

Today's Program

Alex Andras

Topic

Transitions

Host

John Andras, *Past President and Alex's proud father*

Location

The National Club, 303 Bay St.



Alex Andras is an educator, motivational speaker, musician and LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning) rights activist. A well-known, and well-respected student educator and activist within the Humber College community, Alex is currently making his way towards a PhD in Social Work, sharing his story and moving rooms of people as he goes. Activism has been in Alex's blood since birth, being the son of a well-known activist in the Toronto community, John Andras, and the grandson of Kenneth B. Andras.

Raised for a good part of his life in the City of Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough, Alex shares the discrimination and difficulties he has faced as a transgender man growing up in a society that didn't acknowledge him, proving that he is stronger than he could have ever believed with a little help from his family.

An unconventional coming of age story, educational, emotional and inspiring; sometimes we must draw strength from adversity.

Living the Wrong Gender

- by Alex Andras

When children are first born into this world, the doctors always declare what gender the new-born baby is. My story is like every other infant taking its first breath of fresh air; the doctor declared to the room, "it's a girl", my mother beamed and my father swore to always protect me. What happens when the doctor is wrong, not by anatomical standard, but by the sole being of who someone is. When the doctor told my parents that I was a girl, he was wrong. Of course, biologically, I was a girl, but something deep inside my essence told me that I was meant to be a boy. This is where the story of many transgender people starts, as simple as being labelled into a category from birth, based on biology, anatomy and societal traditions.

My story isn't unique, The adversity that I have faced and continue to face is collectively felt by countless numbers of people just like me within Canada. We are considered the outcasts of society, the people that no one fully understands. LGBT stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, but oftentimes even this community refuses to acknowledge the 'T'. There are many reasons why transgender people feel isolated, but the lack of acknowledgement in spaces that we are meant to feel safe in can be life altering.

Since I began studying Social Work, my goal has always been to help people who were in my position. Pre-transition, in transition, post-transition, it never mattered to me. Throughout my studies, I was faced with realizations that were hard to wrap my head around. The transgender suicide rate is frighteningly high and continues to skyrocket. There are many reasons for this, one more complex than the next, but social isolation plays a bigger role than many like to acknowledge.

With social isolation come feelings of hopelessness, depression and desperation. If we don't feel safe within our own community, within our city, within our families, hopelessness takes over. Societal acceptance is more important than we can imagine.

I have always said that the key to acceptance and love is education. I made a promise to people in my situation that I will never stop educating, I will never stop advocating and I will never give up until I can promise a better future for the next generation. There is hope. Within the amazing City of Toronto, people are becoming more aware, and the transgender movement is growing. I can see a better future for the next generation; it's within reach. Together, as a society, we can make this dream a reality.

Use education as your toolbox, read everything you can, and picture yourself being trapped inside of a gender that doesn't match what your brain is telling you. Picture yourself looking in the mirror, or avoiding the mirror, and experiencing severe pain due to your reflection. This is what I, and hundreds of thousands, if not millions of people experience every day. The future is getting brighter, but we can only continue this way if we keep the flames burning.

SAVE THE DATE

FIRST R2R OF THE NEW ROTARY YEAR

Theme: Special Welcome for New Members
When: Tuesday October 24th, 5:30 PM
Where: National Club rooftop.
Cost: \$10 for all you can eat hors d'oeuvres + cash bar
RSVP: Please confirm your attendance with Lori
Brazier: lori.brazier@gmail.com

Have Your Voice

- by Lorna Johnson



We have heard from many members that they look forward to reading the VOICE, which is produced by our members for our members. We have a small and dedicated team of volunteers who write articles, take photos, and edit the copy come rain or shine or snow.

There is room for more Editors, so don't be shy. You are rostered every couple of months and we provide training and support. The fancy layout and graphics are done professionally, so no worries there.

"If I don't want to be an editor...HOW CAN I HELP?" You Ask...

- **If possible, please submit your articles on the Friday or two before the desired issue** – Our volunteer Editors prefer to pull the issue together over the weekend and sometimes we have so much content we have to spread it out over 2 issues
- **Volunteer to write What You Missed** – We can schedule you in at your convenience throughout the year and we only need about 250 words for the article
- **Volunteer to write anything** – articles about committee activities are greatly cherished as members like to know about all the good things our Club is doing
- **Take photos at any Rotary events you attend** – members love to see other members, and the people we help, in action

WHO DO I CONTACT?

- Maureen Bird, Voice Committee Chair
- maureen.rotary@gmail.com
- Lorna Johnson, Vice Chair
- lorna.johnson@me.com
- Members: Brigitte Bogar, Don Bell, John Andras, Brian Porter, Karen Scott

In Vino Veritas-The Rotary Wine Tour

- by Mary Matchbox

My introduction to Rotary was joining 11 thirsty Rotarians on our way to the beautiful Niagara Region for a wine tour. I always admired the Rotarian mission of "service above self," but had no idea how much fun the group would be - with and without wine.

