



The Lakeshorian

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This Week's Program...

[Evening meeting] **Dârini Vedarattiname**, Director of Public Relations and Image for District 7040, has been invited by **Brenda** to talk to us about PR and the possibilities of joint projects with other clubs.

Birthdays and Anniversaries this week...

Happy Birthday, Suzanne Etwell (Abie's partner)...

.. Today, January 17th!

Future Programs...

Jan 24: **Kim Nguyen**, Director of Development-Annual Campaign for the Old Brewery Mission Foundation.

Jan 31: **Club Assembly. President JP** and his Board of Directors will answer questions about their reports, which will be emailed to members prior to the meeting.

Feb 7: [Evening meeting] T.B.D.

Special Events...

Jan 26: (Thursday) **Board Meeting**, Holiday Inn, 6:30 pm.

June 2: (Friday) **Our Annual Auction**. In just five months we will host our most important event of this Rotary year, that will provide the lion's share of the funding of our club's budget for 2017-2018.

Last Week's Meeting...

President-elect Helen chaired our meeting last Tuesday. It looks like the snowbirds are already heading to warmer climes. As a result our attendance will suffer a bit of a plunge for a few weeks. We were thirteen active members plus Honorary Member **Joe Maxwell**. Active members present were **Wayne, Helen, Lawrence, Maureen, Rosie, Sacit, Bill, Murray, Knud, Brenda, Emily, Cameron** and **Joe Zemanovich**.

Among the announcements...

- **Maureen** had a timely suggestion for Auction items. "If you received any Christmas gifts that you can't use, don't just throw them in a drawer. Give them to our Rotary club for our auction. Even small or inexpensive items can be bundled together to make a package of goodies that someone will be happy to bid on at the auction. If you bring them to me I will be collecting that sort of thing."
- She also reminded us that she will be putting together an International Food Basket. "So if you're going away or if you have connections in other parts of the world, bring me one or two items of non-perishable food for this year's International Food Basket."

- **Murray** thanked **Bill** for translating the auction letter of introduction, adding that every member will get a copy of both letters so we'll be well equipped to start beating on doors to ask for donations or adverts...or both. He said he is thrilled to see the progress that his committee is making. "**Knud** has been working very hard on getting us some overseas tour packages. Everyone is pitching in and we're getting up a head of steam as we move forward. Thank you to everyone who is helping out. And please spread the word to your friends and colleagues. It really worked well with our Oyster Party, bring out old friends who just needed a reminder of what a great event that is every year. We can do the same for our charity auction."
- **Helen** said, "We are looking for someone to take over the job of Club Treasurer, starting July 1st. I'll be sending out an email to all of our members on that subject."
- She also thanked **Lawrence** for agreeing to take on the job of Sergeant-at-Arms for the next few weeks while **Stan** is away.

The 50/50 draw continues to thwart all attempts to find the Ace of Spades. **Joe Maxwell** won the opportunity to search the spread of 26 cards, but drew the Five of Hearts instead. So, as we pass the halfway point in the original deck of cards, this game will continue to build a greater pot of cash for both the ultimate winner, and for our club's charitable activities.

Our Youth Service Chair **Murray** introduced **Alexandra Fortin** who, with three of her students, would speak about the National Model United Nations that will take place in New York City in April.

"Alexandra is no stranger to Rotary," Murray told us. "She was a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar sponsored by the Rotary Club of Québec-Levis. Born and raised in Quebec City, she has always loved to travel. She spent time in the Middle East when she was 19. With her BA, MA and PhD, she is academically qualified to teach Political Science at Cégep André-Laurendeau in Lasalle."

Murray asked Alexandra to introduce her three colleagues.

Alexandra began by telling us a bit about herself. "My name is Alexandra Armico Fortin. My father is Chilean; my mother is from Québec.."

"I'm in charge of the *United Nations Project*, which we will present to you today. These are some of my students and they will do the presentation. But before I turn the floor over to them, let me tell you a little bit about the UN project. Last year was the first time we participated in this simulation of the United Nations, so this will be our second opportunity.

