



WEDNESDAY WRAP-UP

Of the Geneva, New York Rotary Club

www.GenevaRotaryClub.org

Miss a meeting? Make it up at
www.RotaryEClubOne.org

**Wednesday,
July 22, 2020**

Next week:
Joyce Jacobsen, HWS
President

President Dave led us in the pledge and Four Way Test. Phil Beckley gave the invocation

Visiting Rotarian

Rotary District Governor Linda Kohl

Guests

- Polly Clark
- Sue Adams
- Nancy Bauder

50/50 Carol Chester split \$88/\$44 with polio plus.

Paul Harris Recipient

The ceremony was led by Jim Dickson and Linda Kohl.

Jim Dickson opened the ceremony by giving a background history of the Paul Harris Fellowship.

He then introduced Ruth Leo who shared the following introduction:

Christopher Lavin was born on Columbus Day Oct. 12 1959, one of nine children of Tom and Josephine Lavin in Peekskill NY. From birth Chris was a socializer without the mandatory 6ft. distancing. He was everywhere and up early, earning at age of 5 the nickname "Chanticleer" for his penchant for walking into every one's room early in the morning and waking them up so he could talk to them. His father taught Latin and Public Speaking at a private school in Westchester, two subjects that prepared Chris well for his incarnations as a newspaperman, school administrator and ultimately

director of a Boys and Girls Club. His mother's DNA, which included a sharp intelligence (her father a NYS Supreme Court Justice in Manhattan) and her non-stop good nature were all the legacy Chris would ever need to succeed in life.

When the family moved upstate to Geneva in 1970 young Chris took up football, starring for the junior league Giants football team led by Coach Sam Passalacqua. Chris' 95 yard touchdown run from scrimmage is still a record, at least in his mind. Chris later went on to basketball glory at DeSales High school where he starred for three varsity seasons for Coach John Fitzgerald at DeSales High where the Saints went to the sectionals taking on Roosevelt Bowie and other big time college bound players. When not shooting hoops, Chris was busy with straight-A school work while at the same time working as a dishwasher at Club 86 in order to raise money for his favorite charity at the time: himself.

While at DeSales, Chris met owner of the Finger Lakes Times Sam Williams who took a liking to the loquacious youngster and offered him a job as an intern at the Times. The rest is history. Chris thrived in the newroom and then won a Geneva Scholarship that landed him at Hobart College where he got his 4 yr. degree while also working full time for the Times. In Chris' spare time..... actually , there was none.

After graduation from Hobart Chris moved on to a reporting job with the Rochester D&C where he won awards for reporting, including a feature piece based on the experiences of two of his older brothers during the Vietnam war. He soon caught the eye of larger newspapers and was hired as an editor, first at the well-regarded St. Pete Times in Florida followed by a long and productive stint as the world desk editor with the San Diego Tribune. After a long career in newspapering Chris pivoted to education, becoming the admissions director at the The La Hoya Country Day School in La Hoya California. In 2014 and with his mother in nursing care Chris decided it was time to move back to the area and be closer to his family . He was hired as director of the Geneva Boys and Girls Club where his multi-faceted people skills and background in management, community planning and fundraising have been on display from day one. Chris also sits on multiple boards of directors of other charitable concerns in the area who value the input his varied background provides. When not busy with these concerns, Chris can sometimes be found plunking out piano songs for residents of Geneva Living Center North where his mother was in care until her passing in 2018.

Although Geneva was and now is again, home to Chris, he continues to remain close to family and friends in San Diego, including his partner and friend Gina Garcia and his son Will who is an up and coming chef in top end restaurants in the La Hoya area.

Well, it should come as no surpris that CHRIS LAVIN is our next Paul Harris Fellow! Congratulations, Chris!

Program

In addition to being the recipient of a Paul Harris award, Chris was also the guest speaker this week. Chris began by expressing gratitude to the community for supporting the Boys and Girls Club. During COVID, the club switched gears to make and deliver approx. \$8,000 worth of food to those in need. He explained that none of this would have been possible without food donations and financial support from community members and businesses. Chris described the project as still in “mid-marathon” as they continue to provide food but will be transitioning from hot food to grocery boxes soon. He said he is in it for the long haul! Some contributions to the project include:

- Cornell who provided milk which the club has distributed to a variety of communities and who will provide cooking advice and recipes for the grocery boxes
- Freihofers provided bread
- The Wyckoff Foundation provided vans used for delivery
- Saturday night dinners were added as a result of a grant given to St. Peter's Church
- Bella's Restaurant and B&B Market and other local restaurants provided canned goods and a variety of food items
- Generous donations from individuals who wanted to support the project

Announcements

- The picnic is Wednesday August 12 from 5:30-8:30 at the Yacht Club. Please sign up!
- Jason Haag announced the Cub Scouts car wash at Hydrant House company on Saturday August 15 from 9-12. Stop by and get your car washed!
- Dave Cook thanked Dick Austin for taking John Watson's place as a greeter

Happy/Sad Dollars

- Mickey Shultz congratulated Chris Lavin on a well-deserved honor and emphasized that while the community has helped make the project possible, his role as organizer was key to making it happen! Also Mickey has been working a lot during COVID at FoxRun and shared that people have been great and compliant with masking and distancing
- Dave Cook fined Chris Lavin and John Watson for their phone's that rang during the meeting
- Dave Cook fined Phil Beckley for his picture in the paper as “Grand Poobah” at Geneva General Hospital
- Gerry Forcier had a sad dollar because his refrigerator died and he is living out of coolers for the next 8 days until the repair man arrives
- Diana Perry was happy that her son Owen has been golfing with Dave Cook and he has taught Dave a number of new words. She also mentioned her gratitude to those who have reached out to support her as she recently was laid off.

- Dave Cook congratulated Chris Lavin on his well-deserved Paul Harris award and is impressed by his ability to raise funds and wishes he had that gift.
- Dave Cook mentioned that Trina Newton has turned in her Mrs. Claus Suit

Submitted by Chris FitzGerald

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?

Dave Cook	Stephanie Hesler	Jerry Forcier	Ford Weiskittel	Bob McFadden	Mike Rusinko
President	President-Elect	Vice President	Secretary	Club Treasurer	Foundation Treasurer