

DISTRICT ADOPTS INITIATIVE TO FOSTER BETTER U.S.-ARAB RELATIONS

Seizing the opportunity offered by its prime location near the United States capital Washington, DC, the Rotary Club of Montgomery Village, Maryland, is spearheading an effort, now in its second year, to promote [peace and understanding](#) between the people of the U.S. and the Arab world.

The initiative, which last October organized a successful week of public education on Arab culture and civilization through a march and an exhibition, has been adopted as a [centennial-year](#) project of District 7620.

More than 100 Rotarians from the district attended the project launch at the embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain on 19 April. Through the effort, the district will help rehabilitate a prosthetics center in Basra, Iraq, in collaboration with the nonprofit organization Physicians for Peace. The three Rotary clubs of Bahrain are considering continuing their involvement with the project.

"There is an urgent need throughout Iraq and the project is to firstly expedite putting prosthetics on the many children on the waiting list, to train the Iraqi physicians with the latest technology, and to supply the center with much needed supplies," says Linda A. Smythe, World Community Service chair of the Rotary Club of Montgomery Village, who worked for many years in Bahrain. "I'm not an Arab or of Arab origin, but I see a compelling reason to reach out in a concrete way toward the Middle East for the sake of peace. The Rotarians in this district are more determined than ever to make our project succeed. In the past year, they have met many Arab people through this project. Now, they can put faces and names to the people from the Arab world."

District Governor Jim McDiamird and Montgomery Village club president Glen Todd bestowed Paul Harris Fellow recognition on event co-host Sheik Khalifa Ali Al-Khalifa for his contributions toward peace and international understanding as an honorary Rotarian and Bahrain ambassador to the U.S.

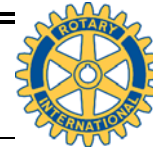
Last year, Al-Khalifa supported the club's peace project by helping to sponsor the trip of Arab musicians and henna artists to the educational exhibition, which attracted more than 500 students and residents. Henna is a cosmetic dye that is used for palm- and feet-painting, mostly in the Middle East and Africa. Local, national, and international media widely covered that event.

"More than anything, the displays and a town hall meeting attended by five Arab ambassadors created a non-confrontational environment for Americans and Arabs to interact," says Smythe. "I was impressed with everybody. We all pulled together to fulfill the objectives of our project and to raise the profile of Rotary."

At the 19 April event, [Rotary Peace Scholar](#) Arthur Romano presented Ambassadors Al-Khalifa and Rend Al-Rahim of Iraq with a peace pole, symbolizing a wish for lasting peace in their countries.

The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International has established the Rotary Centers for International Studies:

- to advance research, teaching, publication, and knowledge of issues of peace and goodwill, causes of conflict, and world understanding;
- to provide advanced educational opportunities for a group of Rotary World Peace Scholars chosen from various countries and cultures in order to advance knowledge and world understanding among potential future leaders of government, business, education, media, and other professions;
- to establish a program through which The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International and the member clubs of Rotary International may become increasingly effective in promoting greater tolerance and cooperation among peoples, leading to world peace and understanding.



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of MeadowRidge Newsletter

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Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

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PLEASE TURN YOUR CELLPHONE OFF OR USE VIBRATION MODE

INVOCATION

May 11	Brian Fox	May 18	Doris Gagel
May 25	Alan Graveson	June 1	Hendy Lindsay

BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15-8:15	8:00-10:00
May 20	Alex Kempenaar	Peter Boekhorst
June 17	Tim Lowes	Marco Terwiel

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



Lend a Hand

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Dale Nelson, Chamber of Commerce

NEXT WEEK: Steve Morach, Rotary International Foundation

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
May 13-15		District 5050 Conference	Skagit Valley Casino Resort
May 23-26		The RI Convention	Osaka, Japan
June 17	6:00pm	Ladies Night – Haney Club - \$100. ⁰⁰	Swan-E-Set
June 19		Haney Rotary Club Installation	Pitt Meadows Golf Course
June 22		MeadowRidge Rot. Club Installation	Gourmet Hideaway

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$75 + 1/2 of today's sales, 48 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

May 14: Dave & Sharon Rempel

LAST WEEK'S MEETING



WELCOME BACK TO THE GOURMET HIDEAWAY!

Paul welcomed us back with a great meal and great ambiance. It feels like home. Lots of happy bucks for the move were donated.

We had two Esteem Team guests. Megan Gordon Parker and Justin Abdou. Megan was a Springboard/Platform Diver and Justin a Wrestler. Both have been involved with the Esteem Team since its inception 8 years ago and love it.

We also had a guest from the Coquitlam Sunrise Rotary, Bill Angus. He invites any members who would like to watch a professional Lacrosse game to come out to the Planet Ice on May 23rd at 6:30 where the Burrards Lacrosse team will be playing to help raise funds for the Minor Lacrosse league.

Mary proposed the club purchasing, through member sponsorship, banner to mount our "visiting Rotarian banners". The cost will be \$150 each and you can have your name embroidered on the banner. Tim Lowes, Gord Robson, Marco Terwiel, Brian Bekar, and Laurie Anderson all immediately agreed to do this and so the banners will be ordered. If anyone else is interested please contact Mary.

