



# **WEDNESDAY WRAP-UP**

## **Of the Geneva, New York Rotary Club**

[www.GenevaRotaryClub.org](http://www.GenevaRotaryClub.org)

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Miss a meeting? Make it up at  
[www.RotaryEClubOne.org](http://www.RotaryEClubOne.org)

**Wednesday,  
Oct. 16,  
2019**

Next week:  
Helen Kelley  
Breast Cancer Awareness

President Mary Lawthers opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, the Four Way Test and giving an invocation.

### **Visiting Rotarians**

Dave Hannan – District Governor  
Allison Hildebrandt – Canandaigua and also one of our speakers

### **Guests**

Pam Hannan – wife of Dave Hannan  
Maria Bucci – speaker

### **Interactors**

Rye Weber  
Emily McFadden

**Today's Five Minute Interview: Helen Kelley and Charlie Wilson** (details at end of report)

Next week: Susie Flick and Shad Cook

### **Announcements**

- Camp ONSEYAWA dinner is cancelled due to slow ticket sales
- Santa Train tickets are going fast! 4:00 train is already sold out! See Dave for tickets.
- Bill Flood reminded us of the Highway Clean-up on November 2. We still need volunteers. He guarantees excellent weather!

- The Boo and Brew 5k event October 26 at Rylie J's will benefit Camp Onseyawa. If you are volunteering for this event, show up at Rylie J's this Sunday, Oct. 20 at noon to go through procedures.

## **50/50**

Jerry Forcier split \$73/36 with Polio Plus (*Again?!*)

## **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

We celebrated the Charter of our Geneva Rotary on October 1, 1919. Shad Cook opened the ceremony by showing the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary video we produced for the SAS dinner. He then introduced Dave Hannan, our District Governor, who presented a certificate from Rotary International.

## **Program**

Dave Cook introduced our speakers, from **Ontario Co. Habitat for Humanity**.

Our first presenter was **Allison Hildebrandt, Volunteer and Community Outreach Coordinator**. Highlights included:

- We are facing an affordable housing crisis in the county
- 24 homes have been built or rehabbed in Ontario Co. since 1990
- Local volunteers contributed over 20,800 hours of their time to support the program in FY 2019.
- Children of Habitat homeowners are 25% more likely to finish school; 116% more likely to graduate from college, and 59% more likely to become homeowners themselves.
- Through new home construction and home improvements, Habitat for Humanity of Ontario Co. has added over \$2 million of value to the county tax rolls.
- Allison shared a story of one local resident who, since putting down roots in her forever home, has earned a master's degree from St. John Fisher College and is a Spanish teacher at Geneva High School!

Our second presenter was **Maria Bucci, Women Build Coordinator**. The mission of **Women Build** is "Women working side by side, learning new skills, supporting one another.

- They have learned how to rough in electric, hang drywall, build a shed, construct a sidewalk and lay flooring!
- Over the next few months they will offer several opportunities for volunteers to assist with building projects on homesites in Ontario County. The estimated budget for these projects is \$12,000.
- If you would like to make a contribution, check out their website: [OntarioHabitat.org/WomenBuild](http://OntarioHabitat.org/WomenBuild).

## **Today's interview summary**

### **Helen Kelley**

#### **The Early Years**

Helen is the youngest of three children, born to Mitchell and Leonore Chalek, in Providence RI. This is remarkable only as it demonstrates that Mitch (a chemical engineer) and Lee (a chemist), who met while both working for the 'Manhattan Project', could create pro-social products as well as those that had more of a destructive potential.

#### **Education. . .**

. . . according to Mitch and Lee, was a key element in the formula for a successful and meaningful life. Helen is grateful to her parents for providing her with a stellar experience at Tufts University in Medford, MA. (despite their disappointment that she did not attend Brown, as had her brothers). She majored in psychology (specifically social/experimental psychology) and as an undergrad, she published a few papers on Helping Behavior. Her studies necessitated that she repeatedly 'faint' in an MBT subway stop, spill the contents of a suitcase at Logan Airport, and be 'robbed' of her purse at the Boston Public Library. Aside from providing her with an opportunity to hone her acting skills, these experiments offered her keen insights for her current career. (More on that later)

#### **Career**

Helen met her former husband at Tufts and a few years after graduation, they moved to Palo Alto, CA where he attended Stanford Medical School. Helen was on a fast track to the top in department store retail management, and became a buyer for Macy's California. At that point, she was pregnant with her second child, and when almost killed on a foggy plane ride to the middle of nowhere, CA, she decided to become a full time mom. The family learned to live on tuna noodle casserole, student loans and a bit of income from some child care and homemade jewelry sales.

