

ROTARY CLUB OF NANAIMO

“C GS”

Volume 98, Number 25

4799th Meeting

Friday, January 12, 2018



A brisk winter walk through Neck Point

Club Meeting Friday at 12:00 p.m.
at the Coast Bastion Inn
CLUB OFFICERS 2017-2018

President ----- Jane K. Currie
Vice President ----- Carey McIver
Secretary ----- Bob Janes
Treasurer ----- Lynne Pankratz
President Elect ----- Charles Ramos
Immediate Past President -- Debbie Narver



Serving Our Community Since
May 1, 1920 - Charter Number 43

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Rotary Club Meeting Notes - January 5, 2018

By Joyce Smith

Before the meeting, thank you letters from students at Bayview school were distributed to the tables for the members to enjoy. **Jane Currie**, our president began the first meeting of the year with the national anthem and invocation by **Yvan Gosselin**.

Lucy Gosselin introduced guests and visiting Rotarians. **Charles Ramos** brought almost his whole staff and the members from his firm were introduced—**Ryan Eathore**, **Geoff Dean**, and **Mathew Rosenthal**. What he failed to do is to introduce his wife—**Sari Saunders**. (which cost him—see more about this later). Other guests were **Kingston Smith**, Joyce Smith's grandson, and **Chris Stephens** guest of **Susie Stephens**.

Announcements.

Before the announcements, **Jane Currie** thanked the **Fellowship Committee** for organizing a wonderful Christmas party.

John Heisterman said the Bayview lunch was under budget and came in at around \$150 for all the student meals. Amazing!

Dave Hammond announced that after the meeting the Centennial committee would be meeting. Any Rotarian is welcome to join.

Norm Myden made a motion to support Project Amigo by donating \$1,000 to the project for the year. Agreed unanimously by the Rotarians.

Joan Ryan reminded everyone about the Criminal records check and said that the check has been bogged down by the procedure that means the confirmation will be coming by mail and not by email.

Denise Wittkofski, chair of membership will be holding a special forum next week on Rotarians' thoughts about membership. A survey has been sent out to the members please make sure you complete.

Sergeant at Arms—John Heisterman acted as Sgt. at arms in place of **Gunther Raedler**.

Brent Barootes was fined for eating his dessert first. **Charles Ramos** was fined for not wearing his badge but also for not introducing his wife.

Mike Herold, a competing engineering firm to Charles, was concerned for Charles that no one was looking after Charles' office.

Happy Dollars

Doug Cowling, with a sad dollar, took exception to last meeting's minutes for it said Rotarians were encouraged to sing at the Christmas party but Doug does not remember being encouraged to sing.

Wendy Pratt was happy to enjoy the sounds of silence with her pooch after Christmas and happy to say goodbye to 2017.

John Salem apologized for missing the Bayview lunch and encouraging everyone who has not helped out at a Bayview lunch to participate next year.

Joan Ryan reminded everyone that if they are applying for the Criminal Record check, to apply for both youth and venerable adults.

Janeane Coutu reminded everyone about the coming book sale and that she will be sorting books on Saturday if anyone wants to join her.

Mike Herold had a sad dollar because four out of five of Charles' guest used to work for the "other engineering company".

Dave Hammond questioned the note taker from last meeting who said the Rotary choir of last year was the best in 2017? Who was that?

John Heisterman said we should resurrect the Rotary Boys Choir and singing the "Chipmunk Song".

Doug Anderson paid \$10 for his lost wallet.

Janeane Coutu, as usual, won the Red Table Ticket.

Douglas Anderson won the draw for the Ace but did not pull the Ace—next time Douglas.

Speaker Recap – Friday January 5, 2017

Submitted by Brent Barootes

This week we were entertained and educated by one of our own and his partner. Our speakers were introduced by **Mike Herold** who truthfully noted they don't really need an introduction to our Club members but did note he had previously introduced **Charles** as a speaker... something about a presentation on nude sailing from Hawaii! Anyway... **Charles Ramos** and **Sari Saunders** took the podium. Truly this was a presentation by Sari who was great. Charles was the "color commentator" or as he noted... added comic relief.

Sari started out on their holiday presentation on the Galapagos Islands holiday by asking who had ever visited the Galapagos Islands and about 4 hands went up. Spoiler alert... at the end Sari asked now who would like to visit the Galapagos Islands and about 35 hands went up. That tells you how great the presentation was!

Sari, Charles and their two children **Abigail** and **Alex** spent about 11 days on the Galapagos Islands while on a tour of Peru as well. As **Mike Herold** noted in his introduction, Sari and Charles have been exploring the world together on excursion since 1996 and this trip was also a celebration of the 18 years of marriage.

