



April 2016

# *The Telescope*

## News for the Greater Hartford PROBUS Club

### President's Message

Dear Probus members,

The Special Needs Education Program has awarded the first recipients this past week. I want to thank the committee comprised of Steve Blotner, Bob Dobrow, Mark Goldberg and co-chaired by David Maslin and Ed Peltier.

There will be a presentation concerning this at our next meeting and more to come.

Probus has reinvented itself and there is so much new and important opportunities for all of us now because of the hard work and dedication from the above mentioned committee. Please take the time to find out more and see how you can get involved.

Last but not least please remember to think of inviting people to come to our meetings.

All the best.

David Hoff.

### **PROBUS MEETING OF 3/16/16: MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

**President David Hoff** offered welcoming remarks to the gathered membership and our guests for the evening.

Chapter Historian Dr. Alexandra Flowers was unable to make this meeting so

**Parliamentarian Syd Elkin** gave a brief history of our club for the benefit of our guests and new members. Probus has been in existence here in Connecticut since 1955.

Syd commented that we do fundraising activities for the developmentally disabled and “we keep it social”. We also learned that Probus worked with Chris McNabow years ago to help finish a group home basement (e.g. Arrapaho in Newington). Chris’ dream back in the day was to create a camp for intellectually disabled children operating on a 24/7/365 basis.

According to club member and **National President Mark Goldberg**, Camp Horizons is one of the best facilities of its kind in the entire world. He added that currently Camp Horizons is in the process of a huge capital campaign to underwrite their \$3.5 million gym and stage project.

Later during our meeting, Mark addressed the upcoming Camp Horizons Gala which occurs every 1 ½ years. This festive fundraiser will be taking place on Saturday, April 30th from 6pm – 10pm at the camp in South Windham. Price is \$175 per person for this major fundraiser. There will be bands, dancing, delicious food and an open bar. Mark wants to get commitments from our Probians so we can fill up 2 tables to support this meaningful cause. He will be sending out an email to the membership so please consider attending!

Black Tie is optional.

**President Hoff** asked that we do our member introductions a little differently tonight. We went around the horseshoe table configuration and each of us said who we are and what attracted us to Probus. However, we also mentioned what our job/career/hobby is. This more personal introduction painted a little picture and gave a profile of each member.

President Hoff said you never know, if you are looking for a real estate lawyer, a plumber, a locksmith or someone involved in insurance or medicine, etc. that person may be sitting next to you here at our chapter!

**Michael Croll, Chairman of the Raffle**, gave his report early tonight because he had to leave our meeting midway through to attend another board meeting. He also reminded everyone that the special guest for our June Installation Dinner will be the Curator of the New Britain Museum of American Art! With regard to the Annual Raffle, he said that he will have the tickets printed and ready to sell by April 20th. Tickets again this year will cost \$10 each, and hopefully this will not “raffle any feathers”! Michael reminded us that the raffle money collected goes back into programming, camperships, etc. and can also go towards our Annual Picnic in September.

**Mark Goldberg introduced Steve Sandler** from Beth Hillel Synagogue in Bloomfield and predicted that Steve will be a great addition to our club. Steve is a Speech & Language Pathologist at CREC’s River Street School.

Our newest member Russell Smith then introduced his lady friend whom he invited to attend and see what Probus is all about. Her name is Shakela and she works at UTC/Otis Elevator in Farmington. She has worked there for 17 years in their Finance Department. Welcome to Probus!

**Bob Goldberg re-introduced us to Howard Raff** who thinking about re-joining our chapter now that he has time in his schedule to devote to our cause once again. He is an audiologist and past 2 term President of Probus!

**Shai Elkayam** brought his parents to our dinner meeting. His dad is a plumber and both of his parents were happy to witness a typical Probus meal and business meeting.

**Hal Levy** spoke briefly about the upcoming Crown Supermarket fundraiser on Sunday, April 17th. He circulated the sign-up sheet again to solidify volunteer timeslots.

