

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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APRIL IS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH

Today: Jhon Reategui – Our Exchange Student from Peru

Next Week:

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
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

ROTARY WINE FESTIVAL 2016



If you weren't in Valley Fair Mall last Saturday, you really missed an AWESOME event!

We had about 250 people in the house, lots of great wine, excellent craft beers, yummy food and the best fellowship ever!

Thanks to all the volunteers, including Rotaracts, Rotarians and spouses, who assisted with the running of the event, we couldn't have done it without you.

Still waiting for all the bills to come in, waiting for all Silent Auction items to be picked up and waiting for everybody that sold tickets to turn in their money (PLEASE pay for all your tickets sold to Walter!)

BUT when all is said and done, we should clear about \$10,000, which is absolutely fantastic!

So, Thank You everybody for donating your time, expertise, being a sponsor, donating towards the Silent Auction, just being a good Rotarian!

We did it....it was an event to be proud of!

Everyone I spoke to, absolutely loved the wonderful venue (Thank You ValleyFair Mall), the atmosphere (Thank You Rotarians), the assortment of wines and beer, the entertainment, but above all the camaraderie was so wonderful; I met people I hadn't seen for a very long time...It was really great!

Save the date for next year; we'll let you know soon, when that will be!

Submitted by Ineke Boekhorst



This is only a very small sample of the pictures. Very soon they will be all on our website!

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Rotary moment – Matt Debruyn

Matt introduced two guests as his Rotary Moment – two ladies who are involved in the community.



Firstly, **Janet Smith** who is a teachers' support person who is enthusiastic about promoting literacy and our dictionary program whereby, in October, we will be handing out illustrated dictionaries to all grade 4 students in school District 42. Janet has seen the dictionaries and is very impressed with them.

Secondly Matt introduced **Suzanne Vien** who is one of our community volunteers at the Wine Fest.

Our meeting today had one of the largest, if not the largest, number of persons attending. Our guests (in addition to the two guests referred to above and our Guest Speakers) included the following:



- Honorary member **Irena Schantz**
- Fraser Valley Rotaract member **Matt Baillie**
- Fraser Valley Rotaract president **Phoenix MacLaren**
- Mission Rotary member Lynda Lawrence
- Past President of the mission Midday Rotary club **Aaron Theilade**

Aaron Theilade invited us to attend the Mission Midday Club "Pig Roast Fund Raiser" on April 23, 2016 between 1 PM and 6 PM, at a cost of only \$20, including a great feast.

Pres. Mark Forster asked **Libby Nelson** how the District Training Seminar was and she's replied to simply "wonderful".

Happy and Sad

David Rempel, who himself has sold at least 35 tickets to the Wine Fest, urged us all to get out and sell more tickets. (Too late now with the Wine Festival over!)

Jim Michals who is living part-time on Vancouver Island and part-time here on the mainland, has now re-joined our club.

Matt Debruyn is happy not only to now have a new cell phone (see previous For Way Flasher for an explanation), but also for the fact that the Four-Way test is now going ahead again in the schools. Volunteers are requested.

Part Fine Master was **Walter Volpatti** (who fined anyone who hadn't sold their tickets for the Wine Fest) and **Clint Callison** was our Mystery Greeter (who did not know that he had been assigned that position and was therefore the only member who paid a fine).



Program - Mary and Gordon Robson - their experience with the Syrian refugees

Introduction of the guests: Gordon Robson was a charter member of the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club and Mary is a past president. They are now members, along with Lynda Lawrence, of the Mission Noonday club.



Gordon is a past mayor of Maple Ridge and is currently a city Councillor, and Mary is the executive director of the Friends in Need Food Bank.

Being empty nesters Gordy and Mary Robson, had room in their home in east Maple Ridge. They had heard of the plight of Syrian families waiting for places to live so they could start rebuilding their lives in BC. So the Robsons registered the ground floor of their house with the Immigrant Services Society of B.C. ("ISS") as a possible place for a refugee family. On the way to Vancouver, they thought they should register the other house on their property also, as the tenants they had were moving out.

So on February 2 they met one of the families who were living in a motel in Vancouver. "They served us tea and sweets and we met the children, and we were 'hooked' ". Now, two families made up of 19 Syrian refugees are living on their land. One family (4 children and the parents) live on the ground floor of their house where they share the kitchen with the Robsons, and another family (of 11 kids and the two parents) live in the other home.

The family is very concerned that they are going to be a burden for the Robsons, but Gord and Mary said that this has been "One of the most rewarding thing we have done in our lives", and that the kids are very polite and well behaved. Eight of the younger children are settled in school at Websters Corners Elementary, two are attending Garibaldi, four are in pre-school and one of the children is an adult. Even though none of them speak English, the children are learning quickly.

One of the priorities to get them mobile, but they have no identification or paperwork to prove they can drive (even though one of the fathers was a truck driver in Syria) so they are taking steps to overcome that problem. In the meantime, one of Gordon and Mary's son, William, has taken time off work to act as a full time chauffeur. Once they become mobile themselves, the kids can get involved in local sports and community activities.

ISS pays only a shelter allowance of about \$800 but that is nowhere near market rent, so it costs about \$12,000 to \$14,000 to sponsor a family. As for the families living on the Robson properties, the Robsons subsidize the difference. The families are in great need of support for dental care and other services.

50-50

No need to hide your head, **Angie Blanco**, just because you drew the 9 of Clubs !

Submitted by Laurie Anderson