



THE BULLETIN



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: **Michael Bell**

RI President : K.R "Ravi" Ravindran

Week July 29, 2015

Board 2014-2015

President: Jack Fleming Past President Mark Winson, President Elect: Gregg Dobson, Secretary: Ron Miller,

Treasurer: Don Edwards

Directors: Donna Cansfield, Andre Dugas, Gillian Dugas, Gerald Lue, Kester Trim, Lynda Ryder, Hugh Williams.

Next Meeting: August 05, 2015 – SPEAKER: Mary Grogan – Classification Talk

Reporting: Ron Miller

Pictures: Ron Miller & Peter Dusek

Today's Speaker: Peter GINSBERG – Daughters for Life

In the absence of President Jack Fleming, Past President Mark Winson chaired the meeting.



Peter is a Mechanical Engineer and is the current President of the Newmarket Rotary Club.

The Newmarket Rotary Club is hoping to apply for a District Grant to be directed to the Daughters for Life Foundation. The scheduled application date will be May 2016. He is hoping to "line up" support from the International Service Directors in other Clubs across District 7070. First he wanted to give some background about Daughters for Life.

Rotary has been supporting Daughters for Life since its founding. In May of 2013, the Rotary Club of Newmarket held a fundraising for DFL. Six Rotary

Clubs participated including Aurora, Richmond Hill and Markham. Past District Governors Ted Koziel and Valarie Wafer also attended.

The founder of Daughters for Life is Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish MD, MPH. He is often referred to as "the Gaza Doctor" in the media, is a Palestinian medical doctor and infertility specialist who has dedicated his life to peace in the conflict between Israel and Palestine. He now resides in Toronto.

Born and raised in the Jabalia refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, Dr. Abuelaish has overcome many personal hardships, including poverty and violence, to become one of the most outspoken, prominent and beloved educators and public speakers on peace and development in the Middle East. His personal doctrine is that hate is not a response to war. Rather, open communication, understanding and compassion are the tools to bridge the divide between Israeli and Palestinian interests. "All can live in harmony," he says. "And all can reach their full potentials spiritually, emotionally, physically and intellectually."

At all times, Dr. Abuelaish strove to maintain a balanced and positive perspective toward his experiences and the Israeli people, knowing that the latter are not representative of the sentiments that fuel one of the world's longest conflicts and the conflict that threatens overall world security.

On January 16, 2009, tragedy struck when an Israeli tank shelled his home in Gaza and killed three of his daughters, Bessan, 21, Mayar, 15 and Aya, 13, and his niece Noor, 17. This heartbreaking loss came only four months after losing his wife to cancer. Rather than retreat into despair, he deepened his resolve to become a beacon of hope for peace and

THE BULLETIN

reconciliation between Palestinians and Israelis. In 2010 his memoir *I Shall Not Hate: a Gaza Doctor's Journey* became an instant best seller and has been translated into 16 languages. He has travelled all over the world with his message of peace through non-violence and is a nominee for the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize for the third consecutive year. For those who attended the 2013 Rotary Peace Conference Here in Toronto, where Dr. Abuelaish was a keynote speaker, will remember his story. Dr. Abuelaish is also a recipient of the Order of Ontario, a Paul Harris Award, a Wilf Wilkinson Peace Award winner, among many other prestigious awards. Peter added that when he visited Dr. Abuelaish at his office the Paul Harris Award was prominently displayed on his bookshelf.

Currently Dr. Abuelaish is an Associate Professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. He is teaching three courses in public health: Women's Health in Countries of Conflict, Health as an Engine for the Journey to Peace, and International Perspectives on Health Services Management. These courses center on understanding the underpinnings of social and political conflict, and providing tangible and pragmatic ways to promote health as a strategy to building peace. He is also lectured at Universities on both sides of the Middle East conflict. On July 20th he was lecturing at the University of Gaza. Today, July 29th, he is scheduled to lecture at the University of Haifa in Israel. It is an opportunity to bring both sides together. He doesn't do it for "political purposes". He does it to try and have a "positive effect". It is called "constructive engagement".

