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SpinoFF

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA

Chris Wanna, President

June 14, 2016

Editor: Joseph Redhead

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Imam Dr Mohamad Jebara: *Halal food and some other aspects of Islam*

Intro: **Hadi Mortada** Thanks: **Brian Hartley**

It was clear that summer was fast approaching when we observed the tropical colours of the shirts being worn by **Russell Hicks** and **Warren Creighton**. Rotarians and guests were treated to the welcoming handshakes and beaming smiles of **Eric Armstrong** and **Andrew Young** as they streamed into a meeting hall with which we are now all comfortable. Payment for lunch was received by **Clive Talbot** and **Cam Ross**, while **Joan Heyland**, sometimes distracted by the attention of a mischievous husband, sold tickets for the Past President's draw. **Bob Harrison** was very much a presence as he sold tickets for the Awards Gala and Change-Over Meeting 28 June.

Seats were occupied for some considerable time without clear signs of our speaker's appearance, which led to some members examining their wrist watches as time moved merrily onward. **Hadi** would be observed on his phone presumably checking up on the progress our speaker was making as he made his way to St. Elias. Although the meeting got underway at 12:08, the serious business of the meeting commenced at 12:30 when Dr. Mohamad Jebara was escorted into the hall by **Hadi Mortada**.

With the head table fully occupied **President Chris** called upon us to sing the National Anthem, which was followed by grace from **Sabby Duthie**. **Robert Shaw-Wood** announced four guests, these being Denise Wanna, Patricia Henry, wife of **Keith Henry**, as well as two guests of **Don Butler**, namely Dr. Josephine Etowa, Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Ottawa and Dr. Ekaete Asuquo, a newly minted PhD graduate of the University of Ottawa who studied under the supervision of Dr. Etowa.

We treated guests in the usual manner with a resounding rendition of our welcome song. **Don Butler's** guests were greatly surprised and appreciative of such a welcome.

Dr. Jebara accepted **Joan Heyland's** invitation to pick a PP draw ticket and he selected the ticket held by Patricia Henry. This was followed by a series of announcements, with the lead off presenter being Dr. Etowa.

Dr. Etowa gave us an update on the work she and graduate student Ms. Asuquo had been doing in Nigeria to improve the knowledge Nigerian women had on measures to be employed to reduce maternal and neonatal morbidity occurrences. This work had been supported by the Club, the University of Ottawa Chair of Public Health Nursing, and the Rotary Club of Calabar Hilltop in eastern Nigeria. The grant provided them with the opportunity to deliver training according to WHO Safe Motherhood practices and to test training effectiveness by comparing participant knowledge before and after the program.

Andrew Young then took us through a comprehensive presentation on the ins and outs of the Mums Campaign. **Carol Waters** asked Andrew if he would be kind enough to provide members with a copy of his presentation and he agreed to do so. **Eric Armstrong** announced that he needed a couple more members to host visiting Rotarians on the Scotland to Canada Curling Tour. **Hadi Mortada** reminded us of the BBQ at the **Balys** spread in Kanata on June 25 and encouraged members to register on line for the District Change Over meeting. **Brian Hartley** reminded members that a get-well card for Bea Osame was available for signing. The last announcement was by **President Chris** who announced that **Mark Sherboneau** had resigned as Treasurer and that **Hadi Mortada** would take over and that his supporting cast would be **Linda Flynn** and **Mary Wattie**.

With lunch under our belts, **Hadi Mortada** took to the microphone to introduce Dr. Jebara who would

talk to us about – *Cleansing the Vessel: Halal Food*.

Dr. Jebara was arguably the most unusual guest the Club has hosted in many years. He is the Chief Imam and Resident Scholar at the Cordova Spiritual Education Centre and an avid promoter of social responsibility and universal values. Through the Centre he promotes and lectures on the importance of love, harmony, and understanding in the establishment of friendship and goodwill between citizens. He uses interfaith and intercultural outreach, social responsibility and education methods to convey these most vital messages. Dr. Jebara is a sought after lecturer around the world and has authored more than 100 academic books. He is also a most unusual cleric, in that his talents include painting, skiing, skating, and hiking.