Dr. Kelley matched at SUNY Upstate in Syracuse, NY in 1989. Fast forward to 2003, with four children and a newly minted divorce, Helen returned to her retail roots and opened a women's boutique. Unfortunately, Syracuse is not the mecca of fashion she had hoped for, and in 2007, the impending 'recession' forced the business to close. A friend suggested she would be a good match for a career in Development (ie Fundraising), and THAT's where the experiments in Helping Behavior come into play...

Helen has been fortunate to have found some great positions in support of wonderful missions, in the non-profit world including:

- Coordinator of Alumni and Annual Fund - Christian Brothers Academy in Syracuse 2007-2010
- Director of Development - Hiscock Legal Aid Society, Syracuse 2010-2013
- Director of Alumni and Annual Fund – Christian Brothers Academy 2013-2018
- Director of Development – Finger Lakes Health, Geneva, NY – 2018-present

## **Miscellaneous Personal Stuff**

Helen enjoys singing with the Syracuse Pops Chorus, where she also serves on the Board as fundraiser/grant writer (surprise!) She also enjoys gardening, knitting, consignment shopping and maintaining her brain health by playing innumerable hours of *Bubble Drop* on her iPad. She is a big fan of animals, usually including her granddog, Buddy, who has lived with her, by default, for close to 10 years (since her son was a sophomore in college and just HAD to have a dog.)

Helen's biggest joy is spending time with her four grown children\* – the gifted, creative and pro-social products of a now dissolved compound.

## **Charlie Wilson**

Charlie is so old that much of this will seem like ancient history.

Charlie was born in Geneva a few years after World War II. His father, Joe, was a Navy SeaBee in the Pacific during the war and his late Uncle George was a Geneva Legion commander.

A Geneva native, he grew up in Seneca Falls, where he started playing golf at Seneca Falls Country Club at age 12 (more later). A Junior Membership for the summer was \$25. Played on the Mynderse Academy golf team and rode the bench as a reserve on the football team.

## **Break for family stuff**

In 1974 Charlie married Carol Shafer of Geneva. According to Charlie, she is a saint and he is one lucky guy. Their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary is this month. In 1978 their daughter, Elizabeth, was born. She has a doctorate in immunology from the University of Rochester and is doing cancer research for Pfizer Corp. in San Diego. Liz is a lifetime rower and plans to row at the Head of the Charles in Boston this month.

## **Back to (him)**

He graduated from Mynderse Academy in 1965 and went to Cornell University, where he escaped with a degree in the Class of 1969. NHL goalie Ken Dryden was in his class, and they would often visit the same sorority. Actor, Cornell running back and former NFL player Ed Marinaro was a year behind him. He should have won the Heisman Trophy.

He and his buddies did not go to Woodstock that summer of '69 and he started job hunting in August. The then-*Geneva Times* hired him as the Seneca Falls reporter, and his office was on the second floor of the Hotel Gould where he typed stories on a manual typewriter.

Charlie and Phil Beckley started at the *Times* within a few weeks of each other.

Phil went from reporter to publisher of the paper and during his tenure he oversaw the name change to *Finger Lakes Times*. Not sure of the year he joined Rotary, but Phil was his sponsor.

Charlie left the *Times* after five years as a reporter/editor and became the Geneva/Ontario County reporter for the Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle*, with a cozy office at 46 Linden St., close to the police station and everything else. Wrote stories on a Western Union teletype machine.

Charlie's first story of consequence at the *Democrat* was the LaFayette Inn fire in January 1970. He got the call in Seneca Falls and raced to Geneva on 5&20 in time to see flames licking the sky from the top of Bean's Hill. A Ponderosa is there now.

He worked for the *Democrat* for 35 years, mostly as an editor in the business, local and editorial sections. He wrote the final editorial of the afternoon Rochester *Times-Union* with a colleague, which closed down by Gannett in 1997. Was editor of the suburban *Our Towns* sections for several years and retired in 2007.

Now, about that that golf. It's bragging time. His golf game now ranges from atrocious to non-existent, but it hasn't always been that way. He was 14 when he got his first hole-in-one, at Seneca Falls Country Club in 1962. The second hole in one was at the former Seneca Lake Country Club in 1991. The last two holes in one were right here at Geneva Country Club in 1997 and 2014.

Many, many golfers are far, far better players than Charlie, but those four lucky shots are in the books. Now he's looking for free golf lessons, or more luck.

**Submitted by Ruth Leo**

**Four way test:**

**"Of the things we think, say or do:"**

- 1. Is it The Truth?**
- 2. Is it Fair to All Concerned?**
- 3. Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friendships?**
- 4. Will it be beneficial for All Concerned?**

**Mary Lawthers**  
President

**Dave Cook**  
Vice President

**Ford Weiskittel**  
Secretary

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Club Treasurer