



The Rotary Club of Williamstown, Massachusetts

Club Number 6549; District 7890 Every Tuesday, Noon, The Williams Inn

December 2015

Anne R. Skinner, Editor

A major development opportunity is on the horizon!



Kim Burnham is the local contact for Latent Productions, a New York company that proposes to put \$30M over 10 years into the Cariddi Mill complex. The two principals, Karla Rothstein and Salvatore Perry, are both architects. They spotted the mill on a drive through town headed for the Clark! Their vision ultimately includes a hotel,

condos and an art space. Their first step, though, is to renovate the former Weave Shed space into an artisan food production area. Unfortunately during the clean-out, Rep. Gail Cariddi fell some 14 feet and suffered multiple injuries. We are delighted that she has recovered. More happily, on New Years' Eve Latent will celebrate with a dinner and dance (sorry, by the time you get this tickets will almost certainly be gone). However it was not just the future of the mill that Kim described, but also its past. Built in 1870, and subsequently enlarged, the building is a reminder of the city's cotton spinning history. We saw pictures of the building in use. Originally it was powered by a flume and waterwheel from the river; the flume still exists. An example of the imaginative design being put forward – the flume will be repurposed as a bike path from the mill to the river! All of us look forward to seeing this boon to the local economy prosper.

A new look for Sweetwood!

There are a lot of new ideas at Sweetwood, of great interest not just to the residents but also to the wider community. Jill Drummond, new director of marketing and sales, described the philosophy as "Aging in Place". Sweetwood starts by providing services to help residents stay in good shape, such as a fitness center



and pool. However they are also prepared to support those whose fitness is declining, with individualized care programs, ranging from medical monitoring to personal care such as dressing and bathing. Their staff now includes two RN's and 14 personal care assistants. So far they have met all resident needs. This does not make Sweetwood an assisted living facility. It remains basically apartments for independent living. It does mean that a couple can stay together when one begins to fail – in an assisted living facility the one with problems would be transferred to another area. And the focus at Sweetwood is on activities that create community, such as art appreciation classes and twice-weekly movies. The list is really too long for this newsletter. Jill pointed out that these activities are open to the entire Williamstown community, so get on the mailing list for a schedule (jdummond@sweetwoodliving.com). Also part of their outreach – meeting spaces for community groups. What about practical details? Sweetwood has 70 units, 40 of which are currently occupied. An improvement in the real estate market would increase that substantially! Some of the units are available for short-term rental, for a resident's visiting family, for someone wanting to check out the facility, or for someone needing rehab accommodation. Financing a unit can be done in several ways. Overall, the best idea is to go there, take a look and talk to Jill. With her energy and enthusiasm you will be moving in the next week!

And our own party

Our own holiday party was at Maureen's, as usual. But not quite as usual. We made it a potluck, with people bringing appetizers or something for the main course, and Maureen providing ice cream for dessert (see below!). Potlucks are always fun; a chance to try out recipes you don't know, and to combine dishes that might seem very different. This one was no exception. We had a good turnout of Rotarians and families, a lot of very nice food, and plenty of fellowship.



Club News

And on the horizon, closing fast...

Remember that **the Casino night, our major fundraiser, is scheduled for February 27th! EVERY MEMBER MUST HELP!** A reminder: of course we have tables for blackjack and other games, for those we need prizes; then we have a gift certificate board, where a \$20 payment gets you a certificate worth at least \$25. **YOUR JOB IS TO COLLECT THREE CERTIFICATES AND TWO PRIZES!** What makes a good prize? A gift basket with a couple of bottles of wine; an interesting book; tickets to local arts events or MassMOCA – these are examples. Use your imagination and find businesses to ask, not only in Williamstown but also North Adams and even further afield (Pittsfield Rotary runs its own auction so that's not likely to be a good source). January is our top month for getting donations. Let Anne Skinner know who you plan to solicit for gift certificates and other donations. We don't want to hit the same place twice.

DG Visit

Mark calendars ASAP – we will host our DG, Kyong Wilson, on January 5th. North Adams will join us.

Holiday Cheer

As we all know, Sam Humes has another grandson coming to Williams next fall. Case's parents came to visit for the holidays and spent some time with us as well. Also pictured – a potential thesis advisor for Case, whose interests are in political science!



We always
of the Inn staff –
Christmas bonus!



appreciate the hard work
here is Michelle getting a

PREVIEW OF COMING ATTRACTIONS

January Schedule

Jan. 4th – Board Meeting, 5 p.m., Williams Inn

Jan. 5th – Visit of DG Kyong Wilson, joint with North Adams
Jan. 12th – District Attorney David Capeless
Jan. 21st – Emily Watts, Williamstown Chamber of Commerce
Jan. 28th – TBA

Thanks to Fred Ley and Linda Sweeney for photos and notes.

The Editor