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Rotary



WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTREAL-LAKESHORE

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This Week's Program...

[Evening meeting] **Murray** has invited **Lucile Kircher**, *Présidente*, to tell us all about *le Club Rotaract de l'Île de Montréal*.

President Helen also plans to ask for approval of a revised set of club **Bylaws**, sent to club member on January 29th. She needs a quorum of 12 active members, so make an extra effort to attend this evening meeting.

Birthdays and Anniversaries...

Happy Birthday, Carol Saturday, February 10th!

Future Programs...

Feb 13: Murray has invited **Lorena Morante**, Coordinator with Encounter With Canada, a one-week adventure in Ottawa for youth who wish to explore exciting career possibilities in one of 14 different themes, including Law and Our Justice System, Medicine and Health, and Science and Technology, to name just a few.

Feb 20: Brenda has invited **Marie Pier**, Women's Counsellor, External Services of the West Island Women's Shelter, to update us about her organization.

Feb 27: President Helen will lead us in celebrating our club's 57th birthday, which is today!

Special Events...

Feb 10: **Valentine Dinner-Dance**, Montreal West Town Hall, 50 Westminster Ave S and Rue St-Jacques. 7 pm. \$40 per person. This is a fundraiser of Montreal-Westward Rotary Club for the benefit of local and international charities.

Last Week's Meeting...

Our International Service committee chair, **Deniz**, invited **Maricarmen Raudales** from Health Partners International of Canada to give us an update on her organization. Readers may recall that Maricarmen joined her colleague, HPIC's Program Manager Catherine Sharouty, when she spoke to us last July, with a presentation entitled "Bringing Hope Through Health."

Maricarmen visited Guatemala last November to see first-hand how HPIC medical kits (dental as well as primary health care) were received. She visited us last Tuesday, to give us a report on her finding.

Active Rotary club members present were **Wayne**, President **Helen**, **Lawrence**, **Maureen**, **Esin**, **Bill**, **Murray**, **Glorefe**, **Sade**, **Sola**, **Knud**, **Cameron** and **Deniz**. We were also pleased to welcome Honorary Member **Joe Maxwell**.

Among the announcements:

- Auction 2018 Chair **Murray** gave us an update. "This crucial fundraising event will take place at the Holiday Inn Pointe-

Claire on **Friday, June 1st**. Tickets will be available soon and members are urged to sell them...by the tableful whenever possible, but single ticket sales are also important. We have a whole host of things and prizes to bid on, as you will soon discover. It has the makings of a very successful fundraiser, but that success will finally depend on the efforts of every member of our Rotary club."

- President **Helen** announced that the previously vacant position of International Service Committee Chair for 2018-2019, has now been filled by **Esin Ergun**. This addition was approved by a show of hands.

Murray's Moment of Mirth was a tale about a pirate who walked into a bar. The bartender said, "Hey, I haven't seen you in a while; how're ya doin'?" "I'm okay" replied the pirate. "But what's with the wooden leg?" asked the bartender. "Well," said the pirate, "we were in a battle and I got hit with a cannonball, but I'm fine now." "Okay," the bartender said, "but what about that hook at the end of your arm?" The pirate replied, "In the same battle I boarded a ship, got into a sword fight and had my hand cut off." "Wow," said the bartender, "and what about that eye patch?" "One day, when we were at sea," replied the pirate, "a flock of squawking birds flew over. I looked up and one of them pooped in my eye." "You're kidding," said the bartender, "can you lose an eye just from bird poop?" "The pirate replied, "It was the first day with my hook!"

Bill also had a groaner for us. "Whitey the farmer was in the fertilized egg business. He had several hundred young layers called pullets and eight or ten roosters, whose job was to fertilize the eggs. Whitey kept records and any rooster that didn't perform went into the soup pot and was replaced. That took an awful lot of Whitey's time so Whitey got a set of tiny bells and attached them to his roosters.

"Each bell had a different tone so Whitey could tell from a distance, which rooster was performing. Now he could sit on the porch and fill out an efficiency report simply by listening to the bells.

"Whitey's favorite rooster was old Brewster, a very fine specimen he was, too. But on this particular morning, Whitey noticed old Brewster's bell hadn't rung at all! Whitey went to investigate. The other roosters were chasing pullets, bells-a-ringing. The pullets, hearing the roosters coming, would run for cover. But, to Whitey's amazement, Brewster had his bell in his beak, so it couldn't ring. He'd sneak up on a pullet, do his job and walk on to the next one.

