



April 2015

The Telescope

News for the Greater Hartford PROBUS Club

President's Message

Dear Probus members,

Hope all is well and everyone had good holiday seasons with their family.

We are nearing the final stretch of our year in Probus and soon will be time for us to take off for some summer family fun. I want to personally thank each of you for your support, dedication and contributions to Probus these past seven months. Without you it would be impossible.

Hope to see you soon.

David Hoff, President

Probus Meeting of March 18, 2015 - MINUTES:

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mark Goldberg made some introductions and talked about the mission of our organization for the benefit of the gathered guests joining us tonight.

Michael Croll then introduced one of our guests Jeffrey Bravin who is the new Executive Director of A.S.D. Jeff has picked up where his predecessor Ed left off, and will help launch A.S.D. into its next 200 years serving the deaf community. It was pointed out by Michael that most schools for the deaf in the U.S. do not have a leader who is also deaf himself. Jeff's roots go back to NYC where he grew up and he graduated from Gallaudet University. He and his family live in West Hartford and he expressed his love for this town and his willingness to always collaborate with Probus, so please feel free to contact him with ideas and opportunities.

Guests also included:

Gary _____ who was at one time the Director of the statewide ADL (Anti-Defamation League).

Another guest was Kelsey Roberts of Bank of America who was invited by President David Hoff. Kelsey shared with us some background about his special needs son and how their challenges have strengthened his family unit.

Member introductions occurred and Mark Roffer who has been a Probus member for just 1 month explained how he will be assisting our group with the website upgrade project. Mark said that www.hartfordprobus.org is now operational !

Our special Guest Speaker for the evening was Leigh Cogle, Community Relations Officer for the West Hartford Police Department, where she has

served for 16 years. She visits 6 schools in town on a rotating basis and speaks with students from K-12 on various safety issues and concerns. She talked about the "Citizens Academy" and the "College Academy" which offers internships and a way for college students to really experience first hand what the daily routines are of a police officer so they can determine if law enforcement is the right career choice for them.

Leigh then focused on her main topic of discussion which was common scams rearing their ugly head in our communities. She gave examples of the current popular scams invading residents and businesses. Common scams are often telemarketing scams preying upon senior citizens. She mentioned the Lottery Scam, the IRS Scam, Fake Accident Ploy, Charity Scam and others. Leigh lets us know about what red flags we should look for so that we don't get pulled into a fraudulent scenario and offer up our credit card numbers or social security info.

She also covered identity theft and how we can be vigilant read the signals of a scam before it is too late ! Finally, she encouraged us to play a part in deterrence and shred our important paperwork/documents when we are done with it instead of just throwing it out in the trash. She said we should rely upon our intuition and when something sounds too good to be true it probably is. She said that she and her police officer colleagues rely upon their intuition all the time in their line of duty.

No Treasurer's Report given since Meyer Frankel was on vacation.
The Secretary's Report (Charlie Dobrow): Minutes from our last meeting were passed.

Committee Reports:

Michael Croll updated us on the Raffle whose drawing is slated to occur on June 3rd

Michael has secured some very nice prizes/gift certificates from local restaurants and eateries, even a top flight restaurant in Cambridge, MA. Charlie hopes to secure a gift card from Vito's Restaurant in Wethersfield also. Tickets are \$10 each and Michael is wrapping up some legalities on the Raffle tickets and should have them printed and ready to distribute in a few weeks. He will notify members once the tickets are physically available and is willing to meet members at their homes or a mutually convenient location to distribute them so we can all start selling them ASAP !

Old Business:

The Crown Supermarket Solicitation Day will be on Sunday, March 29th from 9am – 5pm. Hal Levy is the point person and Probus signage and literature will be stationed on site at the Crown to help us promote the good works Probus does in the community

Please show up for your assigned timeslots to man the booth !

Memorial Day Parade Balloon Sale:

Fundraiser on Monday, May 25th last year, however Mark Goldberg and Michael Croll will not be able to attend due to prior commitments. Mark will make sure that the balloons and helium tanks in his basement get to someone else in the group for us to use. The day begins early at around 7:00 a.m. for the blowing up of the balloons and running them out to the street for sale. Parade kick-off is at 10:00 a.m. and we need volunteer runners to get the balloons to Probians who are walking the sidewalks and making the sales. There may not be a May meeting

(details forthcoming). Installation Dinner is set for Wednesday, June 3rd

New Business:

It was proposed that our Social Night occur this Spring, possibly in May when we might not have a monthly meeting and Mark Goldberg will check to see if his home is available for this gathering. Details to follow.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

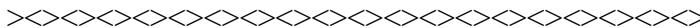
Respectfully Submitted,
Charlie Dobrow
Secretary

***Welcome New Member of the Probus Club of Greater Hartford
Hartford ; Mark Roffer.***

Hello Greater Hartford Probus Club,
My name is Mark Roffer and I am a 33 year old self-employed web designer (for over 10 years now) currently residing in Avon with my Fiancee, but born and raised in West Hartford. After many years of assisting National Probus with their website as well as the Bike the Beach Fundraising website for the Bridgeport Probus Club. I am excited to finally become an active and engaging member of the Greater Hartford Probus Club. Supporting an organization that supports others (in my eyes) a necessary for a prosperous and growing community. I am looking forward to further assisting the Greater Hartford Probus Club in any way needed, now and into the future.

