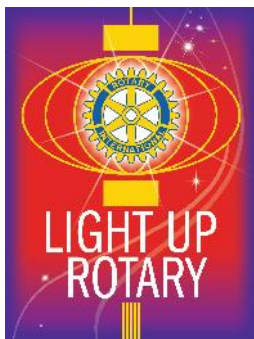




Canaltown Crier Rotary Club of Palmyra-Macedon



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Bob Yost

Ass't District Governor:
Tim King

District Governor:
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Rotary International President:
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Speakers

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Building Minds In South Sudan

Posted on Apr 15, 2015



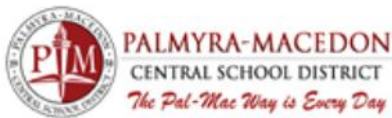
Today our club had the privilege to welcome back Sebastian Maroundit, co-founder of Building Minds in South Sudan. One of the "Lost Boys and Girls" who fled their homes and

crossed the desert and bush country of Sudan on foot, Sebastian came to the United States in 2001 through a UN refugee program. He got an education, a career, and became a US citizen.

In 2007, Sebastian returned to his home village of Mayen-Abun looking for his family. He discovered he had a brother who was born just after Sebastian had left originally. When Sebastian asked where the school was, his little brother replied, "Bombed to the ground!" Sebastian arranged for his brother to go to school in Kenya. The next day a small boy in the village asked, "What about us?" Sebastian and another "Lost Boy" – Mathon Noi – co-funded Building Minds In South Sudan (BMISS) and constructed a school in their village.



Judy Schwartz, Sebastian Maroundit, and Bob Yost



Robert L. Yost
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Sebastian visited our club back in 2013 and spoke of the need for schools in Sudan. (The story of that visit is available on our website; click [here](#).) Since that time, they have built a school with 8 classrooms. They've built a latrine, with the entrances private so no one will feel ashamed being seen coming and going. That reflects one of the things that BMISS does: they respect the local culture while they endeavor to educate their children. Sebastian told us of a girl who came to school each day on her knees, because she couldn't walk. She said, "No one will marry a disabled girl." She said this education is her future. They got her a tricycle and she now pedals to school using her hands.

The school had 500 students in 2010-11; there are now 817 students. Both boys and girls attend there. The percentage of girls attending has doubled. They have recently added a Pads for Girls initiative, which will further increase female attendance. This school is one attempt to remedy the terrible literacy rates in South Sudan, where 83% of the people cannot read or write. Only 12% have a high school diploma, and less than 5% have a university degree. Education is their ticket to a better life. Sebastian and Mathon should be proud of the opportunities they are giving to these young people by Building Minds in South Sudan.

For more information about Building Minds in South Sudan, please visit their website at bmiss.org.

[April 15, 2015 - Meeting Minutes](#)

Guests:

Prospective members Marty and Tina Medina; Sophia Clement; Speakers Judy Schwartz and Sebastian Maroundit; students Tyler Hurlbutt, Jonathan Morrison, and Eric Hedges.

Missing in Action:

Gene Bassage, Tom Brighton, Brian Brooks, Mark Clement, Marie Cramer, Cheryl Ford, Gary Haigh, Deb LeMoyné, Anne Morrell, Jim Murray, Peter Park, Arnie Pechler, Dave Pray, Bob Sloan, Cindy Surline, Eric VanZeilen, Pat VerPlank.

Please remember the following in your



thoughts and prayers:

Gene Bassage for a speedy recovery.
Pat's daughter had surgery Monday.
Bill Milke passed away this morning.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Amdy Wahl's birthday is April 13.
Gary & Terri Hopkins' 20th anniversary was April 8.

Fines, Happy Bucks and Confessions:

- Jim Bush confessed to a travelling dinner badge.
- Tom Brighton and his wife Linda were in Washington, DC recently. As this is the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln's assassination, Tom told us how they visited the Library of Congress and viewed an original copy of the Book of Mormon, which Lincoln had possessed for seven months. Lincoln was known to fold the corners of book pages to mark his spot, and they could see where he had folded over on 6 pages.
- Kim had happy buck because her "little sweet pea" was here today.
- Leslie left school without the kids today, but they got here. She went to Lawrence, KS (work-related), but was able to spend some time with a former college roommate while there.
- Dick decided to spread the wealth he recently gained from winning the 50/50 at the joint Lions/Rotary dinner last week.
- Chris has set up a scholarship with Dollars for Scholars, and was happy to share that info with us.
- Joan was also at the joint Lions/Rotary dinner and told us that she sat at Dick's table, where he was sitting "with his harem" as he called it. She also thanked Tom Breen for giving her a ride to the District Assembly last Saturday.
- Bob Ike confessed that there was an error on the club calendar for May/June – one of the lunch dates said March instead of May. He also called out the Medinas for being on the front page of today's Wayne Post.
- Maurina had a happy buck because her little sister is turning 50 soon and a large party is in the works. Maurina says, "It's like planning a wedding!"

