



Roof Garden Online

Rotary Club # 5250 of Somerset, PA — District 7305

www.facebook.com/SomersetRotary

"The Roof Garden of Pennsylvania," the abode of "The Frosty Sons of Thunder." Organized 1924.



President Mark Persun

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***"Valor is stability, not of legs
and arms, but of courage and
the soul."***

Rotary News November 1, 2019

President Mark opened today's meeting with the traditional bell ringing and pledge and should have followed with a suggestion to hang on and strap in because it was going to be a jam-packed kind of meeting. Josh followed with a prayer and we then attempted to customize the singing of God Bless America's' to be inclusive of our South American guests. We should have known how that was going to turn out considering we can't even pull off singing happy birthday with synchronized hand motions!

The magic wooden box was passed with a suggestion to donate funds raised to help defray our speakers travel expenses. Secretary Chris handled the introduction of Sara Pile, Interact Club Advisor and interact members Anna Myers & Shaelyn Walker along with our student of the Month James

Bastian. Emily Korn introduced Rotary Exchange Student from France, Nina Clarac. Pam introduced her guest and prospective member Lisa Lazzari-Strasiser. Also, in attendance as guests of the club were: Jeff Klink - District Foundation Chair, Pat Shaffer - District Polio Plus Chair, Steve & Coleen Arnowitz - PDG, John Hartman, Lane Meff, Jim Hahn and Miguel's guest, Regina Coughenour.... whew! Fine Man Roger then fined Ron about a dozen times and then a few others for good measure.

In announcements, Amy Baglio announced the holiday fruit basket fundraiser for the Somerset County Blind Center. Contact her at (814) 410-6500 or order online at bvrspittsburgh.org/somerset-fruit-basket-sale/ if you're interested. Linda reminded members

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Rotary Calendar

- 11/08/19 Veteran's Day Program - Mike Knapp - Somerset County Native, Veteran, Business Man and much more...
- 11/15/19 Foundation Dinner at Somerset Country Club - No Friday lunch meeting
- 11/22/19 Conemaugh Physician Group - Healthcare Provider TBD
- 11/29/19 No Friday Meeting - Thanksgiving week

**Rotary's 4-Way Test — Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned?
Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?**

about the upcoming Foundation Dinner on Nov 15th at the Club at 6:00 PM. Reservation deadline is this Friday. John Fiesta still has Paul Harris discount coupons available if you'd like to become a PH Fellow or upgrade your fellowship.

To the program - Deworming Venezuela. Miguel Saviroff provided background on how he came to meet today's speakers and introduced fellow Venezuelan Dr Isis Meyas. As a prelude to our main speaker, Dr Meyas described her professional journey and how Rotary was key in helping her find her purpose as a WASH advocate (WA-Water, S-Sanitation, H-Hygiene). She was originally from Venezuela, arriving in the US in 2001. After beginning her undergraduate studies in Houston, TX, she traveled to Kenya to see how the water crisis was affecting millions of people throughout the world. A Rotary Global Grant Scholarship led her to Sao Paulo, Brazil for a PhD in Environmental Engineering, with emphasis in water treatment. From there she was invited to the Rotary International Convention in 2018 to talk at one of the general sessions about the importance of education in WASH projects. During the convention, she met Dr Alberto Paniz Mondolfi and the idea of "Deworming Venezuela" was born.

Dr. Alberto Paniz Mondolfi is the Academic Director and Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases / Tropical Medicine and Dermatopathology at the IDB Clinic in Barquisimeto, Venezuela. He is also head of the Infectious Disease Pathology Laboratory and the Zoonosis and Emerging Pathogens Regional Collaborative Network. He is licensed to practice in the US, EU and Venezuela as a physician, he is also a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons. He has been published extensively in international renowned journals such as the New England Journal of Medicine, the Lancet, Science and Nature. He is a specialist in travel medicine and infectious disease and is also a skilled pathologist with strong research



Dr. Alberto Paniz-Mondolfi, Miguel Saviroff, Mark Persun, Dr. Isis Mejias

and professional interests in molecular diagnostics of cancer and infectious diseases.

He recently founded the Venezuelan Science Incubator, a nonprofit organization that promotes scientific studies and the use of citizens science to engage communities in real changes that will translate into healthier lives.

Dr Paniz opened his comments with a gracious acknowledgement of the opportunities that he had been afforded in the United States. He described the situation in Venezuela as a war zone without the war and a "wicked cocktail of economic mismanagement, hyperinflation and black markets where 66% of the population lives in extreme poverty. He shared pictures of deplorable hospitals where no one even goes because it's better to die at home. Vector borne diseases are through the roof, leading to a mass migration out of the country creating a humanitarian and economic crisis in the entire region. Deworming Venezuela is a project designed to break the cycle of worms, malnutrition and anemia in school-age children and has 4 objectives: diagnosis of infection, massive deworming treatments, implementation of WASH and project evaluation. Interestingly, the animal agriculture deworming drug Ivermectin has been identified as

a magic bullet. Farmers in this country have been using the stuff for decades on livestock!

Dr Paniz recognized the vital importance of NGO's (Non-Government Organizations), like Rotary in getting help to the right people. Might be a lesson here somewhere for those that believe government is the solution for everything...just sayin.

THANK YOU to Miguel, our speakers and everyone involved in today's meeting. The program was fascinating and very thought provoking and you really did need to be here because this writer's retelling is a tragic injustice. If you have any questions you should direct them to Dave Finui or Allie Hoffman, two much more accomplished newsletter scribes who took delight in tormenting me about my note taking or lack thereof. Karma... Dave!

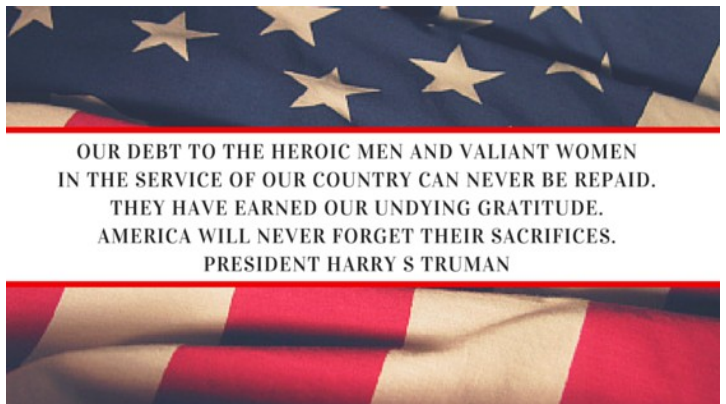
Millie's closing story was about a student pilot, a massive forest fire and a photographer who unfortunately turned out to not be a flight instructor.

Editor Doug



Did you know:

Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves. Solving real problems takes real commitment and vision. For more than 110 years, Rotary's people of action have used their passion, energy, and intelligence to take action on sustainable projects. From literacy and peace to water and health, we are always working to better our world, and we stay committed to the end. -Rotary.org



Front row: John Hartman, Jeff Klink, John Fiesta, Lane Neff, Mary Kay Miller, Dr. Alberto Paniz-Mondolfi, Ron Aldom, Pat Shaffer
middle: Sarah Pile, Dr. Isis Mejias, Steve Arnowitz, Colleen Arnowitz,
back: Shaelyn Walker, Anna Meyers, Miguel Saviroff

During the coming holiday season of giving, remember The Rotary Foundation as your charity of choice. A donation to the Annual fund helps build sustainable communities around the world. GIVING TUESDAY IS DECEMBER 3RD.