

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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APRIL IS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
Apr 26: Shashanka Vangari	
Apr 28: Peter Boekhorst	

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Apr 25:	May 02: Andrea Stiller District Youth Exchange Coordinator	May 09: Chili & Chinni Yalamanchili Arranged Marriages
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LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Libby Nelson presided.

Guests included the following family and friends of Leslie Michael:

Ivana Michael, wife of Leslie Michael

Dave Hayer, friend of Leslie.

Dave has been a Rotarian since 1986, and was twice president of the Rotary Club of Surrey. In 2008 he was included by the Vancouver Sun in its list of the 100 topmost influential Canadians of South Asian Descent Making a Difference in BC. He is also the son of the assassinated journalist Tara Singh Hayer.

Dave's wife Isabelle Hayer will be District Governor in 2025/26.

(Note: Dave will be the speaker at our meeting on May 16. See Dave Hayer's extensive, impressive and interesting bio in Wikipedia).

Rula Pirotis, friend of Dave Hayer.

Ricky Bhatia, Manager of Boston Pizza in Langley.

Michael Van Dop, Maple Ridge Fire Chief.

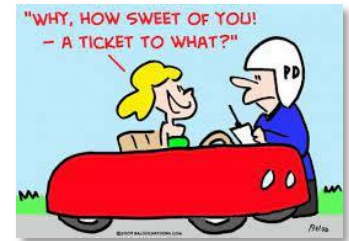
Installation of Leslie Michael

Today **Leslie Michael** was welcomed as our newest club member. The installation was carried out by Assistant Governor Ken Holland.



Happy and Sad Dollars included the following:

Lynda confessed to breaking her clean driving record when she got caught "red" handed in an intersection by a traffic camera with no sense of humour.



Mark Vosper and Lynda have just returned from a great holiday in Japan, where they found the people to be very friendly, genuine and respectful.



Libby, on the other hand, is just leaving on her holiday to Disneyland, where she will find the characters to be not only friendly, but also goofy, mousy and quacky.



Then there were **Mike and Gladys**, who found themselves not coming or going anywhere, as they stood in a lineup for 45 minutes trying to get into the Federal Government's Service Canada office in downtown Maple Ridge. They finally gave up on the adventure—hoping for a better day. [Can you pick Mike and Gladys out of the lineup?]



Program: A video presentation of a talk given by **Gordon McInally**, the Scottish President-Elect of Rotary International, who spoke at PETS (where our own Club President-Elect Brenda Jenkins attended in Seattle on February 17 – 19th 2023)

Our Rotary theme for President McInally's year of 2023-2024 will be "Create Hope in the World".



The following is an abbreviated version of the talk of RI President-elect Gordon McInally at PETS

Some of the best examples of leadership we can show is supporting the continuing efforts of others. I have always been a great advocate of continuity in Rotary. I believe in the concept of "Rotary years" (plural) where there is a seamless transaction between leaders, rather than "my year". Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "there is no limit to what we can achieve if it doesn't matter who gets the credit". Build upon what other Rotarians have started and make it possible for even greater achievements ahead.

The Vision Statement of Rotary is: "Together we see a world where people unite to take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves". As for our plans for the 2023-2024 year ahead, there are a couple of things I would

really like to see addressed during the coming year that arises out of our Vision Statement.

Firstly, regarding change in our communities, I would like the emphasis to be on peace. Peace is the soil where hope takes root. We till that soil every time we make connections with people and find new opportunities for commonality. Peace is not a passive dream – it is an outcome of hard work, earned trust, and often of difficult conversations. We know that peace must be waged consistently and bravely. I want to issue a call to action. I realize this is how Rotary brings lasting change to the world, one newly created Hope at a time.

