

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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APRIL IS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH

Today: Elizabeth Backman - Etiquette

Next Week:

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Apr. 9	8 am – 2 pm	District Training Assembly	Kwantlen Polytechnic Univ., Surrey
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	Noon – 2 pm	Rotary Duck Race	Maple Ridge Park

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Many years ago, in Kolkata, India, I had the chance to meet Mother Teresa. She was an incredible woman with an incredible force of personality. When she walked down the street, the crowd parted in front of her like the Red Sea. Yet when you talked to her, if you mentioned the tremendous things she had done, she almost did not engage in this topic at all. By many reports, if you asked her what her greatest achievement was, she would answer, "I am an expert in cleaning toilets."

The answer was both humorous and absolutely serious. Her business was caring for others. Toilets had to be cleaned, so she cleaned them. There was no question of a job being beneath her. Helping people who needed help was her work, and there was nothing higher, nothing in the world more important than that.

So one day, when an elegantly dressed man came to Kolkata looking for Mother Teresa, the nuns who answered the door informed him that she was at the back of the house, cleaning the toilets. They pointed the way, and indeed he found Mother Teresa scrubbing the toilets. She said hello, assumed he was there to volunteer, and began explaining to him how to hold the toilet brush correctly and how not to waste water. Then she put the brush in his hand and left him standing there, in his expensive suit, alone in the lavatory.

Later, the man came out, found Mother Teresa again, and said, "I have finished; may I speak with you now?" "Yes, certainly," she said. He took an envelope out of his pocket and said, "Mother

Teresa, I am the director of the airline, and here are your tickets. I just wanted to bring them to you personally."

That airline director told that story again and again for the rest of his life. He said those 20 minutes spent cleaning toilets had filled him with the greatest joy he had ever known – because by putting his hands to Mother Teresa's work, he became part of that work. For those 20 minutes, he cared for the sick just as she did: with his own hands, his own sweat.

That is exactly the opportunity that Rotary gives us. We might not do what Mother Teresa did – give up our lives, our homes, our families. But for 20 minutes, 20 hours, 20 days of the year, we can be like her.

We can do the work that others will not with our hands, and our hearts, and our sweat, and our devotion – knowing that what we do is the most important work in the world.

K.R. Ravindran - President 2015-16

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Rotary Moment - **Angie Edmonds**

Our international exchange student **Jhon Reategui** has now finished his stay with **Mike Murray** (of the Haney Rotary Club) as the host family and is now starting his three-month turn at the home of Angie and Duane. When Jhon came to Canada he spoke no English, and has done very well in learning the language, which he hopes to teach to his family and other members of his

village when he gets back home. Note: John will be our guest speaker at our Rotary meeting on April 19, 2016, where he will no doubt tell us about his life in the small village on the Amazon River where he grew up and his family is living. Don't miss it!

Family Matters:

In addition to disclosing that **David Riddell** will be another year older on March 30, **Ineke Boekhorst** gave us the following report from Matt **DeBruyn**:

Hello there!!!

It is about time for an update. We finally have reliable WiFi tonight. We are presently camped near Torrey, Utah and it's time to BBQ a steak and send some emails – see pictures.



We had a wonderful winter down south with both daughters visiting us. First Alisha and family in January, which visit also included a great trip to Disneyland and then in March Michelle and family.



After driving via the Grand Canyon to North Eastern Arizona, we are now working our way through Utah, from the south east to the North West. From there it will be mostly highways to get home. We have some snow reports, so we will be cautious.

Looking forward to seeing you again soon.

Matt DeBruyn

Wine Festival: Our chair of that event, **Dave Rempel**, says that we currently have more Wineries attending the event than we have ticket sales; and that we need to get behind this event and sell some tickets to make sure that it is a success.

Happy and (or?) Sad

Our **President Mark Forster** is back from his holiday in Mexico, and thanked Angie for sharing the meetings in his absence.



Ineke and Peter had almost all of their grandchildren with them over Easter in Kelowna where they enjoyed an eggs-cellent time.

(Rumour has it that Peter poured hot water down a rabbit hole in order to make hot cross bunnies for his grandkids, and that Ineke then had to dry them off with a hare-dryer !)

Ineke also said (via information from PDG Dick Drew of the Haney Club) that an adult student from Russia is coming to Maple Ridge in July, and the Haney Club is looking for a host family for up to a week to accommodate him.

