

ROTARY CLUB OF NANAIMO

“C O G S”

Volume 99, Number 16

4835th Meeting

Friday, November 2, 2018



District Governor Craig Gillis inspired our Club with a great presentation

Stories

**Meeting Notes from October 26
2018**

Upcoming Speakers

Nov 09, 2018 12:00
PM

Stephen Davies

October 26, 2018

By Joyce Smith

Charles Ramos welcome Rotarians to the 4,834 meeting of Rotary Club of Nanaimo. Bob Wilson gave a very inspirational thought about life being too short—courtesy of Dr. Seuss. John Shillabeer introduced Fellow Rotarians and Guests.



Jason Bradley introduced the Rotary Exchange Students—Ayu Fujiwara, from Japan, Hosted by Daybreak Rotary; Julia Motta, from Columbia, Hosted by Nanaimo North; Grace Bradley—from Nanaimo, a rebound from Norway and Dorien Abbekerk, from the Netherlands, hosted by Nanaimo Rotary. Guests of Rotary were Genna introduce by Behzad Forghani and our new inductee to the club, Umesh Lal and his wife Daksha introduced by Yvan Gosselin.

Birthdays greetings and our special birthday song was sung to David Woodward who had a birthday today. Doug Cowling was in especially good form since he was at David's table. Spouse's birthdays for this week are Coryna Kulba, Brent Barootes spouse and Diane Salem, John Salem's spouse. There were no Anniversaries or Club Anniversaries this week.

Nov 09, 2018 6:00
PM

Joan Toon

5 Club Meeting - Polio

Nov 16, 2018

**President
Charles**

Club Assembly

[View entire list](#)

Upcoming Events (Click each for info)

Rotary Fireside Chat

Lila Tanner's
Nov 15, 2018
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Dinner Theatre night in Chemainus

Chemainus Theatre
Dec 06, 2018
5:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Bayview School Christmas lunch

Bayview Elementary
School
Dec 20, 2018
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Next Meeting's

Responsibilities

November 2 2018

Greeter

Tanner, Lila

Greeter 2

Shaw, Carlene

Cashier

Molander, Justin

Inspiration

Knutsson, Mikel

Introduce Guests

Cowling, Doug

Sergeant at Arms

Ali, Wahid

Introduce Speaker

Salem, John

Thank Speaker

Wilson, Bob

Meeting Notes

Gosselin, Lucie

Program Notes

Martin, Sean

November 9 2018

Greeter

Minhas, Mike

Health of the Club—Bob Janes broke his shoulder but still managed to play golf, hockey and participate in the book sale. Ian Williams had cataract surgery today.

Charles Ramos gave an update on club business. The executive met two weeks ago, and their discussion was primarily around the Foundation. There was a five-club meeting yesterday. And finally, all Rotarians that ordered Roses from Qualicum Beacon Rotary Club were very please. Upcoming Events-November 3, 2018, Debbie Narver is spearheading a winter coat drive for the Winter Shelter. Mike Minhas has volunteered his store for drop off of clean used winter coats. There is also a five club event on November 9, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at Vancouver Island University.

Announcements:

Norm Myden, on behalf of International Service Committee made three motions, the first, to give \$1,000 US to the Etta project in Bolivia. Bruce Sampson seconded. Approved. The second was to give \$1,000 US to the Guatemala literacy project, John Salem seconded. Approved.

And finally, to give \$2,000 US to La Penita Mexico for all the school projects. Bob Janes seconded. Approved.

John Salem, on behalf of Fellowship announced the Christmas theatre event to be held at Chemainus Theatre on December 6, 2018. There are 40 seats reserved for Rotarians and guests of Rotarians. Tickets will cost \$75 but this includes the dinner and theatre.

Janeane Coutu, on behalf of the Book sale Committee, thanked the exchange students for their help on clean up. Thanks to Rotarians that came out to work shifts, the club made a grand total of \$94,700.

Charles Ramos received four thank you notes from Grade 12 seniors that received scholarship from Rotary, he passed them around to the tables.

Sergeant at Arms—Wahid Ali was encouraged to be brief, which of course he objected to. Happy and sad dollars—Doug Anderson had a sad dollar because it took him so long to return a book to John Heisterman, and also another one because he had a dead printer and wanted to know if anyone wanted an new ink cartridge that he had for it. John Heisterman thanked Doug for his return book which was one of Joe Garner's books and gave a happy buck since Joe Gardner was not only his mentor but brought him into Rotary. Jason Bradley gave a happy buck for the new inductee to Rotary. Doug Cowling gave an announcement buck since he found a Rotary pen which turned out to be David Woodward's pen. Dave Woodward gave his \$26.50 contribution to Rotary International to celebrate his birthday. District Governor gave \$5 US, Brent Stetar gave a happy buck for Daksha Lal, Bob Janes gave a happy buck for being able to keep playing hockey and Behzad Forghani gave a happy buck for seeing his guest at the book sale.

