

Nor'Wester

Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines

www.clubrunner.ca/northwestdesmoines / Fridays @ Noon - UGCC 4000-86th St. Urbandale

Prez Sez

Kelly Peterson

Read any good books lately? Banned Books month just finished, I have read many of them- (I mean, *Where the Wild Things Are* - really?). I have also belonged to a few book clubs in my life. I must admit that some of them were more about the getting together and drinking wine than the books, but my current book club is a "serious" one. Don't get me wrong, we meet at "social" establishments, and often plan other cultural excursions, but the books we read and discuss come from a variety of genres and the conversations are quite lively. We've read the newest can't-put-down fiction *Where the Crawdads Sing*, biography *Vanderbilt, the Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty*, and done its *All Things Cease to Appear*, Pulitzer Prize book *A Thousand Acres* and of course an occasional beach read, *The Un-honeymoon*. All which I have thoroughly enjoyed.



Books and the gift of literacy are windows to the world. In the last issue of the Rotary Magazine, there was an article on "The Gift of Reading." The Guatemala Literacy Project is supported by nearly 800 clubs in 90 districts with 48 grants from the Rotary Foundation totaling \$6.5 million. Started in 1997 by two volunteers who wanted to solve the shortage of books in the village of Chajalajya', and a celebration of the arrival of books caught the attention of Rotarian dentists holding a clinic; this "perfect project for Rotary" was born. In the opinion of the Principal Vilma Nizeth Moreira the efforts of Rotary and their partners has provided the gift of reading that will "change their society." Those are powerful tools. I know that literacy is near and dear to District Governor Steve Weineke and his wife Brenda, and I was wondering how we could get involved. I hope that this Club soon will find their way back into classrooms and reading with kids. I also applaud our continued support of providing books for kids with their weekend food bags. I was thinking that maybe this holiday season we can adopt a family or two, include books and perhaps also hold a book drive to spread the "gift of literacy" throughout the community and create change one book at a time.

Yours in Service, Kelly

Scribbles...

Abigail Sui/Iris Tun - Ethnic Minorities of Burma/Refugees

Today's speaker Abigail Sui with EMBARC (Ethnic Minorities or Burma Advocacy and Resource Center) shared some insights on her organization and educated us all about refugees and the process of obtaining the help they need to make an easier transition into their new life in their new country.

Abigail came to the U.S. as a refugee from Burma in 2014. She originally came to Tennessee and moved to Iowa as other Burma refugees do because of the opportunities for them to settle in and create a family and communities of their own. Abigail's reason for fleeing her country was leadership but, more importantly, religious beliefs. She explained that if you had certain beliefs you couldn't speak of them or it would hinder you from a job and even an education.

Abigail then fled to Malaysia and got the help she needed that would help her be placed in another country. The mission of EMBARC is to strive to help refugees expand the world of possibilities through advocacy, education and community development throughout Iowa.

Continued...



October 7, 2022

This Week's Program:

Brooke Heldt

YMCA Supportive
Housing

Arranged By:

Ed Arnold

Greeter:

Brad Helgemo

Invocation:

Leray Glendenning

Sergeant:

Dave Piersel

Scribe:

Dianne Downing

2022-23 Officers & Directors

Kelly Peterson, President

Jack Bell, President Elect

Bill W. Corwin, Treasurer

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Ed Arnold, Board Member

Eric Idehen, Board Member

Donna Larson, Board Member

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Larry Sample, Board Member

Bill D. Corwin, Past President

Future Programs

10/14: TBA

10/21: TBA

10/28: TBA

Other Locations

Monday

West Polk County, Toyota of Des Moines, (Noon)

Tuesday

Ankeny, Ankeny Golf & Country Club, (11:45)

Johnston, Hyperion Golf & CC, (7:00 am)

Dallas Center, Memorial Hall, (Noon)

Norwalk, Echo Valley Golf Course, (6:30 am)

West Des Moines, DM Golf & CC, (Noon)

Wednesday

East Polk County, Caring Hands, (7:00 am)

Adel, Patrick's Restaurant, 211 S 7th St, #C, (Noon)

The Greater Des Moines Club, check the District 6000 website for time and location

Thursday

Waukee, Des Moines Golf & Country Club, (6:45 am)

Des Moines, Embassy Club - Ruan Bldg, (Noon)

Winterset, Pizza Ranch, (Noon)

Friday

Des Moines, AM, Drake University - Courtside Club (7:00 am)

Upcoming Events

Rotary Social Thursday, October 27

Iowa Wolves Polio Plus Basketball Night

Saturday, February 4, 2023

@ 7:00 PM

Items for the Nor'Wester should be submitted by end of the day each Monday. Please send to:

Jenifer Mercer-Klimowski

Phone: 515-490-3539

elliotspudmom@yahoo.com



This & That

Scribe Continued...

Abigail was very adamant about how her job was to always train the trainer. That way there would be more refugees who can guide others and share their knowledge and experiences with others in their learning circles.

It was very interesting to learn that Burma has the longest running civil war going on in their country. We learned about the many languages that are spoken in Burma, refugee camps and the rules, and also the many reasons people want to leave.

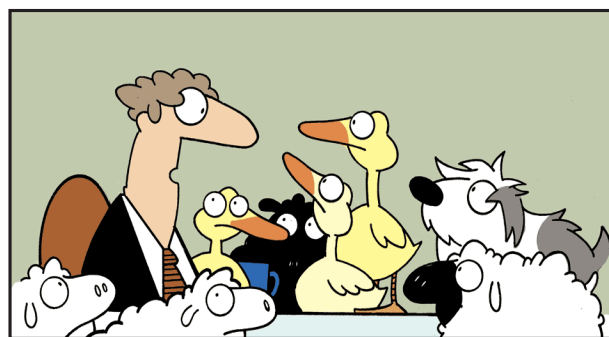
EMBARC provides crisis and advocacy services as well as a free access service to all refugees that need information or assistance with their transition.

Don't forget that you can help by volunteering with EMBARC in your spare time.

It was great to hear firsthand about refugees and the process of escaping and pursuing boundless opportunities in another country.

Derek Sparks, Scribe

Giggles



"I need to know - is it better to lead from the front like a duck or lead from behind like a sheepdog?"

Future Information



Ed Arnold - Program Chair

Greeter

Invocation

Sergeant

Scribe

Oct 14:	Eric Idehen	Mark McAndrews	Larry Sample	Jake Heston
Oct 21:	Ntwari Gakunzi	Doyle Sanders	Jenifer MK	Bill C. Corwin
Oct 28:	Marv Johnson	Bob Moore	Bill Grask	Julia Taylor

Can't complete your assigned duty? Please assist Kelly Peterson by finding your substitute!