

The Roundtable

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Pet Pics Provide Portal to Preserving

We brought no pets to this morning's meeting. So Debra Bell had nothing to photograph. But Ms. Bell did tell us of her pet photography business, her training, expertise and experiences photographing people's pets.

The University of Maine graduate puts her journalism skills to good use as she tries to create photo stories, either with single portraits or stories using images and words. She will also create a "year in the life" of a pet or pets during their first year together with their human companions.



The idea for Bell's Furry Friends photography started when she and her husband took their rambunctious Greyhound to **Don Hanson** (who introduced Ms. Bell this morning) at Green Acres Kennels for training. She began photographing Greyhounds that she describes as dogs that can be all over the place ("don't take them off leash") to becoming mounds of fur on the couch.

"Pet photographers are not just photographers," she says. "They are smile makers." To photograph those smiles, Ms. Bell typically will meet with the owner or family, meet the pet, study the relationship between the pet and its owner, and plan the photo sessions. The sessions, typically an hour, "are often chaotic," she said. She will watch for openness and friendliness, or whether the pet demonstrates stress. Clicker toys and owner-approved treats help.

"Any approach to capture what the client wants is useable," she said. If the dog needs to be on a leash, Ms. Bell can digitally remove it in the photo editing. She typically makes about 300 photos in a session.

Ms. Bell has studied how pets interact with their people. She also photographs kittens and creates tributes for dogs that are senior or terminally ill. Her business exposures extend to social media through Facebook, Twitter, online at bffpetphotos.com and email. Her Hermon address is reached at 356-2353. She also owns Bell's Imaging and Design.

Don Hanson said of Ms. Bell, “She has an ability to connect with her subjects; both people and pets, resulting in images which always trigger fond memories.”
“I don’t do spiders or snakes,” she said, wrinkling her nose.

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We welcome a new member, and sing for three birthdays

Tyler Hoxie joined the merry band of Breakfast Rotarians this morning. Tyler, sponsored by **Lucie Estabrook**, works at Deighan Wealth Advisers as a Portfolio Administrator / Associate Analyst.

Speaking of Lucie, the Merry Band of Two, **Lisa Wahlstrom** and **Les Myers** (“the singers”), sang birthday greetings to Lucie. Lucie announced that she will be doing three make-up meetings at the Rotary Club in... Key West. But someone has to improve that club’s attendance down there.

They also serenaded **Lisa Larson** and, in a pet-enhanced version of the birthday tune, **Don Hanson**. Don paid for last year’s birthday, allowing him to compensate for his long-awaited return to the club’s meetings.

Lisa Wahlstrom announced that only two tickets remain for the Bangor Symphony Soiree at \$50 each. She reported that Downeast Hospital in Machias went over its fundraising goal of \$1.5 million, ending the campaign at \$1.54 million that will be used to expand their emergency room facilities.

Kristy Kimball invited us all to the board meeting scheduled for next Wednesday, 7 am at Links, 735 Main Street in Bangor. If you wish to submit an agenda item, nip it off to Secretary **Karen Schaller**. The District 9 (Bangor Noon, Bangor Breakfast and Old Town Rotaries) will meet at the Old Town Elks Club tonight at 6:15.

Jennifer Khavari paid a “I was on TV” fine. She thanked the club, and particularly **Ivan McPike**, for supporting the successful EMCC Foundation Snow-Cross at Bass Park last weekend. Kristy announced that the “Dancing with the Stars” program raised \$43,000 for “Make-a-Wish” Foundation, and thanked those club members who volunteered to help at the event. **David Zelz** will travel for holiday time in the South Pacific.



Tyler Hoxie

Les Myers- February 2, 2017



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Don Hanson and Muppy



Blueberry