It all started with glowing hellos and our gassed chariot raring to go - graciously stocked with beverages and baked goods to ensure our road trip was as comfortable as it could be. Time flew by easily on our way as President Pat was able to entertain the bus with great conversation and tales from past wine tours and had everything down to the details so well taken care of. Today was going to be an unforgettable day with friends I felt. We were an ambitious group looking to go to 6 wineries in total; ok 7 if we had time.

With group selfie 1 under our belt, we had our first sip of delicious wine at 10:30 in the morning and never looked back. We then had a fantastic meal at "Just Cooking" which we discovered was also a hot spot for the region attracting celebrities and wine goers. As we wine and dined, the group also learned how to properly taste wine, the mechanics of appassimento and oak versus steel use, how seasonal weather impacts harvests, taste and final units to market. We swished, then swished some more and learned the lingo of off-dry and tannin - we were pretty much self-proclaimed sommeliers at this point.

It could have been the 6... 7 wineries talking but my real enjoyment was seeing the camaraderie between the Rotarians. Outwardly they are leaders driving meaningful change and wanting to give back. But it was such a treat to see how close-knit they were. They embody the very core values of neighbourship in their own interactions. I felt so welcomed, it was special to be an honorary member and get to know them.

Much like wine, Don's jokes got better with time and as the day moved on. Gloria shared her love of cooking and Saleem had a new found love of rock concerts hot off the heels of the Invictus closing ceremonies. Prince also bought us all chocolate for the ride home, "just in case". We met that day by chance but I will see them again by choice. Just as I knew when we drove off to our adventure, it definitely was an unforgettable day with friends.

Thanks Rotary!



The Rotary Wine tour group

SAVE THE DATE

Countdown Has Started for the

FOOD TRUCK Festival



Your Club is raising much needed funds for the Sherbourne Street Health Bus

- What:** Delicious Food and Great Entertainment
When: Thursday, October 19th, from 5:00 to 10:00pm
Where: The Berkeley Bicycle Club, 504 Jarvis St. Toronto
How: Cash Bar
Cost: \$30 at the Door. Tickets also available on line

GO TO <https://goo.gl/V3tNnB>



What You Missed, October 4, 2017

- by Lorna Johnson



The special Rotary Club of Toronto meeting held at the National Club on a balmy Wednesday night before the Thanksgiving break, was special indeed. A pre-meeting cocktail party led into a sumptuous buffet and the noise of camaraderie.

Around dessert-time, President Pat took the podium and, recognized the land of our First Nations and introduced the visiting Rotarian and 4 Rotaractors who joined us for dinner. The wine tour held on October 1st was so successful that there will be an Ice Wine tour to be held during the ICE Wine Festival in January. Please volunteer to help on October 19th for our 1st annual Food Truck Festival. See Jeff Dobson for tickets (\$25). Note the R2R event on October 24th at the National Club, focussing on our new members. If you haven't yet registered for the District Conference on November 3-4 in Niagara-on-the-Lake, do it now! Lastly, Nov 20th is the Club Assembly. To register, put your name on the back of a lunch ticket plus the words "Club Assembly" and hand it in at the next luncheon.

Abbey Wright, Assistant District Governor and member of the Toronto West Rotary Club introduced our Speaker, District 7070 Governor Neil Phillips. Some highlights about Neil, which you may or may not know. He has been a Rotarian for more than 20 years. He has explored all 7 continents. He lives with Marty, a former Rotary Exchange Student and they have a Burmese cat. With this address, Neil has now presented his vision to 24 of the 56 clubs in district 7070. More than half way there.

Some key words from Neil:

Brittany Arthur, the President of the Rotaract Club of Berlin, made a very impactful presentation at the recent International Convention in Atlanta. With so many clubs focusing on "attracting younger members", something she said really resonated with me: "We don't need young Rotary Clubs, we don't need old Rotary clubs; we just need Rotary clubs." Simply put, we need clubs where all that matters is Service Above Self. Don't be afraid to mix things up. Change what seems tired. Remember our heritage – but create new traditions as well to attract those who are People of Action. I think in our Club, this evaluation is especially important – and it's great to see our strategic plan and focus groups do just that.

President Pat thanked District Governor Neil, "It is always interesting to speak to your own club. We know it is time consuming being a District Governor, and we want you to know that we are very proud of you." President Pat then presented DG Neil with a gift to show our appreciation.

No Ace of Clubs draw that night, and we look forward to the next lunch meeting at The National Club on Oct 13th.

