

THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH VANCOUVER WHEEL SQUEALS



27th May 2013

Created By Norman Thomson

Desk: Joy Jones was at the desk ensuring everyone was welcomed with a warm smile and got their ticket to participate in the draw. She also had at the table information on the next District Conference to be held May 2014 at Squamish.



O Canada: The low ceiling in the room amplified our rendition of O Canada.

Invocation: David Spears rose to the occasion again and provided us with another thoughtful and inspiring invocation.

Introduction of Visitors:

We were delighted to have seven visitors to the meeting. Our Michael Schelhass did most of the introductions with five of the guests at his and Bob Nowell's table.



The guests were: Guest speaker Maness Samuel; from Victoria, David and Francis Stocks; from Campbell River, Stephanie Tipple; and from North Vancouver, Bruce Preston. At the other table the guests were Pam Brunel and Liane McKenna.

Sergeant-At-Arms and Announcements:

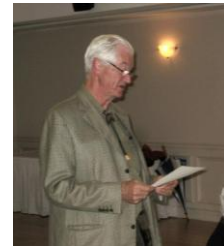


The two functions were integrated as Michael Schelhass started off with the draw in search of the elusive Ace of Spades. Neil Creighton was the lucky number holder but once again the Ace remained hidden. Michael then moved quickly to happies and sads, which also became the time for announcements. Happiest was Deborah, who had brought her friend of 20 or more years along to the meeting. Her friend Pam Brunel had made a donation to become a Paul Harris Fellow and Deborah had the pleasure of presenting her with the certificate of recognition.

Bob Nowell was happy with a golfing trip to Vancouver Island but was sad at the recent passing of Lions Gate Rotary Club member Bob (John) Resch who's funeral will be held next Monday at 10:00 am at St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Parish (1360 East 24th Street, North Vancouver). Norm Binion took advantage to ask the whereabouts of the Grouse Mountain Duck Prize and the consensus was that John Ward probably had it. Joy Jones, in a statement of claim that she was going to speak for a few minutes, put \$5 in the pot. Then she told us that she had been to the best District Conference ever, at Quesnel. She raved about the quality of the speakers and Past District Governor Dean Rohrs' [YouTube presentation](#) about some of her time in Africa. Our Joy was already enthusing about the next Conference to be held in Squamish next year and said that 75 of the Quesnel attendees had signed up. Neil Creighton told about attending a meeting where Rick Mercer had given a brilliant speech on Canada and being Canadian. David Spears brought us back to current club affairs by saying the upcoming Wine Festival was getting off to a good start with three restaurants agreeing to come and that Everything Wine is on board again.

Introduction of the Speaker:

Fred Sverre did a very professional job of introducing our speaker. We were told Maness Samuel is a graduate from the first class of Stsikana Pa Ulendo (Girls on the Move) Secondary School in Malawi. She is currently a student at Pearson College on Vancouver Island on a full scholarship. Her success is continuing as she has just won a 4 year scholarship to Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri.



Program:

It was almost like a second introduction when David Stocks spoke a little about Malawi and the Atsikana Pa Ulendo School. David described how the school had come about in part through the support of hundreds of Rotarians and Rotary Clubs in BC and Alberta. We learned that Malawi is a country that came into being at the time of the breakup of Rhodesia and appends itself along the west side of the massive Lake Nyasa Lichinga. David said that one unique feature is the Lake has the most diverse fish population of any freshwater lake in the world. Later we were told Malawi has a population of about fifteen million.



Then it was our guest speaker Maness Samuel who took over to tell of her journey from her home in Malawi to standing in front of us tonight. As you will see from

her photograph she is a bright, attractive young woman who spoke comfortably with ease in fluent English. We take it for granted that a young person like that will be able to do this but the tale she told was of how exceptional she was and of the hope the school was providing a path for girls to follow in her footsteps. To my ears it was a recurring theme that in some poor foreign countries educating girls is a rarity. The war in Afghanistan taught us about this and the message we get is that if we educate the girls and women we will get better more caring countries with less violence.

Maness walked us through her up-bringing as one of seven children whose parents are subsistence farmers growing maize and peanuts. In Malawi we were told that Primary Schooling is provided free but further education at High School has to be paid by the family. Most families, who can afford it, pay for sons to be educated but daughters have rarely gone on beyond the primary level. Maness went on to describe a typical girl's life as being one where she would be married and start having a family by the time she was sixteen. In marriage Maness said women worked in the fields, looked after the children, carried water, went to find firewood and cooked and did housework. She punctuated this with a tale of a fourteen year old girl she knew personally, who was given to a man to pay off her father's debts. This essentially put the girl into slavery since the man already had a wife and family.

Lucky for Maness, the Atiskana Pa Ulendo School opened and she was able to attend. The girls stay in residence at the school with security guards. She was a bright dedicated student, who looked to the women teachers as role models that she wanted to follow. Education, in her words, has allowed her to learn and know what it means to be a woman as a whole and worthy human being. Attending the school has given her hope for a future in which she has both a choice and a voice.

She suggested if we wanted to know more that we could go on the school website www.malawigirlsonthefloor.com.

Thanks to Speaker:

Alec Wallace introduced a personal note as he thanked our speaker Maness. He told her about his two daughters and what a different life they had lived from the one that Maness had to fight to achieve. Alec then presented her with our club certificate promising to immunize 20 children against polio in Maness' name.



Toast to Rotary International: The meeting wound up with the members in unison toasting Rotary International.

The 4-Way Test: Similarly the club members recited the 4-Way Test.

President Wendy asked the speaker to accept questions from the members after the close of the meeting, at which point she adjourned the meeting.

Future Meetings / Key Dates:

Jun 3	Sustainability Television - Jason Robinson, CEO
Jun 10	RCMP Schooner St. Roch - Dan Lemieux, Retired RCMP Staff Sergeant
Jun 17	Heart Attack Recovery - Bob McKilligan, Heart Attack Survivor and Member, Rotary Club of North Vancouver
Jun 24	Installation of 2013/2014 Club Executive
Jul 1	No meeting - Canada Day Statutory Holiday

