

Today's Program

Way to Go, Rotary!

A Visit with Dr. Gillian Kupakuwana

Host

John Suk

Location

Royal York Hotel, Upper Canada Room



This year will start with a really fine program at the Rotary Club of Toronto. Our first inspirational speaker is Dr. Gillian Kupakuwana.

Gillian has a fascinating story to tell and Rotary is a big part of it. Born and raised in Zimbabwe, Gillian applied for a Harare Club scholarship to participate in the Rotary Exchange Program. Not long after she showed up at current RCT member John Suk's home in Grand Rapids, Michigan. At the end of her year the Grand Rapids club and local Rotarians helped make it possible for her to attend college in the United States. When she got off

of the airplane, that second time, in Grand Rapids, she told John and his spouse Irene that she needed to help find a cure for AIDS.

She eventually graduated from Grand Valley State University with a BS in Chemistry and Syracuse University with a PhD in Structural Biology, Biochemistry and Biophysics after working to develop biological sensors for *Cryptosporidium Parvum* in drinking water.

Gillian's passion for addressing the healthcare disparities in resource-poor settings led her to choose to attend medical school instead of pursuing a postdoctoral position. She is now finishing a medical degree at Columbia University in New York City.

Along the way she married fellow Rotary Exchange Alum William Suk, a Fulbright scholar working on his PhD in Anthropology. William is the son of John Suk and Irene Oudyk-Suk. William and Gillian are parents to three-year-old Tapiwa, the best grandson in the world (according to John, at least).

Gillian's story is one of hard work, of overcoming large personal obstacles, and of her personal vision to do something about AIDS after working with orphans in Zimbabwe. But Gillian's story is also about how the Rotary Student Exchange Program, and about how Rotary Club members can change lives and make the world a better place in surprising and wonderful ways.

Concerned about Human Rights abuses?

Journalists are being imprisoned. Women are being kidnapped and sold into slavery. Human rights workers are being beheaded. Just this week, at least twelve people were killed during a terrorist attack on a French satirical magazine.

If you are concerned about these kind of abuses, plan to come to our January 30 luncheon to hear Jasmine Herlt, the Director of Human Rights Watch Canada.

This organization shines a light on the many human rights violations we read about in the news every day. You will learn about how this organization spotlights abuses, how they research abuses, expose these abuses, and pursue perpetrators until they are brought to justice. Their goal is to bring about lasting change. Don't miss this meeting – and do bring friends and associates who share your concerns.



RCT Donations Continue to Add Up!

– by Valerie Clarke, Chair Research & Appeals Committee

The Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation approved recommendations by the Research and Appeals Committee to provide funding to the following agencies for their projects as outlined below:



Regent Park Film Festival – (Youth) - \$5k

The Regent Park Film Festival is Toronto's only free, community based film festival. The Festival and year-round activities are based on making great stories on film, and arts based educational opportunities to people from all walks of life, especially youth from low income, public housing communities in the inner city.



The Concerned Kids Charity – (Youth) - \$5K

Since 1989 The Concerned Kids Charity of Toronto (CKCT) educates children through the art of puppetry. They deliver socially relevant educational and interactive programs about serious issues such as bullying, school safety, multiculturalism, peer pressure, violence, gangs and substance abuse, to children and youth in the Toronto and Greater Toronto Area.



Voice for Hearing Impaired Children – (Youth & Children) - \$10k

This grant provides access to Auditory-Verbal Therapy for Toronto-area hearing-impaired children whose families would not otherwise be able to afford this therapy.



Foodshare Toronto – (Community) - \$4k

Foodshare Toronto services 140 Toronto neighborhoods by taking fresh, healthy affordable foods to low income priority neighborhoods. Their volunteers use a converted, donated TTC Wheel Trans bus to take seasonal, local and ethnic foods to customers who purchase the food at affordable prices. Fresh food is delivered to student nutrition programs in schools throughout Toronto, and good food boxes which contain fresh foods prepared for seniors. They also manufacture soups in their kitchens which are then distributed to shelters.



Three To Be – (Youth & Children) - \$15k

Three To Be provides children with neurological disorders therapies and technology to enhance opportunities for these children. Their Parent Advocacy Link (PAL) allows families to access the necessary services and support required to ensure their children have an equal chance at physical, developmental and social success. This donation to their PAL Assist Fee Subsidy program will provide funds for 60 children of families who cannot afford the cost access to the program.



St. Matthew's Bracondale House – (Seniors) - \$1k

St. Matthew's provides seniors with affordable housing as well as programs geared toward holistic wellness. The cost of their Wellness Program includes a number of services.



The Toronto City Mission – Gift of Christmas – (Community) - \$5k

This agency serves the needs of families impacted by poverty specifically in a number of areas in the City of Toronto that includes the St. James Town community. These funds provided a Christmas dinner for 200 and toys for 50 children in December of 2014.



