

THE VALE NEWS
January 13, 2010

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Rotary Awareness - A time to promote the importance of information to club members and awareness of Rotary in the community.

Club Calendar & Speaker Assignments

January 13 Pat Pinkston
20 Gary Plewak - Classification speech
27 Dave Koepele

February 3 Al Barillaro - Maggie Burke, Prog. Dir. for VASS
10 Monk Bancroft
17 John Basile
24 Tom Byrne

Editor's Note: Please inform Wini (496-6710) of the name of your speaker at least 2 weeks in advance. If you can't get a speaker for that date, please try to trade with another person on the list.

Birthdays: JON JAMIESON 1/19

Anniversaries: none this week

Our guests included: Anna and Benjamin White and Steve Rand, a Harwood English teacher and Executive Director of Rwanda Educational Partnership.

Meeting News

DAVE ELLISON WON THE MEGABUCKS PRIZE OF \$1,000 THIS MORNING!!!

Dave Koepele passed around more thank you notes from the kids for their new dictionaries. They all wrote about the longest word and how the new dictionary helped them with their homework. One even asked questions about Rotary.

Announcements

Sissy:
Reading & Discussion Group

WHEN CULTURES MEET:
"New France" and the Lake Champlain Basin

Thursday, January 21
Black Robe by Brian Moore

Thursday, February 11
New Worlds for All: Indians, Europeans and the Remaking of Early America by Colin G. Calloway

Thursday, March 11

White Devil: A True Story of War, Savagery and Vengeance in Colonial America
By Stephen Brumwell

Thursday, April 15

Changes in the Land: Indians and the Ecology of New England by William Cronon

These programs are a Vermont Humanities Council event hosted by the Joslin Memorial Library and the Warren Public Library

Jack Miner asked members who were interested in taking a ski trip out west this winter to meet with him after our Rotary meeting.

EREY -Jim Leyton reminded us again that we are not 100% yet. He advised us about the R.I. World Peace Fellowship established in 2007 in 7 centers around the globe. International service is an important part of Rotary membership.

YBYI (YOU BET YOUR ICE) OUR BIG WINTER RAFFLE

Gene Scarpato continues to make improvements to his "Executive Office" and has added a light so the user can read the magazine inside the office. John Hale passed on the "Outhouse Symbol" consisting of a plumber's helper to Gene as the new chairman of the project.

He expects the members to start selling the tickets this weekend and asked for volunteers to man the usual stations on Sat., Sun. and Mon. from 12 – 1 and 1 - 2 PM.

We will be selling tickets for nine weeks and he hopes people will sign up for Fri. and Sat. evenings in shifts: 3 - 4 PM and 4 - 5 PM as soon as the Outhouse is erected on Edison Pond.

HAPPY BUCKS

Al Barillaro noted that the Megabucks winner was the treasurer.

John Hale - Happy Dave won the \$1,000 and ended the suspension

Chris Kirchen - skiing

Karen - Hopes it will get a little warmer

Stan Needleman - snow remarkably good at Sugarbush

Joe Klimek - had more family visit last week

Tom Byrne - Going with wife to NYC and see Broadway Show

Art Conway -1) 15th anniversary of move to Vermont, 2) going on trip to Mexico next week

Dave Koepele - Happy to see sunshine today

Jim Leyton - 3rd grand-daughter got engaged

Dave Ellison - Thrilled to win Megabucks

Monk - Threw away his crutches.

Pat Pinkston had planned to have the students who are active in Rotary

Interact Club here today but it is exam week and they will have to come another time.

She invited Steve Rand, the Harwood English teacher who is the Director of the Rwanda Educational Partnership to do a presentation.

Steve told us that Rwanda is about the size of Vermont, but has 10 million people divided into two tribes, the Hutu and the Tutsi. In 1994 the Hutus tried to kill off the all the Tutsis. Neighbor turned against neighbor during the genocide. Investigations are still going on about these old crimes. Since then there have been a lot of inter marriages and the government is fostering a big forgiveness program to end the feuding.

The current leadership is made up of the Tutu minority. The official language has been changed from French to English.

In 1996, Teddy an inspired woman started a school in her home for 35 students ages 4 - 6 years old. By the end of the year 40 more students arrived. Since then the program has expanded rapidly. They accept any student who applies even if she or he cannot meet the annual tuition fee of \$40. The school became known as "Teddy's" School. The children appear happy, friendly and forgiving.

In January of 2004, a Harwood student, Troy Sooter traveled to Rwanda for 3 weeks. Upon his return, he shared stories and photos and began creating new and wonderful relationships with the people of Rwanda.

Since Troy's first visit, 26 students, 5 teachers and 1 parent from Harwood have traveled to Rwanda. Troy has been traveling back and forth, 2 seniors, taught English in Rwanda for 4 months in 2008. Countless others have contributed funds towards the education of Rwandan students, books and school supplies as well as maple syrup and soccer balls. An organization called REP, Rwanda Educational Partnership has been founded at Harwood.

Teddy's school is composed of volunteers. Troy teaches 4 days a week. The Harwood students fall in love with this place, in spite of it's being so primitive. No water, outhouses are placed outside of the school.

For children to learn, they must be healthy and well fed. Thus the organization (REP) is addressing the kids' health and nutrition problems as well as education. Our group also pays for the tuition and the uniforms of the needy students.

Steve showed us a video of the school kids in action, their art work, playground, and the surrounding scenery. It is a safe place today

This is one of those projects where a little money goes a long way.

The Vale News
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