



# Spinoff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA  
Jean Bégin, President

**May 8, 2018**      **Editor: Joseph Redhead**

**PROGRAM: Marlene Hudson: About the Orpheus Musical Theatre Society**

## Gathering

With the temperature around the high teens at lunch it was clear that we are well into Spring. The turnout was excellent and there was a wave of fellowship washing through the room. **Ginette Thomas** and **Carol Bell Thompson** greeted members and guests with warm smiles. **Robert Harrison** received guests and visitors, while **Mary Wattie** was her exuberant self as she collected attendance monies. **Ron Scott** also got into the welcoming spirit as he enticed toonies from members for Past President Draw tickets.

## The Meeting

As usual, **President Jean Bégin** invited us to the buffet at 12:05 and opened the 41st meeting of the Rotary Year at 12:30. We sang the national anthem with **Rod Holmes** on the keyboards and Jen Soucy said Grace. Then, Robert Harrison introduced our nine guests, some of whom hailed from distant lands. Apart from our guest speaker, Marlene Hudson, our guests today included: (1) Drummond Hudson, husband of our guest speaker; (2) Cliff Hughes, visiting Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Chichester, England; (3) Wayne Kines, an active member of the Neepawa Rotary Club in western Manitoba; his companion (4) Deva-Marie Beck, PhD, a Registered Nurse from Neepawa who is also a Rotarian and a past District Chair of International Inner Wheel and their two Ugandan guests (5) Bwambale Fauza, a Registered Nurse who serves as Regional Coordinator for five District Health Services in the southwest Uganda and is a member of the Rotary Club of Kasese, Uganda (where our **Navin Parekh's** mobility aids

program is active); (6) Andrew Mukhwana, the Principal of the Summit View Army Primary School, in Kampala, 7) Barbara Nunn, guest of Suren Gupta; and, (8) Erik Costamagna, a member of the Rotary Club of Sestriere Via Lattea, Italy. We serenaded our guests with our Welcome Song.

**Ron Scott** ran the Past President's Draw which was won by Alan Bowles.

## Announcements

**Phil Bronsther** again urged us to sign up for the Voyageurs camping trip and promised a good time. He also announced that the Club BBQ will be on June 23 and that a casino night is being considered for the autumn.

**Pardeep Ahluwalia** reminded us to answer the President's Questionnaire.

**Stuart Picozzi** called for volunteers for the tree planting event in Kanata on June 2. He also thanked those who had turned up for the trash collection event along Hunt Club Drive on the weekend.

**Robert Harrison** spoke about the upcoming Changeover meeting on the evening of June 19. He told us tickets were available now and had to be bought in advance. There would be no tickets at the door.

**Rod Holmes** announced the availability of the 60th Anniversary celebration book on the club website and asked members wanting a hard copy to let him know.

**President Jean** extended birthday greetings to **Len Baird** (9th), **Gaye Moffett** (11th) and **Phil Bronsther** (12th).

She then asked if we needed a more substantial way of identifying ourselves than our name badges when members attend representing our club community events such as the mayor's reception the previous week. Lions and Kiwanis and other group members represented at that reception had all worn club T-shirts or carried banners etc.

### **Guest Speaker Presentation**

**Rod Holmes**, himself a former musical director of what was then called the Orpheus Operatic Society, expressed great satisfaction at having the opportunity to welcome Marlene Hudson, guest speaker and his friend, the current president of the group. Mrs. Hudson gave us a comprehensive history of a cultural entity of which Ottawa should certainly be proud. The Orpheus group is completing its 112th season. It started as a choir known as the Orpheus Glee Club and over the years morphed into an operatic society and then into the Orpheus Musical Theatre Society of today. A lot of the history Marlene gave us can be found at

<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/orpheus-musical-theatre-society-of-ottawa-emc/>

Orpheus has been housed in number of locations and is now based in Orpheus House, the former Anglican church of St Matthias. Its productions are presented now at the Centrepointe Theatre.