Wahid Ali asked for a show of hands for any Rotarians who would be interested in a Scotch tasting event.

Charles Ramos won the 50/50 draw and

Greeter 2
Barootes, Brent

Cashier
Molander, Justin

Inspiration
Grice, Brenda

Introduce Guests
Gosselin, Lucie

Sergeant at Arms
Hammond, Dave

Introduce Speaker
Knutsson, Mikel

Thank Speaker
Woodward, David

Meeting Notes
Smith, Joyce

Program Notes
Robson, Esther



Justin Molander won the table draw.

Denise Wittkofski introduced the new inductee to our Rotary Club-Umesh Lal, who is fire prevention officer for the City of Nanaimo and serves in many other volunteer positions. Umesh was proposed as a member by Jason Bradley. Doug Anderson performed the induction and asked all members to welcome Umesh Lal as our newest Rotary member.

Program notes October 26, 2018

Posted by Lucie Gosselin on Oct 26, 2018



DR

Craig Gillis gave a very inspirational speech to our club. He delivered the message of Rotary very effectively and with a touch of humour. He made us so proud of the organization we all belong to.

Assistant Governor Wayne Anderson

introduced today's speaker **DG Craig Gillis**. Craig is a member of the Campbell River Daybreak Rotary Club and is a retired educator. After serving as a counselor, vice-principal and principal in elementary, middle, and high schools, Craig spent eight years as Director of Instruction (K-12) and Assistant Superintendent for SD 72. Craig has a Master of Education degree. Since retirement works with VIU and the UVIC in Field Services, supervising student teachers.

Craig gave a very inspirational speech. He delivered the message of Rotary very effectively and with a touch of humour. He made us so proud of the organization we all belong to.

He pointed out that this year's Rotary International theme is "BE THE INSPIRATION". That led him to start thinking of the why and how of Rotary. To help explain his idea, he titled his presentation "Heart and Science", a play on the words "Art and Science" of education. He said **Heart** is the magic, the feeling, what often draws us to service so naturally, in short, the **WHY we are Rotarians**. **Science** is the sharing **HOW** to do something even more effectively and efficiently through the resources, the strategies, the routines and the practices we choose. In short, the **HOW of our Rotary work**. Each club, each person chooses their own HOW. To demonstrate what he meant, he told some very heartwarming stories.



In his words, he said "I'm not a man of wealth but I do believe that Rotary through the Foundation or Polio Plus gives our dollar the ability to positively impact our world. I've tried to give a little more each year because I want to and because I can. RI Vice-President John Matthews calls that "moving the needle forward". Together, WE, as a district can help a world that wasn't fortunate enough to have the advantages we have come to expect. The **SCIENCE** of our Foundation is simple. When we collectively gather our resources, no matter what the '**HOW**' or process, the '**WHAT**' becomes self-evident. It is the legacy we are able to give to others. **HOW** we move the 'needle forward' is an individual choice but one I ask you to consider. Yet when we combine our individual efforts we create CHANGE. It may be registering for Rotary Direct, giving on a regular basis, achieving your second Paul Harris, becoming a Paul Harris Society member by contributing 1000 a year, about 100 / month, for each of us the **HOW** is different."

Editor's note: our Foundation Committee will explain terms such as Rotary Direct during the month of November.

He also spent time talking about the "future", our young people. We had the pleasure of having 4 inbound and rebound students in the room to whom he could refer in his examples.



He closed off by saying: **"We are the district'. Together we can, we must and we will make a difference through the 'Heart, the Science, the Inspiration of Rotary'".**

Past Assistant Governor **Brenda Grice** thanked Craig for his inspirational message.

[Read more...](#)

Meeting Notes of November 2, 2018

Posted by Lucie Gosselin on Nov 02, 2018

President Charles opened the meeting

with the National Anthem and **Mikel Knutsson** gave an invocation. There were no guests or visiting Rotarians.

President Charles announced that **Ian Williams** is having complications from the recent cataract surgery. He is seeing a specialist in Vancouver on this day. As a result, no COGS was produced this week. **Brent Stetar** gave the sad news that former club member **Marj Sabourin** passed away during the night after a brave battle with cancer.

Dave Hammond announced that Bridge nights are back on the regular schedule now that the book sale is done and that the Christmas pot luck will be at **Lila Tanner's** on December 12th. **Jason Bradley** is looking for 1 or 2 host families for our Japanese student who is attending Wellington school. Anyone interested in getting more information either for themselves or on behalf of neighbours and friends, should call Jason. **Denise Wittkofski** announced that there will be a fireside chat at **Lila Tanner's** house on November 15th. **John Salem** reminded everyone to book their tickets for the fellowship event at the Chemainus Theatre on December 6th. He has reserved 40 seats.

