

EWB PORTLAND MAINE PROFESSIONALS

2/26/2019 MEETING MINUTES

Chapter President Nadia Glucksberg welcomed everyone and, including introductions, provided the following updates:

FUNDRAISING: Our annual Portland Uncorked! fund raiser is coming up on **Thurs., March 12, 2020 at the Custom House in Portland**. Need to acquire silent auction items – artwork, craft items, gift baskets, etc. Please contact Baxter Miatke (baxterm419@gmail.com) if you have an item or items to donate. Invite your co-workers, family & friends to attend. **Tickets can be purchased through our website ewbportlandmaine.org.**

Nadia noted the Engineers Week insert in the 2/24/2020 Maine Sunday Telegram that included an article about our work in Ethiopia, Ecuador and Uganda and our ad for Portland Uncorked!.

EWB CHAPTER OUTREACH: In addition to Hartford Professional Chapter (HPC), Harvard, Northeastern, and WPI, we have added Drexel and Boston University to our list of chapters where we are supporting drilling efforts. Stefanie Trice Gill will help the Hartford chapter with Spanish translation of documents for one of their projects. Geologists are needed for the HPC's Trip to Tanzania later in the spring of 2020 – Matt Reynolds plans to travel there. Helena Hollauer joined the Northeastern chapter for their drilling project in Uganda in December 2019. She'll present to the PMP chapter in the near future. Tufts University has approached PMP for help with a water treatment project specifically dealing with metals in the water. If you have interest in supporting any of these opportunities, please contact Nadia at ngluckberg@haleyaldrich.com.

Other activities coming up include the Failure Forum at Harvard University on April 25, 2020 and the National Conference in Reno on November 4 & 5. More info to come on both.

Stefanie Trice Gill introduced a new person from Congo and circulated a copy of "*Amjambo Africa*", a new local newspaper featuring an article about mechanical design engineer Oumalkaire Said Barkad, an immigrant from Djibouti.

EL PROGRESO, ECUADOR: Steve Laudage gave a brief update on this water distribution project in the cloud forest northwest of Quito. The latest team arrived home on January 24, 2020 after working on the 2nd phase of implementation. The major trip goals were 1) to install the piping between one stream catchment and the storage tanks and 2) to conduct additional surveying for construction of the distribution line from the storage tanks main to the households in the community. The travel team included two engineering students from UMaine. The next trip is tentatively planned for late spring/early summer to continue implementation. This project team meets separately for planning and communicates on Slack. If you would like to become involved, please contact Baxter Miatke (baxterm419@gmail.com) or Julianne Page (jpage@woodardcurran.com)

Baxter Miatke and Emily Kelsey will be filmed for a “207” segment with Peggy Kaiser/Rob Caldwell on Tuesday, March 3, that will feature the Ecuador project, as well as a plug for Portland Uncorked!. Air date is the week of March 9; exact air date to be announced.

STEM OUTREACH: Arne DeFosse will be contacting area schools and hopefully scheduling STEM presentations for them. We have committed to the Festival of Curiosity at Cape Elizabeth Middle School on June 5. More info to come. If you are interested in helping with presentations, please contact Arne(Arne.Defosse@kla.com).

FEBRUARY PRESENTATION

Nasser Rohani, a retired system analyst who has been in the U.S. for decades, presented a short film about the emergence of the Baha’i Institute of Higher Education (BIHE), an “underground” university in Tehran, Iran that was established in 1987. Nasser provided some background, starting with the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979 that resulted in outright persecution of Baha’i faith members. Baha’i members believe in gender equality and that education is a human right. The Islamic government forbade access to higher education, among other things, for Baha’i followers, so the education movement went underground in an attempt to create “constructive resilience” and rise above the persecution. Classes are held in private homes, usually basements. In the 1990’s the university became virtual. Those engaged in the underground university risk arrest and detainment even today. He noted that while university degrees from the virtual institution have no academic value, other prominent U.S. schools have accepted BIHE students for further study. Graduates have become prominent figures in several fields including engineering, economics, and technology.

Nasser’s goal for his presentation to EWB is to invite anyone interested in teaching a virtual class to Iranian students pursuing education through BIHE. He noted there are 2 folks from Lewiston, ME who are currently teaching ESL in the BIHE program. He invited interested people to contact him at nnrohani@hotmail.com.

A period of Q&A followed.

*****NO MARCH MEETING AS PORTLAND UNCORKED! TAKED PLACE MARCH 12!!! *****

NEXT PMP CHAPTER MEETING IS TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020 at SEA DOG BREWING CO. in SO. PORTLAND, ME from 6:00PM – 7:00PM. PLEASE JOIN US!

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed, Chapter Secretary