



President: Dick Puccio
President-Elect: Barry Nicholson
Vice-President Succession: Michele Donegan
Vice-President Membership: Ted Goldwyn
Secretary: Scott Bloor
Treasurer: Wendy Daines
Past-President: Susan O'Leary

Thursday 12:10 p.m.
Vol. 83 No. 32

Radisson Hotel
124 Members

NEXT WEEK

9 February Phil
Roche
Erwin/Painted Post Merger

IN THE WINGS

16 February Tom
Tranter
NY Regional Economic Team

23 February Pauline
Emery,
21st Century Public Library

1 March Kate
Douglas
CCC Vision for the Future

LAST WEEK: Jim Hudson was at the keyboard as usual. **David Anderson** came forward with grace based on an Air Force Prayer.

GUESTS AND VISITING ROTARIANS: Christy Krager introduced Rotarian **Elliot Blauvelt** from the Horseheads Club. **Pauline Emery** entertained **Deborah Joseph**, wife of our Speaker, and President of the Library. **Penny Parker-O'Sullivan's** guest was newcomer **Elaine Walker**. **Elaine** is a past Rotarian from two previous locations, so we hope she will be sufficiently impressed by our Club to come again, and ultimately join.

Audrey was **Sam Sanfratello's** guest, and **Dick Pope** re-introduced

Jim Cendoma, who was our speaker a few weeks ago. **Jim** tried to extract a fiver from **Pres Dick** over **Dick's** new shoes. **Faye Guild-Nash** was introduced by **Nancy Dubendorfer**. Last but not least, **West High** Interact Students **Nicole O'Connell** and **Mazen Gallagher** were introduced by **Andy Taylor**.



PRESIDENT'S TIME: President Dick invited **Prof. Smith**, a native of **Punxatawney** to comment on the news of the day, that there was likely to be a further 6weeks of winter. **Walter** demurred somewhat, noting that he had

made a whole meeting program out of the rodent in a past year. However he relented, and told us the ceremony was an outgrowth of medieval Candlemas celebrations, which marked the midpoint between the Winter solstice and the Spring equinox.

Walter also observed that when he left



Punxatawney at a very young age, the city was a thriving small town, but now has half the population.

BIRTHDAY TABLE

No members present were born in forlorn February, so the ice cream desserts were consumed by our High School guests and exchange student **Laura**. **Bill Plummer** and **Michelle** came up with pictures of Garfield and Washington. We all sang "**Happy Birthday**" anyway.

LAURA'S WEEK

Laura apologized for missing last week's meeting. She went with her host family to Holiday Valley for skiing. Problem: No Snow! They had a good time anyway. The weekend was extraordinary; Saturday's program included a track meet. **Laura** was so angry about the hurdles relay, when one of her team mates fell, that she made a personal best in the shot put. Then to a concert, a School dance and to bed at 2, up at 6, to go to D.C. for the "March for Life", followed by a tour of the main sights. No wonder her friend fell asleep in the bathroom!

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

First up was **Cindy Long**, with a reminder about the **Winter Jazz Fest** in **Wellsboro, Feb 25 & 26**.

- see:

www.Endlessmountain.net



Ed Mancini thanked all for get well cards and wishes. **Ed** is teaming again with the **City** and Vets Organizations to send valentine cards -- this year to Vets **and** their families. Contact **Ed** for more information.

Dick Pope announced that this year's Spelling Bee would be held on **Feb 11th**, at the Arnot Mall, at **10 a.m.** **Dick** is still looking for a couple of good spellers to fill up a second team. **Dick** also reported that **Susan O'Leary** is making excellent progress. She is in Florida for Y training this week, but we expect her back next week. Please respect her privacy.

Peter Herzberg advised us that there was to be an award winning documentary by **Ginny Ruffner**, "**A Not So Still Life**" at the **CmoG Auditorium on Fri. Feb. 24, at 6:00 p.m.**

Pauline Emery announced that the CPP Parent Web Portal is available for Parents to sign up. They can go to the CPP School District site to find how to sign up or use the portal. For extra help, workshops are being offered in Feb. and March or they can ask for assistance at the library.



PERFECT ATTENDEES: JANUARY '12

Linda Spencer, 6 (Consecutive Months); Dick Pope, 5; Walter Smith, 5; B. Nicholson, 4; Michele Donegan, 4; Paul Tick, 3; Bill Plummer, 3; Steve Staggs, 3;

Brent, Wedding, 2; George Welch, 2; Vincent Welch, 2.

(One Month): John Brown, Kate Foss, Peter Herzberg, Jim Hudson, Rosetta Kellberg, Brian Klotz, Mike Platt, Nora Smith, Todd Strong, Andy Taylor, Lloyd Young.

PROGRAM:

Dick Pope introduced **Michael Joseph**, Senior Project Engineer at Corning, and a 25 year member of the **Tuskegee Airmen**. **Michael** wanted to be an engineer from a very young age, and received his B. Mech. Eng. from the Pratt Institute in 1988, with an AAS in Aeronautical Engineering.

Michael noted that his invitation to speak to us coincided with the release of the movie "**Red Tails**" in local theaters. The movie has been in the works for many years.

Michael recalled speaking in 1989/90 about making a movie to **Spike Lee**, who was the son of a neighbor in Brooklyn where **Michael** was growing up, and he learned that **George Lucas** had been planning the same movie since 1980, but it could not go ahead until "**Star Wars**" was finished.



Back in the 80's the **Tuskegee Airmen** were not well known at all, and for many of the flyers, the end of WWII was a bitter experience, because they were not given the respect and credit that other returning servicemen and women received.

Michael spoke about several Tuskegee Airmen he had known personally, including **George Freitas** and **Ray Williams**, who is still living at age 90, and **General Benjamin O. Davis**, who issued a Special Letter of Commendation to **Michael**, for his services to the Tuskegee Airmen.

Gen. Davis was commander of the 99th and the 332nd Fighter Group, which escorted bombers on air combat missions over Europe. **The General** was the first African - American man to graduate from West Point, and his time there was especially difficult. His father was the first African-American Army General.

After the war, **Tuskegee Airmen** participated in the **Apollo program** that put men on the moon, developed the **Sky Marshalls** program at the time that a number of aircraft were being hijacked to Cuba, implemented the 55 mph speed

limit, and developed the structural system that permits a skyscraper to pancake when demolished, rather than toppling over -- a design feature that paid dividends when the World Trade center was attacked on 9/11.

Michael concluded his presentation by announcing that **Corning Inc.** is sponsoring a showing of **"Red Tails"** at the **Crystal Cinema** at **3 pm on Feb 16th**, free to employees and their guests. (If you need an invitation, call Michael). Finally, he showed a short video of a Tuskegee Airmen convention, which featured a 500hp turbocharged Buick show car, **"Faithful Pursuit"** designed by himself, and constructed with the aid of other members. Following his talk, **Michael** was given a standing ovation.



FROM THE GRAPEVINE:

Shhhhhh, It's A Secret!!!
One of the best kept secrets in Rotary is the Fellowships. They are groups of Rotarians. Rotarian spouses, and Rotaractors who join together to share a common interest in worthwhile recreational activities (sports, hobbies, etc.).

Go to:

<http://www.rotary.org/en/ServiceAndFellowship/MakeConnections/RotaryFellowships/Pages/ridefault.aspx>

50/50:

The Grand Prize is up to **\$186**.
The table prize of **\$14** went to **Kate Foss's** table

Photos by remmulp