



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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FEBRUARY IS PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION/RESOLUTION MONTH

Today (Feb 6): **Johnson Meier Insurance** - House Insurance information
Next Week (Feb 13):

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Feb. 9-11		Presidential Peace Building Conference https://environmentandpeace.com	Hyatt Regency Vancouver
Feb. 10		Valentine's dinner at Mark and Pauline Forster's house	11439-234A St., Maple Ridge
May 8-12		District Conference	MS Eurodam

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In Rotary, our diversity is our strength. This idea dates back to the earliest years of our organization, when the classification system was first proposed. The idea behind it was simple: that a club with members who had a wide variety of backgrounds and abilities would be capable of better service than one without.

In the years since, the idea of diversity in Rotary has come to be defined more broadly. We have discovered that a club that truly represents its community is far better able to serve that community effectively. Looking ahead, it is clear how essential diversity will remain in Rotary: not only to strong service today, but to a strong organization in the future.

One of the most pressing aspects of diversity to address in our membership is the age of our members. When you look around at almost any Rotary event, it becomes immediately obvious that the age range in the room does not promise a sustainable future for our organization. Our membership is near a record high, and we are bringing in new members all the time – yet only a small minority of those members are young enough to have decades of Rotary service ahead of them. To ensure a strong and capable Rotary leadership tomorrow, we need to bring in young and capable members today.

We also cannot discuss diversity in Rotary without addressing the issue of gender. It is difficult to imagine that just three decades ago, women could not join Rotary. Although we have come a long way since then, the legacy of that misguided policy is still with us. Far too many people continue to think of Rotary as an organization only for men, and that idea has had a detrimental effect on both our public image and our membership growth. Today, women make up just over 21 percent of Rotary's membership. While this is certainly a great improvement, we have a long way to go to meet what should be the goal of every club: a gender balance that matches the balance of our world, with as many women in Rotary as men.

Whatever brought each of us to Rotary, we stay because we find value in Rotary membership and believe that our service has value to the world. By building clubs that reflect that world in all its diversity, we will build even more enduring value in *Rotary: Making a Difference*.

Ian H.S. Riseley
President 2017-18

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Guests:

Greg Lane and **Sandra Ramsey**

Presidents quote for the day:

Happy and Sad

Patrick O'Brien was very happy to learn that there were only 22 cases of the wild polio virus in the world in 2017 and no cases in the continent of Africa.

Brenda Jenkins said that she was "very happy that we allowed her to join our Club". We were all very happy that she joined us. (Then there was that guy - Groucho Marx - who famously said:



Laurie Anderson gave a loonie, saying Lorna was at that very moment standing on the equator in Ecuador - so he was happy to say that he had just joined the "Time Off" Club (of which **Eric Mollema** and **Matt DeBruyn**, who had also sent their "better halves" off to the four corners of the globe, were charter members); to which **Debbie MacRae** shot back with the deflating remark, "the wife's are the ones that are really excited".

Program - Part 2 of the **Matt DeBruyn Odyssey**

Matt entertained us with his life in photos, complete with entertaining dialogue – everything from

– Matt as a crying toddler - - - - - 



– Matt as a classy dressed teenager

– The classy car (aka the "Ugly Duck") that Matt owned in Holland, made from the front end of one car screwed to the rear end of another (so named, we surmise, because the other ends of the two cars, from which it had been made, had been in a serious Quack up).

– A picture of the tallest windmill in Holland which is, of course, in his hometown of Schiedam ("watch it and weep, Ineke and Peter"),



– Matt as a smiling father at his daughter's classy wedding, and



– Matt as (of course) a classy dressed grandfather with his entire family.

We also learned the following facts about Matt:

- He inherited not only his grandfather's given name, but also his temperament
- Because his parents were teetotallers, he did not taste beer until he was 16 (and then not again for a couple of years)
- While at college in Holland, he was president of the Liberal (= Conservative) Student Association, when his group organized a trip of students and some profs to go to Russia where they saw a military parade in Red Square (a picture, massive weaponry and all, which is still fixed in his mind)
- As a student he had a job delivering vegetables to a so-called upper-class household, where a lady answered the door and told him that the deliveries had to be taken to the back door. He knocked on the backdoor, and the same lady answered the door and took the delivery. (Rules are rules and what is proper is proper! Wouldn't want the neighbours to see you taking deliveries! That is for your servants to do that!)
- In the Netherlands, he got a degree from the Netherlands School of Economics
- When in Ontario he learned how to ski (sort of) and even race-sailed on Lake Ontario
- After coming home one day to find his house devoid of contents (but that is another story), he decide to go to a riding stable to see if he could get on a horse; and with no experience whatsoever as an equestrian but lots of charm, he was asked by the owner of the stable to "temp" as a horse riding instructor because a (no doubt) prim and proper old boot instructor was called away suddenly. So he bought a book to study over the weekend to figure out which end of the horses was which, and 3 days later taught a bunch of kids how to ride "English style". He so impressed the kids that kids' parents wanted to give the Old Boot the boot and Matt to take over their lessons.

And now - for the rest of the story:

Matt joined Rotary in 2006. In his first year, he took part in every committee so that he could learn about Rotary. He supports "dying with dignity", (Matt didn't say it but he was also responsible for introducing) the four-way test, and the illustrated English dictionaries into elementary school (and Matt didn't say it, but he is also responsible for keeping those programs going), and is the proud papa of four grandchildren and the patriarch of the rest of the DeBruyn clan.

Our President's closing thought of the day:

(dedicated to Laurie Anderson who won the 50/50 ticket - but the 6 of Clubs was all he got).



Life is better when you cry a little, laugh a lot, and are thankful for everything you've got.

Submitted by **Laurie Anderson**