

THE VALE NEWS

Nov. 17, 2010

Vol. 35 Issue No. 20

Foundation - a time to highlight our commitment to the work of the Rotary Foundation

Club Calendar & Speaker Assignments

Nov 24 No Meeting (day before Thanksgiving)

Dec 1 Jack Mansfield
8 Restaurant Raffle Drawing
14 Holiday Party at the Common Man
22 Nick Laskovski (class. speech)

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: Monk 11/19; Judy Reed 11/20

Anniversaries: Gary & Fran Plewak 11/17

Meeting News

The rainy weather did not dampen the enthusiasm of our guests from Harwood H.S, Anna Church and Elizabeth DeFreest over their upcoming trip to Rwanda. Other guests were Anna & Benjamin White, Burgi Von Trapp, who thought her speaking engagement was this week, but enjoyed the Slideshow presentation about The Good Samaritan School in Rwanda and Steve Rand, English Department Chair and Director of Rwanda Program.

Announcements

Lorraine Keener got her first practice leading a meeting while Audrey is touring Italy. She began by giving our newest member, Nicholas Laskowski his badge and welcomed him into our club.

NO MEETING NEXT WEEK as it is Thanksgiving Eve, the occasion of the big family get togethers.

Restaurant Raffle

Ralph & Sissy were away today and Art took over by passing the sign-up sheet for raffle ticket selling this Friday and Saturday. Art said they did well last week and we are back on track to meet our goal of 600 tickets sold.

The drawing will be on Dec. 8th (3 weeks left to coax your friends and family to buy your tickets). Odds of winning something are 1 in 30.

Our Annual Christmas Party will be held at the Common Man Restaurant on Dec. 14th. Cocktail Hour 5:30 (inc. hors d'oeuvres) Dinner at 7 PM), cash bar.

Dinner choice: Atlantic Salmon, Roast Chicken or Short Ribs

Dinner price \$37 inc. salad, Main course and dessert.

Be sure to inform your spouse of the time and place of our big event so she will put it on your calendar in plenty of time. Al Barillaro was accepting checks and reservations.

Bruce - Continues to sell Mad River Calendars, with the benefits going to "PAWS" organization. They give aid to pet owners who can't afford to pay for food and care of their animals.

The slate of officers for the next fiscal year (starting July 1, 2011) is:

President	Lorraine Keener
President Elect	Doug Stoehr
V. Pres.	Gene Scarpato
Secretary	Robert Grant
Treasurer	Dave Ellison
Past Pres.	Audrey Witschi
Community Service	Dinsmore Fulton
Vocational Service	Dave Koepele
Club Service	Al Barillaro
International Serv.	Al Molnar
Rotary Foundation	Jim Leyton
Public Relations	Karen Winchell
Membership	Jack Miner

Sergeant at Arms (will be appointed by the new BOD)

Al Molnar gave us the news about the Rotary Group Study Exchange between District 7850 (VT, NH & QC) & District 2440 (Turkey)

Call for Team Leader and Team Member Applications

Our Rotary District 7850 is looking for a Team Leader and four Team Members for a Group Study Exchange (GSE) with Western Turkey's District 2440. A GSE is a reciprocal exchange of teams between two Rotary districts in different parts of the world to promote understanding and goodwill between countries by providing groups of young professionals with opportunities to learn about their professions in the context of another culture, including opportunities for personal and occupational networking. Each district chooses a team comprised of one Rotarian Leader and four Non-Rotarian young professionals.

Dates of Travel:

Our District's team will tour Turkey District 2440 from 2-May through 2-June-2011. Similarly, our district 7850 (Northern New Hampshire & Vermont and southern Quebec) will host a team from Turkey's District 2440 from 25-April-2011 through 25-May-2011.

The Essex Junction Rotary Club is having a dinner to benefit Polio+ on February 9th. Details to follow later.

Betty - Hawking for the Valley Players "Musical Comedy" the next two Friday and Saturday nights. She says it is a great show.

Mini Bucks \$ 216. to the winner. Stan drew the 10 of diamonds - \$5. At least the pot is slowly building up again

Happy Bucks

Peter - Happy to have his son here - our newest member

Nicholas - Happy to be here - 1st day!

Betty - No power outage today

Joe Koch - Good thing about this weather - it won't last

Bruce - Back from Calif - visiting grand

Monk - going with Jane to Patagonia (came too late for birthday song)

Henri - Missed us while in France

Carol Hosford - Grandson's team soccer record 16-1-1

Stan - won \$5

Dave Ellison - Mountain will soon be open!!!!

Jack Mansfield - time with most of his kids on Thanksgiving

Dave Koepele - Alabama soon

Al Barillaro - UConn women - 80th win in a row - basketball

Lorraine - going to see NYC Macy Parade

Clayton-Paul - 1st eng. optimization

Jack Miner - visit grandsons in Oregon

PROGRAM

This presentation was made by Anna Church and Elizabeth DeFreest, Harwood students, who are planning to teach in Rwanda very soon.