Notes and Updates for the Club:

- The club Board of Directors has received and approved membership applications from Marty and Tina Medina. Per the club's by-laws, this information is to be included in the newsletter, allowing for

member comment. Any member may contact a BoD member to make such comments.

- The Palmyra-Macedon CSD Board of Education has named our club a Friend of Education. We are invited to attend the award ceremony May 5 at 6:30 in the High School auditorium.

- The 2015-2016 budgets for the club and its foundation were approved in board meetings last Thursday. The club budget covers operating expenses for the club itself, while the foundation budget deals with the community service aspect. Both are available for review to anyone interested. Contact Mark or Bob.

- The club's foundation board of directors has an opening for a director. Contact Bob Yost if you are interested in serving on that board.

- Signups for RL Concessions at the Hill Cumorah Pageant have started. Our club members are encouraged to take at least 3 shifts each. Sign up your family and friends, too, to help you make the 3.

- Rotary night at the Red Wings is August 1. Rochester hosts Syracuse that evening. Bill Dean has more details.

- The Interact club is hosting a blood drive at the high school on May 22. If you've been thinking of donating blood, that would be a good time to do so.

Dick Kirchhoff's lucky streak continues. He won \$15 in this week's 50/50 drawing. He donated it to our speaker's project.



Students from Pal-Mac HS joining us today were (l-r): Tyler Hurlbutt, Jonathan Morrison, and Eric Hedges.

[April 1, 2015 - Meeting Minutes](#)

Guests:

Katie Read, Mary Courtney, Speaker Gene Bavis

Missing in Action:

Gene Bassage, Tom Brighton, Brian Brooks, Jim Bush, Mark Clement, Marie Cramer, Vicky Daly, Gary Haigh, Gary Hopkins, Bob Ike, Deb LeMoyne, Anne Morrell, Jim Murray, Peter Park, Arnie Pechler, Maurina Schmidt, Chris Santelli, Bob Sloan, Eric Vanzeilen, Leslie Vecchiotti, Andy Wahl.

Please remember the following in your thoughts and prayers:

Pete Weston passed away last week.

Gene Bassage is not well (kidney stones).

Dianne Sloan's sister-in-law has been in hospital for 50 days.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Dave Pray – April 3 (eligible for early Social Security)

Dick Kirchhoff – April 3 (4 score and 9)

Fines, Happy Bucks and Confessions:

- Margaret had happy and sad bucks today. The happy was for welcoming her new great-granddaughter. The sad buck is the result of her soccer-playing granddaughter Amber transferring from Rochester to Seattle.
- Cindy confessed to the purchase of a new Chevy Captiva.
- Mary was excited to tell us she will be starting an administrative internship with University of Rochester in May. Also, an article she wrote was published in a magazine.

Singing:

Today, Kim dusted off "We Are Pal-Mac Rotary" as the song of the day. Sung to the tune of "I've Been Working on the Railroad," you'll be humming it in your head till the next meeting.

Notes and Updates for the Club:

- The club Board of Directors has received and approved membership applications from Marty and Tina Medina. Per the club's by-laws, this information is to be included in the newsletter, allowing for member comment. Any member may contact a BoD member to make such comments.
- Save the date: the Relay for Life is expected to be

at the Pal-Mac High School June 20. This year's event will not be an overnight, but will be from 5pm – 11pm.



Our guest speaker today was Walworth Town Historian Gene Bavis (pictured above with Rotarian Dave Read). He came to discuss Mural Mania and the Global Mural Conference.

Gene explained how Mural Mania began in Lyons on 2007 and has continued to install murals across Wayne County. The goal of Mural Mania is the preservation of history through community art. They have install murals of many kinds, along with signs to tell the history they represent. Gene had a slideshow of some of the murals in Wayne County, as well as from other states which he has seen during his travels. In September, the Global Mural Conference will be held in Geneva. Mural Mania has started a website: muralmania.org which is currently a work in progress; you can view photos of Wayne County's murals there.

This week's 50/50 winner was Pam Dean. She won \$10 and donated it toward our club's literacy projects.