



THE BULLETIN



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: **Brian Thompson**

RI President Gary C.K. Huang

Week January 14, 2015

Board 2014-2015

President: Mark Winson, Past President Michael Bell, President Elect: Jack Fleming, Secretary: Ron Miller,

Treasurer: Don Edwards

Directors: Donna Cansfield, Gregory Dobson, Gillian Dugas, Ingrid McGaughey, Frederik Martin, Kester Trim, Hugh Williams

January 21, 2015 – Big Idea Forum - Alister Mathieson – Educating Youth about Canada, 7.00 PM Crooked Cue.

Reporting: Ron Miller

Pictures: Ron Miller & Peter Dusek

Today's Speaker Toyin Dada – Members Classification Talk



President Mark said that he agreed with Lynda Ryder when she said that some of the best meetings we have is when one of our members gives their "classification talk". He feels that today's talk by Toyin will be among them.

Toyin Dada is the Executive Director of a non-profit community organization, mobilizing youth in community outreach through the arts and raising up community leaders through long-term one-on-one mentorship. An entrepreneur, community leader, social worker, accomplished artist and Bachelor of Science (Biology) graduate of York University; Toyin is dedicated to bringing change to our community

through many mediums such as politics, business, advocacy, mentorship, and the arts.

She is a community activist who has done extensive work advocating with several organizations on many social justice issues. She was among 25 women who walked 212km for 10 days, from the city of Montreal to the Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa last April-advocating for a woman's right to know with members of the public, members of Parliament and national media.

In November 2013, Toyin led a delegation of 17 young adults in over 85 sit-down meetings with Members of Parliament advocating for actions from our nation's governmental leaders on issues such as human trafficking, child pornography, euthanasia, cyber bullying and more.

She was a member of a delegation of 6 Canadian women who traveled to Cambodia in May 2014 in a partnership between the My Canada Association and XP Missions' Operation Justice; an arm of XP Missions which works to rescue and rehabilitate children and women that have been trafficked in Cambodia and other nations around the world.

Musically, Toyin is a known singer/songwriter and musician with 2 full-length albums and an upcoming album release this month. She hosted AmetTV's "African Gospel Vibes with Toyin Dada" TV show for two years, and received African Entertainment's 2011 award for Best African Female Gospel Artist. Her albums are available in stores and on iTunes.

THE BULLETIN

The “non-profit” community organization the Toyin is heading is The Love Movement 4:16. It is designed to address the need to provide mentorship and guidance to youth that don’t have “solid mentors” in their lives. They address such youth issues as; isolation, mental illness; suicide; lack of healthy living and physical activity; belonging; depression; hopelessness (regarding the future); and arts being less accessible in school programs. They try to give youth a “voice” in the community. This is done by promoting; inclusion; counseling; physical activity and healthy eating; a family; arts training; life planning; values; purpose; honour; integrity; and conflict resolution. They provide a 5 month Community Outreach & Leadership Development program. This includes networking; a partnership with Boys and Girls Clubs Canada; creative arts workshop; African drumming workshop; civic engagement; and one-on-one mentorship. The one-on-one mentorship includes motivational sessions; in-depth process evaluating the core values of each individual; career and life mapping; counseling; character development through workshops and life application; and a sense of family and belonging.

Toyin noted that they also offer “compassion and friendship” to many of the homeless and overlooked in the city. It is their goal is to “share the love and see lives change”. They have “many young adults” volunteering at shelters on a weekly basis and during the holiday season, providing “music therapy” and spending time with the residents.

They also have a 7 month Artist Development program where they can try and discover what talents they have and how to use these talents to make money. The programs are supported by “private” donations and their volunteers. The program includes; song writing; musicianship; dance/theatre; visual arts; graphic design; creative arts workshops; creative writing; poetry/spoken word; and independent business training. Toyin added that they had an African Drum event at Brock Buchanan’s residence and an “acoustic” set on stage at Ribfest.

Every year members of TLM416 visit different Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada locations to train the

youth on the arts. They also ran a 4-day workshop and the B&G Clubs of Ontario’s Provincial Youth Camp.

All this is done by a few full-time volunteer staff and many leaders that have completed these programs themselves (their funding is entirely from “private” donations and their volunteers). Their motivation is that they do this because they “believe that with committed mentorship and wise counsel, even the most ‘at-risk’ youth become vibrant agents of positive change in our nation”.

S.H.E.A. (Scarlett Heights Entrepreneurial Academy)



Theresa Sherwood noted that the Club has again been involved in a mentorship program with the students at S.H.E.A. She wanted to greet the students from S.H.E.A. to today’s luncheon. She also wanted to welcome Anna Luszczynski and Kevin D’Sousa who are teachers at school and have been involved in the mentorship program. Theresa said that the students “worked hard” on developing a “business plan” which was then put into practice at their “Winter Venture Day” back in December. She said that the event was “well organized” and “fun”. The groups made and sold waffles, grilled cheese and jalapeño sandwiches; milkshakes; and jewelry. They did “really well” and she added that she was “proud to be a part of it” and was “amazed at how well it was run”. She thinks that the reason for this

THE BULLETIN

was that they did their business plans first, and then reviewed by the mentors ahead of time. Today the Club is recognizing the top student performers with a certificate and a book signed by all of the mentors. President Mark asked Anna Luszczyński to introduce the students. They are; Kiran Ahmed; Nasteha Dahir; Aynar Isik; Uanna John; Chaeyun Kim; Ayub Mohamed; Agon Morina; and Peter Prosser (Rukiye Turkmen was unable to attend).

