



THE ACORN

THE ROTARY CLUB OF FAIR OAKS

JUANARY 11, 2016

Rotary



SAVE THE RAIN

The Rotary Club of Fair Oaks

Website: www.RotaryFairOaks.org

Email Address: FairOaksRotary@gmail.com

Phone Number: (916) 534-8557

Mail Address: PO Box 236

Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Facebook: www.facebook.com\FairOaksRotary

Weekly Meetings

We Meet Almost Every Monday Evening

Social Hour 6:15 - 7:00 PM

Dinner & Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Location: Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse

7997 California Avenue

Fair Oaks

Visitors are Welcome

SAVE THE RAIN

Speaker: Kelly Coleman

Reporter: Elitas Mazzy Chirwa



It was Save The Rain Operation Team Director Kelly Coleman's third time addressing the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks. The club is one of the non-profit organizations that has partnered with the organization touching many lives in East Africa.

Every 15 minutes, a child dies because of a lack of clean drinking water. Kelly said her organization teaches water-starved communities how to save lives by harvesting rain water. "To achieve our mission, communities learn how to construct rain catchment systems built by the local communities using local materials."

The non-profit has a corporate partner based in New York that covers all operating costs. This allows 100% of public donations to directly fund projects.

Over 300,000 people in the African continent are now benefitting from Save the Rain installations since it began in 2006. The harvesting systems range in size from 150,000 to 200,000 liter tanks of rain water at elementary schools and 3,500 liter tanks at village homes.

Coleman said what she loves about harvesting rain is that it requires no drilling, chemical filtration or pumping. "Nature freely delivers the water to every door step." She added that rain water is cleaner than ground water because it never passes through soil that could be contaminated by fecal matter.

"When an inch of rain falls 1,000 square feet, you can collect 600 gallons of clean." She added that it is easily managed solely by the recipients.

Coleman pointed out direct correlation between a lack of clean drinking water and other third-world problems such as poverty, a lack of education and gender inequality. She said at onset of puberty, girls are forced out of school to become water fetchers because many schools do not have pit latrines to accommodate them during their menstrual cycle. "Every day, 200 million hours are spent on water fetching by women and children. 443 million school days are lost each year to water related illnesses."

While working on this project, the Save the Rain team discovered an isolated village of people being crippled by too much fluoride in their water. Coleman said over 40% of the population in this community is crippled and were immobile. She said her team was able to provide them with makeshift wheelchairs made out bicycle wheels and parts. She said this is a new project that they are excited about: a rainwater catchment system will prevent more villagers from becoming crippled by fluoride-contaminated drinking water.



SAVE THE RAIN

Bruce Vincent

In her talk, Kelly described the many problems endured in the villages of rural Tanzania. Some of these problems are caused, in full or in part, by a lack of easily accessible and uncontaminated water. All in all, the villagers endure hardships that can best be described as horrifying. By the time Kelly finished speaking, there were few dry eyes in the audience.

Save the Rain is clearly doing an exemplary job of helping rural villages in Tanzania. As an editorial aside, their work appears to be almost perfect – text book examples of how to alleviate suffering in rural African villages. Here is a short list of the things that they do for the villages they work with:

- Agricultural education and alleviation of hunger
- Women’s Water Initiative
- Rape prevention
- Sanitation and cleanliness
- Reforestation
- High levels of fluoride in drinking water
- Reducing the number of cases spina bifida

Why is Save the Rain doing an exemplary job? Because they work hard to make sure that each of their projects will be successful. Furthermore, they help the villagers in other ways, with reforestation being one example of this. The Save the Rain process consists of the following steps:

- On-site interviews with teachers and parents
- Assemble data on health, school attendance and performance in school
- System design
- Training local laborers
- Work with local labor and local materials during construction
- After construction, the project manager meets with water committees
- Periodic system reassessment
- Teachers from the schools are re-interviewed
- Every six months possible improvements are discussed with a teacher network

Most of the charitable organizations working on drinking water projects in the third world could learn much from Save the Rain.

From the Save the Rain website here are the documented results from their last project, a rainwater catchment system installed on the school in the village of Mstombobo in Tanzania:

- 0% water contamination of the stored rain water.
- 96% improvement in general health.
- 94% improvement in attendance at the primary school.
- 90% improvement in students passing their national exams to move on to secondary school. Incredibly, over 50% of them are girls!