"Whitey was so proud of Brewster, he entered him in the county fair. Brewster became an overnight sensation among the judges. The result... The judges not only awarded Brewster the "No Bell Piece Prize" but they also awarded him the "Pullet Surprise" as well!"

President Helen told us we are well on our way to winning a Presidential Citation this year. "We need to work on publicity and PR, local media coverage for the club. Our Amcal presentation and fundraising auction should get media attention.

"We also need to move along with our project to collect donations toward the End Polio campaign. We had set a goal of \$1,500 and I will ask our treasurer, Semi, how close we are to achieving that goal."

In our 50:50 draw program, **Deniz** won the right to search for the Ace of Spades; she came close, turning over the Queen of Spades instead.

She went on to introduce our guest speaker. "**Maricarmen Raudales** is Programs Director for HPIC, which she joined in 2013, following ten years working with informational and community organizations. She has worked for two UN peace-keeping missions and was program director for two international NGOs. Her work has led her to France, China, Sri Lanka, Brazil, Guatemala and El Salvador. Maricarmen earned a BA from McGill as well as an MA in international relations and a Masters in Public Administration from Syracuse University. She is originally from Honduras and moved to Canada 21 years ago.

"Following her presentation in July, we contributed to HPIC's MotherCare in Malawi project, joining with 3 other clubs in our district to fund 16 Mother-Child Health kits.

"We also funded community medical kits in Guatemala, which Maricarmen delivered personally, and had the opportunity to see the work done there by Vicki Horsfield."

Maricarmen began by thanking us for being the key factor in arranging the funding of the 16 Mother-Child Health kits that were delivered to Malawi, where the maternal mortality rate is 634 per 100,000 births, compared to 7 per 100,000 in Canada.

Her PowerPoint presentation covered several topics:

- **Creating Opportunities for Guatemalans**, a charity registered in Canada and the US to lead Guatemalans out of poverty through education.
 - 58% of Guatemala's population is living below the poverty line—especially in rural areas and among the indigenous population.
 - The illiteracy rate is over 60%
 - Through student sponsorships they provide after-school support, teach English and math and offer a health & hygiene program in San Antonio Aguas Calientes.
 - Vicki Horsfield, a retired Canadian educator and Rotarian, is the Executive Director.
- **Humanitarian Medical Kits** (both dental and primary care) sent to Guatemala by our Rotary club.
 - **1 dental kit**: including syringes, anaesthetic, sutures, disposable scalpels and general supplies (gloves, disinfectant wipes, boxes of toothbrushes).
 - **1 primary care kit**: a pharmacy in 2 boxes with vital medicines and supplies --a value of about \$6000-- that provides up to 600 treatments.
- **The Sumpango Project**, in Sacatepéquez Department in Guatemala Sur, where the first phase of a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) project has been completed, comprising
 - Repairs to 9 schools: toilets, kitchens, sinks, wells, septic tanks
 - 40 family latrines
 - a mechanical cow to provide soy milk
 - water filters

A major commitment includes weekly supervisory visits, hiring social worker, close collaboration with local authorities including the mayor's office.



Phase Two, repairing and equipping 7 community health centres, supervised by the regional hospital, will include:

- 2 nurses for 3 communities come in a few days each week.
- Primary health care, pre-natal control
- Should see 200 patients only see 95 due to lack of medicines

In 2018, HPIC is developing a project to provide medicines and supplies to the health centres.

- An annual 3-day free health outreach program benefits women, men and children in selected deprived areas.
- In **Ghana** where, working with the Rotary Club of Accra, **Rotary Family Health Days** was established, involving:
 - An annual 3-day free health outreach programme to benefit women, men and children in selected deprived areas.
 - Free health screening
 - Primary and maternal health kits provided by HPIC, permitting them to provide health services, including medication.

Kelly gave Maricarmen 24 hand-knitted Izzy Dolls her Mum had made and which Kelly had sewed and stuffed, adding hair and features.



She asked Maricarmen to give them to kids, for many of whom it will be their first toy.

Knud thanked Maricarmen, telling her, "It's wonderful to have you here. You are so enthusiastic about your work with HPIC, you inspire us, so please keep on doing what you do."

