



# Spinoff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA

Jean Bégin, President

November 28, 2017

Editor: Joseph Redhead

Program Nov 28 Lucy Zhou- Renaissance of traditional Chinese culture

## The Meeting starts

It was not a balmy day, but the greetings by **Rami Alsaqqa** and **Joe Parkinson** chased away the frosty air that members and guests brought into the meeting room. **Mary Wattie** took our payment and noted attendance and **Peter Fisher** sold us Past Presidents Draw tickets. Having been invited by **President Jean** to keep an eye and ear on the video presentation from Chloe Halpenny, our Global Grants Scholar, we filled our plates with the lunch offerings. We rose at 12:40 to sing the national anthem which was played by **Rod Holmes**. **Claudette Léger Paillé** delivered the invocation.

**Hadi Mortada** on reception leaves no stone unturned in ensuring that information finds itself early to those doing the Spinoff and he introduced a good turnout of guests. These included our speaker for the day, Lucy Zhou, Mark Winson, a Rotarian from Etobicoke who would leave lunch with a new Cash Calendar in hand, Cathy Gillis, a friend of Ms. Zhou, Gerhard Peters, our Rotarian colleague from Arnprior with his offerings of Xmas fruit cakes, **Peter Gilman** who most of us had not seen for many weeks, and, last but not least, former members Wilmer Pulido and Jake Maarse. As usual we serenaded our guests with our Welcome Song.

**Peter Fisher** conducted the Past President's Draw for a gift certificate to his fashionable men's wear store. Ms. Zhou did the draw which was won by **Victor Mazzola**.

## Announcements

**President Jean** invited us to wish Happy Birthday to **Henry Akanko** whose birthday was today and told us:

- Former member Sue Fisher's son Colin has been awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to study at Oxford in the UK.

- Kelly Williamson is the daughter of Mary Rosenberg, the first female to join our Club. A past Rotary Exchange Student with the Rotary Club of Nepean-Kanata, Kelly is currently a Lieutenant Commander in the Canadian Army, and a Senior Public Affairs Officer with the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division in Atlantic Canada., **President Jean** provided a short biographical sketch of this accomplished Canadian lady. Lieutenant Commander Williamson has 20+ years of experience in leading and managing diverse

teams at the tactical and operational levels, domestically as well as internationally and has been a part of disaster relief over the years, most recently in Haiti following an earthquake. Lieutenant Commander Williamson has been recognized as being amongst the 100 most accomplished women in Canada.

- **Bill Rolph** has generously offered to take our collection of winter wear to the Mission.

Other announcements:

- **Joan Heyland** was pleased by the video produced by Chloe Halpenny and suggested that we encourage future Global Grant Scholars to produce similar offerings. She also advised that she needed more people to sign up as guests for the Fellowship Dinners to be held in the first two months of 2018.

- **Pardeep Ahluwalia** urged us to sell Cash Calendars as several hundred still remained to be sold.

- **Brett Brooking** announced another session of shoe sorting on Saturday morning at the usual venue in Kanata.

- **Jim Maxwell** made another appeal for the Club to meet the target of \$500 for hurricane relief in Dominica. Club members should be able to make up the current shortfall of about \$200.

- **Bill Rolph** told us of a concert on December 7 at Southminster United Church.

## Guest Speaker

**Gaye Moffet** introduced our Guest Speaker, Ms. Lucy (Limin) Zhou. Ms Zhou earned a Master of Science Degree from the University of British Columbia and worked for several years as a software engineer with firms such as IBM and Nortel. Ms. Zhou now works for New Tang Dynasty TV Network, a global Chinese television network that aims at sharing the culture of China with western audiences including the Chinese diaspora. She has been a member of the committee which has promoted the Shen Yun cultural show in Ottawa for the past decade. She is passionate about recent efforts by expatriate Chinese to expose the west to the most important aspects of traditional Chinese culture. Ms. Zhou presented her topic in three parts, namely the Essentials of Chinese Culture, the Destruction of the Culture during the Maoist Cultural Revolution, between