Lucie Gosselin introduced Foundation month as this is the first meeting in November. She showed an original painting by Rose Light (who is wife of former member Fred Kolodrubski). The painting was donated to the club by **Ross White** to be auctioned off on the last Friday of November with proceeds going to the Foundation. The painting is in a frame 36 inches by 28 inches. **John Salem** quickly committed to put in a pre-bid of \$150. Anyone else wanting to up that reserve bid is more than welcome prior to the auction on November 30th. **Brent Barootes** has agreed to be the auctioneer. (photo available on website)

Book Sale Report

Janeane Coutu gave a full report on the October book sale which ran from October 12 to 21. We started the sale with over 112,00 books of which close to 50,000 were sold for total proceeds of \$94,700. This surpassed the spring sale with proceeds of \$92,250. In addition to the sales, 15 out of 36 schools used their \$50 coupon for a value of \$750 and approximately 250 books were donated to the Nanaimo Correctional Centre for their literacy program. To emphasize the magnitude of this great fundraiser, **Janeane** shared some stats about the volunteers. There were 293 shifts filled by 76 individual volunteers. 73% of those were filled by club members and 13% by their spouses. The other 14% included members of the Altrusa service club and "friends of the club". She gave special thanks for those volunteers who not only participate in the sale but also show up regularly all year long to sort the books, manage an adopted category, and pick-up books from Literacy and the Thrift shop. She also did a call out to individual members who look after "departments" of the sale such as sign installations and banking. The biggest thank you was to the **Nanaimo North Town Centre** for their generosity in hosting us all year at no cost. Please remember the merchants in that mall when you are out shopping.

Janeane asked those who adopted a category to go cull and reduce their sections by November 24th. If you cannot do it, please let her know and she will assign another volunteer to help you. She also reminded everyone that sorting continues every morning including Saturdays to get ready for the next sale which will be either April or May. The date is yet to be confirmed. If you have never had a chance to pop in, you are encouraged to give it a try. There is good fellowship in that room.

President Charles gave a huge thank you to **Janeane** for chairing the committee who organizes the sale. A member suggested

that we post an ad in the press and/or social media to publicly thank the Nanaimo North Town Centre. The public should know of their contribution. Charles agreed to take that forward.

There were many happy and sad bucks.

Keith McFarlane won the chance to pull the ace of spades and **Charles Ramos** won the table stakes.

[Read more...](#)

Rotary Guest speaker: Varaat Balakrishna Thammanna

Posted by Sean Martin on Nov 06, 2018

Varrat has been a catalyst of change from a child. While he was young and in school he was the first to stand up and speak out when there was an injustice. As he grew, Varaat aspired to be a pilot, he developed this dream watching planes take off and land from near his local town. The major obstacle in his path for achieving his goal was his lack of knowledge in English, so in grade 11 and in just 6 months Varaat taught himself English and joined the air cadets to follow his calling of being in aviation.

Seeing the devastating effects of alcohol and drug abuse first hand in his local city, Varaat submitted a proposal to the Cadet Core to bike around the world to bring awareness to the dangers of alcohol and drug addiction.

After his proposal was accepted Varaat would commit one year of his life to travel to 25 countries and 23,000 KM, to teach and spread awareness to his cause.

One memory Varaat had during his travels was in Egypt when he and his friend were kidnaped by bandits. Recognizing the bandits love for Bollywood movies, he and his friend entertained the bandits with singing and dancing, until impressed with two entertainment and their story they were eventually freed by their captors.

Eventually, after his travels Varaat was granted a scholarship to do his masters in Canada. While here in Canada he was approached by the heart and stroke

foundation to skip rope for the 1994 commonwealth games in Victoria, to spread awareness cardio vascular health. After some training Varaat, skipped rope for 1019KM, and skipped for 22 days. After completing this task, Varaat was personally congratulated by Gordon Campbell, and the premier of BC. Varaat also feels very strongly about preserving our natural resources, and so every year travels around the world to plant tree in countries that do not currently have a reforestation program. He sees it as our obligation to preserve the forests for future generations.

After taking some time away from Canada, Varaat came back to eventually join the Canadian Armed forces. Because of his hard work and dedication to the forces, Varaat was soon chosen to be an honour guard for the top military and dignitaries. Due to his vegetarian diet, Varaat was eventually forced to leave the military because the high animal protein food provided by the military had caused complications with his kidneys. This substantial change in diet - from what his body was used to - would later result in Varaat being the recipient of a successful kidney transplant. However Varaat would not give up his time in the military for anything, and he takes great joy in the fact he was able to serve his country.

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