

EWB Portland Maine Professionals

4-19-2016 Meeting Minutes

President Nadia Glucksberg opened the meeting by asking for introductions of attendees and reviewed ongoing chapter activities, including:

CONGRATULATIONS! – Nadia offered congratulations to Sarah Wright, who recently became a published author! Her first book, “*Children of Avalon*”, is available to purchase through Amazon. Sarah will autograph any copy an EWB attendee buys. (http://www.amazon.com/Children-Avalon-Traveller-Book-One/dp/1523916087/ref=sr_1_cc_1?s=aps&ie=UTF8&qid=1461588657&sr=1-1-catcorr&keywords=s.e.+wright)

GOOD LUCK! Rita Cooper is on her way to Portland Oregon! She has decided to start a new adventure and relocate to the West Coast, while still working for Hydro International. She will be involved with PSU chapter and stay involved with the Debre Birhan Project EWB through their program. Rita led our DB project for several years and was the driving force behind its success. Thank you for all your time, commitment, and humor! Good Luck and keep in touch!

STEM OUTREACH If you have the time/interest to join the middle school and high school kids and share how engineering has a direct impact on public health (and is not always behind a desk), contact Kathy Kern (katherine.kern58@gmail.com). We have already presented at Greely Middle School and will be at Kennebunk HS at the end of the month. Katy and Brad also ran a field trip for King Middle School to highlight urban storm water runoff. Thanks to all who are volunteering!

DEBRE BIRHAN, ETHIOPIA Interested in traveling? Pouring concrete, wrapping rebar? Columns and roof beams are going in next while other groups are designing the wall/windows to be made out of CEBs. Lots of things happening with trips planned for this summer/fall. Please contact Nadia (nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com) or Kevin (KRuss@haleyaldrich.com). Project team meetings occur separately from chapter meetings and all welcome.

FUNDRAISING We are looking forward to our next event, the annual yard sale. The date is TBD, but keep your eyes/ears open. If you know folks who are moving, downsizing, upgrading, and if they have quality items that they want to donate, we want them! Nadia announced that AMEC Foster Wheeler will match the dollar amount the yard sale produces. FMI or to donate items, contact Kathy Hillman Reed at khillmanreed@gmail.com.

MENTOR FOUND: Portland Adult Ed reached out to request help finding a mentor for a recent immigrant from DRM who was a practicing engineer before he arrived in Portland. Brad Roland is now working with him to assess his professional needs and help plan ways to meet them.

April Presentation

Nadia introduced Scott Teas and Pam Hawkes as our guest speakers. They are principals at Scattergood Design, LLC in Portland, ME, an architectural practice devoted to solving problems with architecture and building restoration projects.

Scott and Pam described their 3-month stay in Tanzania, where they worked in the rural Misungwi District on the southern shores of Lake Victoria that is one of the poorest in the region around Mwanza, the country's second-largest city, and ranks second to last academically. They noted that girls are often excluded from school because they're needed at home for hauling water and other domestic chores. As volunteers with the American NGO Africa Schoolhouse, Scattergood Design researched girls' secondary schools throughout the region and prepared a master plan for a campus to accommodate 410 girls in six class levels. Milembe Primary School is now the first government campus dedicated to girls in the District.

They described how clustered dormitory units, an academic quadrangle and multi-purpose dining hall create a secure, empowering learning and living environment for girls and staff. They talked about distinctive forms connecting to the landscape and local culture, creating a strong sense of community. Rainwater catchment, composting latrines and solar-powered lighting, as well as use of local materials and construction teams (paid, not volunteer), ensure that the campus is a model for good quality, inexpensive, and sustainable secondary schools. They developed a phased master plan for the campus, including balsa wood building models, for future school construction because project funding is unpredictable.

In particular, Scott and Pam described the evolution of window design for the school building in Tanzania, which is of interest for our chapter's Debre Birhan, Ethiopia school construction project. Scott indicated he would be willing to share his window design if it would help meet requirements for air flow, light, and security for our school building.

This was an excellent presentation of their Tanzanian project, with several parallels to basic tenets of EWB projects in developing countries.

Other Business

Anyone needing PDH certificates should see or contact Stan Reed (sreed001@maine.rr.com).

Next Meeting

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2016 at 6:00 PM in the event room at the Sea Dog Brew Pub, 125 Western Avenue, South Portland, ME.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed, Secretary