



Today's Program

Club Christmas Party

Location

Fairmont Royal York Ballroom

Time

12:00 pm



Please join us for our wonderful Christmas Buffet Lunch as we continue in our celebrations of the wonderful lives we are able to live in the great country of Canada. Besides the wonderful spread provided by the hotel staff, we will celebrate in song with our club carollers.

There will be a raffle for prizes with the funds going to "Out of the Cold". There will be a silent auction of many great donated prizes with funds going to our Children's Christmas Party held last Sunday.

Background music for our Members' Christmas luncheon will be provided by Mark Herrera. He is a pianist, composer, and educator and has been performing actively in the Toronto area for 12 years. In 2011, he received a Master's Degree in Composition from York University. He has performed at many of the major Jazz festivals in Ontario, such as the Beaches Jazz Festival, Markham Jazz festival, Orangeville Jazz Festival, and the Toronto Jazz Festival. Aside from jazz, he's also known as the musical director for Toronto based hip-hop duo The Airplane Boys.



Christmas Message from President Susan Hunter



It is said that the most precious gift you can give is Time. When you give of your time, you give a little of yourself and a part of your life to someone else. Time in the service of others is what defines all Rotarians. This is especially true during the Christmas season when so many of our members are involved in putting on two of our largest events of the year.

For many months leading up to Christmas, our members spend an enormous amount of time planning and preparing two spectacular celebrations to make many people very happy. The first celebration is our annual Seniors Christmas Lunch held on December 9th and the second is our very special party for children with special needs held on Sunday December 11th, which is perhaps the longest running children's Christmas Party in the City of Toronto. Both celebrations require planning on a grand scale, which several members do with great enthusiasm and passion. You will find more details and great pictures of both celebrations featured in this week's Voice.

Mary Lach, Chair of the Senior Citizens' Committee and Lorraine Lloyd, Chair of the Children's Christmas Party should be congratulated for taking the lead of organizing these two special celebrations. With their driving force, they gathered great teams of enthusiastic volunteers consisting of members, friends and family, and Rotaractors from Toronto, UofT, and Ryerson to make these two celebrations a spectacular success and in so doing, bring lots of joy and laughter to our special guests, both young and old.

So many of our members give of their time and service. As you may know, the definition of service is evolving in Rotary and the long-standing focus on "attendance" at a weekly gathering is being challenged by the hard realities of work and life that demands our time and forces us to prioritize our attention.

At The Rotary Club of Toronto, we need to talk about what service means to us. Our Club Board of Directors is engaged in this conversation and I encourage you to get involved in this dialogue. As our membership evolves with the ever changing world in which we live and work, we need to be responsive and flexible with how we define time and service to Rotary.

For me, service can mean different things — some participate on Committees identifying the philanthropic projects worthy of our support, while others come out to our events and parties to lend a helping hand, or take part in sweat equity trips in faraway places. And there are dedicated members who just do the many activities that make things happen at our Club, whether that is finding great speakers for our lunch meetings, writing articles for the Voice, promoting our brand on social media, selling 50/50 tickets, or organizing fun fellowship events for all to enjoy. All manner of service is worthy and valuable.

The world needs Rotary, now more than ever. Our singular mission is to improve the lives of people and to create a better world. In whatever way you choose to serve Rotary, I sincerely thank you for your ongoing commitment to our community, our Club and our members.

And at this special sacred season, I hope you take the time to reflect on the many blessings of your life and the privilege to be of service to others. Hedley and I extend our very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a bright New Year to you and your families.

Kids Battling Illnesses get to be Kids at One of Toronto's Oldest Christmas Parties – courtesy of CBC



Lara, one of 260 children who got to be kids at the Children's Christmas Party.

"Sometimes you get depressed. During these few hours we forget everything and just have fun".

Like many kids, Lara Scherzer can't wait to see Santa. But the seven-year-old isn't like many kids. That's because at just three-years-old, Scherzer was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a rare form of cancer. On Sunday, she and more than 260 other children with special needs, some with terminal illnesses, some living with disabilities and others in remission, had the chance to simply be kids. They were singing carols and joining in all the festivities at The Rotary Club of Toronto's annual Christmas party. "I think every parent wants their child to be happy and well," Lara's mother, Noura Kevorkian told CBC Toronto. "It's really emotional for me to see her doing well and to see all the other kids".

Follow the link to read the whole story and see the photos.

<https://goo.gl/4X1a8b>

Seniors Christmas Party

– by Kevin Craft



If you missed the Club luncheon last week, we celebrated our 63rd annual Seniors Christmas party. The club members donated 170 tickets to make it all possible, and a joyous group of seniors, members, Rotoractors and singers joined in the Concert Hall for fantastic eats, visits from Santa and group caroling.

We had guests from The Second Mile Club, Salvation Army, Fudger House, Kensington Gardens, Yonge Street Mission, Sunshine Centre for Seniors, Little Trinity Church and The Church of Resurrection. The traditional Christmas meal of turkey, gravy, vegetables, stuffing and cranberry sauce was enjoyed by all. The ice cream log dessert paraded by the Royal York staff into the Concert Hall with sparklers was a real treat. The Salvation Army Band delighted us with music and caroling which was led by John Andras and Brigitte Bogar and accompanied by Glenn Davis on the piano. John Joseph Mastandrea provided us with his rendition of invocation and Santa with his Rotaractor elves were making their stop at every table wishing a Merry Christmas to all and posing for photos!

