



THE Rio Rotarian



HELEN MADERE BRIDGE

"Having fun helping others...watering the rosebuds"

-Dr. Ted Schulz

Welcome

With a barely audible ding of a coffee cup, Pres. Dave opens the meeting at 7:02 a.m. Dave leads the Pledge, while Gil tackles Grace, and Hector leads us in, "You are my sunshine."

Guests & Visiting Rotarians

While there are no visiting Rotarians, Molly introduces numerous guests associated with AFS. See photo below for guest names.

Treasurer's Report

Marble Draw fund is roughly \$500.

Birthdays & Celebrations

We sing, "Happy Anniversary," to Pres. Dave, who celebrates his 5th year in Rotary.

Confessions

- Patrick saunters into the meeting late, spins the wheel and pays \$5.
- Sec. Leon attempts to abate inflammatory discussions about the Chief and a Rotarian on nextdoor.com. He donates \$50 to Ted's Dictionary Fund.
- Lee takes a moment to recognize Jim Lira, who (as usual), stepped up to support his mother-in-law's Celebration of Life. He donates \$85 to the GF. Humbly, Jim thanks him, and matches the donation—1/2 to the GF, and 1/2 to Dictionary Fund.
- Dr. Ted donated \$50 to the GF because he enjoys "serving."

AFS: Providing Intercultural Learning Opportunities

Molly introduces Tembe Kelepily of Mali and Atka Tahir of Tanzania; both of whom participate in the AFS program.

Tembe, explained her country's three flag colors—each with a unique meaning. The green represents agriculture; yellow represents God, and red is a recognition of the soldiers that died in the fight for independence from France, which occurred in 1960. Mali is the oldest democracy in Africa. French does remain their official language, but they learn English and Bambara (which is their native language).

While there are many ethnic groups in Mali, Tembe notes that 96% of the country is Muslim, with only 2% Christian and another 2% Animist. As their country becomes more modern, literacy is increasing; though only about 54% of children complete primary school. And, while 75% of boys are literate, only 36% of girls are—fortunately, this number is increasing. Tembe grew up educated, but this is not the case for most children in rural areas.

While Tembe grew up on the West Africa, Atka grew up in East Africa, on the island of Zanzibar, a semi-autonomous region of Tanzania. The country's population is 57 million. Her flag's colors represent green for vegetation; black for their minerals; and blue for rivers. There are numerous languages spoken, but the official languages are Swahili and English, which is inherited from Colonial rule.



(left) Molly introduces AFS members, Kirk and Marci Rossi, Tembe Kelepily, Atka Tahir, Kadee Moskaluk, and Natalie Crew.

Committee Reports

- Golf Tourney. Bob circulates a sign-up sheet for setting up teams to gather auction items. Patty reminds us to get baskets in before the end of March.
- Molly reports that Charter Night was "awesome!"
- Camp Royal. Seventeen students have applied, with panel interviews occurring on Monday and Tuesday. There are 6 available spots.
- Tequila Y Mas is moving along, with Derek reporting that Julie Griffin is designing the poster, and the date is set for July 27.
- Patrick attends PETS. He enjoys the meeting, and meets the first female president of Rotary International. She is from Ontario, Canada.

Marble Draw

The pot grows, as members anxiously await their numbers to be selected.

Tanzania became independent in 1964. Interestingly, while most have heard of Mt. Kilimanjaro, the tallest mountain in Africa, and Serengeti National Park, few realize that both are in Tanzania.

March a Big Month for Students

Pres. Gabe reports that the Math Center is open every Wednesday, and that there are scholarship workshops Wednesday and Thursday. He also notes that on March 23, students will be heading to Livermore to receive their FFA State Degrees. Jesus also speaks of the school's welding class.

Montana and Meagan, Pres. and VP of the local National Alliance on Mental Illness, provide a brief overview of the program, and their plans to establish a Wellness Center at the school. They will begin fundraising efforts soon. May is Mental Health Awareness Month.

In sports, the swim team had a meet this past Monday where girls won, but boys lost. Five swimmers are currently undefeated!

In other news, Rio Vista AFS students will travel to Massachusetts on March 18 for a week's stay; and Radio Rio is planning live broadcasts.



Pres. Gabe talks about scholarship workshops, as Jesus Rivas, Montana Olsen, Meagan Delancy, Destanie Rendon and Kaitlyn Conner consider their talking points.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

| DATE | SPEAKER/EVENT | PROGRAM CHAIR |
|----------|--|-------------------|
| March 22 | Stephanie Cobb - Sharks Swim Team | Jon Blegen |
| March 29 | Noel O'Brien - Proposed Vets' Home | Gene Resler |
| April 5 | Dr. Dorota Korta - Dermatology | Hector De La Rosa |
| April 12 | Dave/Mary Kemnitz - Cars for Paradise Valley | Derek Abel |
| April 19 | TBD | Jim McPherson |
| April 26 | TBD | Jay Huyssoon |



Newsletter Team

Edwin Okamura, Jon Blegen