



Today's Program

Knia Singh, lawyer and activist

Host

Geoffrey Johnson, *raconteur, past president 2004-05*

Topic

Black Lives Matter

Location

National Club, 303 Bay Street



- Born in Toronto to parents of Guyanese and Bermudian heritage
- A recent graduate of Osgoode Hall Law School and named one of the People to Watch for 2014 by the Toronto Star
- Founder & President of Osgoode Society Against Institutional Injustice and awarded Dean's Gold Key 2016– for exemplary contribution to the law school community.
- Committee member of invited civilian and senior police officers providing input and recommendations for the improvement of the Toronto Police Service community engagement policy
- An invited contributor to the ministry of **Community Safety and Corrections Consultations – Carding and Street Checks**, which provides legal research, social context, and community concerns to the Ministry to ensure safety is a priority while protecting constitutional Charter and human rights in Ontario.

In 1993 he was an independent business owner of a hip-hop recording studio. There he had networked with many youth from within the community who brought to his attention personal issues they faced and social conditions that they felt were not acceptable. After the 2012 Danzig shooting in Scarborough, Knia was an active part of the effort to lobby the government to provide more resources to prevent crime and violence in the city.

Knia believes everyone is capable of doing well if given the opportunity and the right support. He has been a strident campaigner for the fair treatment of all Torontonians regardless of race or socio-economic background. "For me it's been all about having a responsible government. It has always been about bridging the gap between the average person and people in power."

I HAVE A DREAM



"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

Monday January 16th is Martin Luther King Day in the USA. At our lunch Friday we will recognize and honour Martin Luther King by asking the question after 54 years, "Has any of his dream been fulfilled in Canada?"

Our speaker, a brilliant social activist, is Knia Singh who will realistically answer this question and point to a direction of realizing the dream. This promises to be an edgy edifying and somewhat shocking presentation. Knia has asked for a question period after his presentation. Consider bringing a friend and share your comments on social media.

Canada Honours a Black Woman



In January 2018 Canada will honour the first Canadian woman to appear on our currency when she will be featured on our \$10 bill. The choice – Viola Desmond.

Canada was part of Britain's Slavery Abolition Act in 1833 but segregation continued. Ms Desmond was a successful business owner in Nova Scotia in 1946 when she tried to see a movie from the ground floor of the theatre, which was reserved for whites only. She was arrested and convicted of "tax evasion" for not paying an extra penny in tax for the main floor ticket – which they wouldn't sell to her. She was not told she was entitled to a lawyer and fined \$26. It took until 2010 for the government to grant her a posthumous pardon. She passed away in 1965.

"I LOVE THAT DINNER"

TCJ dinner is back by popular demand.

Tuesday, January 17, 2017 from 6 PM to 9 PM the FnE Committee invites you to join us for a dinner at the TCJ (Thai, Chinese, Japanese) Restaurant, 64B Queen Street East on the corner of Church Street. Dinner at TCJ started as an opportunity for those Rotarians who hadn't escaped to their summer cottages to share an informal à la carte dinner and exchange stories. The downside was that many of those who had escaped missed out on this great event. So now is your chance to catch up! TCJ Restaurant is a casual dining establishment in the heart of the quickly gentrifying Toronto Garden district, not far from St. Michael's Cathedral and Hospital. TCJ does not use any MSG, and uses 100% vegetable oil. Enjoy the company of your fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors, and their guests.

RSVP before January 15th via email at lorna.johnson@me.com or call Lorna at 647-308-2808.

Upcoming Speakers & Events

January 2017

- 20 Chinese New Year
- 27 Steve Paikin, Bill Davis's Legacy

February 2017

- 3 Black History Month, Musician Liberty Silver
- 10 Mark Trouyet, Consul General of France
- 17 No meeting – Family Day

Events

- January 17 – Dinner, TJC, 64B Queen East
- March 30 – Club Fundraiser, Steam Whistle

Editor of the week
Maureen Bird

Editor January 20, 2017
Lorna Johnson

What You Missed Reporter for January 13
Lorna Johnson

Propose a Speaker – Contact
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Submit an article to the Voice Newsletter
therotaryvoice@gmail.com

Editor-in-chief
Maureen Bird

ShelterBox Joined Us Last Friday

Executives from ShelterBox were here in Toronto for a major meeting and several joined us for lunch on Friday as guests of Saleem Kassum. Partnering with many Rotary Clubs throughout the world has given ShelterBox support and exposure to assist in disasters worldwide. They are currently delivering kits to those poor souls who are fleeing bombing in Aleppo and Mosul. Imagine leaving Mosul to seek aid in Syria. Our club can be proud to be the largest single sponsor of ShelterBox worldwide and we can thank our Charitable Foundation and members for this.



Chris Warham, CEO ShelterBox Trust, Stephanie Christensen, Executive Director, Shelterbox Canada, Ron Noseworthy, Rotary Club of Kenora and former Chair of the Board for ShelterBox Canada and Saleem Kassum

What You Missed January 6, 2017

- by Maureen Bird



Welcome Back!

Past President Brian Westlake introduced several visiting Rotarians who are part of our 2018 Rotary International Convention Organizing Team. Mark June 24-27, 2018 on your calendar now! The FnE Committee announced another great dinner event at TJC Restaurant on January 18th. February 11th is the New Rotarians Dinner. Kevin Power reminded us that the Environment Committee is still collecting those electronic devices that have been gathering dust.

Cijay Shah is once again travelling to Kenya in March to oversee business but this time he is also raising funds to provide additional accommodation for Disabled Orphans at the Ebenezer Children's Home near Kampala. Donations can be made online or through the office for this project which Cijay has personally supported for so many years.

Peter Love, as president of our Charitable Foundation, read a letter from the CEO of Covenant House, thanking us for the final instalment of our \$275,000 commitment to the home for young women rescued from the street. ShelterBox thanked us for our continuing commitment and assistance for the disasters that continue around the world.

Harold Hetherington then introduced our speaker Sister Sue Mosteller from L'Arche. This charity was started in 1963 when Jean Vanier visited an institution in France housing 2,000 "inmates" or disabled adults. From taking one person home to live with him, Mr. Vanier has grown L'Arche to 141 homes around the world. L'Arche Daybreak in Richmond Hill was opened in 1971. Sue joined Daybreak in 1973 and, as is the L'Arche model, lived there with the residents for over 40 years. By creating a home together they have left the world a better place by having a space for these persons who need friends and intimacy.

Sue gave detailed stories of some of the residents such as Rosie who arrived at age 21 weighing 34 lbs. and had lived her entire life in a crib. It took a long time but her constant screaming stopped and after six years she stood up and learned to walk. And Gordie, whose marriage proposal she had to decline not just because she is a nun but he wouldn't buy her a Cadillac. The commitment of persons such as Sue Mosteller and Jean Vanier and everyone at L'Arche gave us a very inspirational moment as we begin another year.

Terry Wray drew an ace in the 50-50 draw but it was a diamond. Enjoy the wine!

The Rotary Club of Toronto

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