



# Spinoff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA;  
Pardeep Ahluwalia, President

April 2, 2019

Editor: Don Butler

**PROGRAM: Elly Saidi, CEO, United World Voices, "Art Works for youth development"**

DUTIES: Greeters, **Jean Bégin**; Reception, **Joseph Redhead**; Grace, **Merv Letts**; PP Draw, **Ken Murray and Bob Harrison**; Payment/Attendance **Mary Wattie**; Musical Accompaniment, **Rod Holmes**.

## MEETING BEGINS

We assembled in the church basement as we have since January. President **Pardeep Ahluwalia** welcomed us at noon inviting us to the buffet. At about 12:33, noting the possible annoyance of the sergeant-at-arms at the slight tardiness, he welcomed us to the 36<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Rotary Year with an overview of the day's program and a call to stand and sing the national anthem. **Joseph Redhead** then recognized our visitors: our speaker, Elly Saidi, Ben Shaw Wood, son of our own **Robert**, Rotarian Johnny Marquez from Venezuela again with us, and Jade Yim and Alex Ambeault of Shoe Bank Canada with us as guests of **Brett Brooking**. We sang them welcome. **Ken Murray** then asked Elly to pull the winning PP Draw ticket and **Sabby Duthie** won Tim Hortons gift cards.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Graeme Fraser** on behalf of **Rocco Disipio** and the Soc and Rec Committee called on us to sign up in the circulating folder for the May 5, Night at the Rideau Carleton Raceway Casino. The Casino has provided us a venue to sell Cash Calendars participation will show our Club's appreciation to the Casino and be a fun event with fellow Rotarians. Cost is \$37
- **Graeme** the urged us to promote ticket sales for the April 13 Music for Humanity concert for the eradication of polio. The program now includes maritime Celtic, folk singing, two classical violinists, one a grandson of Merv and Marilyn Letts, and a classical voice performance. There will be a draw for a basket of excellent wines and a reception after the show. An enjoyable evening and each \$25 ticket will be matched by the Gates fund to put \$75 toward Ending Polio Now.
- **Marilyn Letts** showed us the program for a western Rotary club gala evening which had recently raised \$30,000. **Marilyn** was also impressed by this club's membership brochure. Our relevant committees will be interested in this information.
- **Joseph Redhead** detailed preparations done for Mums for Thanksgiving 2019. These include agreement with RC Nepean Kanata on processing their own orders and those of RC Ottawa Stittsville, letters to previous buyers concerning re-use of their previous order info, completion of an order processing manual and much more.
- **Bill Rolph** recommended to us the April 5 performances of the Mozart Requiem by the Rideau Chorale and Mozart's piano concerto #20 at Southminster United.
- Answering Brett **Brooking's** call for a show of hands a lot of us have sorted shoes for Shoe Bank. On **Brett's** invitation Jade Yim took the floor to thank us for our support. She told us that since July 16 they have sent out some 56 tons of shoes to recycling brokers and supplied thousands of people in Canada with shoes. She invited us to find out how to host a collection box for 6 weeks and then presented **Brett** with a certificate of thanks for his work
- **President Pardeep** gave birthday greetings to **Victor Mazzola** and **Mike Traub**
  - reminded us of the Training Assembly and Foundation Dinner in Cornwall April 6 and 7.
  - reminded us of the challenge by RC Nepean Kanata to participate in their Music Trivia Night May 31
  - see **Stu Picozzii** or **Merv Letts** about participating in the Rotary Golf-a-thon June 10.
  - Our next meeting will be in St Elias's renovated conference hall.

## GUEST SPEAKER

**Dave Morton** had met Elly Saidi during some of the Bushtukah events for women. He introduced her with a brief overview of her origin in Iran, her time as a refugee in India, her immigration to Canada and her founding of United World Voices.

Elly then took up the story. Elly's family were Baha'i, a religious group increasingly persecuted in Iran. Elly had been "scrappy" at school and fought back. Her parents thought they would be safer with Elly in a school outside Iran. While in India to install Elly in school the Iranian borders were closed, and the family could not return. In India Elly worked in a charity to teach sewing to women who needed a way to earn income. After a number of years Elly and her family were able to immigrate as refugees to Canada.