The family flew from Ecuador to the main airstrip in the Galapagos Islands on the island of Baltra and then foot ferried and bus rides over to Puerto Ayora. The entire Galapagos Islands has a population of 25,000 people and the largest centre () is 12,000 of that! The one-and-a-half-hour flight from Ecuador to cover the 1000 km trip brought them to a land of volcanos, vegetation, culture and exploration. Galapagos Islands consist of about 12 main islands of a total

of 60 islands and islets. It is right on the equator and is also a designated UNESCO World Heritage site. Interestingly enough, Charles noted that the Ecuadorian government has actually now instituted policy that the only people that can actual live and habitat on the Galapagos Islands are those that are presently there or who are grandfathered to live there based on ancestral roots. These islands (because of so many active volcanoes and history of the area), range in age from over 90 million years to as young as about 1 million years! The islands were home to many different types of “settlers” including pirates, shipwrecks, penal colonies and more. All this lead to a terrific cross section of cultural diversity in exploring about the islands. Their guided tour for the 11 days included both marine and land experiences.

These islands, as Sari noted, were part of the visit and voyage lead by Charles Darwin for his Voyage of the Beagle... but more importantly... this was the starting point for Darwin’s thinking and in-depth understanding about nature, humans and the ultimate outcome was his Origin of the Species. And it all started here on the Galapagos Islands. These islands played a critical role in the development of the theories of evolution!

In his color commentary role Charles noted that 90% of the food consumed on the island is locally produced and sea-food is a major part of that production. As he said... you had better like seafood if you visit the Galapagos Islands! He also noted the currency of record was basically the US dollar and costs were about 30% cheaper than in Canada.

Upon arrival on Puerto Ayora they were fascinated by the cornucopia of natural delight. Everywhere they looked was nature. In addition to the animals that were everywhere possessed no fear of humans... just walked through the market at their leisure and on the streets and yards. There were sea lions, pelicans, marine iguanas, giant tortoises, giant turtles and so much more including amazing bird watching (especially finches) and also terrific floral and fauna. It was a paradise! On this island the visit to the Charles Darwin Research Centre was amazing as they learned about and witnessed the breeding centre for endemic species including tortoises and mangrove finch. Sari noted how the finch could be found on different island of which is endemic to that specific island... absolutely fascinating!



Charles... who was fascinated by the iguanas noted that how iguanas anywhere else are not marine animals and live in trees. The ones on the Galapagos Islands though, like most of nature (animals and plants) had to adapt. These iguanas deep dive in the ocean and then have learned to “sneeze” out the salt through their nostrils.

Sari noted that they went snorkelling a great deal in the Itabaca Canal and elsewhere. From this main island visit (45 minutes coast to coast are the largest distance points) they learned the water was very cold. Each island in addition to the dry, rough volcanic coast lines was home to terrific vege-

tation in the highlands... typically 800 to 1500 metres above sea level. It was interesting to note that the tortoises would come up from the coast line to the Santa Cruz highlands for vegetation for feeding! This area was also home to the adventure of the volcanic tunnels and tours. Sari also noted beyond the nature side the cultural aspect of the Galapagos Islands was amazing. The markets and shops and food establishments were terrific, and everyone was so very friendly. Charles noted how the locals and tourists mingled as one versus the traditional “us and them” tourist and local scenario in many tourist destinations.



The family visited other islands including the historic Flore-na and their bizarre history of disappearing European settlers in the 1800 and 1900s. The biggest island of Isabella show-cased for them the albatross and the most active volcanoes as well as flamingos. It was obviously and amazing trip and a fantastic presentation to our club.

John Heisterman then had the privilege of thanking **Sari** and **Charles**. He also noted how it was his understanding that Sari had continued to encourage Charles to do more swimming with the sharks when they were there... but obviously he did not do enough as such! As John later pointed out... it is presentation like these by our own club members and their travels that are so fascinating. And he is right (I cannot believe I put that in writing!).

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 4-5 2018, District Training and Conference

June 23-27 2018, Rotary International Conference

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

Ian Williams,	Jan 13
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Spouse Birthdays

Zorka Horman, Horman, Bill	Jan 16
Bruce Ryan, Joan Ryan,	Jan 18

Anniversaries

Bill and Zorka Horman, Jan 14 1956	62 years
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Club Anniversaries

Henry Jiang, 3 years	Jan 16
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Rotary Club of Nanaimo Centennial Committee met with representatives from the city on January 5th 2018 to discuss possible projects to commemorate the Club's 100th anniversary



Meeting Date	January 12, 2018	January 19, 2018	January 26, 2018
Greeters	Henry Jiang , Doug Anderson, Peggy Richardson	Mike Knutsson, Wayne Anderson, Charles Ramos	Mike Knutsson, Brent Barootes, Peggy Richardson
Cashier	Lila Tanner	Lila Tanner	Lila Tanner
Sgt at Arms	John Heisterman	Dave Hammond	Brent Barootes
Inspiration	Brenda Grice	Donna Hais	Dave Hamond
Head Table	Pres Jane, Denise Wittkofski	Pres Jane, Dr. Ralph Nilson	Pres. Jane, Carolyn Phillips-Cusson
Intro Guests	Ian Williams	Bob Wilson	David Woodward
Intro Speaker	Pres Jane	Charles Ramos	Susie Stephens
Program	Membership Forum - Denise Wittkofski	Social strategies for a thriving community - Dr Ralph Nilson, pres. VIU	Celtic Arts in Today's World Carolyn Phillips-Cusson
Thank Speaker	Pres Jane	Dave Hammond	Joan Ryan