Production of a show is hard work. Only professional musicians are paid, and production volunteers often outnumber casts by ratios of four to five to one. Schools, individuals and theatre groups benefit from the costume rental program. Set and costume design and creation are all done in house. Rehearsals take place in evenings and on Sunday afternoons, the Society is known for putting on shows of very high quality.

Beyond its productions Orpheus caters to deaf members of the community by offering signing, it runs the Children's Summer Musical Theatre Camp

program, provides monetary awards to promising young persons in the musical theatre category, offers a University of Ottawa bursary, and collects donations from show patrons to support Caldwell Family Centre, the Make-a-Wish Foundation and OrKidstra. Orpheus is proud of its strong financial position. Building and overhead expenses are about \$800 K annually, which amounts are covered by ticket sales and donations of "angel" supporters.

In appreciation of the invitation to speak, Mrs. Hudson gave the Club two tickets to an upcoming performance of Mamma Mia. These tickets were auctioned off by our accomplished auctioneer, **Ken Murray**. **Peter Fisher** outbid everyone with his generous bid of \$125. **Marilyn Letts** thanked the speaker for her informative talk, providing our usual small token of appreciation and the donation to End Polio Now.

### **Happy Dollars**

**Doreen Ide** collected from

- **Gaye Moffett**, in acknowledgement of National Nursing Week and to recognize the nurses in attendance:

- **Carol Waters** - happy to announce that her daughter was recognized for her work in England.

- **Merv Letts** - happy at participating in a Safe Wings Walk to promote measures to reduce bird impacts with buildings.

- **Bill Rolph** – pleased to have raised \$500 during the Hospice Care Canada 5 Km walk.

- **Cliff Hughes**, Rotarian guest from England, contributing to our fund raising and in thanks to members for their hospitality.

- **Dave Morton** - happy to have participated over the past weekend in two fund raisers by other service clubs in Ottawa.

- **Robert Shaw-Wood** – announced that his son will be heading for Toronto for training in advance of starting a new job with a commercial aviation company.

- **Andrew Mukhwana**, guest from Uganda, thanked us for our welcome and urged us to support the initiatives aimed at achieving the developmental goals of the United Nations.

## **Closing**

**Ken Murray** invited our Rotarian guests from England and Uganda to come forward to collect club banners from **President Jean**.

**President Jean** advised that Committee reports at the May 15 meeting will be issued by Community Service, International Service, Youth Service, Environment, Finance and Archives. And having announced that Social and Recreational as well as the Awards committees would meet following the meeting, she adjourned the meeting at 1:45 PM with her usual request that we spend time working on the mission of Rotary and inviting others to join.

## **Cash Calendar Winners**

Here are the winners of the Cash Calendar draws for the period, May 1 - 7, 2018:

2081 \$25 Gaetane Spagnoli, Osgoode, ON  
0188 \$20 Kelli Dilworth, Oxford Mills, ON  
0888 \$25 Amanda Ault, Spencerville, ON  
2143 \$25 Neil Carriere, Cornwall, ON  
1960 \$50 Kathy Wissler, Kemptville, ON  
0691 \$50 Leanne and Phil Bulsink, Ottawa, ON  
1814 \$25 John and Ykiko Mahony, Ottawa, ON

**Tuesday, May 15, 2018**

Club Assembly

Greeters: **Doreen Ide, Denzil Feinberg** Grace: **Sucha Mann** PP Draw: **Linda Flynn**  
Reception: **Andrew Young** Ticket Sales/Attendance: **Mary Wattie** Editor: **Jack Troughton**

**Tuesday, May 22, 2018**

Nadim Nasser: (via Skype)- Microfinancing: filling the small business funding void in developing world

Intro: **Marilyn Letts** Thanks: **Brett Brooking**

Greeters: **Ed Balys, Alan Bowles** Grace: **Linda Flynn** PP Draw: **Bob Harrison**

Reception: **Brett Brooking** Ticket Sales/Attendance: **Mary Wattie** Editor: **Robert Shaw-Wood**