

# The Miner's Lamp

Bringing the Light of Service to the Community and the World Through Rotary



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## February is World Understanding Month

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**On 23 February, World Polio Day, Rotarians everywhere will mark the 106th anniversary of the founding of Rotary. In some cities, huge images of the End Polio Now logo will be projected on public buildings and mayors will proclaim the day "Rotary Day" to mark Rotary's object of advancing understanding, good will and peace throughout the world.**

## Club Assembly

President Alan welcomed everyone to our 33rd meeting of this Rotary year. Host Rotarians shared their experiences hosting the visiting RYE students from Wednesday to Sunday last week. Deb is off to PETS this coming weekend. Report was given by International Service Director Keith on the Protected Springs project in Africa, a picture of a protected spring is on page 4. Linda is looking after the drug ruler project, which is coming along. Treasurer John reported that our finances are in very good shape and that members can find it



and Board Minutes on the club website through the members area. Secretary Rob reported that our attendance has been solid. Christine reported on PR and mentioned that she is working on profiles of our members for the newsletter. John C will cover for Christine while she is away until the end of June. Liz reported on progress for Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, which is due to kick off on 26 February. More details to follow. John C announced that the board had approved the purchase of a new screen, which has been ordered. The Board approved the establishment of an Honours and Awards Committee to help recognize deserving Rotarians and others in our community. Any one interested in serving with John C on this committee should contact him. Anyone who has a nominee for consideration by the committee should also contact him. The club has ordered 5 brass lamps to use as "trophies" to present to individuals such as those selected for the Good Neighbour Award. President Alan referred to Bruce Williams presentation on Janece Place. The board agreed that we should donate \$10,000 to Janece Place over three years with \$6,000 available immediately. This resolution received the unanimous approval of the members at our meeting.

## Announcements

Age is just a number. It is totally irrelevant unless, of course, you happen to be a bottle of wine. ~Joan Collins

Jill Cornwell is always interested in suggestions for speakers: [jcornwell@shaw.ca](mailto:jcornwell@shaw.ca)

Jill is also accepting donations of good books for our library at Cumberland Lodge.

From President Alan: David Muir's surgery on Friday was a great success.

David is at home recuperating for the next six weeks.

Anyone who would like to take Misty and David for a walk, just give him a call. Message from Alinda reporting

the work she has been able accomplish with our

assistance. She will be returning to Canada in a couple

of months. Bent Harder was recognized as the Citizen of the Year by the Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce and congratulated by

all of us. Card of thanks received from Cumberland Community

School for the work done by Rob and David B to construct a new

garden shed to replace the one destroyed by vandals.

Judythe thanked everyone who hosted RYE students during their stay in the Comox Valley last week. In all, our members hosted 9 students. A great event enjoyed by all the students and Rotarians involved.

John C thanked Adri for doing such a great job posting information on our new Facebook site. Looks good and is receiving may "likes". He read a message from Jay who is visiting Prince George and has made contact and plans to attend meetings and events of the three clubs in that community

Jon echoed Judythe's remarks and announced that a student has been selected for our club to sponsor to attend Rotary Youth Leadership awards (RYLA) in Tacoma from 3 to 6 March. David B volunteered to oversee the RYLA arrangements due to Jon and Marguerite's imminent departure for points south.

Leslie reported that her doctor informed her on Wednesday that her cancer is no longer active. Outstanding news!

**February Greeters:** Dodie and Jill.

**Greeters' Duties:** Arrive by 6:30 AM, set up room, greet everyone as people arrive and hand out badges, help with visitors' name tags and make-up cards. Return room to original setup.



## Rotary Moment

### **World Understanding Starts At Home**

By Frank Deaver

Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa, Alabama USA



Our world is full of minorities. There are racial and ethnic minorities, there are religious minorities, there are political minorities, and many more. Rotarians also constitute a minority. Of the more than six billion people in the world, our number is only a little more than 1.2 million.

What makes Rotarians different is that we are a distinctly privileged minority. Most Rotarians are among the one percent of people in the world who have a college education or who own a computer. In our comfortable homes, we are far richer than the 80 percent who live in substandard housing. With food enough to eat, we are healthier than the 50 percent who suffer from malnutrition. With the ability to read and write, we are more employable than the 70 percent who are illiterate.

We are all too often the victims of a lack of understanding, or perhaps more accurately, of misunderstanding. We give to the Rotary Foundation, but we are only minimally aware of how our contributions are spent. We speak of Rotary's humanitarian programs, but we know too little about the plight of the recipients.

The life of a Rotarian is in many ways too comfortable. Too few of us have had opportunity to personally witness the poverty and misery of the world's majority. Perhaps we have not even been exposed to the homeless, the illiterate, the oppressed, within our own communities. Perhaps our daily commute from comfortable home to comfortable office fails to take us through "that part of town."

February, World Understanding Month, challenges Rotarians to introduce one minority (ours) to other minorities (those who are in need). What we may come to understand is that there is more opportunity for service in our own communities than we realized.

We need not look to distant lands to find the minority among us, the unfortunate ones who lack even the basic necessities of life. They are virtually on our doorsteps, and the fact that they so often remain invisible is as much our fault as theirs.

Rotarians in our own community, and in every community throughout the Rotary world, could embrace the philosophy of Stephen Grellet, French-American advocate for social reforms:

World understanding is a noble and worthy Rotary goal, but it does not begin on the other side of the world. It begins where we are. It begins at our very doorstep.

## Attendance

23 Cumberland Rotarians attended our meeting on 15 February. We missed the company of: Jay, Mac, Debbie, Linda, Kim, and David. Visiting Rotarian: Bent Harder of the RC of Courtenay.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries in February

Birthday: 23 Dodie Brand - Rotary's 106th birthday a birthday! No one in our club was married in February.

## Parting Shot



Keith made a presentation on a Protected Springs project that our club will do in partnership with the RC of Strathcona Sunrise. Here is a picture of a boy getting clean water from a protected spring. Alinda has scoped out 30 springs for the project in Kenya.

## February Programs

22 Pieter Vorsters—Community Way Dollars

## Chuckle Corner

### Seafood for Thought?

Down-and-out octopi are frequently found on squid row.

How many octopi does it take to screw in a light bulb?

1/8!

Two squid are having a row. “I saw you again with that pretty young octopus!”, the female screamed. “No, dear, you’ve got it all wrong,” protested the male. Our relationship’s purely planktonic!”