Given the importance of the work that Save the Rain is doing, we’re going to use a page or two in the next few Acorns to go into detail on Save the Rain’s work in Tanzania. Please take a look at pages 10-12 of this Acorn for the first article.

CRAB FEED ANNOUNCEMENTS



Anne Browning
Crab Feed Chair

Be forewarned: Seating will be assigned on a first-come first-served basis when you pay for your tickets. That is, those paying first will get the best tables.

Also be forewarned: The crab feed always sells out and there is always a late demand for tickets. There are reportedly even people who fly in from out of state for this event. If you fail to sell your tickets in a timely manner, you may lose them.

Please help us line up sponsors for the event and please start bringing your silent auction and Fun Draw items to Karen Romines – at her home, at meetings or to the bank.

THE 2016-17 GRANT PROJECT



In a recent survey, many members stated that they would like this year's grant project to meet the following criteria:

- Help people who really need assistance, such as the children of desperately poor people
- Have long-term benefits

Cliff Strahley is the incoming Community Service Director. Cliff scheduled a meeting to discuss ideas for such a grant project. The meeting was held at Cliff's home. Stay tuned for results.

RED RIBBON REMOVAL



Joe Scheimer has been a member of Rotary for years and a member of Fair Oaks Rotary for a few months. Joe recently completed his stints as a greeter and a bartender and had his red ribbon removed. Joe is now a complete member of the club.

A RETIREMENT



Longtime member and one of the nicest people you will ever meet, **Joe Horyza**, announced his retirement Monday evening.

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE

Our 2016-17 Rotary Youth Exchange student is **Alex Cota** from Bella Vista High School. At the meeting, Alex learned that he will be spending a year in Sweden.



From the left, Dean Henrix (District RYE Chair), Maggie Hoy (Club Youth Services Director), Alex Cota, Max Cota, Kristine Cota and Jim Cota



DISTRICT GRANT PROJECT LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES



Bruce Hagel (left, at the podium) shows the club an almost-completed Little Free Library. Eight of them will be installed in neighborhoods throughout Fair Oaks. If you would like to have one installed in front of your house, see Bruce. Bruce, however, has a deep interest in youth literacy and wants to install several in front of preschools – which will have priority over installations in residential neighborhoods.

ROTARIAN OF THE MONTH

Mary Cate Gustafson-Quiet

Birthplace: Indianapolis IN

Birthday: September 30th

Spouse : Reid Gustafson...Mary Cate and Reid were married Oct 25th, 2014
No children...yet!!

Background

Mary Cate attended DePaul University and is now a Math teacher for young Einsteins. She enjoys running, singing and sewing and her favorite vacation spot is anywhere in the mountains. She has a passion for helping others—what a great inclination for a Rotarian!! She joined Rotary in March 2015 and is chair of the "Honeymooners" portion of our club and led her first meeting to great acclaim last Halloween.

An ideal evening would be a meal of Mac n' Cheese and bread pudding for dessert while watching *Gone with the Wind* or the BBC₆ version of *Pride & Prejudice*—Mr. Darcy would be impressed to have the acquaintance of such a fine young woman!



GUESTS



Alex Cota (left) with **Stine Nikolajsen**, our 2015-16 RYE student from Denmark and **Lisa Nording**, an exchange student from Sweden.



Karen Slater (middle) with **Alice Rowe** and **Marlow Simonetto**



Dave Claugus, a former member of the club and now a visiting Rotarian from Seattle where Dave appears to be settling in as a permanent Washingtonian.



Kristine and Bill Trockels

A MEGAFINE FOR THE PRESIDENT

And Comic Relief for the Acorn



Our President neglected to silence his cell phone for the meeting. Then he left it on the podium while other people were speaking. Then his phone rang while Cathy Smallhouse was at the podium.

Club presidents are typically squared away and therefore are seldom fined by Little Genius. When they are fined it's typically just a dollar. For his egregious breach of social etiquette, Little Genius fined **Pete Schroeder** a whopping \$5.00, the largest fine levied upon a current president in at least five years.

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Ed note: At least his ring tone was in good taste and he didn't take the call.

