

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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MARCH IS WATER AND SANITATION MONTH

Today: Dr. Doug Bing – MLA
Next Week: Dr. Biju Mathew - Charitable School in India

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Apr. 16	7 pm - 10 pm	Rotary Wine Festival	ValleyFair Mall, Maple Ridge
Apr. 30 - May 1		District Conference	Semiahmoo Resort in Blaine, WA.
May 12-15		RYLA	WA, United States
Aug. 7		Rotary Duck Race	Maple Ridge Park

DON'T FORGET TO SELL TICKETS FOR WINE FESTIVAL!



Wine Festival
and Craft Beer Tasting

MEADOW RIDGE & HANEY ROTARY

Join us for international wine & beer tasting, silent & live auctions, great live music and a culinary showcase featuring local restaurants!

Saturday, April 16, 2016
7:00 - 10:00 pm
ValleyFair Mall, Maple Ridge

Tickets \$45 ea.

For tickets call
Ineke Boekhorst: 604-467-2420
or Deddy Geese: 604-467-5535

www.MeadowRidgeRotary.ca
www.HaneyRotary.org

Proceeds to support Youth, Culture and other Rotary Charities in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.

Thank you to all sponsors who make this event possible!

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Mark Forster** called upon the musical talents of **Patrick O'Brien**, who did a stellar job in leading us in the national anthem.

Ineke Boekhorst's Rotary Moment touched on the importance of us seeking out new Club members.

Happy and Sad

During the recent windstorm, **Dave Rempel** lost five large cedar trees which came down in the storm and disrupted some of his bird pens, but fortunately none of his fowl were killed.

Libby Nelson's grandson will now be able to protect his grandmother, as he has received his black belt in karate.

Guest Speaker - Erika van Oyen

Topic: Safer Sex, Stronger Schools, and Empowered Mamas: Investing in Education in Uganda



Erika van Oyen (an elementary school teacher) and her husband **Corey Mazurat** (a professional photographer) were introduced by Laurie Anderson. Erika has taught in BC, Quebec, China and Uganda. She traveled to Uganda for the first time in July 2008, and has returned to this "second home" every year since then. Erika and her husband Corey moved to Uganda for a year after founding a society called **ISEE Solutions**, a grassroots organization that believes that poverty should not be a barrier to education.



ISEE is an acronym for **Investing in Sustainability, Education and Empowerment**, and this society is a registered Canadian charity that focuses on the education sector in Uganda. ISEE partners with locals to support programs that keep girls in school, that provides training and scholastic material for impoverished schools, and that supports mothers in their small business dreams in order to have the necessary funds to pay school fees for their children.

Erika and Corey currently live in the city of Kelowna, where Ineke met Erika who (although not a Rotarian) had a booth at a Rotary District Conference. Ineke was impressed with the work that they were doing in providing homemade sanitary kits for young girls in Uganda.

Erika originally worked for another charitable organization in Uganda in 2008, and lived in Uganda for a full year in 2013-14. In 2011 she decided to start her own charity. Instead of imposing what she feels the people of Uganda needs, she partners with Ugandans and meets with people there to find out what they need and want. She is stationed mainly in Kampala which is a city of 8 million people. Uganda, as a whole, has approximately 35 million people with a geographical area approximately the same size as Oregon. Uganda is a country of extremes, extremely rich and extremely poor people.



Erika and her society has Reproductive Health as one of its programs. Currently, 80% of girls drop out of school for various reasons, including teenage pregnancy (often caused by the teachers!). As young girls cannot afford sanitary products, they often stay home from school during their menstrual cycle which contributes to the school drop-out rate. Erika's society therefore sews together reusable cloth sanitary kits and distributes them to girls in poor families, resulting in a significantly larger number of young women staying in school. These sanitary kits (which also contain other articles of clothing and sanitary products) costs approximately \$15 Canadian to produce. Between 2012 and 2016, approximately 2700 kits have been distributed and their goal for 2017 is 2000 kits being distributed.

Erika's society also sponsors educational programs about reproductive health, HIV, and empowerment (teaching them about their right to say "no" to sexual advances). At one presentation, they had up to 300 girls in attendance. Programs are given to students from grade four and up.



ISEE also promotes Stronger Schools by providing books and other reading materials, sporting goods, science equipment, musical instruments, teacher guides and teaching partnerships. They have provided sewing machines to school for teaching, established a "pen pal" program, and built a chicken hut. The government does not allow them into public schools, so they mainly focus on private schools which are more open to these partnering programs.



Empowered Mamas: ISEE empowers mothers by helping them get established in small, sustainable, business projects. ISEE currently sponsors 27 women, by providing them with equipment that enables them to make money, such as giving them sewing machines, pots and pans for cooking, or a popcorn machine. In one case, \$250 was enough to invest in a catering business for one mother. \$100 can provide a sewing machine, a popcorn machine, or three piglets. A fridge can cost as little as \$200. As ISEE is an educational charity, these empowered mamas must undertake to keep their daughters in school. The mothers wish their daughters (and sons) to become educated, and they take pride in the ownership of their business and, in turn, their children's education. From the money earned in their businesses, the mothers save \$2 per month, which is donated back to the charity so that the charity can help other women with similar projects.

All money donated to ISEE goes into the charity. Erika and her husband pay for their own transportation to and from Uganda. Our own club may be interested in sponsoring this worthwhile charitable organization.

Erika may be contacted at Erika@ISEEsolution.org

50/50

Once again Libby Nelson's luck was in spades - the three of spades, that is.

Submitted by Laurie Anderson