

NIGER PRESIDENT RECEIVES POLIO CHAMPION AWARD

In recognition of his leadership in the global effort to eradicate polio, Rotary International presented Niger President Mamadou Tandja with the Polio Eradication Champion Award on 17 March. When presenting the award, Rotary Foundation Trustee Luis Vicente Giay remarked that Tandja is helping eradication efforts by combating rumours and misinformation in both Niger and Nigeria about vaccine safety.



Rotary Foundation Trustee Luis Vicente Giay (right) presents Niger President Mamadou Tandja with the Polio Eradication Champion Award on 17 March.

"He is also actively appealing to parents and communities to immunize their children against polio," Giay said. "As a result of his efforts, Niger has seen a tremendous increase in immunization campaign effectiveness."

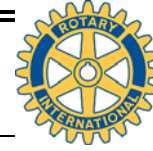
Under President Tandja's leadership, Niger successfully participated in a simultaneous, [mass polio immunization campaign in February](#) with Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo, which targeted 63 million children.

In addition, President Tandja also appealed to political, religious and traditional leaders to work together during the immunization activities, in which tens of thousands of vaccinators went house-to-house to administer the vaccine directly to every child in those countries.

"President Tandja thanked Rotary for this unique and prestigious award. He added that the Niger government will maintain its commitment to polio eradication and work closely with Rotary," said Gaston Kaba, Niger's National [PolioPlus](#) Committee Chair, who was among the government ministers and representatives from Rotary, UNICEF, World Health Organization, and other nongovernmental organizations attending the ceremony. "The president appreciates Rotary's tremendous contribution to polio eradication in Niger." The [award](#) was established in 1995 to recognize world leaders who have made outstanding contributions toward the goal of eradicating polio by 2005.

Past honourees include former U.S. President Bill Clinton; former prime ministers John Major of the UK and Ryutaro Hashimoto of Japan; presidents Chen Shui-Bian of Taiwan, Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan, Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, and Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola; Queen Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgard of the Netherlands; UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan; Development and Cooperation Ministers Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul of Germany and Eveline Herfkens of The Netherlands; Sushma Swaraj, India's minister of health and family welfare; and Egypt's First Lady Suzanne Mubarak.

From **Rotary News Basket** No. 846 — 17 March 2004



The Four Way Flasher

**Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter**

**Vol. 10 Issue 38
March 23, 2004**

Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

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INVOCATION

Mar. 23	Ineke Boekhorst	Mar. 30	Peter Boekhorst
Apr. 6	Rick Carruthers	Apr. 13	Vladimir Cukor

BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15-8:15	8:00-10:00
Mar. 25	Doris Gagel	Stan Wade
April 22	Laurie Anderson	Alan Graveson

Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or e-mail peter.boekhorst@telus.net



Lend a Hand

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Business Meeting

NEXT WEEK: Inspector Fraser MacRae, Meadow Ridge RCMP

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
March 25	12:30	WineZest Meeting	Vernon & Thompson (Laurie's office)
April 3		District 5050 Assembly	Kwantlen University College, Surrey
April 17		WineZest 2004	ACT, Maple Ridge
May 13-15		District 5050 Conference	Skagit Valley Casino Resort

Chance of winning the 6/49 jackpot is 1:13,983,816
 Chance of winning our 50/50 jackpot is 1:70

**50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$1,722 + 1/2 of today's sales,
 2 cards left, one of which is the "Queen of Hearts", giving you the
 Jackpot !**



LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Mary Robson attended PETS last weekend and as with Presidents from the past came back highly motivated and ready to go. She encourages all Executive members and new club members to plan to attend the upcoming District Assembly on April 3rd held at Kwantlen University College in Surrey from 8-2:30. Please see her if you wish to register.

Bob Shantz reported that he is still looking for 28 more sponsors for the Rotary Hospice Calendar. He wants that deadline to be met by end of April. The theme for the calendar will be "To Live Life to the Fullest to the Very End of Life".



We installed Brian Fox, proposed by Ken Paterson this week. A past member of the Chilliwack Rotary club for 9 years he comes well qualified and ready to go to work. He is the Regional Manager for Chubb Security and shares Kens past time of square dancing. We wish to extend a warm heartfelt Welcome to Brian.

The 50/50 pot is still available and promises to reach over \$1,800 next week and only 2 cards left! GOTTA BE THERE TO WIN!



Our Guest Speaker this week was MLA Randy Hawes who also is member of the Mission Rotary Club. He spoke about many issues including the recently achieved balanced budget using Generally Accepted Accounting Principals. As simple as this sounds apparently it is very rare, as we are the first government to do so. This accomplishment apparently helps lenders to extend us (the province of BC) lower interest rates due to the credibility of our financial reports. He explained that all politicians and citizens alike want primarily the same things: a safe community, employment opportunities for our kids and a clean environment. The "road map" to get to those goals is what differentiates the parties.

He also encouraged us to attempt to enlighten the youth of today that a post secondary education is almost mandatory to get a good job, and by this he refers to education in the trades as well as university educations.

Submitted by Debi Pearce

WINEZEST 2004

WineZest 2004 is drawing near! On April 17 we will have our 9th annual wine and food tasting event in the Arts Centre Theatre. Now is the time to get organised getting your silent auction items in. Please bring them to the weekly meeting and Peter and Ineke will take loving care of them.

Also tickets will be available and are \$38.00 each, which is a bargain for what you get: "Wein, Weib und Gesang". Forget about the Weib!
You can get the tickets from Ineke or at the HSBC bank on 224th St.

With everybody's help, let us make this the best WineZest event ever.