GREATER HARTFORD PROBUS BOARD 2014-2015:

- President:** David Hoff
- 1ST Vice-President:** David Maslan
- 2ND Vice-President:** Michael Croll
- Secretary:** Charles Dobrow
- Treasurer:** Meyer Frankel
- Probus National Rep:** Steve Blotner
- Member at Large:** Bob Goldberg



Reminder: Next Probus Meeting (Speaker):

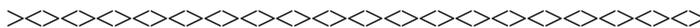
(Please note the new time)

Date: Wednesday April 15, 2015

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: American School for the Deaf
139 N Main St, West Hartford, CT 06107
(860) 570-2300

Speaker: Guest Speaker: Jamie Lazaroff, an advocate for individuals with disabilities, as he has gone through life experiencing, so many of these challenges, himself.



Synagogue Chosen For Inclusion Initiative.

(Sunday March 8, 2015 Hartford Courant - West Hartford)

The Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford, has been selected, along with 12 other leading Jewish congregations in the country, to participated in the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ). Ruderman Inclusion Action Community, a new leadership initiative to fully allow people with disabilities and their families to participate comfortably in thriving congregational life.

Ira Henowitz, Emanuel Synagogue President, said “We are excited to participate in this new opportunity to continue building on our strong core belief of inclusion and accessibility for all who which to experience our mission-focused, purpose-driven Synagogue community.”

“We very much appreciate United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism for launching this initiative and thank Ruderman Family Foundation for proving the generous grant to make this all possible.”

Rabbi David J. Small, he Congregation’s spiritual leader, looks forward to participating and said, “the inclusion initiative will help us continue to grow and improve us a highly inclusive kehillah. Our commitment to make the Emmaneul an open and engaging place for all people is very strong and has been for many years. We believe in Kevod HaBeriot, upholding the honor and dignity of all people and the recognition that each of us is created in the Devine Image. That awareness is the foundation of our community standards and our personal relationships.”

Nancy Fichman, an Emmanuel Synagogue member, educator and advocate for people with special needs, will serve as the lead liaison, for the community planning and training. Through a grant, USCJ will work with the multigenerational West Hartford congregation to develop a comprehensive vision and action plan on greater inclusion. The goal is to create a fully accessible Emanuel Synagogue congregation, where everything – from the entryways to all of the building’s most important and sacred spaces, from interactive educational programs to participatory prayer services, from social activities to the very attitudes of congregants and leaders – allows people with disabilities and their families to full engage in a welcoming, meaningful, caring and inspiring sacred Jewish community.

For more information on The Emanuel Synagogue, Contact Myra Emerick, Synagogue Administration, at 860-236-1275 or myra@emanuelsynagogue.org or visit emanuelsynagogue.org.

A vibrant, egalitarian Conservative Jewish community, The Emanuel Synagogue empowers its members to seek a meaningful and robust path to Jewish values for everyday living. Its down-to-earth ambience is a welcome respite from social pressures of contemporary American life.

Rita Blotner Celebrates 102nd Birthday

Rita Blotner, mother of Steven Blotner,

Celebrated her 102nd birthday on Sunday March 15.

Rita was born on March 15, 1913.

She has voted in so many presidential elections that she has forgotten how many. She literally was around when the Ford model T was introduced.

The party took place in New Jersey with her family.

The party continued at an Italian restaurant.

Rita was able to blow out the candle on her cake and was quite thrilled to see so many family members in attendance.

She thanked everyone for making the party.

Speeches were made to her on this remarkable achievement.

Rita was a consummate self taught kosher chef.

Her food was so good that friends and family members would drive from New England for Passover, Thanksgiving, etc for her dinners and stay over at her house.

Rita's husband was Carl.

Rita raised three sons: Steven, Robert and Donald who is deceased.

An Easy Fund Raiser

Occasion Cards

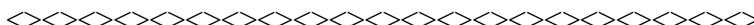
As you know, the Probus Club is 100% committed to helping those that, for no fault of their own, cannot help themselves. One of our fund raising events that we sponsor is the ability for us to be able to accept contributions to honor, praise, memorialize or make a special acknowledgement to someone who is either in our presence or in our memory.

By you making a contribution to the Probus Club, our very own Bruce Stanger will process your contribution; inform the donee that a contribution was made to Probus to recognize him or her and for the event that is being recognized. Also, an acknowledgement will be sent to you, the donor, to thank you for your charitable contribution to the Probus Club. As always, 100% of donations to the Probus Club are used exclusively for charitable purposes.

Consider the Probus Club when honoring or remembering someone special.

Bruce Stanger can be reached at:
Attorney Bruce Stanger
433 South Main Street
Suite 112
West Hartford, CT 06110

The check should be made payable to The Probus Club and forwarded to Bruce along with the information necessary for a proper acknowledgement. Thank you for supporting The Probus Club.



2015 COMING EVENTS FOR GREATER HARTFORD PROBUS CLUB

April 15, 2015: Dinner Meeting at the American School for the Deaf:
Guest Speaker, Jamie Lazaroff, an advocate for individuals with disabilities, as he has gone through life experiencing, so many of these challenges, himself.

May 25, 2015 Memorial Day: Annual West Hartford Parade Balloon Sale.

June 3, 2015 Installation Dinner at the American School for the Deaf

Meyer Frankel, Editor

The Telescope is the monthly newsletter of the Greater Hartford PROBUS Club