

## **Spoke January 19, 2021**

**Presiding:** Lisa Wisotsky

**Recorder:** Steve Wiessner

**Guests:** Ann Sparanese, invited by Lisa Wisotsky, wanted to see Mike Passow's talk and David Braun also attended

**Visiting Rotarians:** Ray Cywinski of the Northern Valley Club, is the District Governor Nominee (will be District Governor in 2022/23) and has worked for United Water/SUEZ over 40 years, Jim Lupfer, President of the Northern Valley Club.

Lisa welcomed everyone and introduced Mayor Michael Wildes who led the flag salute a little after noon, and Lisa then introduced Jennie Katsaros, who gave today's message of inspiration from Dr. Martin Luther King focused on love and peace.

Lisa noted that she attended the MLK Day March on Monday and mentioned it was quite moving. She then went to the Center for Food Action's Weekend Snack Pak program at the Grieco School. We presented a check for \$2,000 to CFA, and Mike Passow, Scott Reddin and Devry Pazant volunteered at the Snack Pak event. Lisa is really proud of our club, especially about how our club is addressing food insecurity issues in and around Englewood.

Mike Passow noted that he enjoyed volunteering, saying he felt good about volunteering and got good exercise!

### **Program:**

Lisa introduced today's presenter, our own Dr. Mike Passow. Mike has been an Englewood resident since September 1954, when he started 1st grade at Roosevelt School. He is a career science educator, teaching 44 years in middle school, high school, and college classrooms, finishing his career at Dwight Morrow High School.

Mike is associated with the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University, where he organizes the "Earth2Class" Workshops. He is a current member of the Englewood Environmental Commission, and serves on the Board of Flat Rock Brook Nature Association and West Side Infant Day Care Center.

Mike's presentation involved the Englewood Environmental Trail which consists of 15 signs erected around our City that provide information about the geological and social history of Englewood and our vicinity. It was originally posted as an educational project of the Englewood Environmental Commission, and

supported in part by the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC).

The idea for the Environmental Trail came from a grant opportunity from ANJEC. Englewood is now 4.9 square miles, but Englewood used to be larger, spanning from the Hudson River to the Hackensack River. Teaneck seceded from Englewood in 1891, and Englewood Cliffs in 1895, and the City of Englewood was incorporated in 1899.

Our region is made up of reddish-brown soil, which created the basis for the brownstones in New York City, a popular building material in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, including at the Lyceum, currently on the corner of E. Palisade Avenue and Engle Street.

The Palisades are formed from volcanic diabase rock. The East Side of Englewood is made up of the igneous (volcanic) rock, and the west side is softer sedimentary rocks. In the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, there was extensive quarrying of the Palisades for the diabase rock, and preservation of the land to stop the quarrying led to the creation of the Palisade Interstate Park Commission. The word Palisades describes the vertical columns near the Hudson River.

Englewood was once called the Queen City of the Palisades and the Bedroom for Wall Street. It was home to many financiers, like Thomas Lamont and Dwight Morrow.

Englewood has an interesting environmental history that goes back over 200 million years to when the ancient continent of Pangaea began to break up. Our environment has been shaped by erosion of mountains, deposition of sands and muds in long-vanished lakes where dinosaurs walked, the advance and retreat of glaciers, and changes in ecosystems from something similar to today's tundra through pine forests to modern trees and animals.

The \$1,500 grant from ANJEC to the Environmental Commission supported the creation of 15 historical marker signs placed around the City to share this fascinating history.

Some of the locations of the signs are:

By the Liberty Pole

By the First Presbyterian Church

Flat Rock Brook Nature Center

The Englewood Canal (Connecting Englewood to Overpeck Creek)

Glacial Lake Hackensack (Grieco School)

Mackay Park and Gatehouse  
The Ice Pond (Near 11 West Street Senior Housing)

The main theme of the trail is to educate the community about the land features that formed Englewood's past and present. Mike then concluded his presentation and answered club member questions.

### **Governance Committee Update:**

Bob Tedesco gave an update on Governance. The Committee works to help the club operate efficiently, and ensuring that we heed the rules of Rotary International (RI). Every Rotary Club is autonomous, but not independent of Rotary. All clubs should follow RI bylaws, or like our club, have our own bylaws that must be consistent with RI. Bob looked over our bylaws, and verified that our bylaws are indeed in sync with RI's bylaws. Bob noted that he's worked with many clubs as a Past District Governor, and he finds our club to be one of the most efficiently run clubs that he has ever seen, and is proud to be a member.

The Club President's main job is to ensure that our club is well represented in the community, and it is the members job to stand by the President as long as they are working within the boundaries of the club bylaws. The President also sets the agenda for the club, through Board meetings and weekly luncheons. The Board is responsible to RI for the maintenance of our Charter, not the President. Bob noted that our Board is active and efficient. It's our club's job collectively through its members to meet the needs of the community through our service. He noted that to be a member of a Rotary Club, that we are all part of a family, a Rotary family.

### **Anti-Hunger:**

Lisa noted that our club will continue to work on food insecurity in 2021, with a recent grant being awarded to the Center for Food Action for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service to prepare snack packs for needy individuals. This issue will be brought up again at the next Board meeting.

### **Announcements:**

We received a District COVID-19 grant support for \$1,800 reimbursing us for our previous food insecurity grants to Chef Dion's program and for the Center for Food Action, about \$2,500 was donated, and the District reimbursed us for \$1,800. The Board decided to provide new support in the amount of \$5,000 towards addressing existing food insecurity concerns. The Grants Committee will meet later this week to discuss how to allocate the \$5,000 to help address the immediate needs of the community.

There will be a Service Project Committee meeting on 1/28. The link will be sent out in next week's bulletin.

Next week's program will be an evening meeting with Chief Lawrence Suffern speaking to us about safety and security in our homes at 6:00 pm

Scott Reddin noted that he enjoyed the volunteering at the MLK event Monday, and that it is what Rotarians are supposed to do.

Lisa then introduced Joyce Grossbard who led Happy Dollars. Many Happy Dollars were from members to Mike Passow for his excellent presentation.

Send Happy Dollar contributions/checks to:

Kathy Silberstein  
20 Hidden Ledge Road  
Englewood, NJ 07631

or to the PO Box:

Rotary Club of Englewood  
PO Box 412  
Englewood, NJ 07631

Kathy prefers that people make their donations via check as opposed to online, but you can also pay online through the website.

Checks to be made out to: Rotary Club of Englewood

Upcoming meetings:

**Tuesday, January 26 at 6 PM**- Englewood Police Chief Lawrence Suffern, "Personal Safety and Home Security"

**Thursday, January 28 at 6 PM**- Service project committee meeting. Contact [Joe Sorbanelli](#) for details

**Tuesday, February 2 at Noon**- Peggy King Jorde will discuss "Preservation of the most significant trace of the Transatlantic Slave Trade Middle Passage Journey"

About 25 members and 4 guests were on the Zoom meeting  
Respectfully submitted, Steve Wiessner