Dr. Abuelaish is the Founder and President of the Daughters for Life Foundation, a Canadian charity that provides awards and scholarships to young women in the Middle East in memory of his slain daughters. His aim in establishing the Foundation was to give other young women the opportunity to fulfill his daughters' dreams for an educated future as agents of change in the journey towards peace.

The District Grant will be used for Daughters for Life to provide scholarships for young women from the Middle East to attend University. In the 2013-2014

academic year, they welcomed nine scholars, five of which were from Gaza /Palestine, two young women from Syria and two young women from Israel. For the 2015-2016 academic year, ten exceptional young women from Middle East, who demonstrates leadership potential, academic excellence and outstanding character, won full scholarship programs. Two will be attending College Boréal, two to Manhattanville College, two to Wilfrid Laurier University and four to New College of Florida. In addition, Daughters for Life is also collaborating with University of Toronto's Victoria College, Eastern Mennonite University, Sault College, Trent University, and Humber College.

Who benefits most? A study by Foreign Affairs Canada in 2012 revealed that there were over 218,000 long term foreign students in Canada in 2010. Economic benefits were estimated at over \$8 Billion. The economic benefits from DFL scholarships will be far less if part of these scholarships are provided by host universities. Nevertheless, the first beneficiaries of the District Grant will be our own communities and universities.

Peter wanted to mention Rotary's "Six Avenues of Focus": Promoting Peace; Fighting Disease; Providing Clean Water; Saving Mothers & Children; Supporting Education; Growing Local Economies. The scholarships for these young women must reflect on at least one of these areas of focus.

Mark Winson asked Peter how much he is looking to raise from Clubs in our District. Peter is hoping to raise \$2000 each from at least 5 clubs with a goal of \$10,000 or more. This amount would be matched by the District.

Birthdays



Ron MILLER - July 27

Best wishes on your Happy Day ...

THE BULLETIN

Club Administration

Monday, August 10th – Board of Directors meeting
– 6:00 pm (for food) 6:30 pm (meeting start) –
Rotary Clubhouse

BIF – Big Ideas For Fundraising – Wednesday, August 19th:

As you are all aware that we were dramatically impacted this year by bad weather at our Ribfest event. While the final numbers are not yet in, we anticipate that we might be operating with less than 50% of the funds we had to work with in our 2014-15 Club Year.

While our final take from Ribfest will still be a meaningful amount of money, we know that many people will be coming to us and looking for support. Many may go away disappointed!

So, we believe that this crisis will now create an opportunity. We have relied on Ribfest almost exclusively. This is our chance to open up our minds and explore other fund-raising opportunities that we can undertake in 2015-16. Further, this is a chance for all Club Members to participate. Ribfest tends to fall on a small number of Club Members. For this upcoming session, we need everybody involved!!

Big Idea Forum
Wednesday, August 19th
7:00PM – Crooked Cue
“Big Ideas for Fund-Raising Session”

Please come and bring ‘your Big Idea’!
If you cannot attend, please contact President Jack and highlight your idea!!

We will not have a chance to explore all of the ideas in depth on the 19th. Instead, all ideas will be summarized and will be turned over to a new ‘Fund-Raising Sub-Committee of the Board’ that is being formed. These ideas will be vetted by that committee ... and ... we will select the best initiative(s) to be executed in this Club Year.

This should be a fun session! Please plan to attend ... and ... get your thinking cap to work!!

50/50 Draw



Kester Trim – 2 of Diamonds. As a consolation prize Mark gave Kester a Lotto 649 ticket for tonight’s draw with the proviso that if he wins he will share it 50/50 with the Club. Kester then in turn gave the ticket to Ron Miller as a “belated birthday” gift with the same proviso. (Unfortunately Ron reports the ticket didn’t win)

Visitors & Guests

Visiting Rotarians

- ✚ Peter Ginsberg – Newmarket (D7070) - Speaker
- ✚ Rose Diamini – Greenwich, England (D1130)

Attendance:

Members 05
Visitors & Guests - 02
Total – 07

Seems like the Summer Heat and Cottages kept many of our members away this weekend. !!