**Charlie Dobrow** brought up an idea about the need for some additional signage to quickly catch the eye of the food shoppers as they approach the store entrance. He said that last year many people breezed by and did not stop to donate or read our brochures. Charlie suggested that a quick-hit bullet message stating what our mission is would be advisable to display since it is hard to engage people in meaningful dialogue as they buzz into the Crown. Proposed signage/banner verbiage would be: Please Donate to the Probus Club: Helping to enrich the lives of Developmentally Disabled Citizens in Greater Hartford since 1955! **President Hoff and Hal Levy** asked Charlie to obtain a price quotation for the signage at Staples. This sign/banner will be able to be used at other Probus events like the Annual Picnic, etc.

**Mark Goldberg** gave a quick synopsis of what our **Memorial Day Parade balloon sale** is, especially for the sake of the new members. He will order 750 balloons for this year’s parade and if any non-inflated ones are left over we will keep them for next year’s parade.

**David Maslin** presented an update on the status of the **Special Needs Grants Program**. He, Ed Peltier, Steven Blotner, Mark Goldberg and Dr. Robert Dobrow met on March 14th to review progress on the several items of high priority for development of the project. This Board of Directors also decided that they should convene again on an approximate bi-weekly basis in order to keep the momentum going. David spoke on the status of grant applications. We have now sent RFP’s to 5 institutions (Gengras Center, Grace Webb, Intensive Learning Center, ASD and CREC). According to David, follow up communications indicate that all of these schools are in process of completing the grant

applications and we should be in receipt of them shortly. David touched upon the communication tools being deployed. He said that Marc Roffer's efforts are already underway in the construction of the website for this project. The website will allow for navigation to various tabs such as About Us (which will include a mission statement for the project and attribution of the project's sponsorship by Probus), How We Work (providing details on the grant making process and the requirement for obtaining a grant), Recent Grants (which eventually will provide access to a full catalog of past grants), Contact Us (contact info. and point persons). David also stated that the Board for this project is promoting the project via the website, quality printed materials such as letterhead and a marketing brochure. Mark Goldberg has been developing a database of all contacts with the project to facilitate future communications through the website and associated email. David also advised us that work continues on assembling the required documents for securing tax exempt status specific to the project. Finally, Mark Goldberg encouraged all Probus members, even those not on the project's board, to consider themselves to be conduits and liaisons from the corporate dollars to the end users, the teachers.

**Mark Goldberg also updated us on the Probus Candy Project** which he heads up. He placed a new machine at Sally & Bob's Diner in West Hartford Center. David Hoff will be the point person to service/re-stock this machine and collect the money. Tom Donohue will service 2 Simsbury locations (Little City and Antonio's).

**Under Good & Welfare**, we happily learned that **Hal Levy** had major surgery last month and it was successful and he is now cancer free! This was prostate cancer surgery. Hal looks great and is happy to attend our meetings and head up the Crown Supermarket solicitation. FYI, 5 Probusians sent Probus Occasion Cards to lend their support to Hal. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Charlie Dobrow**

**Secretary**

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**The "Supporting Special Needs Education"** project went "Live" on Friday April 15 with the presentation of two \$500 grant awards to the American School for the Deaf.

The presentation took place during ASD's Founders' Day 2016 celebration. ASD Executive Director Jeffrey Bravin opened the program with a warm welcome of the large assembly of students, teachers and parents, as well as a number of notable guests including West Hartford Deputy Mayor Shari Cantor, State Representative Brian Becker, and University of Hartford President (emeritus) Humphrey Tonkin. SSNE directors Ed Peltier, Mark Goldberg, Dr. Robert Dobrow and David Maslin represented Probus .

Deputy Mayor Cantor delivered a proclamation from the West Hartford Mayor's Office declaring Deaf Heritage Week. Community Service Awards were presented to State Senator Beth Bye and State Representative Toni Walker (accepted on their behalf by Shari Cantor and Brian Becker) for their strong legislative support of special needs education.

Ed Peltier and David Maslin rose to the podium to present the Probus grants. In their remarks, David indicated that the Probus Club is "extremely pleased to begin what we hope to be a continuing relationship in support of ASD's critically important programs". Ed called the grantee-teachers to the stage and described their respective projects: Tommy Meehan will lead the Classroom to Table project, in which SSNE funds will be used to acquire mobile Tower Gardens, providing a science, nutrition and collaborative learning experience for as many as 150 students. Karen Wilson and Cheyenne Rhodes will use their grant to expand and apply the

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) model into community-based activities and events. Earlier this year, the ASD-PACES program was awarded Model Site recognition by the CT State Department of Education, Special Education Resource Center (SERC) for its implementation of the PBIS framework.

