

Today's Program

Jane Kovarikova

Topic

The Challenges of Youth Leaving Care

Host

John Andras

Location

The National Club, 303 Bay Street



“Every child deserves an enriching experience in care that leads to success.”

*-- Jane Kovarikova, PhD
Candidate and former youth in care*

When approached by Ann Fitzpatrick from the Children's Aid Society regarding the below report and the potential for Jane to speak to The Rotary Club of Toronto, we believed that the challenges facing youth leaving care is a topical and overlooked issue facing our society.

Empowering young people to fulfil their potential has long been something our club believes in. Please join us in hearing Jane Kovarikova, a young change maker.

Report Finds Dramatic Outcomes for Youth Who Age-Out of Care

Toronto, Ontario – Today, a special report (go to <https://goo.gl/00cyG9> - for full report) detailing consistently bleak outcomes for youth who have aged-out of care across multiple jurisdictions was released by Jane Kovarikova, PhD candidate at Western University and a former youth-in-care.

The research, presented at the Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth, was undertaken to better understand the child protection system's lasting impact on the lives of young people leaving care. Irwin Elman, the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth, commended Kovarikova's work as a crucial step toward improving outcomes for youth aging-out of care.

“My Office is committed to harnessing the wisdom that comes from the lived experience of the children and youth it serves,” said Elman and, “Jane is an example of the many young people who put heart and mind into their efforts to ensure all children and youth are well served in our child welfare system.”

Typical outcomes for youth who age-out of care include:

- low academic achievement
- unemployment, underemployment, and poverty
- homelessness and housing insecurity
- criminal justice system involvement
- early parenthood
- poor physical and mental health
- loneliness

Kovarikova suggests that evidence-based policy and system reform could prevent these life outcomes and empower youth after leaving care.

“Ontario does not systematically track what happens to young people after they leave care, nor study the long-term impact of growing up in the system,” said Kovarikova. “If you do not study youth outcomes after care then you cannot know if your policies or reforms are working!”

“All Ontario children, including the most vulnerable, deserve a fair shot at a bright future unhampered by the tragic circumstances of their past,” concluded Kovarikova.

The report recommends that a longitudinal study of youth outcomes after aging-out of Ontario's child protection system should be undertaken to provide better care to Ontario's most vulnerable children and youth.



District Governor Neil is known to be all about wine. So what better place to hold our annual conference than in Niagara Wine Country – at White Oaks Resort & Spa in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Friday afternoon features a 9-hole golf tournament on North America's oldest course, for those who are interested. That evening, choose amongst several “pay & play” options, from a winemaker's dinner to casual dining. And of course, our infamous Hospitality Suites!

The conference program is all day Saturday, and revolves around Rotary's Six Areas of Focus. A jam-packed day filled with guest speakers, competitions, the Ideas Hub, good food, great fellowship, and more.

Our keynote speaker, Nazanin Afshin-Jam, has addressed the UN and international parliaments, and promises a powerful address.



To find out more, and register: Rotary7070conference.org
Many Sponsorship Benefits & Opportunities:

Contact Lorna Johnson - 647.308.2808

- lorna.johnson@me.com

Walk A Mile In Her Shoes – Thank You For Your Support

– by June Brown



On May 31st, a small but passionate group of Rotarians took part in the White Ribbon's Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event. Derek Matisse was brave enough to wear heels and walk the whole mile with only minor complaints. Jane Fitzgerald, Alex & June Brown and Mumtaz Miqbal proudly carried the Rotary banner. Many people along the route gave us cheer when they saw we were part of Rotary. It was an excellent way to spread our brand. Stopping violence against women should be everyone's concern. Next year we hope more of our male members will support this cause.



Kitten heels optional, but appreciated!



A small but enthusiastic group from our Club.



The walk was well supported by businesses.

WE NEED YOU!
June 30 – July 3



Canada Day Weekend

This is one of our two fundraisers and an easy task. But we still need volunteers. Last year we raised almost \$33,000 for our club. Contact Dawn-Marie King at 416-766-4862 or kingda@smh.ca.