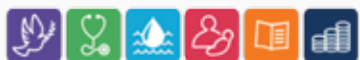


November 3-4, 2017

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: www.rotary7070conference.org



Many Sponsorship Benefits & Opportunities:

Contact Lorna Johnson at
lorna.johnson@me.com or (647) 308-2808

Note: Rooms are currently unavailable on Friday night but may free up later. Check the Hilton.

RI President

Ian Riseley

District Governor

Neil Phillips, Toronto

The Rotary Club of Toronto Club 55 – 1912

Officers:

President: Pat Neuman

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Rotary Club of Toronto

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Peter Love, President

Editor of the Week:

John Andras

Editor October 20:

Don Bell

What You Missed Reporter for October 13:

Don Bell

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

October 2017

20 Tim Hudak, Ontario Real Estate Board

27 Bob Duff, St. Simon's Shelter

November 2017

3 Brian Crombie, GTA Transit Alliance

10 Remembrance Day

Events

October 19 Food Truck Festival

October 24 R2R, National Club, 5:30PM

November 3-4 Rotary Uncorked, District Conference

November 20 Club Assembly

December 2 Children's Christmas Party

Propose a Speaker – Contact

Mario Voltolina, Chair

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Tel: 416-720-7236

Send articles

to therotaryvoice@gmail.com

Editor-in-chief: Maureen Bird

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www.rotarytoronto.com



What You Missed September 29, 2017

- by Susan Hunter



We had a great turnout at today's lunch with the Fairmont adding two more tables to make room for members and guests. Monitor John Andras announced the 5 visiting Rotarians from Australia, India, Japan, Turkey and Scotland, and 13 guests. Today also marked Rick Goldsmith's official retirement, which didn't last long as he was acclaimed for his new job as our Club's Treasurer! President Pat reminded us of the many upcoming events for members to enjoy including our very own Neil Phillips making his official District Governor visit to our Club on Wednesday, October 4th at the National Club.



President Pat, Jack Fleming, P.P. Susan Hunter and RC Etobicoke President Donna Cansfield with the RibFest proceeds

We were delighted to accept a \$38,000 cheque from RC Etobicoke President Donna Cansfield and Jack Fleming from this year's RibFest. Jack let us know that they have raised over \$3.5 million for the local and international community over the 18 years of RibFest festivals. We also learned that nearly 90% of the waste has been diverted this year — a major improvement from last year.

Charitable Foundation President Peter Love handed a \$101,000.00 cheque to Stacey Landau, President of SPRINT Senior Care which is the lead agent for Toronto Ride (a formal Association of SPRINT and 12 other Not-for-Profits providing transportation to seniors in the GTA). This innovative project received strong support from R&A and the Foundation following the work of the Senior Citizens Sub-Committee which looked at issues affecting seniors and learned that 'access' to services was the top issue. The Toronto Ride project involves the ongoing replacement of the highest use vehicles in connection with program access and urgent needs of seniors. Quite simply, the project allows for the efficient use



Barbara Thomson, Chair of Senior Citizens Grant Sub-Committee, President Pat, Stacey Landau, SPRINT, and Peter Love with a BIG cheque for the Toronto Ride program

of transportation for seniors and participating agencies. In recognition of our support The Rotary Club of Toronto logo will be featured on the entire Toronto Ride fleet made up of 85 cars, vans and buses.

Our guest speaker Dr. Samir Sinha continued the theme of 'access and connectivity' in his remarks acknowledging the importance of geriatric medicine to help seniors lead healthy and productive lives. He illustrated this through two stories of patients who struggled to access treatment and care due to a lack of awareness or knowledge of services and programs. Dr. Sinha thanked Rotary for its work acknowledging the community consultations that Rick Goldsmith and Barbara Thomson did as members of the Senior Citizens Committee. He also touched on the work he did participating in development of the Ontario Senior Strategy outlining numerous recommendations, many of which have been implemented to date. By consulting and partnering with relevant government stakeholders, Dr. Sinha said that problems of access and connectivity can be resolved efficiently and quickly. Though one outstanding issue in the province remains: a centralized computer system connecting medical professionals; Dr. Sinha told us there is progress albeit slow. Like many speakers, Dr. Sinha has a Rotary connection, with a grandfather who was a Rotarian.

The Ace of Club draw continues with Dawn-Marie King pulling the right ticket but taking away a fine bottle of wine to enjoy over the warm weekend - summer-like weather for the first days of Fall!



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Jim Bell | 21 Sarah Dell |
| 4 Jonathan Wu | Clemens Sels |
| 6 Steve Dulmage | 29 Jason Colbert |
| 10 Joyce Westlake | Brian Westlake |
| 11 Becky Jones | |
| 18 Alexandre Naimouchine | |

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