



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

President: Laurie Anderson
Secretary: Ineke Boekhorst
Editor: Peter Boekhorst

Phone: 604-816-6961
Phone: 604-462-0377
Phone: 604-462-0377

[E-mail the President](#)
[E-mail the Secretary](#)
[E-mail the Editor](#)



DECEMBER IS DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT MONTH

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

Jan 04: Sharon Kyle & Ron Langley

Upcoming Speakers:

Dec 17: No Speaker
Joint Zoom meeting with Italian Rotary Club

Jan 07: Gail Kaufmann
Volunteer Cancer Drivers

Jan 14: Elaine Yong
B.C. Transplant

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Laurie Anderson** presided.

Guest:

Our guest today was **Jonathan Neufeld** who serves as the Lead Pastor at Ridge Church. He was invited by **Lynda Lawrence** (thank you, Lynda).



Before joining the Ridge Church team in April, 2018, Jonathan served as the Pastor of Adult Ministries and Small Groups at Willingdon Church in Burnaby for 14 years, followed by 1 year as the Campus Pastor at Village Church in Surrey. Jonathan originally moved to B.C. from Calgary in 2000 to attend Regent College, where he earned a Master of Divinity in Pastoral Studies. Prior to that, he worked as a high school teacher, bank teller, salesman and production manager.

Program: **Susan Pynn** –

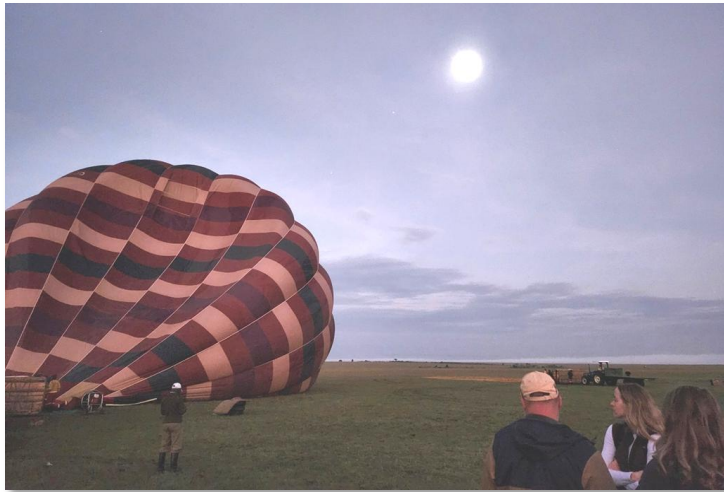
Her Stupendous African Adventure to the Masai Mara in Kenya



As Albert Einstein said, “One picture is worth a thousand words”; so while the following verbal description of Susan’s presentation will be short in the printed words (which would fail to convey the essence of her “stupendous adventure” no matter how many words were used), the twelve of Susan’s pictures shown below will count for 12,000 words of the printed kind.



Firstly though, Susan talked about the roads. Driving on African roads (which are shared by all types of mostly old vehicles and domesticated animals) can be more frightening than the wild four-legged variety. Unfortunately, they did come across one fatal accident, which made Susan thankful for all we have in terms of transportation and other amenities that we take for granted here in Canada.



Although she almost missed the balloon ride because of a bout of stomach upset, she managed 'to get through it' (and not 'to throw up it'). Back on earth, all she could keep down was a slice of white bread with no butter, and a few orange slices. They fortunately travelled in November when there were only about 4 balloons in the sky, and in the height of the tourist season when there would have been about 25 balloons sharing the air space.

One day they saw about nine lions (her favourite animal – apart from the warthogs). These indefatigable felines are well known to carry on their amorous activities “for about seven days in a row” and (as observed by Susan) “every few minutes”.



And of course, the warthog is Susan’s “favourite thing in the world”. They flit around “like they are high on drugs or having a schizophrenic fit” and, when they are running, their tails look like they are always twirling around.



Of the antelope family, Susan’s favourite is the Impala (named after Chevrolet’s popular flagship passenger car?). This picture, however, is not an Impala, but rather a shy waterbuck (trying to hide behind some flowers).



Susan managed not to get trampled by “Obama” the elephant.



After getting freaked out one night by what she thought was some fuzzy creature in her bed (the lump she felt under the covers turned out to be a scary hot water bottle), Susan was thankful it was not one of the 2-foot-long lizards that wandered outside.



She saw the tall beautiful “reticulated giraffes” who have patterns on them that looked like ceramic tiles (as opposed to the spotted varieties which are farther up north).



She almost missed seeing cheetahs (but only because they are camouflaged so well while in the grass that you won't see them unless they move).



One “happy and sad” sight occurred at the Sweet Waters Chimpanzee Rescue where they saw ‘**Max**’ and ‘**Safari**’: Sad, because these two chimpanzees had, throughout their former lives, suffered mistreatment and deprivation living in small wire cages, but Happy, because now, at long last, they were able to live out their remaining days in the care of this rescue facility.

While watching some hyenas, the ever “politically correct” Susan did say to a fellow traveler about one of the much-maligned animals, “Wouldn't he make a really good coat?” They also saw a “school” of about 70 hippopotamuses (or as Susan called it, a “ballet of hippos”) wallowing in the water, and some African buffalo.



We can't accuse Susan of having neophobia because she tried eating alligator as well as ostrich balls (ostrich meatballs, that is). What made her trip to the Mara Savannah and the villages that they travelled through such a memorable one, said our intrepid Rotarian Susan, was that “every few minutes I came across a new and different mind-blowing scene”.