History of the Rwanda Program at Harwood:

In January 2004, inspired by the amazing survival story of Valentina Iribagiza, a young man named Troy Sooter traveled to Rwanda, Africa, for three weeks. When he returned and began sharing stories and photos he inspired his small high school in central Vermont called Harwood Union to begin creating new and wonderful relationships with the people of Rwanda.

Since Troy's first visit, thirty-seven students, five teachers and several parents from the Harwood community have traveled to Rwanda; several have made the journey twice; Troy has been traveling back and forth; and two seniors, Anna Houston and Sophia Senning, taught English in Rwanda for four months in 2008. Torey Krushenick, a 2009 graduate, taught English for four months at an orphanage called Les Enfants de Dieu. Countless others from the school's community have contributed funds toward the education of Rwandan students, books and school supplies, seeds and gardening supplies as well as maple syrup, coffee and soccer balls. Over the last two years, this international program at Harwood has partnered with the Rwanda Educational Partnership and the Vermont Folklife Center on a variety of service-learning projects. Currently, the Rwanda Program at Harwood invests a lot of time and energy toward our favorite partner, The Good Samaritan School, also affectionately known as Teddy's,

which is named after the energetic and inspirational woman who saw a desperate need for early childhood education in her community.

A Quick Glance At Teddy's

"Teddy's" school is located in a city called Kigali, the capital of Rwanda. Teddy started with a "one-room" school house her own house, where she worked with 35 students ages 3 to 6 years-old in 1996. By the end of the year over forty new students arrived. Since then, the program has grown rapidly. Teddy has had to move six different times yet still refuses to turn away any student who wants to learn, even if she or he cannot meet the annual tuition fee of \$40 per student. This is a place where nearly 400 students attend the school, and approximately 90 cannot afford tuition, so we've decided to create a scholarship program for 90 families! We've delivered 70 scholarships to-date.

Currently, seven classrooms are filled with forty to sixty-plus students. What little water exists on campus is used to water down the classroom floors so dust does not disturb learning. Walls are brittle; bathrooms are bushes and clay closets with holes; and supplies amount to whatever we're able to carry with us into the country.

To compound things, Teddy faces eviction on a weekly basis, because the leased land the school sits on can be sold at any moment; essentially, local officials lack proper guidelines regarding private property.

Based on the challenges at Teddy's, Harwood students and faculty, Teddy, the School & Parent Committees, teachers and community members are creating ways to address basic needs. Last year, Harwood students started a modest library and led art workshops with students. This year, Harwood students delivered over 400 books, built bookshelves, and led a series of literacy workshops. Our goal is to continue to find ways to improve the learning opportunities for students at The Good Samaritan School.

What We Are Asking Help With

We've delivered 70 scholarships this year. We'd like to deliver another 20, bringing the total to 90, when we return in February 2011. It only costs \$40 to send a student to school for one year at Teddy's. We would like to build more shelves and desks this year. We plan to bring as many books as possible. Rwanda recently made English its official language; therefore, there is a dire need for books in English (French-speaking country previously; 75% of students previously learned in French). We would like to address sanitation problems at the school. A place to start is with a hand-washing station modeled after what was done at a school in northern Rwanda: a rain-catching cistern collects water with a 'tippy tap' device, which is a low-tech, hands-free tap. We'd also like to install a composting latrine. Currently, a "pit" latrine is used, making pathogen contamination a major health issue.

Cost Of Work To Invest In

Scholarships \$800

Shelves and desks \$500

Washing station & latrine \$2,500

For 1 Harwood student to travel to Rwanda for three weeks \$3,000

Donate items for community event on December 5th@ Round Barn

To offer financial support for Teddy's projects specifically (scholarships, shelves and desks, sanitation station/latrine), please make check out to Rwanda Educational Partnership, which is the non-profit organization supporting Harwood's relationship with Rwanda.

Mailing address:

Rwanda Educational Partnership
P.O. Box 513
Moretown, VT 05660

To offer financial support for Harwood students, or a specific student, traveling to Rwanda in February 2011, please make check out to Harwood Union High School with Rwanda Program in memo line.

Mailing address:

HUHS
Steve Rand
Box 458 RTE 100
South Duxbury, VT 05660

For more information contact Steve Rand, HUHS English Department Chair & HUHS Rwanda Program Director (As well as Executive Director of Rwanda Educational Partnership) rand@harwood.org or 244-5186 ext. 269

Our meetings have a chance to return to the Inn after Thanksgiving

The Vale News

PO Box 267, Waitsfield, Vt. 05673

Club Officers

President	Audrey Witschi
Pres. Elect	Lorraine Keener
V. Pres.,	Doug Stoehr
Treasurer	Dave Ellison
Secretary	Bob Grant

Committee Chairmen

Community	Dinsmore Fulton
Vocational	Ken Friedman
International	Al Molnar
Club	Al Barillaro
Foundation Chair	Jim Leyton
Sgt. of Arms	Gene Scarpato
Public Relations	Karen Winchell

Editor Wini Thorsen
Assistant editors: Karen Winchell, Sissy Walker