




|  <div>Saskatoon Nutana Rotary Club</div>   | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|------------|------------------|---|-------------------|----------------------|
| Mar 11, 2025 | | | | | | |
| March 2025 Theme: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene | | | | Program Chair: Dorothy Hudson | | |
| Date | Rotana Editor | Greeter | Cheer Captain | Speaker/Topic | Intro | Club Thanks |
| March 25 | Norm Woodcock | Jack Scott | Norm Woodcock | Rachel Steinke Saskatoon Community Foundation Update | Dorothy Hudson | Lorne Braithwaite |

OPENING

Co-President Peggy welcomed everyone and reminded us that we were meeting on Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Metis.

Our Guest today was our speaker Firmesk Haso.

Stan and Jim G. led the singing of our national anthem and the 4-Way test song.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A sign up sheet was circulated for the all club St. Patricks gathering at the Saskatoon Club on March 17th. This function is being organized by the North club.

-Asit gave an update on activities related to the Ghana water project and provided a spreadsheet showing funding details. The following photos were provided by Asit to show the community engagement meeting in Kalbeo village.



PROGRAM



Dorothy Hudson introduced our speaker, Firmesk Haso. Firmesk works with TAYFFI (Truly Alive Youth and Family Foundation) as a Family Counsellor. She was introduced to our club by Asit and has been a frequent visitor. In an earlier visit she spoke to us about her work in Turkey with a humanitarian organization there. She herself was a migrant and came to Turkey when she was 4 years old as her family had to flee their country. Firmesk hopes to one day start her own foundation to help the migrants in Turkey. She is married and has 2 adorable children.

Firmesk's presentation was about the Kurds and in particular the plight of her religious group the Yezidis.

Kurds are an ethnic group native to the mountainous regions of the Middle East, primarily spread across Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria. They are the fourth largest ethnic group in the area. Kurds have a distinct language, Kurdish, which has several dialects. Their culture is rich with traditions, music, dance, and a strong sense of community.

The global Kurdish population is estimated to be between 35 and 45 million people making Kurds one of the largest ethnic groups in the world without an independent land. Their population is approximately distributed as follows: Turkey – 15 to 20,000,000; Iran - 8 to 10,000,000; Iraq – 6 to 8,000,000; Syria - 2 to 3,000,000 and 2 to 3,000,000 in the rest of the world.

The Yezidis are one of the ancient religious groups among the Kurdish people practising a faith that predates, Islam and Christianity. Yezidism has deep roots in the Mesopotamian area and means “My Creator” in Kurdish.

Yezidis historically lived in Mesopotamia and belong to the Kurdish ethnicity. They are primarily found in Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Iran, Georgia, and Armenia with significant numbers in Europe, USA, and other western countries due to their ongoing persecution. Before the Isis genocide in 2014 the population in Iraq was estimated to be around 650,000 however after the crisis, this number decreased drastically due to mass displacement, killings and forced migration.

In 2014 the Yezidis were attacked by ISIS and driven from their homes into the mountains. Over 300,000 were displaced, 2000 were murdered and 5000 women and children were kidnapped. Many of those kidnapped were subjected to rape, torture and slavery.

Today 420,000 Yezidis remain in 14 displacement camps in Turkey.

Firmesk told us stories of the horrifying things that happened to the Yezidi when they were fleeing for their lives. Some family groups had to make heartbreaking decisions so that some of the family might survive. Firmesk witnessed some of these situations or heard first hand accounts from people in the displacement camps.

The Yezidi genocide in 2014 was not just an attack on a religious minority but an attempt to erase an ancient Kurdish religious tradition. Today the Yezidis continue to seek justice, recognition and support for rebuilding their homeland. Protecting their rights, ensuring their safety and addressing the

trauma they have endured must be a global priority.

Asit thanked Firmesk on behalf of the club.

CHEER CAPTAIN

In recognition of the upcoming St. Patrick's Day, Walt explained the origins of St. Patrick and exploded several myths surrounding St. Patrick, all for a self imposed fine varying by your level of ignorance about St. Patrick. Happy and Sad Dollars were contributed by Jack, Peggy, Joe, Candace, Karol, Asit, Dorothy, Jim G., Betty Ann, Walt and Norm.

The next meeting at Sports on Tap is on March 25th, 2025.

Officers

President - Betty Ann Arcsott and Peggy Clark.

President Elect – Kim Horan and TBA

Secretary – Jack Scott

Treasurer – Bob MacGillivray

Board members

Club Administration- Candace Odishaw

Membership – Nuru Nyoni and Karol Komar

Major Projects- Jim Gillis

Service – Dorothy Hudson

Rotary Foundation- Asit Sarkar, Zibah Salaudeen

Youth – Candace Odishaw, Hannah Enti-Brown

Image Committee/Communication – Candace Odishaw

Rotary International

RI President – Stephanie Urchick

District Governor – Peter Tonge

District Leadership Team – Ruth Merritt

Contact Information

Rotary Club of Saskatoon Nutana

Club No. 1380

Founded May 31, 1961

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Club website: www.rotarynutana.org

Club Facebook Link: [\(11\) Saskatoon Nutana Rotary Club | Facebook](#)

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Links

District 5550 <http://www.clubrunner.ca/portal/home.aspx?did=5550>

Rotary International www.rotary.org