In Canada Elly founded United World Voices (UWV) to continue the service to the vulnerable she had begun in India. UWV provides sewing equipment and teaches immigrant and low-income groups to alter donated clothing to fit their own families and to sell to others. More recently UWV started ArtWorks, a social enterprise to teach homeless youth to craft and sell items such as belts and jewelry using recycled bicycle tires and other reclaimed material. This gives them confidence and helps them to enter the normal job market. In 2019 UWV plans to take in 25 youth and cycle 10 to regular jobs and seeks help to cover the \$400 per person program cost

Answering questions from **Peter Fisher** and **Ken Murray** Elly said ArtWorks operated in a community centre and its products could be bought on line (see <http://unitedworldvoices.org/boutique/>). Elly was thanked by **Sabby Duthie** with the usual memento and a donation to End Polio but also with the 10 Timcards **Sabby** had won in the PP Draw.

#### HAPPY DOLLARS

**President Pardeep** chose **Ginette Thomas** who collected from:

- **Peter Fisher** happy about the Kitchissippi Times article on **Keith Fraser**
  - Johnny Marquez from Venezuela enjoying our meetings during his visit to his daughter in Ottawa
  - **Linda Flynn** having participated in a charity curling event that had raised \$45,000 (and over \$600,000 in the past 25 years)
  - **Jack Troughton** enjoyed the Foundation Dinner hosted by Carol Bell Thompson and hoped all would go well with his gall bladder surgery the following week (Best wishes Jack!!)
  - **Jim Maxwell** had dinner with his son visiting from the orphanage project in Eswatini. The orphanage will soon care for 500 kids but with three irrigation dams, one of which our Club supported, enough food can be grown for them.
  - **Marilyn Letts** cited a Kitchissippi Times article on **Bud McGinnis** and said the paper would welcome articles on other newsworthy people living in its service area
  - **Ken Murray** was happy that **Sabby** won the Timcards
- Carol Bell Thompson** happy to hear such an inspiring speaker

#### MEETING CLOSE

**President Pardeep** announced the committee meetings to follow and reviewed the program for April 9. He reminded us that Rotarians are people of action called on to Be the Inspiration for making a difference in their communities. With a final call to invite potential members to a meeting he then ended this meeting

#### MEETING PHOTOS

<https://rcwo.org/PhotoAlbums/2019-04-02-elly-saidi-united-world-voices-%E2%80%9Cartworks%E2%80%9D-program-for-youth-development> by Brett Brooking

#### CASH CALENDAR WINNERS

Here are the winners of the Cash Calendar draws for the week, March 27 – April 2, 2019:

- 2563 \$20 Don Parks, North Gower, ON
- 1402 \$25 Ian Talbot, Ottawa, ON
- 3728 \$50 Joe & Luisa Vincelli, Ottawa, ON
- 1938 \$50 Christopher Watters, Ottawa, ON
- 3868 \$50 Julie McKenzie, Osgoode, ON
- 1412 \$25 Louise Zwierwich, Ottawa, ON
- 1893 \$125 Ross Monsour, Kanata, ON

#### Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Nicole Beggs "Pamoja Tunaweza (Together We Can)" Support to a Tanzanian health care organization  
Intro **Doreen Ide** Thanks: **Navin Parekh**  
Greeters: **Sucha Mann, Jean Bégin** Reception: **Cletus Peters** Grace: **Marcia Armstrong**  
PP Draw: **Bob Harrison** Editor: **Joseph Redhead** Meeting fee/Attendance: **Mary Wattie**

#### Tuesday, April 16, 2019

Dr Geoff Outerbridge "World Spine Health Programs" Low tech care in developing countries  
Intro: **Dr. Dirk Keenan** Thanks: **Virginia Spencer**  
Greeters: **Brian Foster, Larry Chop** Reception: **Sabby Duthie** Grace: **Roy Miller**  
PP Draw: **Clive Talbot** Editor: **Ginette Thomas** Meeting fee/Attendance: **Mary Wattie**



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