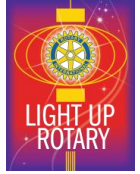


Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

President: Eric Mollema Phone: 778-242-5549 [E-mail the President](#)
 Secretary: David Riddell Phone: 604-406-8882 [E-mail the Secretary](#)
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December is Family Month

Today: Christmas Party

Next Meeting on Jan. 6

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

Dec. 23
Jan, 6

Invocation

Mark Vosper
Laurie Anderson

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue

GOOD NEWS FROM OUR AMBASSADOR IN CALIFORNIA (MATT)

I came home from another breakfast Rotary meeting (- boy, a luncheon meeting is easier to get to, because you can sleep in!)

The Imperial Rotary Breakfast Club (California) has decided to adopt OUR Four Way Test in school program. The first session is planned for early February.

The principal of the local school is a Rotarian.

Of the things we think, say or do
 Is it the TRUTH?
 Is it FAIR to all concerned?
 Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
 Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

The picture shows 5 members of the club forming a Menorah in celebration of Hanukkah.



Regards
Matt DeBruyn

CHRISTMAS PLANT SALE AT THE HOSPITAL



Our newest members Libby Nelson and Graeme Ross were among those helping at the Hospital.



Thanks to everyone helping us at the Hospital sales booth and those members purchasing plants.

You also could have purchased and donated them to Hospice. I can tell you from previous years' experiences, the gift of a plant with a card from a total stranger, is a very warm, caring and much appreciated gift to a person in Hospice at Christmas time.

Thank You all for your support towards the Nicaragua Project

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Our guests for the day were **Lynn Easton, Elaine Yamamoto, Rhian Piprell and Elspeth Bowers.**

Happy and Sad (goings on in the lives of our members)

Brian Bekar says he must have lied (even though he didn't know it) when he told us that his building permit for the new Mark's Work Warehouse had been granted. He just learned that the zoning along the Lougheed Highway has presented some complications which will put their timing back a little bit.

Bob Shantz was happy that Family Day which is planned to be held in conjunction with the Duck Race, is moving forward, but he was not so happy with a kidney stone which was moving outward. Said Bob, this is “no damn fun”.
[Said another wise man, “This too shall pass”.]

Cheque Presentation

Angie Edmonds presented a cheque for \$1,500 to **Annika Polegato** for the **Alouette Addictions Society**. Annika is the Executive director of the Society. She advised that at a recent Parent Drug Forum approximately 300 people attended (of which Angie Edmonds was one).



Mystery Greeter

President Eric Mollema tried again (unsuccessfully) to extract fines from all members who didn't shake hands with Debbie MacRae (a real mystery greeter) who was unable to attend today's meeting to collect the money in person.



Speaker

Rhian Piprell (from the Coquitlam Sunrise Club) and **Elspeth Bowers** (from the Mission Morning Club) are the co-chairs of the **District 5050 Literacy Project**. Rhian is a librarian and teacher by profession and Elspeth is also a librarian (but both claim to be semi-retired). Rhian can be reached at piprellr@gmail.com and at 778-227-4132.

They posed the question: what is literacy? Literacy is not just reading and writing. It is much bigger than that. It involves the ability to communicate in many aspects of life. One of the goals of the Rotary Foundation is to promote basic education and literacy.

We were referred to **Decoda Literacy Solutions**, which says (on its website) that it is *the only province-wide literacy organization in British Columbia. Providing resources, training and funds, Decoda supports community-based literacy programs and initiatives in over 400 communities across B.C. Decoda supports children and families, youth, adults, Aboriginal and immigrant communities in an effort to build strong individuals, strong families and strong communities. Decoda is derived from the word “decode,” which means to create understanding; to unravel the mystery – literacy helps us make sense of the modern world.*

Literacy is important to all British Columbians because it impacts every area of our lives: healthcare, crime rates, employment and economic status. Contrary to popular belief, literacy is not just the ability to read or write. People today must be able to use computers, read and fill out online materials, service agreements, job applications, understand their prescription labels, use social media...even paying for parking requires a higher level of literacy skills than even 10 years ago.

According to Decoda:

40% of BC adults have difficulty reading a newspaper, filling out a work application form, reading a map, or understanding a lease, and 49% of BC Adults do not have the skills necessary to calculate a tip, create a budget, calculate sales tax, or understand credit card interest rates.

Our other two guests, **Lynn Easton** and **Elaine Yamamoto**, work with the **Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Katzie Community Literacy Committee (CLC)**. CLC *promotes and supports adult, community and family literacy. The CLC provides leadership to, and helps coordinate, literacy initiatives in our communities. It operates the Learning Room at the CEED Centre as an outreach office Tuesday to Thursday, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon, and by appointment. For information on local programs, resources, volunteering as a tutor, or accessing literacy supports, contact Elaine Yamamoto, Literacy Outreach Facilitator, at 604.721.3738 (leave a message) or email facilitator@communityliteracy.ca*

Literacy is important in other areas of focus of the Rotary Foundation, such as the promotion of peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, saving mothers and children, growing the local economy - all of these things to do on literacy.

Our speakers presented us with several ideas to promote literacy in our community. For example, there are many ways to promote free book exchanges. One idea (which caught the interest of **Patrick O'Brien**) was to obtain from the Vancouver Sun or Vancouver Province newspapers used metal boxes which were used to distribute newspapers, and load them with free books which members of the community could have access to (particularly outlying areas, thinks Patrick, where ready access to libraries is not available). Another idea is to put “book boxes” in such places as Laundromats as a free book exchange.

One international project was developed by the Amarock Society which supports reading and writing education for mothers in Bangladesh slums, who can in turn pass on this learning to their children.

“Teach a mother to read and she will teach a family.

Teach five mothers to read, and you will teach a community.”

Our own club has been involved in literacy promotion. We have in the past supported the book program in Nunavut, and our current international project in Nicaragua is promoting literacy by helping to build a school there. We currently donate a book in the name of our guest speakers to a library in Nunavut and until recently were able (through a donation of an acquaintance of the late Doctor **Marco Terwiel**) to donate over \$300 monthly to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library who provided books to Inuit youth in northern Canada.

Ineke Boekhorst pointed out that there are books (donated by Black Bond Books) which are out on a loan basis through the Friends in Need Food Bank. This is an example of where books can be given out without causing embarrassment to the recipients.

50/50

For a second week in a row, **Libby Nelson** drew the winning ticket, but left 17 cards in the deck, including the Queen of Hearts and the Queen of Diamonds. The odds are getting better!

Submitted by Laurie Anderson