

Aug 8, 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

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*Director,*

*Service Projects:* Manish Mehta

*Director,*

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 Bryan Schindel

The Return of Ayo

Ayo Onafuwa a long- time faithful member of our club, returned for a visit and brought us greetings from the Rotary Club of Gbanga, Nigeria, the best club in the country. Ayo said that the microloan project that our club funded during John Copeland’s presidency has been extremely successful

Guests and Visiting Rotarians

Larry Crockett served as greeter this week and introduced: Assistant District Governor Jane McManus, Sophia Franciscus, Joel Gechter our speaker Dr. Cheryl Hukin and Ayo Onafuwa a former member of our club who is from Nigeria.

Engage Rotary, Change Lives

Laura Van Steenis related her story of first joining another Rotary Club and discovering that it was not what she expecting. Upon moving to Ann Arbor and joining our club, Laura developed an entirely different perspective on Rotary. Rotary North, she said, was filled with people who were in Rotary to help others and that made all the difference for her.

Next Week’s Meeting Room

President Keith Krings announced that we will meet in the Holiday Inn’s Huron Room next Thursday.

Announcement from Vern

Vern Hutton announced that the funds he had previously committed to the Amazon African Aid Association have now be transferred to our club’s foundation, following the disbanding of Amazon Africa Aid. A big thank you to Vern for making this significant contribution to make possible much of the good work of Rotary North. Yay, Vern!

Butterfly Garden Update

Scott Nelson reported that the City of Ann Arbor will provide volunteers from the Natural Area Preservation corps to help spread wood chips at the Butterfly Garden on August 25. He thanked the Rotarians who helped weed in the garden last weekend: Manish Mehta, Larry Crockett and wife Kathy Richards and Char Luttrell. Manish encouraged everyone to devote an hour or so to working in the garden, which is our signature project. Scott said he would be happy to meet anyone there to point out which plants are weeds!

B.A.B.E.S.

Jeff Crause handled BABES this week: Lisa Hudy’s husband and Char Luttrell’s husband are celebrating birthdays. Virginia and Gordon Nordby are celebrating their wedding anniversary. Congratulations all!

50/50

Rick Jarzembowski sold the winning ticket to Scott Nelson.

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ADG Jane McManus

Said she enjoyed our fundraiser last spring and brought back the fork that somehow made it into her purse!

VeAhavta and Grace Care Center

Dr Cheryl Hukin shared the story of VeAhavta and the Grace Care Center in Sri Lanka. The mission of VeAhavta (You Shall Love) is multi-faceted:

To nurture the physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of orphans and destitute elders in a secure home.

To provide hope for unemployed young adults through vocational training.

To provide nourishment and education to refugee children, all without regard to the race, ethnicity, religion or social circumstance of those in need;

To establish a center where peoples who have been divided for centuries can meet in peace; and

To do these things in a way that promotes understanding between peoples of different cultures and religions so they can coexist in mutual respect.

 VeAhavta was formed after the 2004 tsunami to serve the indigent of Sri Lanka at the Grace Care Center. The girls’ home is affiliated with the Rotary Club of Trincomalee. Grace provides housing, medical care, counseling, day care, life skills education and vocation training for the girls and inter-generational activities for the elders and the young people in their care.

VeAhavta is a 501c3 nonprofit organization based in Ypsilanti that is recognized as a charity in Sri Lanka. For more information, visit [www.you-shall-love.org](http://www.you-shall-love.org).

www.rcaan.org