

June 20, 2013

Editors: Tammy Broderick and

Char Luttrell

Meeting Thursdays

at Noon at the

Holiday Inn

Near the University of Michigan

Service Above Self

RCAAN Board

of Directors

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Laura Van Steenis

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*Director,*

*Service Projects:* Manish Mehta

*Director,*

*Membership:*

 Bryan Schindel

Presidents’ Night Next Thursday

President Laura reminded us that we must have our paid reservations in for Presidents’ Night at the Eagle Crest by next Monday. *Remember, no noon meeting that day or on the 4th of July.*

Jaycees Host Carnival, Parade

Jaycee Emeritus Eric Tindall reminded us of the Ann Arbor Jaycees Carnival June 26-30 at Pioneer High School. The carnival will be open 4-11 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, Noon-11 p.m. Saturday, and Noon to 9 p.m. Sunday. Free admission until 9 p.m. with $5 minimum ticket or food purchase. No admittance after 10 p.m.

The Jaycees’4th of July Parade, beginning at 10 a.m., will take place on State, Liberty, Main and Williams Streets.

Invocation and Songs

Scott Nelson offered our invocation and led us in singing “America” and “Somewhere Over the Rainbow.” (We prayed for Kelly Mendenhall, as she gets ready to move to Nashville for her new job, and as her uncle recovers from a stroke. Kelly is moving July 21, but she will be back to see us before she leaves.)

B.A.B.E.S.

Tamra Ward blasted our B.A.B.E.S.:Larry Crockett’s and Kathy Richard’s wedding anniversary, Don and Martha Patterson’s wedding anniversary, and the birthdays of John Copeland and Virginia Nordby.

50/50

Larry Crockett sold the winner to Mary Gyorke!

Visiting Rotarians, Guests

Tammy Broderick introduced our guests, Rotarians John Rasmussen and John Hammond, and our speaker Montatip Krishnamra and her guest Paul Bancel.

Rotary Good Works

John Rasmussen brought us up to date on Rotary grants for a sanitary system in Jamaica and diabetes treatment. He is seeking support from five area clubs at approximately $2500 each.

Happy Dollars

Vern Hutton, grandfather of 15, is now a great-grandfather of Elijah, a 7-lb boy! Congratulations, Vern!

Phil Zepeda saluted Manish Mehta for presenting at the Rotary International Convention.

Larry Crockett said he was privileged to train military service members from Thailand and remembered them all as gracious people.

Laura Van Steenis was thrilled to announce that this was her last official meeting as RCAAN president! Great job, Laura!

Don Broderick congratulated all Rotarians coming into office and leaving office.

Program Recap:

Thailand-U.S. Relations

Our speaker was Montatip Krishnamra, a teacher of the Thai language at the University of Michigan for more than 20 years.

Montatip reviewed the history of U.S.-Thailand relations, a friendship between two very different countries that has endured for 180 years.

Most Americans were introduced to the country and people of Thailand through the 1944 novel, “Anna and the King of Siam” and the Broadway musical, “The King and I,” starring Yul Brynner and Deborah Kerr. “The King and I” is a beloved film all over the world, except for one country -- Thailand. In Thailand, the portrayal of the king is considered undignified, so the film has been outlawed! One of the first things that Monatip did when she arrived in the U.S. was to see the classic film, which she said she loves!

The first American to visit Thailand (Siam) was Edmund Roberts, a trader who arrived in 1833, under the auspices of President Andrew Jackson. President Ulysses S. Grant was the first of many U.S. presidents to visit the country. President Barack Obama is the latest, although he also visited the country before he was president.

 Many members of the Thai royal family have been educated in the United States. The current Thai king is a U.S. citizen, born in Massachusetts when his father was a medical student at Harvard.

Dr. D. Bradley was an American missionary who spent his life in Thailand, helping the people there to come to accept Western medicine.

The Peace Corps, announced on the steps of the Michigan Union by then presidential candidate John F. Kennedy in 1960, has sent hundreds of volunteers to Thailand. The first Peace Corps volunteers taught English to Thai students. Later, Peace Corps teams switched to construction projects.

Now Montatip teaches the Thai language to U-M students. She says her students know that they are not going to make tons of money by learning the language, but they say they want to speak Thai so they can order Thai food, which they love! Although the country’s culinary heritage is rich, Thailand also has McDonald’s and Krispy Kreme donuts!

Montatip concluded her presentation with a few words about Rotary in Thailand. We learned that:

* The first Rotary meeting was held in Bangkok in 1930 and the Rotary Club of Bangkok was chartered in 1932.
* Rotarians in Bangkok built a music pavilion to honor their king’s musical ability.
* Rotarians at the RI Convention in Bangkok set a Guinness World Record for the largest “smiley face” ever created.

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