Happy and Sad dollars included:

Lynda Lawrence was happy to see **Jonathan Neufeld** here today as a guest, but sad that she drove over a traffic cone that got stuck under her car, causing her not only some embarrassment but also to be a few minutes late to today's meeting.

Sharon Kyle was very sad to advise that her grandson Jared received a broken tibia and fibula while working on a job for Fraser River Pile and Dredge.

Laurie gave Kudos to **Eric Mollema's law firm, Centra Lawyers LLP**, for being such great supporters of our club and of the community, noting that **Eric**, along with lawyers **Glenn Laughlin and Kyle Wallis**, attended on Monday, December 9, to help fill the gift bags for the Senior's Dinner to be held on December 11. [Eric, along with lawyers **Sherri Robinson and Marcella Shockey** together with one other member of their firm, also attended the Senior's Dinner where they served the food to the guest in attendance and otherwise helped to make the event a success.]

Brenda Jenkins was happy about the successful Rotary Club Christmas social held at Clint's home on Friday evening, December 6, 2024, and thanked Clint and Cheryl for all the work they did in decorating their lovely home so beautifully. **Laurie** seconded that.

Anniversaries

On this date December 10, 1971, **Peter and Ineke** tied the knot - 53 years ago today! [We bet they didn't know on this happy occasion that they were getting married on the 430th anniversary of the date (December 10, 1541) when, just across the channel, Thomas Culpeper and Francis Dereham were executed for having affairs with Catherine Howard, Queen of England!]

On December 14, 2024 –**Shashanka and Laxmi Vangari** will celebrate their wedding anniversary.

Club Announcements

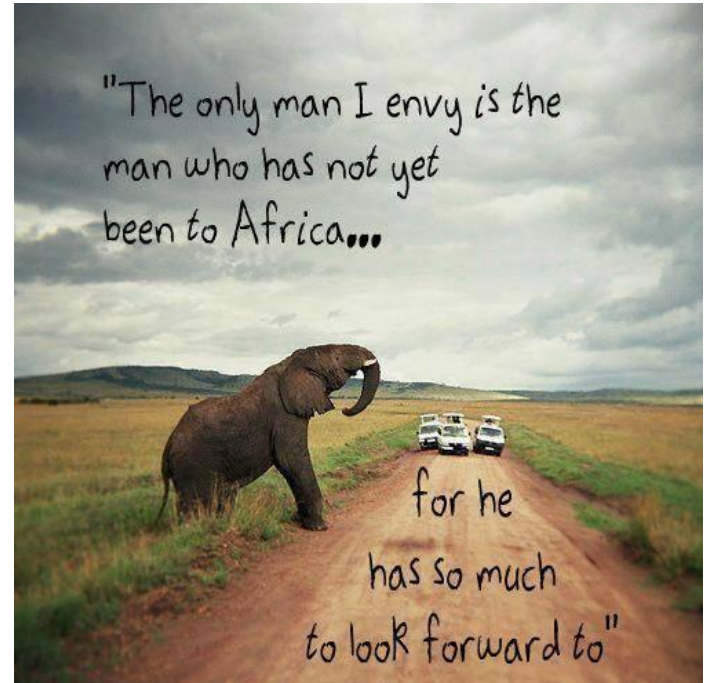
Tuesday Dec 17 - Zoom interclub with Italian Rotary Club (at Meadow Gardens!)

Tuesday Dec 24 and Dec 31 – no regular club meeting.

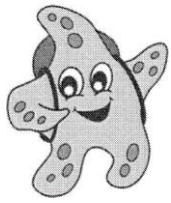
The End of a Starfish Era

Next week will be the last week of buying, packing and delivering food packs by our Rotary Club to feed children who would might otherwise go hungry on the weekends. This program has been going for 8 years under the leadership and hard work of Ineke Boekhorst and her team of volunteers (not all Rotarians) and the financial support of many donors. See below the letter Ineke is sending out to the many parties who will be impacted by this necessary decision.

Today's Quote



Submitted by Laurie Anderson



STARFISH PACK

NOTICE OF LAST DELIVERY

**FRIDAY DEC 20, 2024 WILL BE LAST
DELIVERY OF THE STARFISH PACKS**

December, 2024

Dear School District #42 Family,

With a broken heart, we are informing you, that the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club is no longer able to continue the Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Starfish Pack program.

Our last distribution to SD #42, MR/PM students in need of this program, will be December 20, 2024, last school-day before Christmas Break. For Kanaka Creek it will be Fri Dec. 6

The Meadow Ridge Rotary Club has "championed" this program for 8 years and it hasn't always been easy to keep going; financially it has been a huge challenge!

When we first started, it was with 5 Starfish Packs at one elementary school, but very quickly that number increased to 50, followed by 90, 125, 200, 240....and now 320 Starfish Packs, to 24 local schools, every week!

The cost per pack for a "regular" week about \$15; a "long weekend" week about \$21 per student....which works out to about \$575 per student annually.

The Meadow Ridge Rotary Club couldn't have done it without the financial support of our many individual donors, many local businesses and organizations, which kept us going for all these years. So many volunteers, not only Rotarians, have helped us every week with purchasing groceries, packing and delivering Starfish Packs; they too are very sad to see the program end. We have tried to encourage other local organizations to continue the program, but unfortunately none are in a position to take over such a huge financial responsibility either.

It is however easy to continue on the "School Meals and Snack Program", but you'll need to PU on a weekly basis from the Friends in Need Foodbank.

CALL: 604-466-3663 ext. 206. In case of voicemail — please, leave your name & contact information and Friends in Need will get back to you within 24 hours.

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy, but above all, Healthy 2025,

Thank You,

Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Starfish Pack Team