



THE DAWN

Mercer Island Rotary Club

Meeting Report for

2 February 2016

CALL TO ORDER: President Tom Callahan welcomed us

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK: David Bobanick showed a slide of Bill Murray and a ground hog, to point out that the movie Ground Hogs Day has some good thoughts in it, namely the theme "Make things right".... a good thought for all.

PLEDGE: Led by President Tom

VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS: Introduced by David Schiffrin: Wendy Weiker (Benson Wong), Jane Nelson (John Nelson), Patricia Shelby (Carol Friends), Jennifer Sells (Tom Callahan), Gilad Berenstein (John Naye), Students of the Month and their parents, grandparent (Mark Scalzo)

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES: Beth Baska (11 years), Mike Cero (7 years), Brian Jennison (18 years), Vern Leck (22 years), Sandy Person (5 years), Trina Westerlund (22 years)

ROTARY BIRTHDAYS: Eva Agrawal (10), Karen Balkin (22), Ray Brook (6), Dick Elkins (28), Hans Fredrikson (1), Scott Greenberg (22), Terry Lee (16), Mark Scalzo (6), & Michael Scruggs (2). Happy Birthday was sung to all.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH: Mark Scalzo introduced Parker Bixby, band leader extraordinaire and teacher at MIHS, who then introduced Meghan Frisch and Gordon Zhang, each expressing thanks to our Club for this award. Please see the MI Reporter for their activities and interests. Superintendent Gary Plano presented the plaques, along with his appreciation for their contributions, fine values and example to others.

EXCHANGE STUDENT: Claudina Campbell introduced our Inbound Student, Han-Kuan Huang, from Taipai City, Taiwan. She read a letter to our club from Nadja Rose Li, our outbound student, where Nadja expressed thanks and gratitude for her excellent experiences with her host families in Taiwan. (See p.23 of our directory). Claudina

would be happy to arrange home visits or outings with Han to get to know him during his short stay here

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Gary Plano reminded us to vote by Monday, Feb. 8 for the school bond issues for capital projects and school transportation. Ballots must be postmarked by Feb. 9.
2. MI Youth and Family Services "Giving from the Heart" breakfast on Wed. Feb.10 at 7:00 a.m. at the MI Community Center, lower level. Donna Buckingham is organizing Rotary tables, and will be happy to include you. No charge but please bring your checkbooks. Dr. Weed has glass heart paper weights available at his orthodontic office, if you would like to contribute in that way.
3. Aaron Kornblum announced MIHS upcoming events: Drama by Arthur Miller "Playing for Time", performances on Thurs., Fri. and Sat. this week, 7-9 p.m. and the Bellevue-MIHS game on Fri. night at MIHS at 8 p.m. Girls' game at 6:30, with Russell Wilson's sister playing for the Bellevue Girl's Team.
4. Club activities: reports on the annual fund, and international grants.
5. The Half Marathon is rapidly coming up on Sunday, March 20. Posters and passouts were distributed. (please see Gary Redman, Sam Sullivan or Ryan Flynn to inquire about volunteering.....help needed!)

PROGRAM: John Naye introduced Gilad Berenstein to speak on "A New Way to Book a Trip" Gilad was born in Israel, and moved to Spokane at age13. He attended U.W., majoring in business, went on to obtain a master's degree in taxation and corporate law. After graduate school, at age 22, he went with friends to Europe, and soon discovered that, if they had planned their trip better, they would have been able to see more sights, e.g. in Barcelona there was no soccer game to watch when they were there. In Rome, a retired chef told them about fantastic places to eat that most people would not hear about . This inspired him to form the business "UTrip". He worked with a roommate who was getting his PhD in psychology and they set up some philosophical beliefs and goals for travelling.

Possible goals: art interests, location, sports, romance, dates and times that places are open, food, adventure, spontaneity, unique and special places. They are beginning to work with cities and event planners, cruise lines, hotels, etc. The trip advice is free, as they make money on license fees, etc.

As a thank you to Gilad for speaking, we are donating 1500 lbs. of fresh produce to the needy and deserving through Rotary First Harvest in his honor.

DRAWING: Donna Buckingham won a free lunch + the 3 of Hearts

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER: Akhtar Badshah – The Power of the Rotary Network

MEETING ADJOURNED

SCRIBE: Shirley Silke