ANNUAL CAMPOUT

LAKE FRANCIS RESORT



The Annual Campout – Organized by Maggie Hoy

August 5, 6 & 7 At the Lake Francis Resort near Dobbins, Ca

This is not your grandfather's campout. The Lake Francis Resort has cabins. Quite a few cabins. The deluxe cabins have AIR CONDITIONING, kitchenettes, refrigerators, running water, bathrooms with showers, etc. According to the website, each deluxe cabin can sleep up to 8 people. According to Maggie, you can squeeze up to 10 people in one of these cabins.

What does one do at the Lake Francis Resort? Boating, fishing, hiking, biking, swimming (at a sandy beach or in their swimming pool), basketball, volleyball, baseball, soccer, horseshoes (of course) and All of the fun activities that Maggie organizes.

The resort has a little store, a café, a game room with billiard tables and a foosball table, a children's play area, a creamery and no doubt other amenities that most of us do not associate with camping. Last year, Karen Romines referred to this as "glamping".

For more information, talk to Maggie, who is on a mission to get early signups. If you want a deluxe cabin (and who doesn't), sign up early because they sell out fast.



CRAB FEED SPONSORS



Keith Walter is facilitating signing up sponsors and advertisers for the crab feed. He is asking each member to talk with one or two local businesses for the crab feed.

Sponsorships are a key source of income for the club as well as good public relations for the sponsor. Last year, we learned that sponsorships are easy to obtain - all you have to do is ask and be able to endure the occasional rejection. The different sponsorship levels and everything else you need to complete this task can be found at this link: [2016 Crab Feed Sponsor Program](#)

FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Crab Feed Committee Meeting Clubhouse @ 5:30 PM	January 25, 2015	Crab Feed Preparation
Club Meeting at the Clubhouse	January 25, 2016	Speaker: Joe Scheimer Topic: The Secret War in Laos
Inner Wheel Bunco Night	January 30, 2016	TBA
Club Meeting at the Clubhouse	February 1, 2016	Speaker: Oscar Arias Topic: Rotary & Peace
Club Meeting at the Clubhouse	February 8, 2016	Crab Feed Preparation Beth Wilcoxon, Chair
No Club Meeting	February 15, 2016	
Crab Feed	February 20, 2016	Divine Savior
No Club Meeting	February 22, 2016	
Club Meeting at the Clubhouse	February 29, 2016	Inner Wheel Spaghetti Night (A fundraiser for Inner Wheel)

SAVE THE RAIN COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS



Our club is participating in a multi-club program that will install Save the Rain catchment systems on schools in eight villages in Tanzania. All of the villages are located in the Kingori Ward, between Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Meru. Our contribution to the project is \$5,000. This has been leveraged up to a total of \$35,000 with \$5,000 from Save the Rain, \$10,000 from District 5180 and \$15,000 from the Rotary International Foundation.

The Kingori Ward is one of the poorest parts of Tanzania. The streams and rivers in Kingori have all dried up because of deforestation. School children fetch water for their schools and, because the rivers are dry, the average child spends six hours per day getting water – seriously contaminated water. Because of the contamination most suffer from water-borne diseases and because of the hours spent fetching water, most cannot pass the testing that would allow them to continue on to secondary education.

Our village is named Nkoansiyu. You probably won't be able to find it on a map because it is too small and too rural. It has a population of about 4,600, with 455 students attending a primary school. They walk an average of ten hours every day to fetch water for their school's drinking water and sanitation needs. About 60% suffer from water-related illnesses and more than half routinely fail their classes.