Native Child and Family Services GED Program – (Youth) - \$15k

NCFST has asked for a grant of to support a General Equivalency Diploma Education Program for aboriginal youth in Scarborough. This would support 35 applicants of whom 15 might complete the program.

Twas just before Christmas!

— by Cliff Johnson



'Twas just before Christmas and all along Queen St. many creatures were stirring. We call them Rotarians. Two and twenty assembled in the lobby of St. Michael's hospital. The idea was born in the hearts of the Fellowship Committee. "Let us go carolling!" they had said.

But first, "How, where and when?" was the question they posed. They decided, "in December of course, in the heart of the city, with eager Rotarians ready to risk all to bring their voices of mirth to the season! We will need carol sheets, hearty spirits, and announcements in the Club Runner."

John Joseph took on the helm as captain of the motley crew we will call the choir. He reached out to St. Michael's and sought permission from the Program Coordinator Kris Bolovitsiotis. We hearty singers arrived soon after and at the hour of six in the eve we assembled in the lobby aiming our voices outward. We sang to reach the troubled hearts of the people waiting for news and results for their family and friends. The carolers began with, "Joy to the World" and then, "Deck the Halls."

One by one we launched our carol missives into the void and joy was born. Faces filled with glee, smiles and laughter as the songs of the singers inspired a festive party. Out came the smartphones, both Android and iPhone, to post to Facebook, tweet to Twitter, and make mention on LinkedIn. The Christmas carollers went viral and vivid, eager to soar with the song of the singer and love that was reborn.

We could hear the bellow of Santa Claus, the whisper of angel wings; feel the breath of Frosty and patter of Rudolph. We sang for 50 and 10 minutes. Then, filled with the fire and fury of carol song we launched out into the street, carried by the wind of song and singer. Walking on Queen St., dazzled by the windows, we found warmth for our hearts at the Sheraton Hotel. There, hearty libation was waiting to fill our glasses, accompanied by piping hot, tasty morsels to savour and enjoy.

The evening then ended in a flash as it had begun. All were delighted to carol in the city and join song to singer and become a festive party.



Ye Hearty Rotary Choir at St. Michael's Hospital

The Rotary Club of Toronto Club 55 – 1912

Officers:

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

Executive Director:

Carol Hutchinson

Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation:

Robert Smith, President

Editor of the Week:

Massood Mashadi

Editor Jan 16, 2015:

Luba Rascheff

What You Missed Reporter for Jan 9th:

John Suk

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?

Submit an Article to the Voice Newsletter:

voice@rotarytoronto.on.ca

Upcoming Speakers & Events

January 2015

- 16 Rev. Canon Rob Fead, Padre, Canadian Military
- 23 The Honorable Erin O'Toole, Minister of Veterans Affairs
- 30 Jasmine Herit: Human Rights Watch Canada Director

February 2015

- 6 Mark Lukowski, Christian Children's Fund of Canada
- 13 No Meeting due to Family Day
- 20 New Member's Program
- 27 Dr. Danielle Martin, Women's College Hospital. *The State of the Canadian Health Care System*

Propose a Speaker – Contact

Alex Brown, Chair

Program Committee

alexbrown@integratedappliances.ca

What You Missed, December 19, 2014

— by Jack Hakimian



What you missed on December 19, our last meeting of the year, was our traditional Rotary Christmas lunch. About 200 Rotarians and guests gathered in the Concert Hall of the Fairmont Royal York. The lunch buffet was gargantuan and the queue to the dessert table extended all the way to Ottawa. I was happily surprised to notice that, at the other end of the hall, one could get a little wine to replace the traditional glass of still water that is served the other 50 Fridays of the year. And while Paul Truelove was reading the numbers of the winning tickets of our raffle, bidders were making their bids on Christmas toys that were gracefully donated.

We were treated to a rendition of Christmas tunes by the National Youth Orchestra and got a glimpse into the activities of FoodShare, a non-profit agency that works to make affordable and healthy food accessible to communities and neighborhoods across Toronto.

Towards the end of our lunch, it was Brigitte Bogar's turn to enchant everyone with a few carols, accompanied our pianist-to-the-stars, Glenn Davis.



Tamara's feat of strength



Service above self, and food for all



Happiness in cardboard boxes



Debbie Field of Foodshare Toronto gratefully accepted a cheque for \$5,000 from Club President Steve Smith and Foundation Chair Bob Smith.

The Rotary Club of Toronto always has great speakers. Next week we'll have the Rev. Canon Rob Fead, a Canadian military chaplain. Be sure to tweet on Twitter, Post on Facebook, and let colleagues know through LinkedIn. Invite your friends to join us for a meeting!

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