Make a Difference

Fellowship and Entertainment Invites All to our Summer TCJ Evening, July 11th

– by Lorna Johnson



It has become a tradition for those Rotarians, family and friends who have not escaped to cottages or parts unknown to spend a relaxing evening at TCJ, Thai, Chinese, Japanese al-a-carte restaurant.

We select our meals, have a beer, tell stories, and marvel at how many condos are being erected in the Garden District of Toronto.

When: Tuesday, July 11th, 2017, 6:30 PM – 9 PM

Where: TCJ, 64B Queen St. East, Toronto ON M5C 2T3 corner of Queen and Dalhousie Streets

Cost: Reasonable. Everyone pays for their own meals and drink

RSVP: Please contact Lorna at lorna.johnson@me.com or on her mobile 647.308.2808

Paddling for Truth and Reconciliation

– by John Andras



Mushkegowuk Tribal council, which comprises the elected officials from seven communities from Chapleau Cree in the south to Attawapiskat in the north, has partnered with Camp Pathfinder, Camp Wabun and HIP (Honouring Indigenous Peoples) to run a 10 day canoe trip for Truth and Reconciliation in Algonquin in 2017 and on the Albany River in 2018. These trips will involve 36 participants each. There will be 14 youth from the Mushkegowuk communities, and 14 youth from Southern Ontario. In addition, there will be 8 team leaders, including 4 Cree Elders. The youth will learn from skilled trainers and traditional knowledge keepers to understand each other's history.



This project came as a result of a growing relationship between HIP and the Ontario Camps Association to promote learning and understanding and to create opportunities for indigenous youth and non-indigenous youth to build friendships and opportunities through camping.



PRESIDENT SUSAN'S FAREWELL PARTY

THE NATIONAL CLUB
303 Bay Street, next to the Trump Tower
(On the roof top)

THURSDAY JUNE 22, 2017

Starting at 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

MANDATORY RSVP - DON'T DELAY!
THE COST IS \$35 WITH A CASH BAR

Form of Payment: Credit Card on File or Cash prior at a Rotary Lunch.
We need to know how much food to order so: **Please RSVP** with payment details (Credit Card or Cash in advance) to:
CAROL at: office@rotarytoronto.on.ca
or BELL at: accounts@rotarytoronto.on.ca
or by calling 416-363-0604

See You There!

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John Germ

District Governor
Jim Louttit, Toronto Sunrise

The Rotary Club of Toronto
Club 55 – 1912

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John Andras

Editor June 23rd:
Brian Porter

What You Missed Reporter for June 16th:
Karen Scott

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

June 2017

- 23 Aboriginal Day, Roberta Jamieson, President & CEO, Indspire
- 30 No Meeting- Canada Day

July 2017

- 7 Changeover Day
- 14 Throne Speech, Pat Neuman

Events

- June 17: Scugog Bike Rally
- June 30-July 3: Rotary Ribfest
- July 11: TCJ Dinner

Propose a Speaker – Contact

Mario Voltolina, Chair
mario.voltolina@gmail.com
Tel: 416-720-7236

Send articles

to therotaryvoice@gmail.com

Editor-in-chief: Maureen Bird

Meet Our Newest Rotaract Club

- by by Laura Iruegas, VP Marketing, Rotaract Club of Ryerson University

The Rotaract Club of Ryerson University (RCRU) is a group of students who take action to create change in our community. Although they are just beginning, they have already started volunteering throughout the city. They are inspired by the actions and service other Rotaract and Rotary clubs have done, and look forward to collaborating and impacting communities in the years to come.



From left to right: Shahzad Rashid, Sarah Dang, Anthony Siu, Affiah Khalid, Holly Boudreau, Melinda Kroone, Laura Iruegas
Missing: Lauren Kohli

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What You Missed June 9th, 2017

- by Lorna Johnson



You missed a very special Youth Day Luncheon on Friday in the Imperial Room at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. The focus was on our Youth Award winners, so no march-in and no head table, and we had some very special guests joining our Club Executive at a reserved table.

