

September 23, 2009
The Palmyra-Macedon Rotary Club's
Canaltown Crier



THE FOUR-WAY TEST

- 1. Is it the TRUTH?**
- 2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?**
- 3. Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**
- 4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?**



Entering Erie Canal Lock #29 at Palmyra, NY



Macedon Veteran's Memorial, Canal Park

Palmyra Macedon Rotary Website: www.palmyramacedonrotary.org
Rotary District 7120 Website: www.rotary7120.org
Rotary International Website: www.rotary.org

September 23

Gene Bassage. Also, Marcy Frey about the Macedon Main Street/Autumn on the Erie Festival

Robert Leopard – Presentation about Online Science Education

Robert Leopard, a member of Pal-Mac Rotary since 1988, enlightened members about the current status of “online teaching” in the area of higher education and his personal involvement as an online Biology teacher through Cayuga Community College. He is currently a full-time Biology Instructor on the staff of Monroe Community College in Rochester, and has been teaching online through CCC from home for the past five years.

Robert prefaced his formal presentation with some personal recollections of the differences in “high tech” gadgetry when he first began teaching college Biology in the 1970s and the state of the art today. Back then, he noted, “high tech” meant such aids to classroom teaching as overhead projectors, mimeograph machines (and their sometimes overpowering fumes!), colored chalk, and the then brand-new Xerox 813 copier! Today's students have probably never heard of – much less experienced – any of these things, but instead rely on their personal laptops and the internet to exchange and store information in real time.



With thanks to Peter Park for the use of his laptop projector, Robert used another of today's “high tech” innovations – a PowerPoint presentation – to show graphically the state of the art in online education today. Now in his fifth year of teaching online, Robert noted that his CCC workload includes 13 sections with over 500 students currently enrolled. While most of his students are residents of Central New York, about half live in New York City and Westchester County. One anomaly in recent years, which he cannot explain, is a growing number of enrolled students from western states.

Based on his personal experience, Robert is a wholehearted supporter of the concept of online education. Not everyone is convinced of its value, he noted, and in some quarters educators have wondered aloud, “How can you teach a Biology lab without the *feel* and the *smell* of the laboratory?” To this, Robert has a ready reply: “If any of my students really want the smell and feel of a traditional lab session, I would be happy to send them a bottle of formaldehyde!”

On a serious note, Robert noted that the pass rate for his online students is better than that of those in an on-campus setting. And, returning to the “feel and smell” question, he stated that the real question should be “What do you want the students to learn?” He went on to explain many of the advantages of the online experience, which

include the fact that instruction is available 24 hours a day every day, and the students can work at their own pace to fit their own schedule.

Aided by his graphic PowerPoint presentation, Robert showed how virtual representations and online simulations can help a student understand and comprehend a lab's subject matter far more readily than traditional "hands-on" methods.

Thank you, Robert, for a thoroughly enjoyable and enlightening program.

Missing in Action

E. Chapman, K. Clement, M. Clement, M. Courtney, T. Cox, B. Culver, P. Dean, N. Farrell, R. Hamblin, R. Kommer, D. LeMoyne, J. McGovern, A. Pechler, M. Rutkowski, N. Schrader, J. Shaffer, E. VerPlank.

Thoughts and Prayers

- Margaret Brooks' grandson is undergoing heart surgery today.
- Vicky Daly asked for prayers of the family of Mitchell Smith, whose wife, Linda, is critically ill with cancer.
- We were asked to remember the family of Harold Cunningham of Palmyra, who passed away on September 13.
- Leslie Vechiotti asked that we continue our thoughts and prayers for Pal-Mac teacher Tracy Brown, whose baby daughter was born prematurely two weeks ago.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

While doing your weekly food shopping, why not pick up an extra item or two to donate to one of our local food pantries? A little goes a long way in the lives of people in need.

Guests and Visiting Rotarians

None!

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- Shirley Bassage celebrated her 83rd birthday on September 16.
- Dave Nagle and his wife, Debbie, celebrated a wedding anniversary last week.
- September 18 marked the 38th anniversary for Robert Leopard and his wife, Annette. Congratulations

Happy Bucks and Confessions

- Vice President Cindy Surline offered three happy bucks to thank the Club officers who attended last week's Eastern Cities Dinner in Rochester.
- Pat VerPlank paid the usual dollar-per-wheel fine for her “new used” vehicle – a 2007 Honda Accord purchased last week.
- Not to be outdone, President Dave felt compelled to confess to his recent purchase of the same make and model, an '07 Accord.
- Bob Yost offered a happy buck for the foursome who represented Pal-Mac Rotary at the District 7120 Golf Tournament on Friday, September 11. Other P-M included Eric Chapman, Peter Park and Bob Sloan. Although the team did not take home any prizes, each member won at least one or more of the many individual prizes. Peter Park added a happy buck as he recounted Bob Sloan's 370 yard drive to the green on the 18th hole!
- Robert Leopard offered multiple fines as he recounted a very busy “end of summer” month, which included an eleven day family trip to Michigan; a week in North Carolina; a family visit to Buffalo for his sister's fiftieth anniversary; and a trip to Florida to visit his father in the nursing home.