Guest Speaker - Dr. Biju Mathew



Introduction: Dr. Matthew is the head of the psychiatric department at the Ridge Meadows Hospital and Healthcare Centre. He was born in India and graduated from the University of Wales College of Medicine psychiatry program in 1988. After graduating, he accepted a position in Sidney Nova Scotia, later moving to Stratford Ontario. (Although he found the people of eastern Canada

extremely hospitable, he found the wind chill with -30 or -40 temperatures not so. He said that "the final straw was the day I was driving my son Nick to work and we spun out on black ice narrowly missing an oncoming truck... I decide it was time to go somewhere where there wasn't so much snow and ice". So he moved to British Columbia in 1996. Dr. Matthew and his wife Grace have two sons who are themselves pursuing medical careers. Dr. Matthew has been involved in and supporting the community. For example, he helped found the Ridge Meadows South Asian cultural society, which is known for its charitable fundraising and its building of community relationships. In 2010 his accomplishments were recognized when he was awarded the prestigious Glory of India Award by the India International Friendship Society - an organization meant to strengthen ties between India and the rest of the world.

Dr. Mathew's storey was set out in an article by Tim Fitzgerald of the Maple Ridge News, posted May 12, 2015. It summarizes very well his talk to us, and is as follows:

A meeting with one of India's most noted mathematicians has opened a new door for Dr. Biju Mathew.

Anand Kumar was in Maple Ridge in 2012 as the guest of honour for the Ridge Meadows South Asian Gala. Kumar is the founder of India's most unique and charitable schools, Super 30.

The school seeks out 30 exemplary students found in the slums of the economically backward sections of India in hopes of graduating the students on to universities like the Indian Institute of Technology, one of the country's most prestigious post secondary schools.

It is a story that admittedly fascinated Mathew. The two instantly stuck up a bond. And then Kumar broached the idea of having the Maple Ridge doctor write his life story.

Mathew admitted he was hesitant at first.

"I've never done anything like this. I wasn't sure. I've written research papers, but nothing like this."

But the opportunity was too good to pass up.

To do it, Mathew knew he needed to experience a little of what Kumar's life was like.

"I needed to be able to smell and hear the stories first hand for myself. People can tell you about the poverty and what life is like in India, but you can't truly comprehend it unless you experience it."



So he took two separate trips to Bihar, located in the northeast corner of India, in 2012 and again a year later. He went to the crumbled buildings that disguise themselves as schools. He talked to Kumar's students.

He still wasn't convinced he could write the book. Others had tried, only to be rejected. So Mathew put pen to paper. He submitted two chapters. Kumar loved it.

The book, to be published by Penguin, will hit bookstands later this year (2016). All proceeds will help go to build a more modern Super 30 school.

The experience has created an unfathomable bond with Kumar.

He said what he has discovered is Kumar is a man whose own life was shaped by incredible poverty. Brilliant in math from an early age, Kumar excelled in school and had the marks that were good enough to land him entrance to Cambridge University.

But the unexpected death of his father meant there would be no dream of higher education. He spent his days selling papad, a seasoned flat bread, made by his mother so the family could keep the wolf from the door. But his love of math never died. It inspired him. It drove him to work harder. Mathew said he feels Kumar's trials only made him that much more intent on succeeding.



Dr. Biju Mathew in India

"Poverty played such a big role in his life. He knows exactly what every one of his students goes through because he's lived it. His integrity is incredible.

It is evident in the fact he's still trying to raise money to build his school." Dr. Mathew said the hand of corruption can be pervasive in India. Kumar has had plenty of offers to finance his school, but Dr. Mathew said the Super 30 founder knows what the price would be if he takes the easy road. He will lose control over what matters most to him –helping the poorest of the poor build a better life.



Anand Kumar and his students

Since its inception in 2001, Super 30's success has been nothing short of remarkable. In the last eight years alone, 212 of its 240 students have graduated on to some of the country's top technical universities, providing them a chance to escape the crushing poverty that cripples the communities they grew up in. The school not only provides an education, but also provides food and shelter.

For Dr. Mathew, the chance to share in that story has been one of his great achievements.

50-50

Walter Volpatti almost won the 50-50 draw.



Submitted by Laurie Anderson