

OPENING

Time: 6:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Diane Strickler

GUESTS

Beth Newhart, guest of Lee Johnson.
Lauren Niccolini, granddaughter of the Mozenas.

VISITING ROTARIANS

None.

BIRTHDAYS

Mark Weber (1/22) and Jim Fikany (1/23)

ANNIVERSARIES

Ted Coutilish, 3 years. Chuck Gabel, 11 years.

ROVING REPORTER

Susan Mozena

-- Dino Valente is pleading for exact change from meeting attendees. Heading his plea, Steve Cornillie paid with a \$5 bill, three \$1 bills, and eight quarters. "Gotta be prepared for the meter," retorted Steve.

-- Ted Coutilish has been nominated to receive the U of M College of Engineering Staff Award for Leadership. The award is given to those who demonstrate attributes defined in the college's vision, mission and values. Congratulations!
-- John and Susan Mozena are now on Spotify thanks to their persistent grandchildren, especially their guest, Lauren.

SUNSHINE NEWS

Jackie Dale

-- Florence Seltzer is mending but still cannot see out of her left eye. Please keep her in your prayers
-- Gary Niehaus's back surgery on 1/11 to clean out a staph infection and fuse vertebrae was a success. He is

undergoing physical therapy but is excited that golf is now a reality. For those who wish to send a note, his address is: 4007 Carrollwood Village Dr, Tampa, FL 33618.

OIL CAN

-- Postponed.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

-- The 1/28 "Feed the homeless dinner" at GP Methodist on Moross has a full slate of volunteers.
-- The Michigan Humane Society Telethon in Bingham Farms is on Feb 9. They have plenty of volunteers but will take more if anyone is interested.
-- The Community Affairs Committee's next meeting is at 10 am on 1/21 at the Higbie-Maxon-Agney office. All are welcome.

PAUL HARRIS

-- Congratulations to Roger Hull who was presented with a Paul Harris +8 pin.

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Nadia Nijimbere – founder, owner, and chef of Baobab Restaurant in Detroit

Ms. Nijimbere told us of her journey from an East African Rights Activist to a Detroit East African Cuisine restaurant owner. In 2013, she fled her country to avoid persecution and, through a connection, learned about the Freedom House, a temporary home for indigent survivors of persecution who are seeking asylum. Freedom House put her up in a facility near the Ambassador Bridge for two years and provided aid in her assimilation to the US. She was taught to speak English, given legal counsel, and given access to medical exams. During one of these exams, she

learned that she was pregnant with twins.

Repeatedly in her presentation she expressed her gratitude to the Freedom House for the care and opportunity that they provided. Two years later, her husband, Hamissi Mamba, was able to join them. The first few years here were a struggle as Mr. Mamba was unable to look for work until his paperwork went through the system, which left Ms. Nijimbere's caregiver job as the only source of income. In 2017 they were finally granted asylum.

As entrepreneurs, and, with their love of cooking, it seemed right that they open a restaurant and introduce East African foods to Detroit. Their idea allowed them to win \$110,000 in two grant money competitions. Although they were lucky to acquire 6568 Woodward Avenue, Suite 100 in 2018, they did not open until 2021 and struggled during those years until they were able to obtain a loan.

Baobab means tree of life, and, in South Africa, a Baobab tree grows in areas without water. The staff is hired from Freedom House.
www.baobafare.com.

FLOWER RAFFLE

\$706 in the pot. Roger Hull purchased the winning ticket but was not able to pick the joker.

CALENDAR

Jan 25: Minya Irby, Director of Economic Development – Mack Ave. Business Assoc.