

Speaker

Brenda Lichtblau Simon

Host

Alanna Scott,
*Development and Campaign
Manager, Eva's Initiatives and
joined our club in 2013.*

Topic

Nature Deficit and the Need
for Nature Play

Location

Fairmont Royal York, Tudor
Rooms 7&8, MM Floor

Seeking help from the local Boys and Girls Club, Brenda discovered an astonishing level of fear among management, who claimed that staff were not trained to supervise play in park settings, although it was agreed that outdoor play would be best for the children. Fear and risk avoidance outweighed every consideration of the children's health, emotional and social development, their need for fresh air and spontaneity after a full day of school. There were no programs or methods for managing the perceived risks.

Contemplating the very complex matrix of factors contributing to the loss of robust and reliable outdoor play experiences for children, Brenda researched the profession of play work, play policy and planning in the U.K., Germany and Denmark and piloted POP UP Adventure Play in Toronto for two years before joining Earth Day Canada as the Director of Play Programs.

Aboriginal Committee

The KAIROS Blanket ceremony will follow immediately after the lunch in the Tudor rooms. Check with Chris Snyder about available room.

Kids Against Hunger

Second Annual Sweat Equity and Fellowship Fundraiser



Date: Saturday April 30th, 2016
Time: 11:00 – 3:00 PM
Location: 888 Yonge Street (Masonic Temple at Davenport and Yonge)
Cost: No cost - only your time and Sweat Equity
RSVP: Space is limited – it will be a first come first save basis.
Please RSVP to dmrashid@gmail.com

Last year we spent two 1.5 hour shifts packing 20,000 meals with fellow Rotarians, friends and family. This year we are going to have one shift for 3 hours. All of the packaged food went to an indigenous community in Northern Ontario. We will be donating the food to another similar community this year.



Lots of fun on packing day

There was a big request last year to host the event closer to public transit. This year the event will be taking place in the concert hall of the Masonic Temple. Led Zeppelin and The Rolling Stones played a few concerts there. The Temple is at Davenport and Yonge, the closest subway stop is on the Yonge line at Bloor. Looking forward to another fun day.



Brenda Simon is a graduate of the law and environmental studies program at York University and later studied education at the University of Toronto. She has worked as a human rights lawyer, a co-op housing developer and in community education. However, neither work nor academics prepared her for the Sisyphean labours required to arrange daily play-dates, play-groups and play outings for her two children and their friends, the desperate requests of their school mates to be included in these after-school outings, the hours of trekking through the neighbourhood loaded down with backpacks and arriving home hungry and exhausted with children that still had several hours of energy to burn.

Poker Walk
for HIV/AIDS



Welcome to our 7th annual walk on April 30, 9:00 am

Yes, we've "dumped the Trump"!
We are back at the Leuty pavilion in the Beach.
Sign up now at toronto.rotaryaidswalk.ca
Our team is Toronto High Flyers. You can join us on the walk or just donate to one of the walkers. See Maureen Bird for details.

YES YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN BOTH THE AIDS WALK AND KIDS AGAINST HUNGER EVENT!

Fellowship and Entertainment - We Need You

Did you ever wonder why Rotarians live so long? It has been scientifically proven that giving back and having a social network of friends and family who care are key secrets to a long and healthy life. Be part of the Fellowship and Entertainment Committee. All it takes is to organize one event per year. This is easy. Think of something you already do, for example, going to a Blue Jays game and sitting in the bleachers, or eating out at your favourite eclectic restaurant. 1) Contact Brigitte Bogar, brigitte.bogar@gmail.com. 2) Fill out a proposal form, and 3) voila, you will have friends volunteer to join you in your most cherished activity.

F&E Mexican Dinner - Great Fun and Fellowship

With the winter weather holding on in early April, a group of 21 Rotarians and friends made their way up Yonge Street for the tastes of sunny Mexico at Milagro Cantina. We had the second floor of the restaurant to ourselves to mix and mingle over the appetizers. The main course was served family style. Definitely a Mexican flavour to enjoy. The appetizers included classic guacamole, Tacos Dorados and Quesadillas del Comal. The main course included fresh tuna, octopus and shrimp and pineapple habanero salsa, canitas los panchos, alambre de Hongas and ribeye adobado. Check google for definitions! For dessert we were treated to churros served with a wonderful cajeta caramel sauce. All of which were served up with the best Margaritas in Toronto. Stay tuned for more Fellowship and Entertainment events. New committee members and ideas for events are always welcome.



