



Spinoff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA
Jean Bégin, President

March 6, 2018

Editor: Don Butler

PROGRAM Harry Binks: trekking with the Dream Mountains Foundation

We gather

Snow was largely gone but we know at March single digits winter is not done. Skiers can take heart.

As we entered the hall we were welcomed by **Ken Murray**, self-appointed to help out **Phil Bronsther** on greeting. **Hadi Mortada** stood in for **Mary Wattie**, away ill, to collect our payment and note attendance. **Mike Traub** handled reception, **Bud McGinnis** sold Past Presidents Draw tickets and **Jen Ahde** also had a front table seat to hand out Music for Humanity posters and sell tickets

Meeting proceeds

At noon **President Jean Bégin** greeted us and asked us to remember our tickets when we went to the buffet. At 12:30 she welcomed us to this 32nd meeting of the Rotary year, summarized today's program and asked us to sing the national anthem with **Rod Holmes** at the keyboard.

Victor Mazzola gave us an invocation and then **Mike Traub** recognized guest speaker Harry Binks who would be introduced later and welcomed Honoured Life Member **Peter Gilman**. There being no other guests **Bud McGinnis** asked Harry Binks to draw the winning PP Draw number and **Ken Murray** won a \$25 Indigo gift card.

Announcements

Jen Ahde showed us the poster for the Music for Humanity event and told us of the broader range of music – from classical to jazz- planned for the 2018 show on Saturday, April 7 and named some of the performers. She plans to update us regularly and wants each of us to set a personal goal for the number of tickets we will sell. The event goal is 270 tickets and she is setting 10 tickets as a goal for herself. Tickets are \$25 and can be bought from committee members, from her office for credit or debit cards and from Eventbrite for an extra charge of \$1.64. The show will be at the Beechwood Cemetery Sacred Space.

Alan Bowles started by groaning to convey the pain felt by members deserving awards but not

nominated. He urged us to get our nominations in before the March 31 deadline.,

President Jean wished Happy Birthday to **Caroline DeWitt** on the 7th. She then showed us a picture of former exchange student Sabrina Perody with her new haircut as she gets ready to start chemo.

Program

In introducing our speaker, Harry Binks, **Gaye Moffett** told us that Binks Insurance Brokers had been founded by Harry's grandfather. She added that Harry's father and grandfather had been Rotarians, but he had chosen to join Kiwanis. He had a number of leadership roles with Kiwanis until he left because at that time Kiwanis did not accept women members. He has been active in a several insurance industry associations and has served on the boards of the GCTC and Family Services Ottawa.

Harry Binks started with some background on his father as a Rotarian. He then moved on to the Dream Mountains Foundation telling us that Shawn Dawson had founded it after climbing the highest mountain on each of the seven continents and deciding he wanted to share with others the benefits to a person of training for and completing difficult climbs in awe inspiring settings. As difficult treks but not requiring special equipment Dawson chose Machu Picchu, Kilimanjaro and Everest Base Camp and leads the team to one of those places each year. Each participant tries to raise \$5000 for one of the charities the Foundation supports as well as paying his or her own costs. Harry raises for the Ottawa Network for Education Schools Breakfast Program.

Hiking at Mount Marcy in New York and on the Wolf Train in Gatineau Park provides the opportunity to get to know the other team members and to get used to the equipment. Harry said he also climbs the stairs at a 32-floor apartment building in Ottawa. He told us for high altitude hiking one should walk slowly, breathe deeply and drink water

Harry showed us pictures taken by the 2015 team going to Everest Base Camp. Their trek had to be cancelled because of the Nepal earthquake that year which occurred shortly after the team arrival in Kathmandu. The Yak and Yeti hotel at which they were staying suffered little damage, so team members were not hurt. Rotarian members met with the local Rotarians to help arrange with ShelterBox and other providers for relief supplies. One of the pictures showed trekkers from RC Volgograd in Russia and our **Inna Flyazhenkova** recognized some of them. Harry's team had luckily cancelled a visit that day to the Dharahara Tower which tower collapsed during the quake killing all who were in it. Some of the team members suffered PTSD from what they saw.

Harry likes hiking; it transforms one. Torres del Paine with friends in 2016; with Dream Mountains to Kilimanjaro in 2017- he showed us some pictures of that trip; and in 2018 he is going with Dream Mountains to Everest Base Camp. For this he has raised over \$6000 for the School Breakfast Program.

Ed Balys asked if the Machu Picchu trip is harder than the others. Harry answered that Machu Picchu takes 3-4 days while the others take 7-8 days. Answering **Jen Ahde** on whether the trails around Ottawa provided a good preparation for the treks Harry said that you need the stair climbing too. **Bob Harrison** noted that at Everest Base Camp trekkers are kept separate from those planning to summit. **Ed Balys** wished he were 50 years younger and thanked Harry in the usual way with a memento and the certificate of a contribution to End Polio.

Happy Dollars

Joseph Redhead was chosen to collect and garnered from:

Dave Morton happy that the ticket sales to the Bushtukah 11th Sporty Women's evening on

April 8 look to raise about \$5000 for the Cornerstone women's shelter.

Inna Flyazhenkova had been happy to see the pictures of friends from the Volgograd Rotary Club

Don Butler told us that Adam Cicchillitti-organizer of a previous Music for Humanity program- was giving a guitar recital at St Barts Anglican Church on MacKay street on Saturday March 10.

Merv Letts put in \$20 to tell of a stranger who found the lost key to his son's car and left a note on the windshield saying he had left the key at a nearby restaurant. His son recovered the key and left \$20 towards the finder's next restaurant bill.

Joan Heyland had enjoyed taking Rotary Global scholar Charles Henri and family out to a sugar bush and bringing them home for pizza afterwards

Jen Ahde reminded us of her goal to sell 10 Music for Humanity tickets and hoped to hear sales goal commitments from other members.

Andrew Young said he and **Cletus Peters** had discussed **Ed Balys'** stated wish to be 50 years younger and noted that at Everest Base Camp there were no trees to fall out of.

The close

President Jean the reviewed next week's program and closed the meeting with the reminders that we are Rotary Making a Difference and to bring potential members to a meeting

Cash calendar

Here are the winners of the Cash Calendar draws for the week, February 28 – March 6, 2018:

2601 \$50 Mary Maarse, North Gower, ON

1291 \$20 David Mercer, St. John's NL

2933 \$25 Patricia Talbot, Ottawa, ON

3255 \$50 William Elliott, Ottawa, ON

2655 \$25 Muriel Cardo, Ottawa, ON

2348 \$50 Kevin & Bev Boyd, Kanata, ON

0978 \$200 Susan Dow, Ottawa, ON

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Club assembly, committee reports

Greeters: **Brian Hartley, Brian Foster** Invocation: **Brett Brooking** Reception: **Cletus Peters**

PP Draw: **Fred Christie** Ticket Sales/Attendance: **Mary Wattie** Editor: **Jack Troughton**

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Teacher Danielle Fontaine and 2 students: Shannen's Dream for aboriginal education

Intro: **Marilyn Letts** Thanks: **Jen Soucy**

Greeters: **Merv Letts, Roy Miller** Invocation: **Eric Armstrong** Reception: **Navin Parekh**

PP Draw: **Keith Fraser** Ticket Sales/Attendance: **Mary Wattie** Editor: **Rob Shaw-Wood**

