



Today's Program

The New Members' Lunch

Topic

Getting to Know Our New Members

Location

The National Club

Upcoming Speakers & Events

February 2015

27 Dr. Danielle Martin, Women's College Hospital, State of the Canadian Health Care System

March 2015

6 Chief Bill Blair

13 Sheldon Levy, President and CEO Ryerson University

20 Dr. Ron Denham, *Water for the World*

27 Paul Garfinkel, CEO Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

31 Member Evening Cocktail Party at The National Club

Editor of the Week

Luba Rascheff

Editor February 27

Lorna Johnson

What You Missed Reporter, February 20th

Robert O'Brien

Propose a Speaker – Contact

Alex Brown, Chair
alexbrown@integratedappliances.ca

Submit an article to the *Voice* Newsletter

voice@rotarytoronto.on.ca

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The Boardroom

We met in the majestic boardroom of Grant Thornton, LLP, on the 19th floor in the Royal Bank Plaza.

We, the new members, sat on one side of the gigantic table and faced our coaches: Michele Guy and Sandy Boucher. It was almost like a “showdown” until Elizabeth Tremblay walked in and changed the balance. (*Howdy, partner!*)

After asking him probing questions, Sandy, who had listened calmly and impassively, looked at us incisively and said, with his distinctly British accent, “This is going to be your lunch and you can run it any way you like.” Shock. (*Did I see a Stetson and a gold star on his vest? Think Gunsmoke theme song here.*) “Yeah,” chimed in Michele with a mischievous twinkle in her eyes. (*Hello, Deputy!*) Excitement. Trepidation. Only Dawn-Marie King, with her electronic tablet, kept her cool on the new member side of the table. Brigitte Bogar and Tamara Levine whispered something to each other.

What would we do?

Andrea Vabalis and Cliff Johnson—on speakerphone—interjected at unexpected moments, sharing their opinions on how it would be, their disembodied voices filling the boardroom's airwaves.

The ideas came out spontaneously from the new members' side of the table with us newbies naturally assuming particular roles. Brian Porter agreed to be our coordinator. Karl Kremer bravely took on a major responsibility.

Fast Forward to Today

I cannot count the number of e-mails that flowed between us as we organized, aligned, directed, and perfected our New Members' lunch. One excellent idea proffered by Tamara Levine was thrown out the window on a technicality. (*C'est la vie, Tamara.*)

How fortunate you are this morning to be reading these words since you're in for a big, *festive* surprise.

Take a deep breath...now let it out. *Wonderment* is about to fill the room.

The Rotary Club of Toronto



SPEAKEASY

Fun & Games

— 2015 —

The Rotary Club of Toronto's Annual Fundraiser will be held on

Thursday, March 26th @ 6:30 PM

The Steam Whistle Brewery

255 Brimmer Blvd. (South East of Rogers Centre)

What You Missed February 6, 2015

– by Karen Scott



The Upper Canada Room was alive with the sound of music as Brigitte led a group in stirring renditions of “Amazing Grace,” “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot,” “Danny Boy,” and finally “Michael Rowed the Boat Ashore.” President Steve brought the meeting to order with his welcome message and thoughtful prayer that reminded us our decisions should be fair and goals beneficial for the greater good.

A tasty meal and fellowship was enjoyed after which President Steve introduced the head table, John Carr the visiting Rotarian, and guests. We learned that Carol is gallivanting in San Antonio and will return on February 16. Our upcoming fundraiser, on March 26, was promoted as an event with great food and a great card game. President Steve referred to it as a “bridge tournament.” We were informed that the quicker the thermometer reaches the top, the quicker warm weather will come, and were all strongly encouraged to contribute.

Richard White introduced our guest speaker, Mark Lukowski. He has been the CEO of the Christian Children’s Fund of Canada (recently named as one of the top 25 Canadian charities by the Financial Post) since 2009. Mark, who was accompanied by his family and colleagues, has brought 25 years as a senior executive in the high-tech world to the CCFC with the mission to amplify the voices of children and promote global change.

Passion resonated from Mark from the very first word of his presentation to the last. Mark said he has heard stories on his trips to all continents that should not be told. He asked us to think back to the time when we were 12 and then related the story about a 12-year-old girl. She lives



Mark Lukowski gave a passionate presentation about how Rotarians can make a difference for children who need our help. You can read more at: www.sponsorme.ca

with her grandpa because her dad is dead and her mom is gone. She came home one day to an empty house. The doors crashed open and a group of men kidnapped her with the intention of making her a child bride. Mark told us the story of a boy of the same age who works in a mine shaft all day long, looking for three specks of gold. “We have won the lottery of life.” It’s not fair, explained Mark, but it is the reality and the cycle will continue unless we do something about it.

We have to listen to the voices of children. We are failing to protect them. A simple right to own a birth certificate is denied to millions of children. Without it, they are invisible and highly vulnerable. Likewise, many children experience violence, the magnitude of which cannot be measured, as most of it happens in secret by adults they should be able to trust. The physical and emotional scars will affect future generations. Access to clean water is another right denied to millions with devastating consequences. In conjunction with the Child Fund Alliance, a survey of 6,000 children in 40 countries was undertaken. We heard snippets of, “Small Voices, Big Dreams” in the many voices and languages of the children. One child, wise beyond his years said, “Adults should stop talking and start listening.” Another said, “Please keep us from harm; protect us so we can achieve our full potential.” The CCFC is working at all levels, to help individuals, families, and communities and on a global scale

to reduce the violence against and exploitation of children. In the two cases Mark cited earlier, thanks to community elders and the CCFC, there is good news: the girl was found and is now back in school. The boy has a sponsor family and is in school learning a trade.

Mark encouraged us to help in many ways: to think of our next vacation spot, our business ventures, our purchases, to avoid countries and companies that exploit children. We can also sign the petitions that will be sent to the UN and can also consider sponsoring a child. Our future global security depends on it, as these children will become adults.

President Steve thanked Mark for his powerful message and commended the CCFC for the work it is doing. The meeting was concluded with the draws, a reminder that there will be no meeting next week, and a preview of upcoming meetings. Last, but not least, we were treated to President Steve’s parting story. A young Glenn Davis was asked by his fifth grade teacher to solve the following problem. A wealthy man with 10 million dollars gives 1/6 to his wife, 1/5 to his son, 1/5 to his butler and the rest to charity. What does each one get?

With total sincerity, Glenn replied: “a lawyer.” John Suk won the Ace of Clubs draw, and walked away with a bottle of wine.



Rotary Voice always graces our tables!

Go to www.freefromviolence.org for more information about the Christian Children’s Fund of Canada.

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