

Aug 1, 2013

Editors: Tammy Broderick and

Char Luttrell

Meeting Thursdays

at Noon at the

Holiday Inn

Near the University of Michigan

Service Above Self

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Work Day at the Butterfly Garden

Scott Nelson announced that this summer’s rain has been good to the plants and flowers at our Butterfly Garden in Gallup Park, but it has also been good to the weeds! So, we are going to have a work day at the garden this Saturday, August 3, from about 9 a.m. to noon. The City of Ann Arbor has provided a load of wood chips for us to spread and there are lots of weeds that have to go. Come when you can, work as long as you are able, and bring your own tools. Thanks!

Also, this month’s Ann Arbor Observer has a short article about the Butterfly Garden and gives credit to Rotary North for maintaining the garden!

Guests and Visiting Rotarians

Tammy Broderick helped us welcome our guests: Matt Leighty, Sofia Franciscus, Joel Gechter and our speaker, Mijo Pappas.

Rotary Scholar Needs Lodging

Tamra Ward announced that a former Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar is looking for a place to stay in the Ann Arbor area September 26 to October 1. Ashley Elaine York, a doctoral candidate in Television and Film Studies at the University of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, will be in Ann Arbor to attend a conference at the University of Michigan. She has funds for airfare and conference registration, but not a hotel room. If you can provide a room, see Tamra or email Ashley at ashleyel@ualberta.ca.

Let’s Reach Out to Peggy

Peggy Windsor would appreciate cards and calls from us. She is still dealing with some health problems.

Boy Scouts of America

Last week Tiffany Sims of the Boy Scouts spoke to our club. She explained that the mission of Boy Scouts is to help boys make good moral choices throughout their lives. She mentioned a new program at the Huron Valley Women’s Facility in Milan that gives female prisoners the chance to interact with their children through Boy Scouting. The funds that our club gives to the Boy Scouts goes to provide Scouting for under-privileged boys. Tiffany thanked us for our club’s support.

B.A.B.E.S.

President Keith blasted our BABES: Scott Nelson’s birthday (today) and Claire Zepeda’s birthday and Erica Copeland’s birthday. Congratulations, all!

50/50

Char Luttrell won this week’s drawing, again, her second win in 10 years! Again, Tammy sold the winning ticket.

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A Life-changing Event

In response to President Keith’s charge to each of us to relate a time when our lives were changed by someone, Virginia Nordby told us how she was able to finish law school with in-the-nick-of-time financial help from the Beacon Van Lines Foundation. In gratitude, the Nordbys have always used Beacon for all of their moves since!

French in Ann Arbor

Brigitte Romero introduced our speaker, Mijo Pappas, of French in Ann Arbor. Mijo, a native of France, is a retired French teacher from Greenhills School. She holds masters’ degrees in French and German and taught French for 30 years.

Mijo explained that her son became the founder of “Hour School” after working as an architect and toy designer. He became disenchanted with creating plastic toys that were made to be broken and thrown away and decided to switch careers. In Austin, Texas, he studied social entrepreneurship and design and worked with homeless people. He discovered that those who helped people by teaching them a skill were the happiest. This discovery eventually led to the beginning of Hour School, a flexible, open, informal system of sharing knowledge. Students and teachers come together for a short period of time (an hour) to share and discuss topics of interest.

Mijo, in turn, brought the Hour School concept to Ann Arbor by offering classes in French language, culture and cuisine to students of French in Ann Arbor.

The concept is inclusive and democratic. Anyone who is interested in French language and culture may attend any class and anyone can post a class on the Hour School website for anyone else to take. Some examples of current class topics are: French songs, conversation, Refresh Your French and various arts and cultural events such as films at the Michigan Theater and French plays in English. What began with only five people has now grown to involve 94 teachers and students, all learning from each other.

Happy Dollars

Phil Zepeda was happy to tell us about Warrington Willie, the Canadian equivalent of Punxsutawney Phil, the weather-predicting ground hound, and that today is Canada Day.

Vern Hutton offered a slight correction: Canada Day is July 1. It commemorates the commonwealth’s founding in 1867.

Jeff Crause said he was glad to be back at Rotary. He had been on vacation, swimming with barracuda – a neat experience, Jeff says!

And a few Happy Dollars from last week:

John Arenz was happy to preside at last week’s meeting in President Keith’s absence.

Laura Van Steenis was happy that her mother-in-law was home from the hospital.

Brigitte Romero was happy to have celebrated her mother’s 90th birthday with her in France.

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