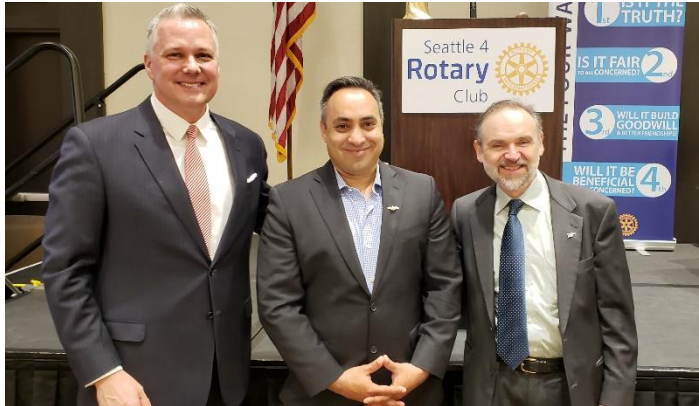


Naveed Jamali: an International Man of Mystery at Rotary

Totem Report April 25, 2018

By Dann Mead Smith

Due to the sensitive nature of our featured speaker and his role as a former double agent, some of today's Totem report had to be redacted.



President Mark introduced our featured program: KIRO News radio talk show host Dave Ross interviewing Naveed Jamali, an American expert on national security and a former FBI operative. He is the author of *How to Catch a Russian Spy*, an autobiographical account of his life working as a double agent for the FBI against Russian military intelligence.

Dave Ross asked Naveed how he came to be a double agent. He said it started at his parent's bookstore in New York City when two people came in to purchase some books. Two FBI agents came in afterwards and inquired about what they were asking for and mentioned that they were not just ordinary Russians but spies.

Naveed's dream job was to serve in the military but he was turned down by the Navy when he first applied. The Russians saw his Naval application and saw him as "worth investing in." Dave asked him what he was able to learn from the Russians, and Naveed explained that by asking him questions, this told the FBI what information that the Russians did not have i.e. what was missing from Russia's intelligence. [REDACTED]



He explained that the Russians see the United States "as their main adversary" and they interrogated him every time they met, which was always at a different restaurant in New York (he said that one of their favorite places to meet was at a Hooters.) The Russians would pay him in cash and he would in return turn that over to the FBI who paid him the same amount for his services as a double agent; they were in a way "funding the operation against themselves!"



[REDACTED]

Naveed explained how his life as a spy was over when the operation ended one day when he was going to his car with his Russian operative to give him flight manuals that the Russian thought were in his trunk, which they were not, and the FBI moved in and “arrested” him in front of the Russians.

Dave Ross also asked Naveed for his thoughts about the past, present and future of US relations with Russia.

- He said the Russian threat will outlast the time that Donald Trump is president; “this is not a one-off period as they will continue to see us as a threat.” Their goal is to tarnish democracy as Vladimir Putin sees democracy as a threat to his authority. Putin wants to restore some level of Soviet greatness, which includes reclaiming territory, so he views the US and NATO “as enemies at their door step.” He said that strength and aggression are the backbone characteristics of Russian leaders, just like the Soviets leaders before them.
 - The Russians have already succeeded when it comes to the election tampering issue. Americans are already questioning if their vote counts. They might be done with hacking into our voting system and might be working on something completely different in the future.
 - He feels that character assassination is more important to the Russian leaders than physical intimidation or bodily harm.
 - He does view President Trump as “blackmailable” but is not sure that works very well; “blackmail and coercion are not as effective now.”
 - The FBI agents he worked with took their professionalism very seriously.
 - You could never lie because Russians were so good at interrogation. [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- It bothers him that first generation immigrants cannot be seen as patriots or able to contribute in some people’s eyes.

Dave Ross concluded the main part of the program by asking how he was trained to be a spy. “There was no training given,” Naveed said. He used to watch Michael Mann movies to learn how spies talked.



As he walked from the stage, Dave asked Naveed to show us the tattoo on his arm that had his FBI code name, Green Kryptonite, in Morse code.

We opened the meeting on this sunny and warm April afternoon with **Bill Center** leading us in a “time to reflect and pray; that gives us confidence and courage.” He asked us to “think about someone who has made you truly happy.”

Don Murphy accompanied by **Freeman Fong** led us in the National Anthem.

President Mark introduced **Jacki Lorenz** for a Foundation Flash that focused on “where our Rotary Foundation money goes.” Jacki introduced us to the Millionair Club which received funding from the Foundation to replace the broken chairs and tables in their dining area where they serve meals every day. The Millionair Club places 200 people in permanent jobs and housing each year which saves the city \$8 million.

President Mark asked, “Where would the city be without these nonprofits, like the Millionair Club?”



Don Kraft delivered another one of his terrific **#4Bits** presentations that look back at a certain period in our club’s history. Today he focused on the Acquaintance and Special Features Committee. Don told us that “their mission was to make it fun to come to Rotary.” They were charged with “promoting acquaintance and enlivening our meetings. They typically roasted incoming and outgoing presidents, staged holiday programs, along with a variety of other happenings.”

Don gave us examples of their work: celebrating all the “Bills” in the club, flashing “BULL” behind Gordon Scott when he delivered his inaugural speech as club president in 1943, and even having a real donkey and elephant up on stage for the 1956 election year theme program. Don also reflected on his father, Warren Kraft, who was president in 1949-50 who also believed in the benefits of humor and was excited to feature a talk on humor that one of our members had recommended. But when the University of British Columbia professor spoke on the future of Mathematics, no one was left laughing.

As Don said, the Acquaintance and Special Features folks have “enlivened our meetings for years and have won a few and lost a few, but it was always worth the effort. Almost always.”