



Spinoff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA
Jean Bégin, President
January 24, 2017 Editor: Don Butler

January 24, 2017 Program

Marcia Armstrong- Classification Talk

Intro: **Carol Bell Thompson** Thanks: **Larry Chop**

Gathering: who and what

We were welcomed by **Hadi Mortada** and **Sucha Mann**, we paid **Merv** and **Marilyn Letts** for lunch and bought our Past Presidents' Draw tickets from **Blair Armstrong** (for a gift certificate to a not unfamiliar shoe store). **Eric Armstrong** recorded visitors and guests and I relieved **Rocco Disipio** who had been willing to do Spinoff for a flu-stricken **Graeme Fraser** at very short notice.

At 12:35 **President Jean Bégin** rang the bell and called on us to rise and sing O Canada accompanied by Patricia Talbot (to whom special thanks) on the keyboard in the absence of **Rod Holmes**, wrestling with a misbehaving sound system. **Inna Flyazhenkova** reminded us in her thoughtful grace of how much we had to be thankful for in a world of strife and trouble. **Eric Armstrong** then welcomed Nabil Al Jarash, guest of **Ali Pahlavani**, Dr Ceridwen Rankin, guest of **Dirk Keenan** and, of course, our accompanist for the Welcome Song, Patricia Talbot, wife of **Clive. Blair Armstrong's** PP Draw found **Larry Chop** as holder of the winning ticket for the \$50 certificate or, as **Blair** put it, "half a pair of shoes"

Announcements

President Jean now reviewed the many contributions to our Club from a member who

- Organizes the purchase, payment and distribution of 1000 Dictionary 4 Life books by several Ottawa clubs to 21 schools and doing the District Grant reports.
- Upgrades and updates our Club website
- Does much of the Finance Committee work, learning QuickBooks, entering data, doing Board reports and writing all the cheques
- 60th Anniversary planning and organizing, AND baking the celebration cake and decorating for our Jan 3 meeting

and presented Linda Flynn with a President's Rose.

President Jean also

-read us a moving letter of thanks from a recipient of an Xmas Hamper through the Caring and Sharing Exchange via City View United Church -relayed to us the appreciation of the Exchange for our donation of \$500 which paid for quite a few Hampers.

- praised **Marilyn Letts's** article in community papers about us as the Singing Rotary Club (see <http://vistas-news.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/VISTAS-January-2017.pdf> page 31 for the article)

- in the absence of birthdays this week, teased **Russ Hicks** about trying to speed things up by announcing early his 90th birthday this coming November

-reminded us of the Club 60th Anniversary celebration April 28 and noted that Era Teams are hard at work preparing exciting entertainment.

-asked for volunteers to provide two door prizes for the Anniversary party.

-told us **Phil Bronsther** had planned a menu representing the origin countries of our diverse Club membership and asked that members follow on that theme by making a favorite dessert. A folder will circulate in March to record food allergies and dessert offers with the number each will feed. We are hoping for 150 attendees.

- presented **Chris Wanna** with a perfect attendance pin while **Inna Flyazhenkova** took pictures

Brett Brooking called on us to submit our Cash Calendar entries for the draws starting next week and also to return the unsold calendars. He also told us shoe sorting for Shoe Bank Canada would resume on Feb 1 at Dymon Storage Kanata. Former WO member Jake Maarse asked for contributions to the circulating folder for his Skating to End Polio event on Big Rideau Lake.

Speaker

Carol Bell Thompson told us **Marcia Armstrong** had asked that her Introduction be short so as not to detract from **Marcia's** Classification Talk. So, **Carol** gave the podium to **Marcia** without further ado.

Marcia had grown up on a farm in northern Ontario and had learned about hard work and to cope with unexpected problems. She illustrated the latter point with an amusing anecdote about having to leave the dinner table to retrieve their cows which had strayed on to a local airport runway. Her mother had stressed that she should always do her best and her father had taught that she should never refuse to do something just because she was a girl.

She had married and accompanied her husband as he moved to new workplaces during his career and then on her own after 25 years of marriage when he died. While he worked on his PhD she got a degree in geography. While her husband taught in Windsor she taught high school Sarnia. After a stint in Winnipeg they moved to Guelph where **Marcia** became director of a rural development research project. In Sackville, New Brunswick she was not only occupied raising three young children but got involved starting a farmers' market to which in due course was added a store - "Just the Thing" - which is still in business selling the work of local artisans. She also qualified for a realtor licence and, with her husband, found the time to buy and renovate a badly dilapidated house.

In due course the family moved to Ottawa. **Marcia** took up her membership in the Canadian Federation of University Women where she met **Carol Bell Thompson**. There followed jobs with the Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre, Gene Whelan

(of the green hat), the Ottawa Carleton regional government, the clothing store Cleo, policy development with Health Canada and then Agriculture and AgriFood Canada and finally operations director of Pancreatic Cancer Canada. And she is not idle now. She volunteers with Ten Thousand Villages, sings in a church choir, is learning the clarinet with the Ottawa New Horizons Band (Interesting group. See <http://ottawanewhorizons.com/>) and is active in Rotary

Larry Chop got up to thank **Marcia**. He had known her years before as a neighbour in Ottawa, had lost touch, and had a nice surprise when she came into a meeting when he was a Greeter. **Larry** then summed up with "What a great talk!". To which I say "Amen"!

Happy Dollars

Hadi Mortada reminded us again of Visitors Day on 28 February

Bill Morris collected from

- **Bud McGinnis** happy that his family had come to celebrate his 95th birthday.
- **Dirk Keenan** who put in \$20 to celebrate 20 years of growth of his chiropractic health centre.
- Jake Maarse happy to touch base with his former Club.
- **Inna Flyazhenkova** pleased at successfully delivering today's grace.

Meeting end

President Jean Bégin closed the meeting with her reminders that we are Rotary Serving Humanity and that we should bring likely acquaintances to a meeting.

60th Anniversary Book- the last 10 years

Member help is invited in urging those who have promised to write "desperately awaited" updates on four important club activities to complete them ASAP. The editors are ready to put the book together but lack reports on the Mums fundraiser (**Don Butler**), Social activities (**Denzil Feinberg**), the Cash Calendars fundraiser (**Brett Brooking**) and exchange students (**Rocco Disipio**).

Cash Calendar

Draws for the 2017 Cash Calendar start very soon so please ensure completed entries are submitted. Winning ticket info will be published in a later Spinoff

Tuesday, January 31, 2017

Partners' Day

Dr Bill Pomfret: Health and Safety in the Workplace

Intro: **Sucha Mann** Thanks: **Stu Picozzi**

Greeters: **Warren Creighton & Bruce Brooks** **Reception Bob Harrison**
Lunch Payment: **Navin Parekh & Marcia Armstrong** Grace: **Joan Heyland**
Past President's Draw: **Russ Hicks** Editor: **Graeme Fraser**

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Anne Cole: with a charity fundraiser to Machu Picchu

Intro: **Linda Flynn** Thanks: **tba**

Greeters: **Dave Morton & Claudette Léger-Paillé** Reception: **Henry Akanko**
Lunch Payment: **Bruce Brooks & Cam Ross** Grace: **Navin Parekh**
Past President's Draw: **Linda Flynn** Editor: **Rocco Disipio**

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