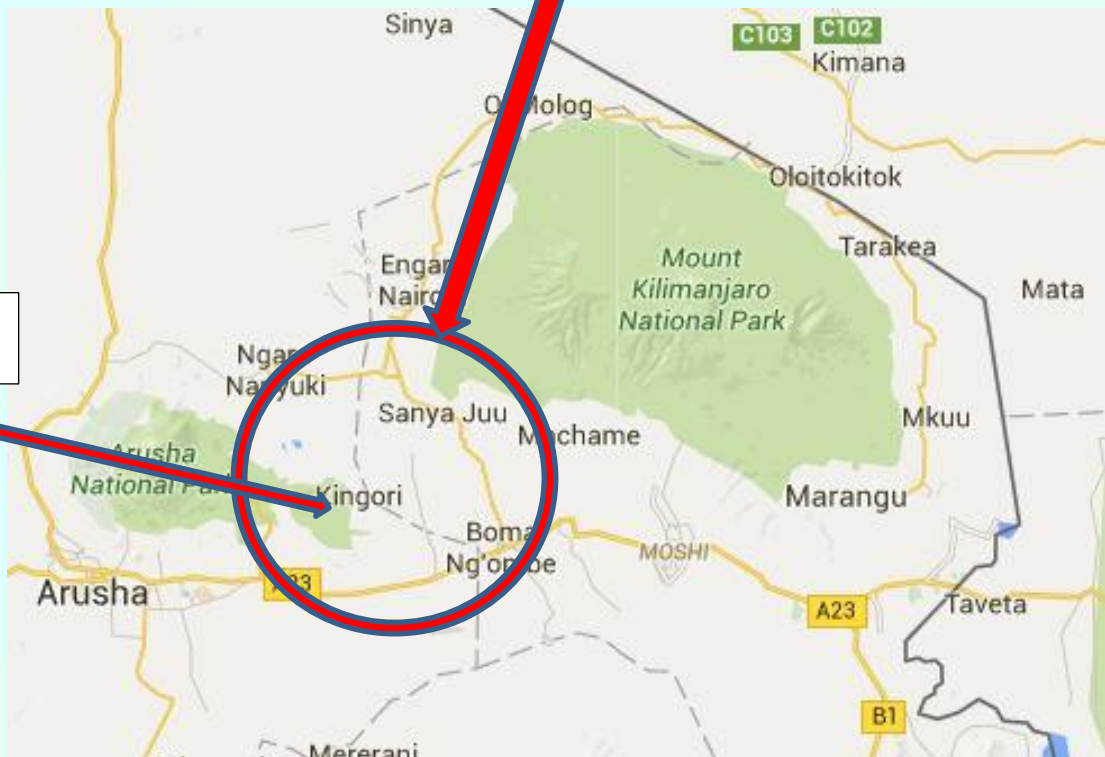
Save the Rain has achieved dramatic results. In 2010, they completed the installation of a 110,000-liter system in the town of Mbuguni in Tanzania. After the system was installed, then number of students passing national exams, increased from 10% to almost 100% and the number of children suffering from water-borne diseases was reduced by 45%.

By providing clean drinking water, Save the Rain partially addresses the problems of water-borne diseases, education, poverty and gender inequality. Beyond impacting these problems by providing uncontaminated water, Save the Rain and their projects , help in other areas including:

Save the Rain is doing great work in a part of the world that desperately needs help, and they are doing it better than most other organizations. Save the Rain deserves more space than we can provide in one Acorn, so we are going to dedicate a page

SAVE THE RAIN

WHERE IS NKOANSIYU?



SAVE THE RAIN

COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS

FROM THE SAVE THE RAIN WEBSITE

We begin by selecting an impoverished African community and using the village primary school as our access point. Because primary school is considered free education, it is the establishment that villagers are most invested in. It also tends to have the largest roof (catchment area) in the community.

When we enter the selected village, we come empty handed, armed only with our knowledge of harvesting the rain. We interview all the parents of students to collect data on issues like health, location of current water resources, time spent walking for water, sanitation and whether or not families boil water before consuming it. We test the available ground water resources for fecal and bacterial content.

The village then elects the best masons and laborers to become our core construction crew for the building of large scale rain catchment systems on the primary school. We employ this crew for the duration of the project. When completed, some become part of the volunteer maintenance committee to ensure the systems continue to run properly. This enables us to assist the local village economy while the project still benefits from community buy-in. Parents that are not employed by the project volunteer their effort in excavation and water fetching.

Once completed, these systems provide the entire community with access to clean water. The rainwater harvesting systems require no electricity, no pumps or filtering additives. They are all gravity fed and have a 200 year life span. The tanks are open to the community during school hours and are locked down at night. Clean water buckets and cups are donated to the school so that each classroom has access to clean drinking water throughout the day. Students no longer spend class time fetching water for the school. We also teach a sustainability class that encompasses passive irrigation farming techniques to the 5th and 6th graders. They are responsible for tending to the school farm. This enables them to produce more food so that students get a meal everyday. This also ensures that the next generation of farmers will know how to harvest the rain to generate enough food to eradicate hunger. The tank construction process we use is so cost effective and so simple, yet a new method to the local masons.

