



Twas the week before The Grape Fest, and all around town

Were strewn purple signs both uphill and down!

This is truly Naples Rotary at its very best

As our "Service To Others" is put to the test!

Since we are in the "Grape Fest Mode", I just felt I had to begin the week's missive with a short poem to usher in my favorite season... Fall! I'm sure this beautiful time of the year is a favorite of many others in the club too, and one couldn't find a prettier place to be in than **The Naples Valley!**



President Jack opened today's Noon Meeting by inviting us to stand and join him in saying The Pledge. A bit of yesteryear appeared, as the Songbooks from the 80's came out, so we could sing "You're A Grand Old Flag"! Thanks go to John F., our song leader, for giving us that special moment! Steve gave The Blessing, asking The Heavenly Father to strengthen our mission in serving others, both at home and abroad.

Speaking of home, the special guest joining us today was NCS graduate and today's program presenter, Jessica Witherow.

We also extended a warm welcome to Suzanne (Schwartz), who was with us this noon for her first Rotary Meeting, since being inducted as the newest member at the Annual Steak Roast last week.

Pres. Jack gave a recap from today's Board Meeting. Some of the highlights include the following: (1) Over time, there has been \$280 in student support in the basket in front of Karen and Laurie. (2) The money for the Exchange Students is being finalized. (3) The Walk of Life Wrap-Up will be next month. Checks for the Hospice House and the Margery Pawluk Cancer Fund have been issued.

President Jack continued by talking about this year's Eastern Cities Fellowship Dinner on Sunday, October 28. The "reigning" president of RI will be the keynote speaker.

Jack also wanted input from the members about possible projects for a District Simplified Grant.

Mike passed around a sign-up sheet for Grape Fest service slots. The set-up this year will be on Thursday, 9/27, instead of the usual prep done after the meeting, as has been done in the past. The Wine Tent Area will be up front this year, and Mike claims this will be a very beneficial new feature!! We are encouraged to (please) sign up to work a shift. Hopefully, we'll get some "vests" to designate our "work force" and to add to our "high visibility"!

The Rotary Birthdays and Anniversaries were acknowledged. Congratulations to Skip and Judy on their 50th Anniversary, and to John M. and Jan on their special day!! Very Best Wishes go to Matt, Vicky, and Blanche on their respective birthdays too! Congratulations to all!



PE Tom reported that Club Meeting Programs have been lined up through February. On 10/29 there will be a Club Assembly. Tom also passed out an "idea sheet" to each member. Each of us has been asked to give two (possible) program ideas to Tom for the upcoming year. Get your thinking caps on, everyone! Many thanks to Tom for taking on this responsibility!

Jack reviewed The Avenues of Rotary Service: Club, Youth, Vocational, Community, and International, as a prelude to the introduction of today's guest, Jessica Larter Witherow. Jessica, a 2000 graduate of NCS, has made her community and teachers very proud

Jessica traveled to Thailand to learn to become a Certified Licensed Thai Massage Therapist. She gave her presentation accompanied by a very professional slide show. It ran continuously in the background with Ken Burnes like effects.

Before going to Thailand, she spent four days in Cambodia, (Jamie and Bessie, you would've enjoyed this!) She found the people to be polite and kind.

Buddhism and Hinduism are the main forms of religion. Her visits to temples were very enlightening, she found the architecture to be very beautiful, and one could drink milk from the coconuts with a straw!

Then it was on to Thailand, and Jessica's visuals added to the "virtual experience"! She spent 20 days there, and she found the experience to be "magical", as she put it! Jess spent from 8:00-5:00 each day receiving her training where she learned meditation and spirit restoring techniques. The daily regimen sounded intense, yet Jess returned with a new respect for nature and life!

In her repertoire, she has clung to some inspiring sayings such as "Peace is the highest bliss" and "Work is blessed", which she gleaned from her training.



Upon thanking us for having her at today's meeting, Jessica told us that her experience abroad was both career and life-changing. Her efforts will have come to fruition, when her new Thai Massage Parlor on 17 Mill Street will open soon! Congratulations from all of us, Jess, and we thank you for a great presentation!!

It was a "Fine Time" at today's meeting, as the following fines were collected by Karen. Susan missed the Steak Roast. Donna is busy preparing for the Grape Fest. John F. had a "back up badge". Skip had an anniversary. Joan thought she may have been "naughty". Alex missed the Steak Roast. Bo has a new truck. Jack and Steve didn't have their badges. Lori had work done on her foot (glad you're doing better). Mike is focused on the Grape Fest, and Woody paid a fine as well.

It was a "Happy Time" also, today, as many Happy Bills poured forth in appreciation of Jessica's excellent program! Here were some other Happy Moments as well! John B. appreciates Mike. Bill C. was spending time with his daughter. Leah has been traveling. Warren appreciates Susan. Joan was glad about her grandson. Matt was pleased about Homecoming. Tom's treatment went well. Steve's sister visited from The Carolinas. Alex was happy too! Pat was proud of Jessica, one of her former students!

I forgot to note that 26 members, plus one guest, attended today's meeting.

An accumulation of \$243.00 has filled The Kitty! Matt's ticket, #229, was selected, and Matt drew The King of Spades!

We had a combined Win-Win and Rotary Moment today! A picture from the Steak Roast showed Mike in the background in contemplation. The big question was: What was Mike thinking? I guess all answers could be considered correct!! Maybe the Grape Festival?

Next week, The Naples Rotary Grape Festival will be the subject of our discussion. Here's hoping that many of us will be able to attend this meeting! Have a wonderful week, everyone, and enjoy the bucolic beauty that abounds!