

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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## APRIL IS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
	April 14: Dave & Sharon Rempel

### CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Apr. 25	Postponed	Rotary Wine Festival	ValleyFair Mall, Maple Ridge
Apr. 30-May 3	Cancelled	District Conference in Harrison Hot Springs	<a href="#">Harrison Resort</a>
June 6-10	Cancelled	RI International Convention in Honolulu	<a href="#">Hawaii Convention Center</a>

### Meadow Ridge Rotary meetings are cancelled, due to the Coronavirus.

We will have a ZOOM meeting at our usual Rotary Luncheon time. You can connect on your computer or smart phone. It's set up as a reoccurring meeting, meaning there is a virtual meeting every Tuesday at 12 noon, until May 12 for now. [Here are the instructions!](#)

#### OUR CLUB LAST WEEK'S ZOOM MEETING:

April 7, 2020 was our second virtual meeting and it followed our usual club format.



"Okay, who invited that clown to this meeting?"

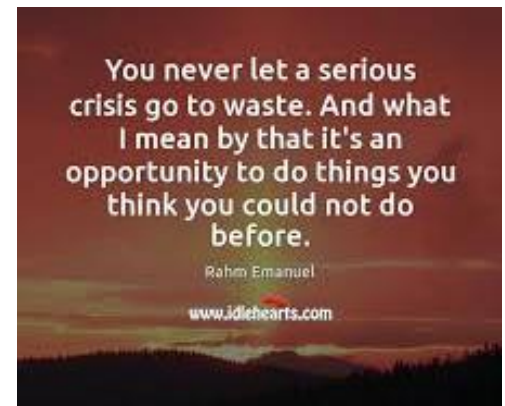
**Matt Debruyne** gave the invocation (which was a favourite of Bob Schantz), as follows:

*I would like the world to teach me  
to admire others without envy,  
fight injustice without hatred,  
cultivate humility without surrender of my  
convictions,  
accomplish without vain or glory,  
and recognize that service to others  
will be the measure of my worth  
when the final balance of my life is struck.*

(given to Matt Debruyne by Bob Schantz, 2014)

Guests: **Peter Tam**, President of the Haney Rotary Club

President Adrienne's quote for the day:



#### Duck Race:

**Ineke Boekhorst** reported that the Duck Race Committee had met to discuss whether or not to cancel the race. The various groups in our community need the money that the race will generate, so the committee did not want to cancel it completely. It was decided that, if the Gaming branch would be agreeable to extend the license, we would work towards having the race sometime in October, November or December.

Groups who have already received their tickets, could hang onto them and there would still be two or three months before the race to sell the tickets.

### COVID-19 District Grants:

The Meadow Ridge and the Haney Club will work together in deciding on an appropriate project for the COVID-19 District Grants (as explained by **Al Stjernaard** at our last meeting). One prominent idea is to help Family Practice by supplying masks or other needed equipment to the local doctors and healthcare workers. With the amount of \$1,100 allocated in total to both clubs, and with the addition of the grants, our joint donation would be equal to approx. \$4400 Canadian, which could purchase 3000 masks. Lynda Lawrence volunteered to put up an additional \$600 to make it an even \$5,000. It was agreed that our president Adrienne would contact the Family Practice to better determine their needs, and report back to us as soon as possible.

### Starfish Backpacks:

**Ineke** was very pleased to report that the Starfish Backpack Program will proceed, with \$20 gift certificates being given out through Save-On Foods, but only to those students who are on the list already for receiving backpacks. If the student's family cannot come to the store to pick up the food, then an employee from Save-On Foods will deliver them to the recipients' homes.

### Happy and Sad:

Sadly, **Lynda Lawrence's** father died two weeks ago, but she was thankful that she was able to be with him at the end.

Happily, **Matt Debruyn** went "all out" for a special evening for his wife Lynda; "all out", that is, for take-out food, that was delivered to him (in a little red car?)!

**Peter and Ineke Boekhorst's** grandson (18 going on 19) is staying with them while he goes to the Vancouver Film School. Unfortunately, the Film School had to close due to the virus, but good news, he managed to get a job at the Superstore.

**Libby Nelson** virtually celebrated, with members of her family, the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday of her grandson who is going to enter the Reserves.

### Guest speaker: Kristi Blakeway: Project Hello

**Kristi Blakeway** was introduced by **Matt Debruyn** who said, "Mrs. Kristi Blakeway is an amazing humanitarian, living right here in our midst, in Maple Ridge.

#### **From Kristi's blog:**

*About Me...Hello! And thanks for checking out my blog. Here's a bit more information about me.*

*I live in Maple Ridge, British Columbia with my fabulous husband and two incredible boys. Their energy, curiosity and creativity inspire me to continually learn and grow as an educator.*

*Currently, I am the Principal at Laity View Elementary in Maple Ridge. I am excited to be part of a learning community that shines with student leadership, fine arts and a sense of community.*

*I am grateful that I get to spend each day with people who love learning. I am passionate about student engagement, community connections and value-based leadership. I love learning about the science behind happiness and helping students develop the competencies necessary to live fulfilling lives. I am fascinated by human behaviour and I love helping people resolve situations, strengthen relationships and learn from their experiences.*

