



# Canaltown Crier

## Rotary Club of Palmyra-Macedon



Tue Aug 19, 2014

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**Club President:**  
Pam Dean

**Asst District Governor:**  
Tim King

**District Governor:**  
Ellen Hughes

**Rotary International  
President:**  
Ron Burton

### Upcoming Programs

Aug 20, 2014  
[Nancy Schrader](#)  
RYLA - Rotary Youth Leadership  
Award

Aug 27, 2014  
[Club Assembly](#)

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### Club Events

No Upcoming Events

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### Stories

#### [China – The Dragon Is Waking](#)

Posted by Tom Breen on Aug 06, 2014

Club member Tom Brighton was on hand today to share some of his experiences and observations on China, where he and his wife Linda spent a year on a humanitarian mission for LDS Charities. The People's Republic of China is the most populous country in the world, with a population of over 1.35 billion, and is the oldest continuing culture on Earth. Currently there are two couples in China, doing work for LDS Charities.

In order to be granted entry into China, the church had to have an approved organization host their representatives. Tom and Linda were hosted by the China Women's Federation. As a condition of their visas, they taught English 3 days each week. As part of their efforts with LDS Charities, they provided 20,000 books to a migrant school and delivered wheelchairs to disabled persons, among other things. The Chinese government requires all labels be removed from donations, so no one can identify the donors. The wheelchairs that were distributed had "LDS Charities" embroidered into the fabric, making it impossible to remove. Where there's a will, there's a way.



*Tom and Linda were accepted as volunteers during the summer Olympics at Beijing in 2008.*

Having shared some of the positive experiences during their visit, Tom went on to share some facts and observations that were chilling. Since the formation of the People's Republic under Chairman Mao in 1949, China's record on human rights has been alarming. During the "Great Leap Forward" in the late 1950s, which was intended to bring economic and social reform, more than 40 million Chinese died, most from starvation. China's one-party system gives complete control of the media to the government.

The government uses that authority to control the flow of information and education. For example, what we know as the Korean War is known in China as "the War of American Aggression." Most citizens have no idea what happened in Tiananmen Square in 1989, when pro-democracy protests were put down by the Chinese military. In 1999 leaders of a religious group called Falun Gong organized a rally in the capital city, requesting legal recognition. Within a

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few months, 6,000 of the group's leaders disappeared. Coincidentally, 1999 was the year that China became a leader in organ transfers.

China is resource-poor, with major environmental issues. Air pollution is a problem, and there are problems with water quality and quantity. China has a one-child per family policy in an attempt at population control. Loyalty is instilled to be to the government first. No outside organizations are allowed. There are no intellectual property rights; piracy is rampant. They do have free elections, however there is never more than one candidate in the running.

Tom's presentation may not have been as hopeful and uplifting as what we may have come to expect at Rotary. The first question in the four-way test is "Is it the truth?" Not all truths are pleasing. Tom's talk today gave us all some truths to think about, and sparked some conversations.



### [Aug 6, 2014 - Meeting Minutes](#)

Posted by Tom Breen on Aug 06, 2014

#### **Guests:**

Betsy Pray, Shirley Bassage, Elder Steve Stewart, Sister Anne Stewart, Rory Sloan, Autumn Sloan, Bailey Cole, Phoebe Cole, Isabelle Cole, Mila Koziarska.

#### **Missing in Action:**

Brian Brooks, Wayne Brophy, Mark Clement, Marie Cramer, Vicky Daly, Cheryl Ford, Gary Haigh, Bob Ike, Dick Kirchoff, Debbie LeMoynne, Arnie Pechler, Dave Read, Bob Sloan, Cindy Surline, Eric VanZeilen, Leslie Vecchiotti, Andy Wahl.

#### **Singing:**

Kim's been at it again, this week writing new words to our club's old favorite, "Sweet Caroline" – now known as "Sweet Rotary"

#### **Birthdays, Anniversaries:**

Bill and Pam Dean – 37 years 8/6

#### **Fines, Happy Bucks, Confessions:**

- Kim had a happy buck for Maurina, who has agreed to become her assistant with the fair booth, sort of a BB-in-training.
- Maurina had a happy buck (tentatively) for the Deputy BB position. Also, her brother is out of the hospital.
- Kim pitched in another happy buck for the installation today of the ANSUL system at the fair booth.
- Peter went with his son Jonah to Boy Scout Adventure Camp, and they had a great time.
- Rory went on a Boy Scout trip, where he did much hiking, biking, and canoeing.
- Pat tells us that Elmer was on his first group meeting at the VA. They pick him up at his house, and he spends the day with other vets at the VA.

**Notes and Updates for the Club:**

- Tickets for the club's Canaltown Days fundraiser were distributed today to members in attendance. If you missed the meeting and didn't get them at the fair booth, Tom will have them at the next meeting again, or contact him and he'll find a way to get them to you.
- Invoices for member dues were passed out at the changeover picnic in June. For those not present at the picnic, you would have received your invoice by mail. As of today's meeting, there are many members whose dues have not been received. Let this be a friendly reminder that the dues are due.

Nancy Schrader did it again, winning \$12 in this week's 50/50. Again, she generously donated her winnings to Polio Plus.

**July 30, 2014 - Meeting Minutes**

Posted by Tom Breen on Jul 30, 2014

**Guests:**

Shirley Bassage, Bailey Cole, Isabelle Cole, Phoebe Cole, Mila Koziarska, Sophia Clement

**Missing in Action:**

Brian Brooks, Wayne Brophy, Jim Bush, Marie Cramer, Gary Haigh, Debbie LeMoyné, Jim Murray, Arnie Pechler, Dave Pray, Maurina Schmidt, Bob Sloan, Dianne Sloan, Cindy Surline, Eric VanZeilen, Leslie Vecchiotti.

**Singing:**

Kim led us in singing another of her originals, "Hail! Hail! The Fair is Near"

**Fines, Happy Bucks, Confessions:**

- Andy confessed to being tardy for a shift at the Hill.
- Bill had a happy buck for Mary Courtney's [presentation](#) last week. He was very impressed with all she went through to help get the project done.
- Anne had a nice vacation at Keuka Lake. Her father-in-law was up from Florida to visit. While here, he had a visit to the ER. Anne had another happy buck for Dave Stachnik, who was very helpful with the prescriptions.
- Peter was oh so very happy about the construction on route 31, which enabled him to extend the pleasure of a 3-mile drive for 30 minutes. Okay, he wasn't actually all that happy about that, but he did take the family to Buffalo and had a nice time meeting up with his brother there.
- Dick's daughter had surgery a couple weeks ago, and is coming for a visit.

Our monthly assembly auction netted \$33 for Polio Plus. Thank you to those who donated goods for the auction, as well as the bidders!

Nancy Schrader won \$11 in this week's 50/50 drawing, which she donated to Polio Plus.