



SpinoFF

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA

Jean Bégin, President

July 26, 2016

Editor: Don Butler

Tuesday July 26, 2016

Rabbi Chaim Mendelsohn: *Judaism's Perspective on Successful Relationships*

Introduction: **Phil Bronsther** Thanks: **Denzil Feinberg**

Lunch payment: **Len Baird & Clive Talbot** Greeters: **Chris Wanna & Blair Armstrong**

Grace: **Andrew Young** Reception: **Sucha Mann** PP Draw: **Nigel Lever** Editor: **Don Butler**

At 12:00 we got started with a grace said by **Andrew Young**- logical to do it before most of us have served ourselves – and at 12:15 **President Jean Bégin** called the meeting to order. After the O Canada with **Rod Holmes** on the keyboard **Sucha Mann** recognized visitor Ian Warrack from RC Ottawa South, Jade Yim and Erin McArter of Shoe Bank Canada sponsor Dymon Storage and guests of **Brett Brooking**, Tony Watkins, our summer visitor from RC Barbados, Stacy Keatch and our speaker, Rabbi Mendelsohn. Again led by **Rod Holmes** we welcomed them in song.

Nigel Lever now invited our speaker to pull the winning PP Draw ticket and **Susan Diening** won the \$50 gift certificate.

At **President Jean's** invitation Jade Yim told us how Shoe Bank Canada had started in cooperation with the Kelowna Food Bank to complement with a shopfront retail outlet the USA used shoe charity, Soles4Souls, which also had a chapter in Kelowna but was more focussed on international activity. Shoe Bank Canada, works with Rotary clubs and is now present in BC, Alberta and Ontario. It prioritizes local needs for shoes and only then ships shoes abroad. The Ottawa dranch of Shoe Bank Canada is supported by Dymon Storage and several other companies and has supplied tens of thousands of pairs to people who need them. After supplying Canadian needs it has recently been able to ship 75,000 pairs abroad.

Ian Warrack was now invited by **President Jean** to tell us about the RC Ottawa South fundraiser, Polo in the Park Ottawa, on August 27. In cooperation with Wesley Clover Parks and the Ottawa Polo Club this event offers range of attractions in addition to polo for \$15 general admission- 18 or younger

admission is free. In addition there will be VIP tent offering a gourmet lunch and an afternoon tea for \$250 or \$2000 for a table of 10. This event is in support of the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health and the Therapeutic Riding Associaton of Ottawa-Carleton- TROtt

President Jean now reminded us that membership dues had become owing on July 1 and asked that unpaid dues be paid ASAP. She then asked **Rob Shaw-Wood** to come forward to exchange his pink badge for a regular one. And she finished on a definite up-note naming recent birthday members including **Larry Chop, Campbell Whillans, Clive Talbot, Fred Christie, Hadi Mortada, Keenan Wellar and Luana Achihaei**

Phil Bronsther now offered for sale 4 tickets for a dinner and an Ottawa Fury game- value \$250. There were no bids so he gave them to Carol Waters to use for Centre 507, the adult drop-in annd support service centre.

Phil then told us something about our speaker. Rabbi Chaim Mendelsohn leads the Chabad synagogue and community centre at CentrepoinTE and is a director of the Canadian Federation of Chabad Lubavitch with schools, synagogues and community centres across Canada. Rabbi Mendelsohn was educated in North America, Europe and Australia. He is a reserve chaplain in the Canadian forces and hosts a weekly radio show. Rabbi Mendelsohn started his talk on relationships with a story about two lines of men waiting to enter heaven; one a long line of men who had never said 'no' to their wives and one with just one man. When asked the man said he was there because his wife had told him to stand there. Mendelsohn continued by telling us the Hebrew words for man

and woman were each just one letter off from the words for fire and destruction. The missing letters spell the Hebrew word for God; the point being that without God marriage is fiery and destructive; with God marriage is harmonious.

Mendelsohn followed on with a story about Noah after the flood illustrating that the faults of a person need not be seen as an opportunity to deplore but as an opportunity to help that person improve his behaviour.

Mendelsohn then recounted the story of Jacob working seven years to gain the hand in marriage of Rachel whose beauty had completely smitten him. After the wedding however Jacob found he had been tricked by Rachel's father into marrying her older sister Leah. On complaining to Rachel's father Jacob was told he could also have Rachel now but would have to work another seven years. Jacob agreed but the more successful marriage in the end was with Leah with whom Jacob was buried.

Mendelsohn drew from this that Rachel is the image of the person who infatuates us in the beginning -the person we date- but the real human being we end up being married to if we are lucky is Leah. He says this lesson applies to both men and women. It is not a matter of what we can get in a marriage but a matter of what we can give- a principle quite consistent with Rotary.

In thanking Mendelsohn **Denzil Feinberg** took the opportunity to ask about the Jewish approach to same sex marriage but the Rabbi said there was not enough time to answer that. **Denzil** accepted this and then declared that in his case, after 34 years he was still dating his Rachel. He then presented Mendelsohn with the usual memento and a record of donation in his name to Polio Plus.

President Jean now invited a few words on the Club Mums for Thanksgiving fundraiser and **Carol Waters** told us that she and Brian had now approached all the investment brokers who had purchased from Meals on Wheels last year and she expected orders for 2000 plants. She told us this

showed the sort of buyer we should canvas and urged us to get on with it as the mid August order cut-off is approaching.

Happy Dollars with **Peter Gilman** elicited happy comments from:

- **Carol Waters** on her daughter's forthcoming wedding in England to which she was now traveling
- **Henry Akanko** about his holiday in Saskatchewan.
- **Merve Letts** about the Polo in the Park event which he highly recommended
- **Russ Hicks** who had been inspired by the speaker and noted that his first love had succumbed to cancer but that another angel had then come into his life

President Jean then reviewed the program for next week, and after the meetings to follow had been announced by their chairs, brought the meeting to a close.

Here are the winners of the Cash Calendar draws for the two-week period, July 12 – 25, 2016. All winners, except the last one, are from Ontario.

1151 \$25 Verna Garrard, Ottawa
4840 \$50 Bruce Dwyer, Manotick
1608 \$25 Dale Shaw, Kemptville
1574 \$50 Jean Jackson, Kemptville
4355 \$25 Cathryn Vanburen, Ottawa
4222 \$50 Marlene Nasser, Ottawa
2951 \$20 Elizabeth Twolan, Kemptville
4925 \$25 Sheila Smith, Ottawa
1699 \$50 Wayne Tosh, Orléans
2429 \$25 Rob Kluck, Kemptville
1901 \$25 Laurene MacDonald, Osgoode
1542 \$100 Joanne Grain, Ottawa
4031 \$50 Susan Bennett, Ottawa
3137 \$50 Heather Screaton, Calgary, AB

Tuesday, August 2, 2016

Club Assembly – **President Jean Begin**

Lunch Payment: **Len Baird & Anup Subedi** Greeters: **Victor Mazzola & Joe Parkinson**
Grace: **TBA** Reception: **Cam Whillans** PP Draw: **Blair Armstrong** Editor: **Jack Troughton**

Tuesday, August 9, 2016

Speaker TBA

Introduction: TBA Thanks: TBA

Lunch Payment: **Larry Chop & Cam Ross** Greeters: **Navin Parekh & Bill Rolph**
Grace: **TBA** Reception: **Henry Akanko** PP Draw: **Alan Bowles** Editor: **Rod Holmes**