



Jan. 10, 2024 – In-person & zoom meeting, 12:15

President Kathy welcomed everyone to Dover Rotary.

Program: Katherine Kolias, Exec. Dir. and Kyona Burgess, Community and Outreach Mgr., RAIN for the Sahel and Sahara

Bios: Katherine Kolias is the Exec. Dir. of Rain for the Sahel and Sahara. Her experience spans education, sexual and reproductive health, nutrition, and malaria prevention. She joined RAIN in 2017 after living throughout Africa, South America, and Europe. Currently, she leads RAIN’s strategic planning, serves as liaison between Niger and U.S. operations and ensures RAIN has the resources needed to implement programs effectively with community partners. She is a graduate of Brandeis University Health, Science and Policy Program.

Kyana Burgess is the Communications and Outreach Manager for RAIN. She joined the team in 2023 and she connects people through visual media and storytelling. Her work is centered on the intersection between social and environmental justice. Currently, she orchestrates RAIN’s strategic communications plan and leads community engagement events to strengthen RAIN’s outreach. She is a graduate of UNH with a B.A. in Anthropology and Sustainability.

The mission of RAIN for the Sahel and Sahara is to build community resilience in Niger through Food and Water Systems, Women’s Entrepreneurship and Access to Education. Katherine spoke to the club about the needs in Niger and the harsh conditions faced by their population. Niger lies just south of the Sahara desert and the Sahel, a transition between the desert and vegetation is the predominant geographical feature. Climate change, political instability, migration, and the pandemic have had a major impact on Niger. The region is known as the “Frying Pan from Hell” with average summer temperatures of 118 degrees. The Human Development Index, generated by the United Nations ranks Niger at or near the bottom.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Meetings:

Jan. 17: Club Assembly

Events:

Jan. 16: Together on Tuesday: 6 pm, Cinco’s Cantina, Central Ave., Dover

Jan. 18: Garrison School dictionary distribution – 12:35 pm

Jan. 21: Mid-year Leadership Dinner, 11 am, \$35 – sign up at

<https://rotary7780.myeventscenter.com>

Jan. 25: Senior Visits – Maple Suites, 3 – 4:30 pm.

Feb. 17: Peace Concert at Noble High School in North Berwick, 2-3:30 pm \$25, sign up at:

<https://our.show/concertforpeace2024>.

Pledge: Frank C.

4-Way Test: Jim V.

Guests: Katherine Kolios, Kyana Burgess

Visiting Rotarians: Marty Pothier Abilene, TX

Today’s newsletter authored by Gregg D.

Agadez, a major city in Niger, situated along a trade route, is impacted by trafficking, cost increases caused by climate change, the Russian invasion of Ukraine and Covid 19, resulting in a vicious cycle of increased poverty and crisis. RAIN is committed to breaking the cycle and has focused its program on three critical elements for Niger society:

- Food and Water Security: “Water is Life” and “An empty stomach doesn’t have ears” are two quotes that drive this work. Approximately 64% of Nigerians lack access to clean water.
- Women’s Entrepreneurship is aimed at creating Savings and Loan Groups that can fund women’s businesses and create income for the family. Communities rely on women providing labor as the men are away seeking employment.
- Primary and Secondary Education are important to bring about change. Niger has the highest rate of child marriage and only 50% of the population makes it to middle school.

Rotarians asked specific questions regarding tools and technology needs and how that may assist farmers in Niger. Advances are helping, but sustainability in replacing and repairing tools is important. A question was also raised regarding the marketing of products from Niger and while the sales help, it is only a small portion of RAIN’s budget funded by these products. Most products produced through entrepreneurship fill local needs in the communities. For more information:

RAIN Website: <https://rain4sahara.org/>

Join our newsletter:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/LuThnmu/RAINEmailList>
<<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/LuThnmu/RAINEmailList>>

Social Media

Facebook:<https://www.facebook.com/NigerNomads/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/rainforthesahelandsahara/>

LinkedIn:<https://www.linkedin.com/in/rain4sahara>

Announcements:

Senior Visits: The next Senior Visit is scheduled for Maple Suites, **Thursday, January 25th**, at 3:00 PM. We will be joining the residents for a Trivia contest.

Bingo: Cate R. reported that we continue to seek club members to fill open slots and urged everyone to use sign-up genius to help. Sheila was hosting a ticket counting party this afternoon. This is our largest fundraiser, and we need cub support. Last week we hosted 101 players and sold 21 boxes of tickets.

Social Committee: Cathy B. reported our next social event will be held at Cinco Cantina in Dover on **January 16th** at 6:00 PM. The February Event will be the Peace Concert to be held at Noble High School on **Feb. 17th** at 2:00 PM. Tickets (\$25.00 each) are on sale through the District 7780 website and the Peace Concert website. Please support this event that will benefit Rotary’s peace center initiatives.

ACERT Adverse Childhood Experiences Response Team and the Critical Incident Crisis Response Team of Dover PD: Gregg D. reported we will host guest presenters at our club meeting on January 31st. These are two initiatives our club has supported, and we received a District Grant to help fund the Crisis Response Team. We plan to provide a luncheon and invite guests from communities served through this grant to our meeting to hear about the impact of these two programs.

District 7780 Mid-year Leadership Dinner is scheduled for January 21st at the Hilton Garden Inn in Freeport from 11:00 AM -2:00 PM. All Rotarians are invited to attend. The keynote speaker will be Kiley Wilkens-O'Brien. Kiley is the District Chair of our newly formed Rotary Action Group, a major initiative started by Marion, our very own District Governor.

Club Assembly: Next week's meeting will be a Club Assembly. Committee Chairs should be prepared to provide a report.

Foundation: Jim M. reported on the steps necessary in developing a Global Grant. It must be based on a needs assessment done at the local level of the recipient community. It must be Rotary led and have an International partner club. The project must also be sustainable so it can continue after initial rotary involvement. Jim also stressed the importance of foundation giving citing a project our club participated in with the Navajo Reservation in Arizona.

Happy Bucks:

Jim M. for his friendship with our recently deceased fellow Rotarian Dave Drucker.

Cate R. for our guest speakers today.

Kathy F. for our guest speakers and Cate R. leading last week's meeting.

Jim V. for today's presentation

50/50 Raffle: Cathy B. won the chance to draw the Queen of Clubs. Alas! No luck!

January Birthdays:

Ken P.	Jan. 5
Megan K.	Jan. 8
Ross A.	Jan. 10
Brian H.	Jan. 29
Cate R.	Jan. 29
Dave K.	Jan. 30
Jonathan N.	Jan. 30

January Anniversary:

Jay S.	32 years
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