"It's a five-day conference in New York City and students from all over the world participate, with every college or university representing a different country. For that week each

student is a diplomat. Today, these three students will tell you about this year's UN project, so let me introduce them to you.

"This is **Silvia Grueva**. She is our head delegate of the 12-student delegation from Cégep André-Laurendeau. Silvia also participated last year; she is the only student who is doing this project a second time. She is 19 years old and she studies Social Science at our Cégep. She is from Bulgaria and came to Canada at the age of five. She speaks four languages.

"This is **Laetitia Vin**. She is 17 years old and is following the IB [International Baccalaureate] program at our Cégep. Her parents are from Vietnam. Laetitia is a synchronized swimming champion and wants to study Law at university.

"And this is **Nohémie Bokuma**, 18 years old, who is studying Science. Her parents are from Congo. She speaks French, English and Lingala. Her career goal is to become a pediatrician.

"So the four of us share an international heritage: Bulgaria, Vietnam, Congo and Chile."

With a very informative PowerPoint the three students gave us an excellent overview of their project, how they prepare for their conference in New York, and what they already know about their assigned country.

Silvia spoke first. She said, "As head delegate my role in the presentation will be to explain how we prepare ourselves for the simulation.

"The project is called the National Model United Nations. Its purpose is to foster global citizenship. Held annually in New York City, it is the biggest UN simulation in the world, attracting nearly 5,000 college and university students from 6 continents. We discuss and debate international matters just as they do in the UN.

"Each college/university is assigned a country that is a member state of the United Nations.

"Our preparation consists of weekly meetings, learning how the UN works, mastering UN motions and procedures and working on position papers, which is the position of your assigned country on several topics. We also discuss the importance of deadlines and fundraising. There is also a lot of work outside of the weekly meetings: We have to research the country that has been assigned to us, as well as the topics that will be addressed by our committee. We also work on position papers and read documents provided by our faculty advisor.

"We are a delegation of twelve students and we will serve on six committees. Each committee will have three topics.

"We also participate in two practice simulations. The first was held last November at Cégep André-Grasset, in Montreal. The second one, The Québec Model United Nations, will take place on February 4th at UQAM.

"The country assigned to us is The Republic of Seychelles, an archipelago of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean northeast of Madagascar. The population is 93,000 and the largest island is Mahé, where the capital city of Victoria is located.

"First settled by French planters and their African slaves in the 18th century. Britain took possession of the islands in 1794.

"The Seychelles gained independence in 1976, and political turmoil followed, including two coups and a mutiny of the army.

"For many years the constitution allowed only one political party, but in 1992 a new constitution was drawn up allowing several parties and the first free elections were held in 1993.

"The current president, Danny Faure, took office in October 2016.

"Silvia went on to discuss the economy of Seychelles, a beautiful country that attracts hundreds of thousands of tourists every year, mainly from Europe. "The tourism industry contributes \$600 million in revenue and provides employment for 15% of the workforce," she added

"There are other industries contributing to the economy, including fishing, farming, exports of goods, oil drilling and real estate.



Silvia wrapped up her part of the presentation with some lovely photos illustrating the attractions for tourists:

Laetitia reviewed the things that motivate the students to participate in the National Model United Nations, including:



- Meeting new people from all over the world
- Strengthening our team spirit
- Improving our English
- Developing new skills in research and debating diplomatically
- Being a part of something big
- Working on real issues, trying to find realistic solutions.
- A unique experience

Nohémie thanked all of their sponsors, including our Rotary club.

There were a lot of questions, always a good indication of an interesting topic, well presented.

Our four presenters were thanked by **Cameron**, "for a very interesting presentation and for accepting the challenge to improve your English, which is already very good. Please also accept this donation from our club to help defray the cost"



Murray, Alexandra, Nohémie, Cameron, Laetitia & Silvia