Secondly, how do we create a similar kind of change in ourselves? For many people, lost hope is not just a function of material poverty. Just as it takes courage to wage peace, so to is it brave to reach out and admit you need help. In many parts of the world asking for help, especially in the field of mental health, is considered a weakness. Speaking from personal experience, my only brother fell into depression and took his own life in 2014. One reason he reached the stage that he did, was that mental health remains at such a taboo subject. Also, mental health services are in such short supply. In addition to persons with mental health issues not reaching out for help themselves, we do not ask each other the question 'how are you', or more accurately 'how are you really?'. It has been said that the mental health system has not been broken; it just hasn't been built yet. Just maybe Rotary can help to build it. We in Rotary have a big part to play in the de-stigmatization of mental health and in learning how to prevent issues, while also making mental health services more available, and for being there for one another and for our communities. I want to prioritize mental health in the coming year, and hopefully beyond. We want to create a space where people feel safe about talking about, and addressing, mental health issues. I encourage you to take action to erase the stigma around discussing emotional well-being. I urge you to raise awareness of mental health needs for ourselves and those around us, and to work together on problem prevention techniques and to improve access to quality mental health services. This is a big and important ask, and a big and important task, but I'm asking you to become champions of the effort.

I want Rotary to be known as an organization that takes care of its members as well as the people we serve. By helping others, we essentially help and benefit ourselves and our well-being - by reducing stress and improving our mood. The friendships we develop along the way give us an incredible sense of community and camaraderie which are themselves ingredients to mental health and wellness.

So, what are our plans for the year ahead? Let's plan to help bring peace to the world and soothe those afflicted by conflict and violence. And let's help each other and our communities to deal with our own internal struggles, and end the stigma associated with asking for help. In all these actions, the goal is to Create Hope in the World. When we help the world to heal from destructive conflicts, we, in turn, achieve lasting change for ourselves.

[In closing, President-elect McInally thanked everyone for the opportunity to talk; and recalled another occasion where, following his speech, he leaned over to his wife and asked "How did I do?" She answered quietly, "You did okay, but you missed several good opportunities to sit down!"]

Club Business

Spousal Membership in our Rotary Club - "Rotary Club Sponsored"

Libby reviewed our Club's recent policy to encourage spouses of members to become Rotarians. Our club's executive (after circulating the proposal to all club members by email) decided that if both spouses are or become registered members of our Club, then the Club will pay the District 5050 and Rotary International dues that are payable for one of the spouses. This policy will be subject to the following terms:

- a) "Rotary Club sponsored" – as District 5050 and RI dues are payable for any membership to be recognized by RI.
- b) The invitation to become a member of our Club should come through the Rotarian spouse.
- c) The usual membership application is to be completed by the proposed (new member) spouse.
- d) Orientation should be same as any new Rotarian ("why join Rotary" form, inform of all commitments, determine specific interests, committee appointments, etc.).
- e) A minimum yearly donation of \$25 to the Rotary Foundation is expected from each spousal member in order to qualify the club for the Every Rotarian Every Year designation.

Wine Festival May 10, 2023

Dave Rempel encouraged all members to support the Wine Fest, by selling tickets, attending themselves at this event, spreading the word to friends and associates both in person and on social media, and by donating bottle of wine (or \$20 in lieu thereof) so the club can put together and sell a wine basket or baskets as a fundraiser. The Wine Festival Committee has worked hard to put on this major fundraiser for the year, so it is expected that all members will do their part in making this event a great success.

Submitted by Laurie Anderson

Wine Festival
and Craft Beer Tasting
Rotary Club of Meadow Ridge
*Join us for international wine & beer tasting,
silent auction, great live music and local culinary delight!*

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 7:00pm - 9:30pm
Haney Place Mall, Maple Ridge

Tickets \$55 ea. or 2 for \$100

For tickets call Ineke Boekhorst: 604-462-0377
or Dave Rempel: 604-462-7563

For online tickets, and Silent Auction: RotaryWineFest.ca
Proceeds to support Youth, Culture and other Rotary projects in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows

Thank you to all sponsors who make this event possible!

Sponsors: TD, Falcon Homes, Tri-Tel Mortgage, Empire, Edward Jones, Johnston Meier Insurance Agencies Group, RE/MAX, MCB, Mark's, The News, Centra Lawyers, Haney Builders, Co-operators, CIBC, Seville Mortgage Corporation, Robson & Associates Consultants, MNP, Oliver Gilbert Wood Gundy, Lone Palm.

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