

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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MAY IS YOUTH SERVICE MONTH

Today (May 9):

Next Week (May 16): **Brian Bekar** – Who’s Who

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
May 9: Walter Volpatti	

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
June 10-14		Rotary International Convention	Atlanta
Aug. 13		Rotary Duck Race	Maple Ridge Park – Alouette River



LAST WEEK’S MEETING

David Rempel gab die Anrufung im Deutsch.

President Ineke advised that **May is Youth Service Month:**

Meadow Ridge Rotary is very involved with youth.....almost \$400,000 was distributed to local youth organizations through the sale of Rotary Duck Race tickets in the last 5 years.

She was also happy to announce that our incoming exchange student for 2017-18 is **Valerie Weyringer** from Salzburg, Austria.

Mark Vosper, executive director of Hospice, advised that the 20th annual Vistas Run-Walk will be held on May 28 starting at 9 am Sunday morning at the Kanaka Creek Park. *This annual event draws walkers and runners from across the Lower Mainland who participate year after year in support of Ridge Meadows Hospice Society. The timed portion of the Vistas Run-Walk includes a beautiful 10k or 5k route through Kanaka Creek Regional Park in Maple Ridge. The panoramic views gave the Vistas Run its name! The event also includes the 4K Family Fun Walk that takes participants along a manicured gravel trail passing farm animals and breath-taking Vistas views of Kanaka Creek Regional Park.*

David Rempel urged members, if they go to a restaurant that participated in our Wine Fest, to thank the restaurant for their help in making the event such a success. Libby Nelson is going to email everyone in the club a list of the restaurants that participated, as well as the wineries, or you look it up yourself on the website: rotarywinefest.ca.

President Ineke advised that the silent auction items brought in \$4,250, sponsorships gave us \$3,750, the wine bottle sale netted \$650, and 250 ticket stubs were taken in at the event.

Happy and Sad

Lynda Lawrence thanked **Matt DeBruyn** for giving her the opportunity to participate in bringing the four-way test to the elementary school, and noted that without Matt this great program would not be taking place.

David Riddell said that a certain female family member (who will go unnamed) called the four-way test the “four-way stop”.

Did we hear **Libby Nelson** say something about the casino and a glass of wine?

Present Ineke, who attended the provincial BIA meeting on Vancouver Island, said that our Downtown Maple Ridge BIA was awarded a “Best in the West” award for putting in place a “one-stop shop” where persons in Maple Ridge can get permits and licenses in one location, thus saving a lot of time and frustration.

Matt DeBruyn thanked those who participated in teaching the four-way test to grade 4 students, and said that one schoolteacher from another school was so impressed that she asked whether the program could be taught in her school. Matt noted that this program was started eight years ago – how time flies!

Our Fine Master was **Urma Mollema**. She was going to collect some “gas money” for those who were going to the District Conference in Seattle, for those that were not. And just to shake things up a bit, she fined Matt DeBruyn (despite the protest from Lynda Lawrence) for doing such a fantastic job with the four-way test, as well as everybody else who had not participated in that program.

The Annual Club Installation will be held on Tuesday, June 27 at Chances. Mark it in your calendars!

Our Guest Speaker today was

Dale Albertson, who is an International Development Expert. He is the executive director of ACCES - the African Canadian Continuing Education Society.



For more nearly 20 years, ACCESS has been helping young Kenyans obtain the skills and education needed to benefit themselves and their society through: post-secondary scholarships; secondary scholarships; primary schools; health, gender and HIV/AIDS awareness; and small business and agricultural training.

Dale spoke to us about Partnerships as a business model for helping persons in Third World countries. Dale strongly believes, from his many years of experience, that to be successful one must understand the culture of the people that are being assisted by charity groups. He says that the countries of the world have at least three ancestral world views which motivates their approach to things. Those are:

Fear versus power - this world view was dominant in more primitive societies, where people try to get power over things that they fear or can't control. The “fear” could be the fear of the weather or storms or floods, or fear of being attacked by neighbouring tribes. In this culture, people use various methods to overcome their fear, including religious ceremonies, belief in the supernatural, and possession of magical articles.

Shame versus honour - the most striking example of which is honour killings. In this culture, people do not think about themselves, but rather how the shame affects their world, their community, and their family.

Right versus Wrong - which is the world view of Western society. We have laws, rules and regulations by which we judge what is right and what is wrong. Whereas we believe that persons in authority who extract money from those people that they are serving in order to do things they need, such as get government documents signed or contracts awarded, is very bad (and of course, it is in our world view) but in some cultures who do not think in terms of right and wrong one could be shunned by the community if they failed to pay out. What we consider to be bribes, they might consider it to simply be bringing somebody honour. By understanding the culture having that world view, one could accommodate their way of thinking without giving the bribe by, for example, bringing honour to a government official by giving him credit for facilitating some important construction project or other initiative that the NGO is working on.

ACCESS operates with minimal staff in Africa by partnering with other groups who are already there doing similar work. For example, in promoting education, they determine who is already doing education and network with them. In Kenya, ACCESS has only three staff, yet is working with and helping 30,000 individuals, students, and staff etc. They operate on two guiding principles: firstly, allow the Kenyans to identify the problem – find out what they need, and secondly, don't expand the program until you have proved that it is working well. “The ultimate goal of any development project is that the community will be empowered and inspired to not only continue the initial projects, but also to initiate new ones on their own,” says Dale.

50/50

This week's draw winner was **Sharon Kyle** who was only one card away by drawing the Jack of hearts.

President's closing quip:



Submitted by Laurie Anderson