It is worth noting, before we present snippets of Dr. Jebara's subject matter, that we document for the annals of the Club that in 2014 Dr. Jebara cycled and roller-bladed from Ottawa to Quebec City to promote healthy living. Now known as the "Cycling Cleric" Dr. Jebara took to the road again in June 2015 to cycle 535 km from Ottawa to Toronto to raise awareness about the dire need for organ and issue donation, and to encourage Ontarians to become organ donors. Adopting other leadership approaches, Dr. Jebara has challenged clerics in the city to bike races intended to raise awareness about affordable housing issues in the Ottawa region, and continued with his cycling pursuits by cycling across Ontario in the spring of 2016 to enjoin us to address poverty amongst children.

Dr. Jebara ensured that we were all attentive by starting out with a few humorous comments and a suggestion that since our motto – Service Above Self – could be put as 'Service Over Self' and use the acronym SOS, the universal appeal for help in dire circumstances. This observation, added to the command of language displayed during his talk, indicates that Dr. Jebara is a man of considerable intellect. He then chanted in Arabic what he translated as a flowery welcome before embarking on his talk about halal food. Halal food is that which is considered to promote a person's wellbeing. Dr. Jebara explains that God asked people to use their bodies as a vessel of goodness, and that this vessel should be a place where the divine can repose. He reminded us that as health

declines the mind is affected negatively.

Considering that he was speaking to us during the month of fasting for Muslims, Dr. Jebara spent a few moments to extoll the benefits of the fast. At the conclusion of his presentation we all had a better appreciation of the type of world Dr. Jebara wanted us to participate in creating.

Sucha Mann complimented Dr Jebara on his presentation and a few others had questions that took Dr Jebara some time to answer. **Brian Hartley** thanked Dr. Jebara for his stimulating talk noting very appropriately that the remedy to so many distressing conditions with which one is afflicted is knowledge. He then presented Dr Jebara our customary gift and donation to Rotary's Polio Eradication campaign in his name

Jean Begin was the final official announcer. She advised members that the annual membership dues would be increased to \$250.00 so that the current deficit, caused in part by a decrease in the value of the Canadian dollar against the US dollar, can be reversed.

Carol Waters informs us that Nella, a server we remember fondly from Travelodge, had started a home cleaning service and Carol would like us to support Nella's new endeavour. She had Nella's contact coordinates

Inna Flyazhenkova was our photographer today.

President Chris brought the meeting to a close at 1:45 PM.

Correction of Spinoff June 7- **Rob Shaw-Wood** in fact earned his MBA from Western University

Here are the winners of the Cash Calendar draws for the week, June 7 – 13, 2016.
All but the first winner are from the province of Ontario.

3241 \$20 Kim Miller, Portugal Cove, St Philip's, NL
4735 \$25 Sharon Clarke, Kemptville
4685 \$20 Harold Workman, Kemptville
3024 \$25 **Inna Flyazhenkova**, Ottawa
1552 \$50 Tim Lennox, Kemptville
1241 \$100 Bill Quinn, Ottawa
4885 \$50 Dave Mitchell, Kemptville

Tuesday, June 21, 2016 No meeting

Register for District Changeover Meeting June 22 5:30-9:00 PM at <http://portal.clubrunner.ca/50214>

Tuesday June 28, 2016

Club Changeover & Awards Night 6:30 pm (cash bar from 5:30)

Tickets from **Bob Harrison**- \$40

Greeters: **Rob Shaw-Wood & Roy Miller** Grace: Rev Andrew Daily (guest)

Reception: **Ken Sparks** PP Draw: **Doug Heyland** Editor: **Graeme Fraser**