



# The Lakeshonian

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTREAL-LAKESHORE  
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## This Week's Program...

**Emily** has invited **Samantha Star**, Program Director of *Literacy Unlimited*, to tell us about her organization and its role in the community. Adult illiteracy affects us all.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries this week...

**Happy birthday, Rosle..... Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>!**  
**Happy Anniversary, Aytaç & Şehnaz..... also October 1<sup>st</sup>!**

## Future Programs...

- Oct 3: Club Treasurer **Semi** will present this year's budget. **PDG Bill** will explain the role of our club's **Rotaide Foundation** as well.
- Oct 10: **NO MEETING** (Thanksgiving holiday)
- Oct 17: **Stella Papadopoulos** will tell us how **Clean the World Canada**, a global non-profit company that partners with the hotel industry to collect, recycle and repurpose soaps and amenities.

## Special Events...

- Sep 29-30 (Friday, Saturday) **District Conference, "Celebrating Our Service"** Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort, 873 NY-37, Hogansburg, NY 13655.
- Oct 20: (Friday) All Rotarians are invited to enjoy a special luncheon in Hartford, Connecticut, featuring **RI President Ian Riseley** and **Sylvia Whitlock**, Rotary's first woman club president (RC Duarte, CA), \$45 (USD) per person. See **Bill** for details.
- Nov 3: (Friday) Our annual **Oyster Party**, at the home of the Baie d'Urfé Rescue Squad, 300 Surrey Drive, Baie d'Urfé. **This is the best Oyster Party on the West Island!** It will also be our biggest fundraising event of the fall. We're counting on **YOU** to sell lots of tickets this year, as we aim to match last year's amazing success.

## Last Week's Meeting...

Unfortunately, your editor was unable to be present for last Tuesday's meeting as a cancellation at Lakeshore General permitted me to undergo a rather lengthy test procedure sooner than would otherwise have been possible.

We are grateful to **Stan** for recording the introduction of and presentation by our speaker.

Only twelve other members were present to hear our newest member, **Glorefe**, tell us about her journey with Rotary. They were **President Helen, Lawrence, Stan, Murray, Semiha, Anne, Sade, Knud, Brenda, Emily, Cameron** and **Deniz**.

We were also pleased to welcome Honorary Member **Joe Maxwell** and **Carol Horn**, guest of **Murray**.

**Helen** introduced **Glorefe**. "She's no stranger to Rotary, having been involved for about ten years, as an Interactor, a Rotaractor and, for the last couple of years as a Rotarian, in the Philippines and, more recently, as a member of our club."

Glorefe began by reminding us that she has taken under her wing the collection of donations of pocket change for *Operation Smile Canada*. "The jar will be available at every meeting, even if I am not since, as a nurse, I am sometimes called to assist a person in distress."

With the aid of several slides, she told us a bit about herself before describing her "Journey with Rotary."

With a map of the Philippines on the screen she told us she was born in Mindanao, the second largest island in the Philippines.

Glorefe included a montage of 16 gorgeous photos from land, from the air and even from under the sea, to illustrate the beauty of the Philippines.

Life was hard in the Philippines, she explained, so even as a child she had to work very hard, at extremely low wages, to help support her parents and to save money for her college education, which was very important to her personally, because she was determined to rise above the extreme poverty that typified life in the Philippines.

As a child laborer, for a wage of \$20 a month. she worked on boats transporting workers and passengers between the many islands of the three areas of the Philippines, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.



She continued to work hard on her studies and finished high school at the age of 14.

She is pictured here with her parents on the day of her high school graduation.



With a high school diploma she was able to get jobs that paid much higher wages. For two years she worked for a big Japanese company, until the age of seventeen. She worked hard and with overtime she was able to send money home for her parents and siblings, with money left over to buy a house.

Her employer wanted to promote her but it required that she move to Japan, which she was not willing to do. She was sick for about six months but when she recovered she returned home and said, "Mom, I want to go to college, and I need some money for that." But her parents didn't support her in this even though she had sent so much money home. So she decided to do it on her own, working hard, with all the overtime she could get. But she became depressed, however, and began to cry a lot. One day, a man (she later learned that he was a dentist) found her crying and began to talk to her. When he heard her story he said his Rotary club could help her with the tuition and while she was at college.

"The kindness of that person changed my life," she told us, adding that the assistance she got from Rotary helped her to become the person she is today.

So she enrolled in DLS John Bosco College, a Catholic school in Bislig, on the east coast of Mindanao Island, and joined the Rotaract club there, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bislig.

At that college she earned her degree in Nursing. She decided she wanted to help others, and began by doing community service and helping children. Several of her slides showed her doing that, in and around Davao City, Mindanao.

She became a favorite with the Rotary club and was named an ambassador of goodwill when she was nineteen years old. The Rotary club wanted to send her to Peru for an international meeting of Rotary ambassadors of goodwill. She said she had never been out of her country before, so she was a little apprehensive, but she said yes, she would go.



It was a long trip and she stayed at the Marriott Hotel in Lima. The meeting was in Machu Picchu, an Incan citadel high in the Andes Mountains.

"I met my husband," Glofe told us, "in Miraflores (residential district in the south of Lima). "Because of him also, my life has changed for the better."

They rented a flat in Aucallama, about 50 km north of downtown Lima and stayed there for nine months. She showed us a view from her flat, accompanied by a saying by Albert Clarke, "In our daily lives we must see that it is not happiness that makes us grateful, but the gratefulness that makes us happy."

One of Glofe's slides showed a poor house up in the sierra, with happy, smiling kids.



She enjoyed her married life but then her husband died. Glofe and her daughter, Anastasia, moved back to the Philippines, settling in the city of Puerto Princesa, on the island of Palawan, the furthest west of the Visayas group. [See the arrow on the map of the Philippines, on Page 1. Ed.]

In order to continue to pursue her long-term goal of helping others, Glofe joined the Rotary club of Puerto Princesa in January, 2017, inducted by Edna Sutter, Governor of District 3830.

In March she participated in the 3830 District Conference, Anastasia by her side. The second day of the conference was Glofe's birthday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.

She also included two photos showing armed security guards, as her Rotary club planted mangroves as part of a program to rehabilitate the mangrove forests that used to be so prevalent in the Philippines.

Glofe told us she decided to move to Canada in May of this year, because Anastasia was Canadian (which suggests that Glofe's husband was also Canadian, right?)

Glofe's next slide was a photo of her and Anastasia here at our Montreal-Lakeshore club, with Helen and Maureen, taken on Glofe's first visit on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

She wrapped up her talk by explaining that she and her daughter had been away for two weeks, visiting Seattle, WA and Kelowna, BC.

Glofe's last slide, showed her in her nurse's uniform, holding a baby born with meningitis.

She closed her presentation with a 5-minute video entitled, Helping the Poor. She said she loves our Rotary club very much, and had kudos for *The Lakeshorian* as well.

**Cameron** asked, "Who else has gone through this kind of story? As he thanked Glofe "for telling us all about your journey through life, a very inspiring talk. You are a great Rotarian!"