The John Wanless Jr. Public School Choir, led by Jessica Willingham and Bill Maddix serenaded us with a nice mix of traditional carols and holiday tunes. The entertainment was fantastic and they performed a variety of 8 tunes which were enjoyed by all. This project was spearheaded by Senior Citizens Committee under Mary Lach, which involved over 60 volunteers from the entire club and beyond. The Toronto Police Services donated the use of their bus for transport of invited senior guests and officers to assist with traffic for all the needed vehicles. The TTC's WheelTrans service deserves special mention for the transportation of seniors who otherwise would not have attended.

Each senior left with a jam-packed gift bag, a smile on their face and a pep in their step from all the singing and good times. A very merry Christmas indeed!



Rotarians Michele Guy and Karen Scott with special guests



Seniors Committee chair Mary Lach with Wanless choir

Andrea Tirone – Red Stripe Ceremony

Andrea joined the Club on July 17, 2015. She has been a very active new member and is involved in many Club, District and Zone activities. She is Secretary and Vice Chair of our Club's International Service Committee, a New Member recruiter, and was on the New Members Lunch Organizing Team. She attended Camp Scugog, is a member of the District Global Grant Scholarship Committee, Finance Officer for the District Conference 2017 Organizing Committee, Chair, District Interact and Young Professional Engagement, and Rotary Now Zone Institute Participant and Rotary Leadership Institute Graduate (Levels 1-3). Going forward, she will continue to be Vice Chair of the International Services Committee and would like to become more involved with our club Membership Committee. She plans to attend the 2017 RI Convention in Atlanta and encourage everyone to register for Neil's District Conference next November in Niagara-on-The-Lake.



Andrea with President Susan after having her red-stripe removed.



Valerie Clarke, our Newest Paul Harris Fellow / William A. Peace Award Winner – by Don Bell



Valerie Clarke is a person who's been "coming through" for Rotary long before ever being involved with our club. She has been amply awarded with a Paul Harris Fellowship from another club. She has a Centennial Service Award from Rotary International for professional excellence. She's been retired for seven years and she just keeps on working for the good of Rotary. The list of accomplishments, the club committees she's chaired and belonged to, is lengthy and it's only actually been for the last seven years. The list includes Centennial Committee, Program Committee, Research and Appeals Committee, Attendance Participation Committee and she is a member of our Foundation Board. No one would ever call this person a 9 to 5-er. She focused on the membership every day ...looking out for new members, helping them become involved and always on the lookout for members who might be at risk of leaving. Of course she ran this club as executive director... the true boss from 1990 through 2000. When she retired, the 10 presidents, myself included, who had worked under her direction...that means that we all took orders... stood here and voiced some well-deserved accolades. She didn't just do the job ...she was the job. I think that, had she been a club president, she would have gone on to become a district governor and up the scale after thatwho knows... she might even have ended up on the international board. She didn't do this. She stayed here with our club. She has spent most of her working life providing Service Above Self and frankly embodies what the Rotary spirit is all about. She's a professional... always looks at the positive side of things. She has a wonderful way with words... I can attest to that personally as I needed all the help I could get when she was my boss. Ask Valerie how she is and she always makes the same response..."mahvalous dahling, simply mahvalous"....

Our club decided that, even though Valerie has a Paul Harris from her former club in Willowdale, and is one of our honorary members, that we should present her with our club's highest award because, in truth, there is nobody in our club who has done more for Rotary than our own Valerie.



Valerie receives her Paul Harris and William A. Peace Awards

Welcome New Member, Aurélien Bonin



Aurélien receiving his Rotary Pin from sponsor John Lloyd on December 2nd

Aurélien studied philosophy and modern history in France and Germany. He came to Canada 10 years ago. He is married to Emma and they are expecting their first child in February. He worked in the not for profit sector for a few years, designing educational resources and teaching autistic children.

An avid reader on all things business and real estate, Aurélien is self-taught and focuses on multi-families properties. He aspires to create his own not for profit one day, using the funds generated from his real estate. He loves people and now wants to focus on real estate for people with special needs. He sees himself as a social entrepreneur and this is why it made sense to him to join the Rotary club. He tries to live by this quote by Andrew Carnegie, particularly its last bit: "Wealth is not to feed our egos but to feed the hungry and to help people help themselves."

RI President
John Germ

District Governor
Jim Louttit, Toronto Sunrise

The Rotary Club of Toronto Club 55 – 1912

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Luba Rascheff

The Four-way test of the things we think, say, or do

1. Is it the Truth?
2. Is it Fair to all concerned?
3. Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friendships?
4. Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?

Upcoming Speakers & Events

December 2016

- 23 No Lunch due to the holidays
- 30 No Lunch due to the holidays

January 2017

- 6 Sue Mosteller, L'Arche Daybreak
- 27 Steve Paikin, Bill Davis

Events

December 19 - Carolling Café de Melbourne

Propose a Speaker – Contact

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Send articles
to therotaryvoice@gmail.com

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Best Children's Party Ever!



Do You Like The Voice?

Many thanks to our great team – John Andras, Don Bell, Brigitte Bogar, Lorna Johnson, Brian Porter and Karen Scott. Every week one of them gathers up all the necessary content and pictures to keep you informed. Thanks to Mario Voltolina for so many pictures. The Voice wouldn't look the way it does without the skills of our graphic designer. Special thanks to Philip Mammias, Pixel Plus Solutions, who gives it such a special look every week. phil@pixellplussolutions.com

Maureen Bird, Editor-in-Chief

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