

The Roundtable

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Bangor Area Breakfast Rotary Club

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Powered by the Paddle of Passion ***Breaking the Cycle of Poverty in Guatemala***

Deborah Walters presented the results of her paddle power in this morning's meeting. Her pledge and fulfillment of paddling 2,500 miles to Guatemala (it was actually 2,503, she said) began with attendance at a Rotary Leadership Institute where she was introduced to Safe Passage.

The Unity, Maine Rotary Club member and Ph.D graduate (in neuro-communications) from University of Birmingham, England learned that Safe Passage works on literacy projects for the 10,000 children and families who live in and around the garbage in the center of the Guatemala City dump.



John Cheney, who introduced Dr. Walters, kept us informed during his presidency of the club of her progress in the trip. It was not without occasional washouts.

"It is hard work- paddling. But it is harder to fundraise," she said. However, her efforts resulted in raising \$425,000 for a new school. Midway in her journey, she suffered a herniated disc and cervical disc fusion. Emergency spinal surgery fixed the problem,

but slowed her down, to say the least.

Dr. Walters visited Guatemalan villages far away from the cities where water-borne diseases are taking their toll on children and adults. Using "Rotary math" (clubs, plus district plus matching grants from the Rotary International Foundation) that raised \$256,017, fresh water and sanitation dramatically increased the quality of life for residents of the villages.

"Malnutrition is a serious problem," she said. "How do you eliminate it? Feed them." Seventy-five to eighty percent of the children in the Guatemala highlands are undernourished. In addition to food, Safe Passage is mounting a drive that seeks children's vitamins for the country.

Safety for visitors and volunteers in Guatemala is not guaranteed. "If you are wearing clothing with "Rotary" on it, you are generally safe. They love Rotary there."

News and Notes

The Brewer Auditorium on Veterans Day will be filled with pancakes, sausages, eggs, plenty of coffee and, as **Jay Muth** reported this morning, Interact, ROTC students and Troop Greeters will join the veterans, families and friends for breakfast. Placemat ads are still needed; the deadline is tomorrow. Contact **Lisa Wahlstrom** or **Jay. Judy Horan** said Channel 2 will try to run some promotional announcements before Election Day, time permitting. The Bangor Daily News also will run ads for the event.

Judy told the story covered by Channel 2 of the 92-year-old survivor of the Pearl Harbor attack who desired to return to participate in the 75th anniversary of the Japanese attack. He turned to gofundme that raised \$600. After the story aired, the fund increased to \$2,600 by the next morning. The man was seeking \$2,500.

Speaking of breakfasts, **Ken Huhn** gave us another tip for generating new members. "They eat for free, as you do when you bring a guest. The only qualification is that the guest must be a legitimate candidate for membership," he said.

Another event on our calendars is the annual dinner/auction. **Karen Schaller** re-circulated the wine/top shelf liquor sign-up list (someone apparently drank the one circulated last week; she asks that you sign the new list). **Tom Violette** said we have forty donated items. "If you're wondering what to donate, gift certificates and cards work well." The dinner/auction committee, which continues to also seek sponsorships, meets next at 7:10 am, November 2 at Dysarts on Broadway. The event itself is Thursday, December 10.



The Purple Pinkie People will be at Masons Brewery tomorrow night, 5:30-7:30.

Bob Leavitt is celebrating his 44th wedding anniversary. Eastern Maine Community College, however, is older than Bob's wedding. EMCC President **Lisa Larson** reminded us of the college's 50th anniversary celebration this weekend. John Cheney's grandson returned to Maine, took a tour of EMCC and has decided to become a student there next fall. **Caroline King** visited the Old Town Rotary last week and helped with the Purple Pinky project. She is happy also that her well is not dry.

Les Myers- October 27, 2016

The Morning Gallery