Our Guest Speaker today was Carmen Zajac from the Zajac Foundation, which works tirelessly to provide developmental programs to enhance the lives of children and seniors. In 1986 the Zajac family suffered two serious blows in the death of two of their sons, 6 months apart and from that grief has arisen this foundation in the memory of their lives. The Foundation's goal is to enhance the quality of life for children with disabilities or chronic or life-threatening diseases. It's latest endeavour is to convert the former Stave Falls Correctional Facility into a Camp for these children, where for no charge, they can enjoy the pleasures of a camp experience aimed at focusing on what they CAN achieve instead of what they cannot. They have partnered with many organizations to make this dream a reality, like the BC Children's Hospital and the YMCA. They look forward to many more partnerships.

The facility will open on a small scale this July and have already got at least four groups booked in for camps. The facility will be fully Wheelchair accessible and have a 24 hour child friendly medical center on site. It will be the first of its kind in BC and has already received attention from the "Hole in the Wall Gang Camps" created by Paul Newman a number of years ago.

Sounds like a great project with potential to receive some of our fundraising dollars in the near future.

Submitted by Debi Pearce

MEADOWRIDGE ROTARY ESTEEM TEAM

Visitation Schedule

The Esteem Team's visitation is scheduled for Tuesday, May 11 and May 18, 2004 with the following itinerary:

May 11 – 10:30am	Blue Mountain Elementary	12153 248 th St., MR	Rae-Anne Mitchell
May 11 – 10:30am	Highland Park Elementary	18961 Advent Rd., PM	Mitch Baker
May 11 – 1:15pm	Hammond Elementary	11520 203 rd St., MR	Rae-Anne Mitchell
May 11 – 1:15pm	Glenwood Elementary	21410 Glenwood Ave., MR	Mitch Baker
May 18 – 10:30am	Maple Ridge Secondary	21911 122 nd Ave., MR	Nick Ugoalah
May 18 – 10:30am	Golden Ears Elementary	23124 118 th Ave., PM	Heather Smith
May 18 – 1:15pm	Maple Ridge Elementary	20820 River Rd., MR	Nick Ugoalah
May 18 – 1:30pm	Mount Crescent Elementary	21821 122 nd Ave., MR	Heather Smith

Rotarians are welcome to accompany these athletes for the presentations. Please contact Kevin Nosworthy, if you can assist.



Rae-Anne Mitchell

Rae-Anne, also known as Rae, has been a member of Canada's Senior Volleyball team since 1997. She is a three-time All-Canadian for the University of Winnipeg. From 1994 to 1997, she played with the Junior National Team and went to the World Student games in 1995 and 1997. It was at the '97 World Student Games where Team Canada finished 4th, the highest ever ranking at a world competition for Team Canada. Rae has also had a successful professional career overseas. She played one year in Belgium and two years in France.

Rae-Anne has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Winnipeg. She continues her training in Winnipeg and looks forward to continued success in volleyball and in other areas of life.



Mitch Baker

As a member of the Canadian National Snowboard team for 6 years, Mitch has provided Canada with several top 15 finishes in World Cup Giant Slalom and Bordercross. Some of his highlights include a silver medal in Giant slalom at the World University Games held in Slovakia, 3rd place in Giant slalom at the Canadian Nationals, and 4th place in the World Cup Bordercross in Switzerland.

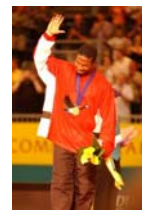
Mitch is currently a member of the Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services and continues to pursue his passion for snowboarding.



Heather Smith

Heather Smith is in the middle of an amazing soccer career. Her defensive play as a member of the UBC Women's soccer team has helped the team win back-to-back Canadian University Championships. In 2001, Heather was named Rookie of the Year for Western Canada and a year later, she was a 1st team all star. Her most exciting accomplishment so far though, was being a member of the 2002 Canadian Women's Under 19 team that finished 2nd in the world, losing in overtime to the United States in the final game at Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton. This game was played in front of 47,000 and more than 1,000,000 watching on TV and is credited with pushing soccer to the forefront of women's sports in Canada.

Heather plans to compete for Canada's Senior team in the future, but in the meantime, is working on a degree in Geology at UBC.



Nick Ugoalah

Competing at the recent Commonwealth Games in Manchester, Nick dominated his division and took the Gold Medal. "I have worked so hard for this. My coaches have been pushing me and that hard work has paid off," said Nick. He is a 3-time CIAU (Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union) National Champion wrestler, attending Brock University where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. He is the current National champion and was the Olympic trials champion at the 76kg weight class.

Nick grew up in Nigeria, and moved to British Columbia when he was ten.

He first started competing in wrestling when he was in Grade 12. Nick is a proven world-class wrestler by his consistent placings at some of the major grand prix circuit tournaments: the German Grand Prix, Cerro Pelado, Canada Cup and Egyptian Cup.