President Susan recognized that we are on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. President Susan's Invocation reinforced the theme of the luncheon, "Our Program today centres around working with young people, We wish for guidance to do the very best we can, as we strive to lead them on their path.

The invocation was followed by the singing of O Canada, and the toast to the Queen. We were then treated to a very special traditional Cambodian folk dance performance by Christine Mao in honour of the Youth Award Winners.

Binoy Luckoo, Rotaract Liaison Director, introduced the Rotaract Club of Ryerson University, the newest Rotaract Club sponsored by the Rotary Club of Toronto. President Susan began the Inauguration Ceremony, reminding us that there are more than 184,000 Rotaractors and 8,000 Rotaract Clubs world-wide. She invited Mark Chipman, District Rotaract Chair to the podium. Mark told the story of being challenged to found another Rotaract Club and thanked the Ryerson student leaders for their hard work over the past year, culminating with the forming of the Rotaract Club of Ryerson University. President Susan and Mark Chipman presented the Co-Presidents, Sarah Dang and Anthony Sui with the Club Charter and their Rotaract pins.

President Susan passed back to Binoy who introduced and thanked our special guests who shared our Annual Youth Day meeting: Deputy Minister of Education, Bruce Rodrigues; Associate Director of Education for the Toronto District School Board, Christopher Usih; Associate Director of Education for the Toronto Catholic District School Board, Rory McGuckin and; from Toronto Community Housing Nick Vlahos.

Binoy introduced the Youth Civic Leadership Awards and thanked the finalists who did not win: Martha Taylor, Sasha Bell, Tamoor Baig, Kwaze Gayle, Jahiem Henry, Kateryna Maksyutynska and Daniel Kwan, explaining that only a few points separated the finalists from the award recipients. Binoy then presided over the award ceremony, after which each award winner was asked to present a short overview of their activities and achievements and their future goals, as they graduate from high school and pursue the next stage of academics. These young women are truly exceptional and left us with the question "what have we done with our lives?"

- Youth & Children Committee Special Award winner, Christine Mao. Presented by Prince Kumar and Brent Thomas;
- Toronto Community Housing Youth Civic Leadership Award winner, Hilary Tieu My Thi Nguyen. Presented by President Susan & Nick Vlahos, TCH;
- Rotaract Club Silver Youth Civic Leadership Award winner, Sarah McFarlan. Presented by President Susan and Catherine Woodford, Rotaract Club of Toronto;
- Rotaract Club Gold Youth Civic Leadership Award winner, Samantha Ling. Presented by President Susan & Joseph Hanna (Rotaract Club of Toronto)
- The Rotary Club of Toronto Youth Civic Leadership Award winner, Karina Dubrovskaya. Presented by President Susan Hunter and the Deputy Minister of Education, Bruce Rodrigues.

Binoy, on behalf of the Youth and Children Service Committee, recognized and thanked all award winners & finalists, those involved in the Youth Expo, YCLA & Youth Day volunteers, TDSB, TCDSB, TCH, Community Partners, Speakers, Lunch Ticket Sponsors, Rotaract & The Rotary Club of Toronto.

President Susan asked Minister of Education, Bruce Rodrigues, to draw the winning ticket and Chris Snyder picked the four of hearts out of the deck of cards, walking away with a fine bottle of wine. The 50/50 draw is now almost \$5000. You have to be in it to win it!



Christine Mao, YCLA winner performing a folk Cambodian dance.



Left to right: Deputy Minister of Education Bruce Rodrigues, The Rotary Club of Toronto Youth Civic Leadership Award winner Karina Dubrovskaya and President Susan.



Left to Right: President Susan, Samantha Ling and Rotaract Club of Toronto President Joseph Hanna present the Rotaract Club of Toronto Gold Youth Civic Leadership Award.



Sarah McFarlan, Rotaract Silver YCLA winner.



Toronto Community Housing YCLA winner, Hilary Tieu My Tinh Nguyen with President Susan & Nick Vlahos from TCH.

The Rotary Club of Toronto

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