FELLOWSHIP & ENTERTAINMENT INVITES ALL TO GAMES AFTERNOON

Saturday April 23rd, 2:30 PM to 5 PM

Café de Melbourne, 193 Church Street, Toronto, M5B 1Y7

Now that Spring (hopefully) is upon us, here's a Saturday destination that is a unique café where you can relive your youth, or perhaps the youth of someone you know by playing pool, crokinole (remember this game?), or backgammon. We are also looking for a foursome for a very special Scrabble set that has a built-in lazy Susan. By turning the board, you can actually read the words and count your points while comfortably seated in your chair!!

Join the Fellowship and Entertainment Committee, and your hosts, Cliff and Lorna Johnson. Bring your friends and family to a leisurely games afternoon at the Café de Melbourne, 193 Church Street, between Dundas and Shuter Streets, on Saturday, April 23rd, from 2:30 PM to 5 PM. Cost is minimal – buy your coffee, tea, or soft drinks, and maybe a meat pie or sausage roll.

To help us plan, please RSVP before April 18th via email at lorna.johnson@me.com or call Lorna at 647-308-2808.

Don Giovanni, Saturday April 16th at 7.30 pm

– by Brigitte Bogar



The Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard loved Mozart's Don Giovanni with an enduring passion. But he preferred to hear the opera from the lobby of the theater, where the sound of the masterpiece by itself could provide him with the purity of Mozart's conception, unsullied by whatever action might be on stage.

The F&E committee is giving you the opportunity to enjoy Opera by Request's version of Don Giovanni in exactly that way and for only \$20 on Saturday April 16th at 7.30 pm. The location is College St. United Church, 452 College St. (Bathurst). Opera by Request does concert performances of opera with young singers. All participants pay at the door, but tickets can be pre-booked. More info: www.operabyrequest.ca/wordpress/?p=345 or book your ticket by emailing brigitte.bogar@gmail.com.

Full disclosure - Brigitte Bogar is singing the crazy Donna Elvira!

JOIN ROTARY NOW!

www.rotarytoronto.com





Don't Miss the Social Event of the Year! Lake Scugog Camp, May 27-29

People - this is the place to enjoy the fellowship of fellow Rotarians and Rotaractors, renewing and strengthening special bonds. For so many of us it is the Rotary highlight of the year. Campfires, singalongs and games thrill us through the evenings.

Food - what an opportunity to enjoy the gastronomical treats prepared by our large team of chefs who are busy planning exclusive menus just for us. It starts with the barbecue on Friday evening, stretches through Saturday with cinnamon buns, porridge, great hot coffee, salads and gourmet sandwiches and culminates in a colossal feast on Saturday night. Who knows what special delights will be presented for all to enjoy, topped off by fresh-baked desserts to leave us falling down full. Then Sunday is a special treat called the President's Eggs - not sure how that works with David's egg allergy.



BBQ chef Jim Norwood with John Lloyd and Jeff Dobson

Daily activities - this is the time that scrubbing walls, painting, hammering nails and screwing on new boards become fun because you do it with such great teammates.

And all of this, fun, food and accommodation for a mere \$100 - the bargain of the year! Why wait? **REGISTER NOW!**

<https://goo.gl/QGt00J>
or club website, member area.

RI President
Ravi Ravindran

District Governor
Michael Bell, Etobicoke

The Rotary Club of Toronto Club 55 – 1912

Officers:

President: David Hetherington
President-Elect: Susan Hunter
Vice President: Pat Neuman
Treasurer: James McAuley

Executive Director:
Carol Hutchinson

**Rotary Club of Toronto
Charitable Foundation:**
Peter Love, President

Editor of the Week:
Lorna Johnson

Editor April 22, 2016:
Maureen Bird

What You Missed Reporter April 15th:
Maureen Bird

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

April

- 22 Jeremy Diamond, Vimy Foundation
- 29 Perry Monaco, LinkedIn

May

- 6 Rahul K. Bhadwaj, The Toronto Foundation
- 13 TBA
- 20 No Meeting due to Victoria Day Weekend
- 27 No Meeting due to Camp Scugog

