

The Roundtable

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www.bangorbreakfastrotary.org

Getting to Know You. Better.

Lisa Wahlstrom stepped to the (clean) plate today in the absence of the scheduled speaker to deliver her second classification talk. Our first exposure to her life was when the club met years ago at the Harborside Restaurant in Brewer.

The New Sweden, Maine native led what she described as a “sheltered life.” However, that life was good growing up on a small potato farm. Her father also owned a shipping business, and with a family of five children, he had a built-in workforce. She described one of her son’s reactions when they visited the homestead and he – a city boy now – walked in the barn and inhaled the smells. “Eeeuuuw!”

Lisa graduated from Caribou High School where there was no football team. “That’s because we started school in August, and then took time off in the fall to harvest potatoes. Basketball was the huge deal in the schools!” she said.

Neither of Lisa’s parents attended college, but they insisted that their children get a good education. Lisa attended Bates College (arriving for her interview in a snowstorm, impressing the admissions staff. Hey, I’m from New Sweden. It’s always snowing.)

She and her husband, Jeff, met the day before classes began. Their marital grade point average is very high: they have been together for 41 years and married for 37 (celebrating this week, in fact).

Her psychology major led to counselor training, but she discovered she really didn’t like the work. Jeff, in the meantime, entered broadcasting after college, doing on-air work with a goal of moving into sales and ultimately owning his own radio station.

The Wahlstroms lived in Vermont and New Hampshire. It was in New Hampshire there where they lived and taught at the Kimball Union Academy in Meriden. They left in 1989 to reside in Connecticut where Jeff took a position of Development Director for



Trinity College. Their first son was born in 1992. Lisa worked on the capital campaign for the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford.

As they grew discouraged about the crime and general quality of life in Hartford, Jeff found a position ad for President of United Way of Eastern Maine. "Go for it," urged Lisa. He did, and the search committee worked very hard to sell him on the idea of moving to Bangor, Maine. Lisa took a position at the Good Samaritan Agency where she did fundraising and community relations for six years.

Her desire to get into more major fundraising campaigns led to her association with Barbara Beers and Associates. Her first campaign was fundraising for the then-nascent National Folk Festival's Bangor concerts. She worked with the Festival for three years.

After Ms. Beers went to work for the University of Maine, Lisa decided it was time to start her own fundraising business. Thus was born Ovation Fundraising Counsel. Ovation focuses on campaigns for large and small non-profit organizations. Lisa's business partner, Julie Poulin, is based in Portland.

Lisa's sons are pursuing their career paths. Nils graduated from college last year and is in environmental design with a goal of becoming an architect. Carl graduated from Columbia College in Chicago where he is working in his dream occupation of being a sound engineer.

Lisa is a singer (in case you were wondering whom the female voice belongs to in the birthday tunes in Thursday's meetings). She described how her parents maintained order among five siblings during car trips. "We sang!" she said. She was in a high school chorus, and sang in choral organizations at Bates and Dartmouth, and with the Oratorio Society at UMaine. She is one of the first members of the Chamber Choir at St. John's in Bangor.

She is also a breast cancer survivor, as is her mother. Early detection paid off. Her 45-year-old sister died from the disease.

"The sheltered life" disappeared as Lisa described travels to France, Austria, Portugal, Scotland and Ireland (close friend **Judy Horan** prompted Lisa about the list). And Taiwan. "You have not experienced humidity until you visit Taiwan in August," she said.

"I have worked out a good balance," Lisa said of her fundraising work and personal life. "I love the variety of work. I owe it to my parents that I am where I am today."

The Rest of the Story



The Les/Lisa Combo provided familiar harmonies of the birthday tune for **Ken Huhn** and **Tyler Hoxie**, who celebrate their birthdays on the same day. **Kristy Kimball** announced a Charities wrap-up meeting next Wednesday at Dysart's, 7:05 a.m.

Jodi McCarthy participated in a triathlon in Portland last week. Rain fell, but did not dampen the success of the event that raised \$2 million for cancer research. Of the 335 teams that participated, her team came in 35th. **Dave Merritt** saw a story about Camp Capella's expansion, and gave a happy \$ for the club's support of camp.

Ken Kimballs's bike riding odysseys continue to leave this writer breathless. One of his latest pedal pushing feats was a roundtrip from Bangor to Carrabassett Valley.

President June Kontio received an invitation from the Waterville Rotary Club inviting us to attend its 100th anniversary on October 6. They request an RSVP. Let June know.

Thanks to **Kristy Kimball** for posting summaries of the weekly speakers on the club's Facebook page when The Roundtable is not published. She is also kind in posting The Roundtable on the club's website.

Les Myers- July 26, 2018

Other faces in the room



From the archives: Purple Pinky- October 22, 2015

