

THE VALE NEWS

Feb. 25, 2009

Vol. 33 Issue No 29

World Understanding - a time to highlight our goal of world understanding and peace

Club Calendar & Speaker Assignments

- March 4 NO MEETING
 5 Get together Dinner at Castle Rock 6 PM
 11 Henri Borel - Debbie VanDyke - Vt. Adaptive Skiing
 18 Bob Holden - Income Taxes
 25 Ken Friedman Eliza Walker Watershed Director Vermont Land Trust
- APRIL 1 Dave Ruane - Gary Avery re: I.D. theft presentation
 8 John Basile
 15 Peter Laskowski
 22 John Mansfield
 28 Rotary-Person-of-the-Year Dinner

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: Caryn Crump - 2/27

Anniversaries: none this week

This morning everyone was talking about the awesome beauty of the sun shining on the snowcapped mountains against a clear blue sky. Of course you have to be up at dawn, after a snowstorm to view nature's gift of this dazzling jewel in a cloudless sky. Those are the days when you realize how blessed you are to live in this delightful valley.

Meeting News

There were 38 attendees including guests; Jane Goldstein, Jonathon Hoffman of Direct Aid International and Dean Scarpa. Note: Wini spotted Dean on the food line and assumed he was a guest of our club, but he was actually a guest of the Inn. Wini invited him to become a guest of our club and he stayed, enjoyed it and contributed \$2 to Happy Bucks. We may have another potential member.

Announcements

Thank you from the Greenwood Week Project at MR Glen for our help and generosity.

At last week's BOD Donations were given as follows;

Vt. Adaptive \$500; Food for the Diana Golden Ski Race last week: \$200, CVHHH \$1,000.

Still Free: The Vermont Community Energy Mobilization Project will give you a Free Home Energy Assessment and tell you how to save energy and money. Call Dennis Derryberry at 496-7662.

Rotary International is giving a Leadership Seminar in Maine on March 7th.

Dave Ellison asked us to get our Shaw receipts to him by Friday. After that, sign up online at shaws.com/neighborhoodrewards. Give your Shaw's Reward Card number and the Neighborhood Rewards ID# 49001018367. Use your card at Shaw's on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and 1% of your bill will be sent to the Mad River Valley Interfaith Council to help the community.

Dave also warned us that in the middle of May the Warren Library is moving to their new Location. They need volunteers to form a human chain to move the books. BBQ afterwards. They have reached their target goal of raising \$125,000 thru donations.

Al Barillaro has arranged with Sugarbush to have our midwinter get together on March 5th, in the new room in the Castle Rock Pub. The dinner will be chicken Marsala, cost \$20. If you have not paid already, you can drop off your check for \$20/person at Eastern Systems before next Wednesday.

The Williston Rotary Club is running their annual Ski Challenge Race at Bolton on Friday, March 6th. Heli has 2 and 1/2 teams ready to represent our club. (He needs 2 more people to complete the third team) This is always a fun affair; gives us a chance to sell YBYI tickets at the awards dinner following the race. Richard Asck informed us that the cost of participating in the race, including the dinner is \$45. If you just come for the dinner it is \$30. The dinner will be held in the main lodge. The racers will meet in Shaw's parking lot at 3:30 PM to carpool.

Jim Leyton reminded us that the Rotary Person-of-the Year dinner, will be held on Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at the Common Man Restaurant. Cost of dinner, which includes hors d'oeuvres, will be \$35. Cash bar with beer and wine special. Please give your paid reservations to Jim Leyton at Eastern

Systems. Claudia Becker (of the Big Picture) was selected for this honor for all her contributions to our Valley.

You-Bet-Your-Ice

John Hale mentioned that he and Valerie are going on a trip to Portugal. He was also asking people to sign up to sell tickets in front of Mehurons for this weekend. Ralph and Sissy Walker will take over the project until John & Valerie return. \$4,457 collected so far.

Mega Bucks; Our guest Dean drew Carol Hosford's ticket out of the basket, Carol drew the King of spades from the deck for \$5.00

Happy Bucks

Jim Leyton thanked 2 of his friends for taking over.

Stan - Had one ski buried in 4 ft. of powder. A friend found it.

Brian - Loves the powder

Bob Holden - Eli accepted by Ithaca College, his first choice

Tom Byrne - going to Montreal

Rich 1) Thanked Vt. Adaptive for cooking 2) daughter coming this weekend

Jack Miner - going to Colorado

Al Barillaro - Rich embarrassed a little by check out girl at Cosco.??

Jon Jamieson - going to Quebec with family

Carol Hosford - many guests last week including 8 yr. grandchild.

Ken - Never saw a group before so happy without drugs.

Lots of people commented on beautiful views this morning.

PROGRAM

Joe Goldstein introduced Jonathon Hoffman, the director of Direct Aid International.

Jonathon said he was grateful for the opportunity to speak to us. He is a teacher and for the past seven years, he has taken his vacation in July to visit 3rd world countries and perform humanitarian work for refugees in war torn countries. 2008 was a busy year with some good news about completed projects, some inevitable delays and lots of future plans. He explained it is hard to describe in a brief talk all his organization does in and for the people of Afghanistan.

In 2008 his organization funded two schools: an 8 room school in Alton and a 10 room school for girls in Borgijai. One school that they funded in 2007 in Bahtu was completed although I couldn't visit the school this year. The 2007

Eserak School funded in Honor of Wais Faizi was for several reasons not started until his return this past summer in 2008. Hopefully this means he will have four schools to open and visit next year. This and the start of 3 new schools or close to 30 additional classrooms, should keep him very busy in 2009.

He raises money to build libraries and bring direct aid to people isolated from other sources of assistance. This assistance help create self-reliance and sustainability.

His ability to cook has helped him make contacts with local people. He would work in a hotel and then sit down with the patrons. He has filled 7 school libraries. He plans to return this summer.

He raised \$20,000 last year without asking for money, just by speaking to organizations like ours and describing the work he does.

The people of the Middle East do not want America telling them how to live. We have to respect their values. Example: the fathers select the husbands for their daughters. The women cover their faces in public because they do not want anyone except their husbands looking at them. 14 year old girls are eligible for marriage. Second cousins are allowed to marry.

It may take a couple of generations to educate them. Boys and girls attend separate schools. He can walk from village to village and has become friends with the people - was even offered a wife. They don't like what the Taliban is doing, but the Taliban can enforce their laws.

A lot of farmers rent their land and are told what to grow. Poppies are easy to grow - require little water. Pomegranates may become the product of the future if they can get enough water in that arid land. For a complete description of his work, read Joe Goldstein's e-mail.

He gives his donations to village leaders to build schools. To keep them honest, he returns 4 weeks later to view the construction. He saw that they built Mosques and asked why they could not raise money to build schools.

Note: He was answering questions, that is why the account is so disjointed.

The Vale News
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