1966 and 1976, and the Renaissance of the Culture. According to Chinese mythology, the Yellow Emperor, the most ancient of several legendary emperors, was the patron of Taoism and a cultural hero of great wisdom who attached great importance to the cultivation of virtue. The rich culture of China developed from that base over the centuries. In the mid-1960s the Communist Party under the leadership of Mao Zedong focused on the destruction of the what they termed the "Four Olds," practices the leadership felt would thwart the creation of a new order. The Four Olds were essentially old customs, old culture, old habits and old ideas. With their destruction, much of Chinese culture was lost. Ms Zhou, in a conversation after the meeting, told of how she herself had only learned of much of Chinese culture long after her school years. It would be left to Chinese artists in New York, who yearned for the revival of artistic expression to illuminate the deep culture that had prevailed and for a way to share this culture with others. Hence the tour de force that is Shen Yun. Music from traditional Chinese musical instruments blended with modern ones, song and traditional dances presented in brilliant colour give a show that has received critical acclaim in major cities around the world. With many pleasing slides, Ms. Zhou gave an overview of the old stories portrayed in the show recounting one, the Story of One Hundred Thousand Arrows, as an example.

Questions came from:

- **Alan Bowles** who asked how China's current leadership views the efforts of Chinese nationals in and outside China to revive the visions and culture of the past. Ms. Zhou acknowledged that the quest for dollars is now dominant in China and that the leadership is not enthusiastic about religious expression. She does not consider the current leader as "bad" as previous leaders, but that the current President is certainly not spiritual. **James Maxwell** mentioned that he had toured

extensively in China and that we should all have a visit to the country on our "bucket list." He noted, further, that in Vancouver where he grew up, Chinese families were very cohesive units. This does not appear to be the case now, with the majority of Chinese there displaying a considerable degree of ostentatious behaviour. He thought that Chinese today do not value the old traditions and cultural practices.

**Larry Chop** thanked Ms. Zhou in the usual manner with a small token of our appreciation adding that we will mark her visit by donating \$25 to Rotary's End Polio Now campaign.

### **Happy Dollars**

These donations were made by: **Larry Chop, Jen Ahde, Bill Rolph, Robert Harrison, Carol Bell-Thompson** and birthday celebrant, **Henry Akanko**.

### **Close**

**President Jean** again thanked Ms. Zhou for her presentation, reminded us to invite friends to join, and brought the meeting to a close at 1:35.

The winners of the Cash Calendar draw for the week, November 22 - 28, 2017 are:

1790 \$25 Norma Canning, Pointe Claire, QC  
3178 \$25 George Papadopoulos, Ottawa, ON  
3106 \$125 Robert Kennedy, Vancouver, BC  
2956 \$25 Robert Peynado, Cambridge, ON  
662 \$25 Ioanna Gawthrop, Winchester, ON  
2160 \$100 Veronica Snook, Greely, ON  
3489 \$50 Freda Sylvia Turcotte, Kemptville, ON

## **Tuesday, December 5, 2017**

**Caroline DeWitt:** Classification Talk

Intro: **Joseph Redhead** Thanks: **Don Butler**

Greeters: **Victor Mazzola, Sucha Mann** Invocation: **Cletus Peters**

Reception: **Pardeep Ahluwalia** PP Draw: **Anup Subedi**

Ticket Sales/Attendance: **Mary Wattie** Editor: **Graeme Fraser**

## **Tuesday, December 12, 2017**

Dr Barry Wellar: How geographic factors affect human aspects of natural disasters

Intro: **Keith Fraser** Thanks: **Jim Maxwell**

Greeters: **Bill Rolph, Merv Letts** Invocation: **Melissa White**

Reception: **Ali Pahlavani** PP Draw: **Robert Harrison**

Ticket Sales/Attendance: **Mary Wattie** Editor: **Ginette Thomas**

