

Today's Program

Segun Akinsanya: Former Street Gang Member

Topic

My Life In Street Gangs

Host

Marg Stanowski

Marg joined in 2001 and is currently on the RCT Board and active on several other committees.

Location

Ontario Room, Fairmont Royal York Hotel



Segun Akinsanya is a passionate, articulate and determined young man—a natural leader. But after moving from Quebec to Toronto, he found himself following the wrong crowd. At 18 he was sentenced to a five year prison term for manslaughter. Incarceration taught him important life lessons and he decided to change his life. After he was released, Segun wanted to give something back. He started speaking to other youth about the importance of setting and achieving goals and staying in school. It was as he was sharing the wisdom he gained from his experience that he found work helping young people who have been in conflict with the law to improve their understanding of the justice system and work as advocates for other youth who are in detention. Being hired as a Youth Justice Worker marked another transformation for Segun. Through projects and events, he built skills in project management, fundraising and public speaking, but perhaps even more importantly, he had the space and support to focus on his education and personal growth and development. He acquired the tools to both dream bigger and to realize those dreams.

Gatsby Gala a Success

On Friday, February 26, 2016 the Rotaract Club of Toronto had their annual fundraiser. This year's theme was The Gatsby Speakeasy where the proceeds went to 'Sketch'. The event was held at The National Club. There were over 200 tickets sold and a number of performances. Anytime we plan an event, the scariest thing is that maybe nobody will show up! Luckily, this was not the case and the Rotaract Club of Toronto was very thankful to everyone who attended the event and contributed towards the success of the evening.



Revellers at the National Club in Gatsby-inspired attire

Welcome New Member Rudy Haddad



Rudy was born in Beirut, Lebanon from a Lebanese father and mother with Greek roots. He studied at the American University of Beirut, completing his Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering and his MBA from London Business School, in the UK, which he managed to finish on a part time basis... that's probably why he's still single!

Rudy joined GE Power 11 years ago, starting as a field engineer, working his way up the ladder. He's now the Senior Product Manager for GE Power, based in Ontario. He has relocated more than seven times in the last 10 years, and lived in vibrant cities such as New York, Milan and Dubai (are you still wondering why he is indeed single?).

Along this journey, he added a couple of languages to his tri-lingual education. Today Rudy speaks French, Arabic, Italian and a little Spanish too. He moved to Canada 18 months ago as a permanent resident and loves every bit of it.

During his tenure with GE, Rudy has been an active member of the United Way Volunteer community and was a rescuer at the First Aid section of the Lebanese Red Cross. For him, it's all about "what goes around comes around" and hence his contribution as a Rotaractor to both Dubai and Beirut clubs. He was also elected as the Class Representative during his MBA at LBS and received the "President Award" for motivating and representing his peers. He serves the executive committee of the Maronite Catholic Youth of Canada.

Rudy is excited to join the Rotary Club and be able to learn and contribute. He lives in downtown Toronto and enjoys playing Tennis, reading, investing and recently started violin lessons.

Thank you Fellow Rotarians

Many thanks to all the Rotarians who sponsored, donated prizes, money or attended my Cocktails for Care event for Princess Margaret Hospital. The event raised \$20,000 after expenses!

John Fortney



Welcome New Member Abdel Toucan



Born in Amman, Jordan, Abdel received a B.Sc. in Civil engineering, with Honours from Alexandria University, and LLM Masters of International Business Law, Liverpool University, UK. He has travelled widely, having visited 154 cities in the world. He was a member of The Financial Thought Leaders' Summit in 2011. He was former CEO of AEC consultants in Jordan, former Managing Director of Orascom construction group, the Contracts and Construction Law Advisor with United Attorneys, Middle East, and on the Board for Dubai Holding Investment Co. and Nafias Investment group in Kuwait. His grandfather was the former Prime Minister of Jordan. Raised by his Aunt Yousra, a Jordanian legendary activist and feminist in the 40's and 50's, Abdel learned his first steps towards community service, human

rights and helping the poor through her work. As a member of the Rotaract club of Alexandria, Egypt, a founding member and Past President of the first Rotaract club in Amman, Jordan, he was sparked by the Rotary international service organization. He has volunteered most of his life, working towards a better world, participating as board member with many Boards and organizations. This is one of the main reasons for bringing his family, his wife Majida Armoushand, his daughter and three sons to Canada, where they landed as immigrants in 2004, and live by the Lakeshore here in Toronto. Abdel is the Founder and Director of BKCEN Engineering Inc in Vaughan. His areas of interest are reading, cinema, and bridge. He has published two books, and is best known for his TV Programs in Engineering, Economics, Future science, and internationally known for the suggested (T- Bridge) project linking Europe to Africa.

What You Missed February 26,2016

– by Richard White



President Elect Susan Hunter opened last Friday's meeting in the Upper Canada Room at the Fairmont Royal York sitting in for an indisposed President David. Past President Richard White introduced 4 visiting Rotarians, 4 guests and our new co-op student.

President Elect Susan reminded us of the Rotaract Club of Toronto event The Gatsby Speakeasy on Friday night at the National Club, the upcoming Rotaract Club of Toronto Polar Bear Dip at Sunnyside on March 13th in support of the Haitian Humanitarian Assistance Relief Team. Our next Club cocktail party will be March 22nd at the National Club as there will be no meeting on Good Friday March 25th. Brian Porter reminded us that March 31st is an auspicious date - the day that Isaac Newton died, the day that the Eiffel Tower opened and the day that Adolf Hitler was sworn in as the Chancellor of Germany. Oh and it's also the date of the upcoming Steam Whistle Event - please support this event by buying a ticket, making a donation or volunteering to help out.

President Elect Susan introduced another two new members to the Club – Rudy Haddad and Abdel Toucan. Past President Brian Westlake introduced our guest speaker, the well-known author and motivational speaker, Bill Bishop of Bishop Communications.

Bill urged us to abandon “old factory thinking” and move to “new factory thinking.” This means building ideas around who we are trying to help and to make it our intention to help that person in any way that we can. Any business can and will be affected and disrupted. The successful companies are creating value hubs (Apple, Uber, Amazon) and are taking advantage of “new factory thinking” to attract high quality customers, make higher margin sales and achieve exponential growth. Bill's latest book “The New Factory Thinker” was available after the meeting.

Elizabeth Simmie won the Ace of Clubs draw and took home the bottle of wine.



Upcoming Speakers & Events

March

- 11 The Hon. Jean Augustine, National Black Coalition
- 18 Joe Roberts, Push for Change
- 22 President David's cocktails, The National Club
- 25 No lunch meeting, Good Friday.

April

- 8 Chief Mark Saunders, Toronto Police Services
- 15 Deb Doncaster, Earth Day Canada
- 22 Jeremy Diamond, Vimy Foundation

Events

- March 31 – Annual Fundraiser, Steam Whistle Brewery
- April 9 – Macaron vs Macaroon at Aphrodite Cooks

Editor of the Week
Don Bell

Editor March 11, 2016
Brian Porter

What You Missed Reporter for March 11th

Propose a Speaker – Contact
Alex Brown, Chair
jandabrown@rogers.com
416.799.5827

Submit an article to the Voice Newsletter
voice@rotarytoronto.on.ca



Our Club reached 1,019 people on Facebook this week.

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

The Rotary Club of Toronto Toronto Rotary @TorontoRotary