Following the awards, the attendees were treated to a variety of artistic student presentations by winners of the Marie Jean Philip ASL Poetry, Storytelling and Deaf Art Competition, and a highly entertaining musical drama presentation titled “GreASD”.

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**Long time Probus member Jerry Zetoff pass away (March 2016).**

Gerald 'Jerry' Hillel Zetoff, 73 years of age, of Bloomfield, died on Monday, March 28, 2016. He was the beloved husband of Susan (Handleman) Zetoff. Born in Hartford, he was the son of the late Max and Irene (Dolgoruck) Zetoff. Jerry enjoyed volunteering and **was an active member of Probus**, The Bloomfield Jaycees and the Connecticut chapter of the JCI Senate. Jerry loved boating on the Connecticut River and spending time at Hays Haven Marina in Chester. He also enjoyed playing racquetball with friends. A graduate of Weaver High School and the University of Hartford, Jerry studied Accounting and later earned his CPA designation. He worked in Aetna's tax department for many years and ran his own tax business.

Besides his wife, he leaves his son, Jason Zetoff and his wife Janette of Sandy Hook; his daughter, Robyn Delaney and her husband Derek of North Andover, MA; his brother Michael Zetoff and his wife Beverly of West Hartford; his sister, Renee Zetoff of West Hartford; sister-in-law, Donna Lehr and brother-in-law, Greg Buckle of Quechee, Vermont and his three grandsons, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. The family is grateful for the wonderful and loving care he received at the Arden Court of Avon and would like to thank the entire staff for the kindness and dignity they gave him. Funeral Services will be held at 11:30 am on Friday, April 1, 2016 in the Chapel of the Weinstein Mortuary, 640 Farmington Ave., Hartford, CT with Rabbi David J. Small officiating. Interment will follow at the Emanuel Synagogue Cemetery, 1361 Berlin Turnpike, Wethersfield, CT. The family will receive relatives and friends immediately following the Interment at the Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford, CT. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the [Alzheimer's Association](#) , 2075 Silas Deane Highway, Rocky Hill, CT 06067, the Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford, CT 06117, or to the [charity of the donor's choice](#) .

Published in The Hartford Courant on Mar. 30, 2016 -

Note: The following Probians Attended Jerry's funeral:

- |                         |                        |                         |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Syd Elkin,              | Mark & Ellie Goldberg, | Don Miller,             |
| Dan Fine,               | David Hoff,            | Seymour & Judy Melnick, |
| Meyer & Sheila Frankel, | David Maslin,          | Al Rothstein            |

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**Reminder:**        **Next Probus Meeting (Speaker):**  
**Date:** Wednesday April 20, 2016  
**Time:** 6:00 PM  
**Location:** American School for the Deaf  
139 N Main St, West Hartford, CT 06107  
(860) 570-2300



**The following is a schedule of the Probus Club's 2015-2016 dinner meetings:**

**Note:** All dinner meetings below are at the American School for the Deaf.

May 18, 2016                      Wednesday at 6:00 PM: Speaker  
June 8, 2016 Installation Dinner Wednesday at 6:00 PM: Speaker:



**Probus Club's 2015-2016 officers:**

- President – David Hoff**
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – David Maslin**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Michael Croll**
- Secretary – Charles Dobrow**
- Treasurer – Meyer Frankel**

**Probus National Rep - Steve Blotner**

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**Reminder: Probus Club's Annual Balloon Sale:**

**At West Hartford's Memorial Day Parade.**

**Monday, May 30, 2016.**

**More details forthcoming.**



**Probus Occasion Cards:**

**Donations in memory of Jerry Zetoff – Condolences:**

- Michael and Shelley Barker.**
- Steven and Linda Blotner.**
- Meyer and Sheila Frankel.**
- Mark and Ellie Goldberg.**
- Bruce and Linda Stanger.**



# 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.

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### **Probus's Crown Supermarket fundraiser Sunday, April 17th.**

**The Probus Club's Sunday 04-17-2016 solicitation at the Crown:**

**\$404.73 collected.**

**Our thanks to Hal Levy who chairs this event and all who attended.**

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Meyer Frankel, Editor

The "Telescope" is the monthly newsletter of the Probus Club of Greater Hartford.