



Barrington's Town Warming

A RE-CREATION OF THE 1940S ERA BARRINGTON TRADITION FEATURING SPEAKERS OF NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SIGNIFICANCE

ON FEBRUARY 3, 2017, members of the community gathered for the historic return of Barrington's Town Warming, a unique and forward-thinking community concept not held since the early 1940s. The event was the vision of Village of Barrington President Karen Darch, who pulled together a subcommittee of members of the Barrington Cultural Commission—David Nelson, Diane Bergen, and Lisa Stamos—along with Patty Dowd Schmitz, the Director of Communications, Marketing, and Events for the Village of Barrington.

The topics and panel discussions revolved around the event's title, "Reality Check: Where We Are Today and Our Vision for the Future". Fifteen nationally and regionally recognized leaders represented a wide range of market sectors and expertise.

Here is an excerpt from *Quintessential Barrington's* Special Edition (Sesquicentennial, 2015) that talks about the event:

The first Barrington Town Warming was held in January 1939. Two civic-minded businessmen of Barrington felt that a need existed—not only in their community, but in America—for a rebirth of the early American town meeting. Taking clues from the earlier Methodist campground meetings and the Chautauqua revivalist models, Barrington's Town Warmings were a success and may have lit the civic and cultural fire that burns in our community today.

Here you'll find photos that help capture the exciting and inspiring day at Barrington's White House, and also hear the thoughts of four Barrington High School students who attended.



Village of Barrington President Karen Darch



"Reality Check: Our Community" speakers (from left) Brad Stetson, Chairman/CEO of Barrington Bank & Trust; Sam Oliver, President, Non-Profit Consulting; Heather Larson, Incoming Lead Pastor, and Steve Carter, Incoming Lead Teacher, Willow Creek Community Church; and Dr. Brian Harris, Superintendent of Barrington 220 Schools.



"Reality Check: Our World" speakers (from left) Capt. James D. Hawkins, Commanding Officer, Naval Station Great Lakes; Brad Cole, Executive Director, Illinois Municipal League; and Greg Brown, Chairman and CEO, Motorola Solutions.



"Visions for the Future: Our Community" speakers (from left) David Nelson, Founding Member of the Barrington Area Conservation Trust, Sr. VP UBS Financial Services; Karen Lambert, President, Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital and Advocate Condell Medical Center; Dr. Maria H. Coons, Chief of Staff/Board Liaison and VP, Institutional Planning & Strategic Alliances, Harper College; and Bill Bishop, Chief Architect, Brick Meets Click.



WGN Radio Personality John Williams spoke on the topic, "What is Community: A Place or a Concept?"



Hank and Wendy Paulson supported the Town Warming event with a fireside chat to offer their experience in the world of local and global conservation. Their topic was, "Visions for the Future: Our World".



Four Barrington High School students attended the Town Warming. They are (from left) Caleigh Larkin, Andrianna Anderson, Amy Herzog, and Julia Pfister.



Barrington High School students spoke with Greg Brown, Motorola Solutions CEO.



Julia Pfister
Senior at Barrington High School

Enlightening

What was the best leadership idea you took away from the speakers?

A reoccurring idea that was present during the panel discussions was the idea of contributing to your community. The Paulsons preached that the best way to make a difference as the younger generation is to get involved with the community. Greg Brown said to become a person of success, one must keep and grow their “respect, behavior, and education”. Raise your kids with those three main ideas, and there is a time and place with technology. With education there’s opportunity, and then you must follow your personal drives to make a difference.

Brad Stetson shared the concept that technology is to keep everyone engaged, especially businesses. Although today, technology is creating a different generation of people, those who no longer communicating from person to person. Technology has been disassociating people, and the younger generation is experiencing this now. The issues of society must remain relevant as time goes on so that teenagers can get involved. That’s how one can become a leader and make a difference—come face to face with the issues of society and make them relevant.

Brad Cole said “if you want to see change in the world then be the change”. Today, the younger generation is getting less involved politically and there is less voting for someone and more voting against someone. Teenagers and young adults are the future, and there needs to be well-educated, new candidates to inspire voting. Since it is time to be worried about the future, it’s time to advocate for change now.



Amy Herzog
Senior at Barrington High School

Engaging

What were the most inspiring ideas you learned about?

Greg Brown and Brad Cole both emphasized the discourse and cyclical nature of today's political climate. As soon as one election begins, the campaigning for the next begins. Candidates are not pushing for their ideologies and plan of action, but rather they are bringing down their opponent so that they seem to be the superior candidate. This is something that resonates with me, and the negativity and lack of respect this shows also deeply concerns me.

A second point is frightening: the shrinking of our presence on the world stage is dangerous. As more and more tension and conflicts develop among people, the more polarizing and disconnected we become as not just a nation, but as an ally and force in the world.

Along these lines, I am especially inspired by John Williams. His remarks being the shortest of the day, and yet the most impactful. Spoken with deadpan humor, his remarks on the polarization of our people and today's politics, especially online. In this day and age, when you disagree with someone's political ideologies, you simply ignore them by 'unfriending' them on social media. John Williams words served as a reality check. I was inspired to discuss my differences with others, not ignore theirs and continue to surround myself with people who feel the same.



Caleigh Larkin
Sophomore at Barrington High School

Promising

What were the most inspiring ideas you learned about?

I heard quite a lot of inspiring ideas, every single one of the speakers gave me something to think about, but as a student something that Dr. Brian Harris said stood out to me. He said, “We need to teach our children how to fail well.” Societal pressures and internal pressure faced by students destroy the meaning of success and erase the fact that you can learn from failure. These kids who have been told they need to get only As, play every sport and win every competition see a “B-minus” and think it’s the end of the world. They don’t learn from that ‘failure’ and they don’t rise up gracefully. They sink. As a student at Barrington High School, I see students fall prey to these pressures every day, but I know that if they were told by the school and by society that a less-than-stellar grade is okay, they’d feel better. They’d do better, because they take the time to recognize and learn from the failure. Another really inspiring thing I heard was from Sam Oliver, and that is this concept of closer collaboration. This community has a lot of love and a lot of connections, yes, but it also needs to work on joining together to support the same cause. If there are four different charities supporting homeless youth in America, wouldn’t it be smarter to scrap those four separate organizations and form one, more successful one? As Oliver says, “be strong together”.



Adrianna Anderson
Senior at Barrington High School

Empowering

What was the best leadership idea you took away from the speakers?

Steve Carter stated that “you can learn from anyone” and that his generation needs to pass their wisdom onto the next. This was a leadership idea that fascinated me because in order for the next generation to make a difference, along with our own knowledge, the guidance of the first generation will only further advance our path towards a healthier future.

Captain James D. Hawkins announced that there has been a 43 percent energy decrease at the Great Lakes Naval Station. I would consider this a leadership idea because this will show not only neighboring communities that we should take steps towards saving energy, but it will also show as an example to other large corporations that they could lead the change as well. Aside from energy saving, social awareness of the next generation should be a great concern. Dr. Brian Harris said to “meet the kids where they’re at” referring to the question of “how do we engage younger voices?” Dr. Harris showed leadership in offering a solution and speaking about the need for help from the next generation who will one day be in charge of it. The start of discussion of this will lead to a proactive solutions.” U