Rotary Club News

- Once again, Elena led of with an update on her activities of the preceding week. One highlight was the Eastern Cities Dinner in Rochester and a chance to mingle with other Youth Exchange students. The other was win number three for the Pal-Mac girl's volleyball team, of which she is a member.
- Bob Yost presented President Dave with a check for \$8,085.29, representing our Club's share of this year's RL Concessions at Hill Cumorah. Thanks to all who helped to make this another outstanding effort!



- Checks will be presented next week – September 23 -- to the Directors of the three community day care centers supported by Pal-Mac Rotary: Creative Environment in Macedon, St. Anne's Family Resource Center in Palmyra, and Canaltown Nursery School of WPC.
- Don't forget the annual District 7120 Leadership Institute, which will be held in Canandaigua on Saturday, November 7. If interested, see President Dave for details.
- Here are a few pictures of the Interact Club's float and our club's booth at Canaltown Days this past weekend.



50/50 Winner

Roger Wilbur, \$8, given to Elena to spend. Thanks, Rog!

Upcoming Programs and Presenters

- Sept 23** Gene Bassage. Also, Marcy Frey about the Macedon Main Street/Autumn on the Erie Festival
- Sept 30** CLUB ASSEMBLY
- Oct 7** Arnie Pechler –Problem Solving –How to Make Effective Decisions
- Oct 14** Vicky Daly –presenting Mike Boesel who will speak about the Palmyra Canandaigua St Project
- Oct 21** Arnie Pechler – presenting Mark Preston from Outdoors Unlimited – Being Active While Disabled
- Oct 28** CLUB ASSEMBLY
- Nov 4** TBD — Looking for a volunteer
- Nov 11** Eric Chapman – presenting Palmyra Boy Scout Troop 96 and their trip to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico
- Nov 18** TBD – Looking for a volunteer
- Nov 25** NO MEETING – DAY BEFORE THANKSGIVING

Please give the name of your speaker and topic to Debbie LeMoyne (986-2625 or email debbie.lemoyne@garlock.com) ASAP. If you are unable to find a speaker on the day that you are assigned either find a replacement or switch with someone. If you are looking for topics, please contact Debbie LeMoyne. Thank you.

The Palmyra-Macedon Rotary Club

101 E. Main Street
Palmyra, NY 14522

Board of Directors
Jim Bush 08-10
Tom Breen 08-10
Gary Haigh 08-10
David Read 08-10
Nancy Schrader 8-10
Bob Yost 08-10
Debbie LeMoyne 09-11
Arnie Pechler 09-11
Pat Ver Plank 09-11

2008 - 2009 Club Officers

President	Dave Pray
President Elect	Cindy Surline
Vice President	Eric Chapman
Secretary	Joan Shaffer
Treasurer	Margaret Brooks
Sergeant-at-Arms	Roger Wilbur
Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms	Tom Breen
Past President	Peter Park
R.I. President	John Kenny
District Governor, 7120	Mark Wyse
Assistant Governor Area 11	Tim King

KEEP UP YOUR ATTENDANCE NEARBY CLUB MEETINGS

Monday

Bloomfield	7:30am	St. Bridget CC
Gananda	6:00pm	Log Cabin Restaurant
Williamson	6:15pm	American Legion
Fairport	6:15pm	Green Lantern Inn
Waterloo	6:30pm	Holiday Inn

Tuesday

Red Jacket	7:30am	Lehigh Valley Family Restaurant (Rt 96 and Rt 21)
Clifton Springs	12:00pm	Clifton Springs Hospital Auditorium
Ontario-Walworth	6:15pm	Ontario Firemen's Exempt Hall
Red Creek	6:15pm	Shella's Pizzeria
Sodus	6:15pm	Steger Haus

Wednesday

Victor-Farmington	12:00pm	Legacy Sr. Citizens Complex
Wolcott	12:05pm	Wolcott Elks Lodge

Thursday

Newark	12:05pm	Newark Quality Inn
Canandaigua	12:15pm	Steamboat Landing
Clyde	6:10pm	Donselaar's
East Rochester	6:15pm	Hawthorne's Restaurant