



# HOT POTATO

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Rotary Club of Wayland, New York, D7120

Patrice Lysell, president

Thomas Quinlan, secretary

## **Dianne McGowan and The Dansville Children's Theater**

We were ten Rotarians and two guests last Tuesday, which was pretty horrible as far as the weather goes, and it was going to get worse, predicted on TV.

President Pat asked Don Griffing to introduce the speaker this evening. It was Don who was contacted by Dianne McGowan about the possibility of our club sponsoring her theater group for children. More about this later.

It was also nice to have Lou Hazlett back for a second time. This time, he actually met his good friend George Smith, who had extended the invitation.

Wouldn't you know that The Miller House would serve another pasta dish when Janine Miceli wasn't in attendance? I imagine that she had something more elaborate on vacation in the Caribbean. We had chicken Alfredo, which was a very nice dish, finishing with frosted chocolate cake for dessert.

As we were winding down the meal, sipping our coffees, President Pat broached the subject of confessions. Jim Burns paid in a Happy Dollar for somebody he knew, who had won a very nice shirt at the District Assembly over the weekend. Jim Burns understood the garment would normally retail for \$200 in

finer stores. Art disputed this assessment vigorously, and it wasn't even the right size... It cost him a two-dollar fine.

Art Traphagen wasn't the only one to have won a prize at the assembly. President Pat asked immediate past president Don Griffing how much she had to pay for a bottle of wine. Don must have thought it was a rare Chateau kind, for he hit her for \$3, at least if we go by Art's fine shirt at \$200!

Marty Kimmel had crossed the state line into Pennsylvania to pick up his daughter, and was fined \$2. Wow, the level of these fines are going out of sight!

### **The Children's Theater Group**

Dianne McGowan started by giving us a history of what she had been doing over the years with children between 5 and 14, who were interested in musicals and theater. The younger range of this age group doesn't have many opportunities, since programs at school start later. Most of the activities have taken place in the summer, but there have been shows put on in the winter too.

Her interest started by her own participation in a Summer Youth Theater program, sponsored by Rotary in NYC.

Among the musicals the Dansville Children's Theater group has put on are a Musical Extravaganza, Wizard of Oz, Nutcracker (the musical).

Dianne told us that it is not only the thespian aspect interesting the children, it is artistry and technical equipment. They enjoy working on the costumes as well, getting a lot of practical training. When you put on a musical or play, you have to purchase the script. This is a major expense, ranging from \$500 to as much as \$1000. The participants pay a \$25 registration fee, which goes a little of the way. But there is of course a lot of other expense, putting on a performance. Some of this, Debbie has been able to cover with grants from sources like the "Council of the Arts." This is where the sponsorship of a renowned Not For Profit organization enters the picture.

Another consideration is insurance. It relieves the group of the cost and to have to grapple with agents.

Currently, Dianne is working to see if the defunct "Genesee Ensemble Theater" can be revived, or at least find enough of the former members to see if the frozen assets can be granted to her group.

We finished with a questions and answer session, where our members could get better informed to make a

decision. The questions ranged from the amount of involvement from an accounting view, to where the group plans to practice and perform.

Until this year, Dansville Rotary club has sponsored the group, but the current leadership did not feel that they had enough control over the activities to be comfortable. (This feeling was not shared by the previous treasurer of that club.)

## Business

As we discussed some business, our guest Lou Hazlett wanted us to consider a small project. He participates in the Meals on Wheels program, which now operates out of "The Little House" on Third Street. The newly renovated facilities are fine, but parking and maneuverability is poor. Applying an extra load of gravel or two could help if the proper permits could be had. We will look into the matter.

When we thought the meeting would be over, there were those dreaded two words "President Pat," from Art. What would he chew us out for now? It wasn't too bad. He just wanted to jab Pat publicly about the roadside cleanup. We aren't the "Dansville North Rotary Club," and we have no immediate plans either. It will be taken care of. In time, we'll take vacation and go to Hornell to get stuff.