*I strongly believe we gain more than we give when we volunteer to help others. I am incredibly proud of Project HELLO, a project that I began with some amazing students, helping the homeless of Greater Vancouver reach out and re-connect with family and loved ones. I blog regularly about our work on the DTES and the stories of the people with who live there [www.BeyondHELLO.org](http://www.BeyondHELLO.org)*

*I love the challenge that comes balancing family, health and career and I am incredibly grateful for the supports I have in my life that allow me to be who I want to be in all of these areas. I love soccer Saturdays with my boys, love running on Sunday mornings, and love spending quality time with all the people I love. In a nutshell, I have a pretty fantastic life.*



To find out more about Kristi's story, go to these two links:

<https://vancouver.sun.com/news/local-news/coquitlam-teacher-celebrates-a-decade-of-student-outreach-in-the-downtown-eastside/>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/danpontefract/2019/11/12/look-what-happens-when-you-talk-to-homeless-strangers/#3b98711a2426>

One of those links states, in part:

Eager to give back to the community, Coquitlam teacher Kristi Blakeway's students came to her in 2009 proposing to do something for people in the Downtown Eastside.

"Just before we went to the Downtown Eastside, planning to give out food and clothing like everybody else, there was a series that was running in The Province and it talked about how many service organizations were doing that and was it helping or not," Blakeway, now a principal in Maple Ridge, said. "I realized our idea wasn't unique, that we really wouldn't be meeting an unmet need, so I cancelled the field trip for my students."

"They were super upset with me, as they wanted to give, and we started talking about why we wanted to go even if we knew at Christmas time everyone else was handing out food and clothing."

So they came up with a [brilliant idea](#), one that today more than 700 people who are homeless, struggling with addiction or dealing with mental health issues have to thank for reuniting them with their families.

"We started thinking about people on the streets and wondered if they ever have the opportunity to give," Blakeway said. "That's where we came up with the idea of making blank Christmas cards."

The students take the cards to the Downtown East Side and write notes to friends or relatives that the people living there may have lost touch with, then do some sleuthing to track down those friends and family, and mail them off.

"We didn't know if it would work, but we decided to go the streets with blank cards and see if anyone wanted to write to family."

The first time they went to carry out their plan, they wrote cards for nine people.

Oh those original nine people? They found the families of seven of them.

"The families wanted us to go back and tell their loved ones that yes, they want to talk to them," Blakeway said. "That's how our field trip evolved into an ongoing project, and it hasn't ended."

About 50 students a year take part, so about 500 in all. Many of them went on to professions in social services, Blakeway said.

Kristi Blakeway began keeping a log, which became the basis for a **book** that she has now written entitled "**Beyond the Hello: Rekindling the Human Spirit One Conversation at a Time**".

The book can be purchased through **Matt Debruyn**, but it is also available at Indigo and Amazon. The proceeds of the book will be used to buy meals for the Downtown East Side residents. Today the program has expanded to include Maple Ridge, Kelowna, Vernon, and Coquitlam.

[President Adrienne's Irish blessing for the day:](#)



Submitted by Laurie Anderson

## MEADOW RIDGE ZOOM MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:

All members have to do, is click on [this link](#) Tuesday at noon. Give yourself a few minutes in advance.

The first time it will download the zoom app, which takes just a couple of seconds and you are in; it's that simple!

Members can turn on their camera if they like, but don't have to.

[Here's the link to join a scheduled Zoom meeting.](#)

Topic: Meadow Ridge Rotary Club Meeting

Every week on Tue, March 31 until May 12, 2020, (7 occurrences) at 12 Noon PT.

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: [https://us04web.zoom.us/meeting/uZYvf-qopj0s9gksXq2fniPCIVc0U9o0lg/ics?icsToken=98tyKu2qrDMpGtyTtlzta7AvW53ibvGxkShJobBljU3jDSljQQ\\_ANbJ3a70vOd-B](https://us04web.zoom.us/meeting/uZYvf-qopj0s9gksXq2fniPCIVc0U9o0lg/ics?icsToken=98tyKu2qrDMpGtyTtlzta7AvW53ibvGxkShJobBljU3jDSljQQ_ANbJ3a70vOd-B)

[Join Zoom Meeting:](#) Click the following link

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/422830866>

## FOLLOWING ARE VIRTUAL MEETING LINKS IN OUR AREA:

### Haney

Time: Wednesdays at 6pm

Every week on Wed, until May 13, 2020, 7 occurrence(s)

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/923694402>

Meeting ID: 923 694 402

Password: 998750

### Port Coquitlam

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/740237775>

### Coquitlam Sunrise

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/872511100>

### Port Moody

Time: Apr 8, 2020 07:30 AM Vancouver

Every week on Wed, until May 27, 2020, 8 occurrence(s)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: [https://zoom.us/meeting/vpwpfu-qpjgof5ltjm-Cx1KX3SF-9efnPQ/ics?icsToken=98tyKuqgqjlsGNyWsl\\_HRbYvA8H8bvHmjXcbg7dXkVLGG3F4WIDFEK8bN7RxIOmB](https://zoom.us/meeting/vpwpfu-qpjgof5ltjm-Cx1KX3SF-9efnPQ/ics?icsToken=98tyKuqgqjlsGNyWsl_HRbYvA8H8bvHmjXcbg7dXkVLGG3F4WIDFEK8bN7RxIOmB)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/384962832>

Meeting ID: 384 962 832

### Coquitlam - TBA