Jim Woodside

Secretary Ron received an email from June Woodside saying that Jim was "not doing well". She says that Jim is suffering from Alzheimer-like symptoms and is not cognizant enough to remain active in Rotary any longer.



50/50 Draw

John CAMPBELL – 5 of Diamonds. The pot \$600+ continues to grow. As a consolation prize John received a box of Lindor chocolates that were shared with the members and guests at today's luncheon.

Birthdays This Week



Keith THEODORE – Jan 12th
Robert LYCHENKO – Jan 13th
Michael LU – Jan 15th
Judy BURNELL – Jan 20th



Visitors & Guests

Visitors and Guests:

- + Markus Dedomenico – Guest of John Campbell
- + Claude Dagenais – Guest of John Campbell
- + Anna Luszczyński – S.H.E.A.
- + Kevin D'Sousa – S.H.E.A.
- + 9 S.H.E.A. students

Attendance:

Members 17
Visitors & Guests -13
Total - 30

Secretary's Announcements



Wednesday, January 21st – BIF – Crooked Cue (7 PM) – Alister Mathieson – Educating Youth about Canada and its identity at home and abroad

THE BULLETIN



HAPPY BUCKS

John Campbell was happy to say that he hasn't been to many meetings of late but on both occasions he won something. At the Christmas Party he won twice. He won a bottle of "nice" wine as one of the door prizes and he also won around \$180.00 in the 50/50 draw. John the money he won was donated to Sleeping Children around the World. Today his ticket was drawn for the 50/50. Even though he didn't find the Joker, he still won the box of chocolates. He says he needs to come more often.

Ralph Chiedo – Ralph was happy to say that he had just returned from Italy and brings greetings from our two "twin" clubs in Calabria. He was also happy to thank the Club for their support and participation in his upcoming fundraising dinner for the University of Toronto/St. Michael's Hospital's Otolaryngology program. He added that several of our members have also made donations to the event. He has also invited 50 of his "closest" friends to attend at \$1000.00 each. The fundraiser will be held at Ralph's office on Thursday, January 22nd. Ralph will be doing the cooking and the food and wine will be served by the professors and doctors.

Greg Dobson – Greg was happy for 2 reasons. Keith Hoare, one of our Champions at Thistletown Collegiate, is the Culinary Teacher, and won Chopped Canada televised on Saturday evening. Keith donated the \$10,000 prize to his students, to help fund their cooking trip to France. Also, as Sponsorship and Brand Activation Director for Ribfest, Greg was reaching out to all Rotarians for "connections" so that he may present the sales pitch. He was happy to report that both Judy Burnell and Michael Lu have connected him to Canadian Tire and P&G respectively, "as easy as 1-2-3". As a token of his appreciation, Greg is giving each of them two Cineplex movie tickets.

Hugh Williams – Hugh was happy to add to what Greg was saying about Keith Hoare. Keith was one of our "celebrity" judges at Ribfest last year. This year he will be doing a cooking demonstration at Ribfest. Hugh was also happy to say that he attended a meeting at another Rotary Club (Bolton) on Monday evening. He wants to "encourage" all members who have never attended a meeting at another Rotary Club, they should do so. It is a lot of fun and you get to see how different clubs do different things at their meetings. For example, Hugh says the Bolton club does "Happy Bucks" a little different than we do.

Lynda Ryder – Lynda was happy to say that there will be a "Celebration of Life" for our long-time member Stan Long this Sunday (January 18th) at the Old Mill (2-4 PM). She added that Stan was the 1972-73 Club President and always attended regularly until he was unable due to health issues. Lynda was also happy to tell Greg that she might know a sponsorship connection, the Vice President of the Toronto West Club works for PEPSI.

Michael Lu – Michael was happy to say that he just got the key for the new place he has leased for Nurse Next Door. It is at 4202 Dundas West (right across the street from our Rotary Clubhouse). He also wanted to mention that January is Alzheimer Awareness month. He says that with proper care people with Alzheimer's can still live "happily" for the rest of their lives.

Brock Buchanan – Brock was happy to say that thought that our "guest speaker" today, Toyin Dada, after the first time he met her, was "incredible in so many ways". Brock said that he attended a ceremony where Toyin was looking to get support in an effort to enter politics to try and become a candidate for the Conservatives in the next Federal election. Brock said that is "keenly" pursuing this goal. Brock added that at today's luncheon we will be hearing from a "terrific woman".