June 2016

- 3 Dr. Robert Inman, Univ. Health Network

Events

- April 23 - FnE Games Afternoon, Café de Melbourne
- April 30 - Rotary AIDS Walk
- April 30 - Feed the Children packing
- May 26 - President David cocktails
- May 27-29 - Camp Scugog

Propose a Speaker – Contact

Alex Brown, Chair
jandabrown@rogers.com
416.799.5827

Rotaractors Have Friends in High Places

Tara Zammit is a member of the University of Toronto Rotaract Club...and she has friends in high places. To celebrate International Women's Day, Tara was awarded an opportunity to shadow the Member of Parliament for Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill, Leona Allesly, for a day in Ottawa. This exciting day was topped off with a photo opportunity with someone in a very high place. Does anyone recognize her new friend? Contact Tara directly for autographs. :)



Tara Zammit of the U of T Rotaract Club with her new friend



Our Club reached 634 people on Facebook this week.



What You Missed April 8, 2016 – by Bob Cartlidge



Don't forget that the Friday lunches are great opportunities for interesting discussions with our fellow Rotarians. Last Friday, I enjoyed a lively table discussion about: a welcome to two prospective members, the film Brooklyn, the catering industry, bespoke tailoring in London, the wait for refugees, and off shore banking.

Following President David's welcome, invocation and the singing of the national anthem, President David announced several upcoming activities and events, including the Fellowship and Entertainment Committee's April 23rd Games Afternoon at the Café de Melbourne and the April 30th sweat equity packing event for Kids against Hunger right after the Rotary Walk for AIDS.

John Andras then stepped to the podium and quietly invited everyone to sign up for the KAIROS Blanket Exercise to be held after our weekly lunch on April 15th, from 2:00-3:30pm. This will include a discussion of treaty making, colonization and Truth and Reconciliation to explore the goal of repairing the relationship between Canada and indigenous peoples.

John Fortney introduced our guest speaker, Justin Taylor, the Executive Director and sole employee of Rainbow Railroad, a volunteer based registered charity. He asked us to raise a hand if we had ever attended a fundraiser for the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community, been a guest at a gay or lesbian wedding or supported the Pride Parade or any other Pride activity. If so, he stressed, in many other countries you would be arrested or your life threatened. Toronto-based Rainbow Railroad was formed to provide a rescue operation

for those facing physical, economic or psychological harm due to their sexual beliefs and lifestyle. Such persecution exists in over 70 countries where there is no police support for the victims. Sometimes governments even put a target on the backs of LGBT members who are forced to flee and are often assaulted in refugee camps. Rainbow Railroad assistance is appropriate to the



Ken Andras in his Blue Jays Sweater, ready for home opener

situation and may be in the form of (a) a plan to seek asylum in a more tolerant country (b) pre-travel support and (c) a plane ticket.

Rainbow Railroad relies heavily on an international network of volunteers, including social workers and lawyers, who identify those attacked under anti-gay regimes or those suffering "correction rape", and supply support which can sometimes take up to 6-8 months. Secrecy and privacy are essential in this underground movement. The attempt is made to assist in the most serious situations as quickly as possible. The organization has about 300 open cases requiring help. To date over 130 individuals have been flown to safe destinations.

Justin Taylor linked the freedoms the Rainbow Railroad provides to the Underground Railroad which was a trail through safe houses that brought black men and women to safety in Canada around the time of the U.S. Civil War. He also suggested a strong similarity between Rotary's Four Way Test and the mandate of his organization which supports the rights of individuals to live true lives, under the fairness of human rights, to spread international good will and encourages those in safe countries to help others.

Throughout this presentation, we realized that many of the freedoms we enjoy in Canada, and sometimes take for granted, are non-existent in other countries where LGBT members have no chance of living a peaceful, ordinary life but often must flee when their lives, families and jobs are threatened.

Pat Neuman had the winning 50/50 draw ticket, but left the pot to increase for another day.



Jeff Dobson and host John Fortney with our guest speaker Justin Taylor and President David

The Rotary Club of Toronto

The Fairmont Royal York

100 Front Street West, Level H, Toronto, ON M5J 1E3

Tel: 416-363-0604 Fax: 416-363-0686

office@rotarytoronto.on.ca www.rotarytoronto.com

[in](#) The Rotary Club of Toronto [f](#) Toronto Rotary [t](#) @TorontoRotary

