Koch shared that they were about to open Lost in Yonkers and COVID hit. Moved into an all-virtual programming. Facing financial losses were predicted. They actually conducted a fundraiser to share profits with Bronson.

This year they made a concerted effort to become more diverse and moved to a virtual performance of “The Conviction of Lady Lorraine” dealing with racial issues. Jeremy also shared a video of some key performers and their talent.

In closing, Jeremy stated that we are all seeking social interaction and technology is now bringing people together to keep them connected.