



SERVICE Above Self

Fargo West Rotary

Newsletter March 2011

Fargo West Rotary, PO Box 9237, Fargo, ND 58106

President's Message

by Heather Johnson-Kjos

DREAMS OF SPRING



The month of March has gone by so quickly and we anxiously wait for the warm spring days that we know will follow. Of course, we still have the flooding to deal with but we can hope that it won't be as bad as some of the predictions.

We were able to have our *Recital With a Cause* this year without the flooding forcing us to reschedule. It was a truly wonderful concert and it is amazing how many talented young people we have in the community. It was really inspiring. Thanks to Rotarians from all four clubs and several businesses in our community, the sponsorships, ticket sales, and offering brought in over \$12,000. After expenses, the proceeds will be shared with local classical music programs (30%) and Rotary's Polio Plus (70%). Thanks to all who offered their support and moved us one step closer to a polio-free world. Approximately 155 people attended the recital.

Past President Pat DeVine and **Kathleen Toft** did a fantastic job on the planning committee. **Kim Kemmer's** creativity was directed at the poster, tickets, and newspaper ad. Many hours went into preparing for the *Recital With a Cause* and it showed. It was even better than 2010 and no one thought that was possible. Thank you for your dedication and your service!

And talk about inspiring! The presentation on Monday, March 28th from Roxana Saberi was truly amazing. I don't think any of us can imagine what she went through in that prison in Iran. She learned how to turn a harrowing situation into a positive experience and came out a much stronger person. Over 100 Rotarians and their guests join us for this wonderful program and I think we were all touched by her experiences and her message.

The District Conference is coming up April 28 – May 1 in Grand Forks and I hope that our club has good attendance this year. Even if you can't make it for the entire conference, there are many events and activities you can attend. It all kicks off with the Ice Breaker Social on Thursday and the fun continues through the Gala Dinner on Saturday evening. There's a 4 person scramble at King's Walk — an Arnold Palmer Signature Golf Course. Go to <http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/?eventid=865951> for a list of activities and tours available.

I look forward to seeing you there and joining me in celebrating Rotary with our district Rotarians.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Message
- 2 Adult ELL
- 3 Letter from Carl Ben
- 4 Harley update
Burchill's had a boy!
Club member news
- 5 Congratulations, Jill Saberi tells her story
- 6 Saberi lunch photos
- 7 April is magazine month



Upcoming Events

- April 28 – May 1
Rotary District
Conference in GF
- May 2 GSE team
from Brazil

Adult ELL started

We thank **Ryan McManus** for spearheading our club's efforts towards the Adult ELL program. Ryan always does a great job of finding volunteers and promoting the ELL program.

We also want to thank all of the volunteers, as you are the ones that truly make the difference! The Adult ELL program is new this year. Fargo West Rotary in collaboration with FMAM, Moorhead and Fargo Rotary clubs are assisting New Americans in our community with learning English. These new Americans are very eager and excited about this opportunity. Each Monday evening through the end of the school year at Carl Ben Eielson, New Americans and Rotary volunteers have been getting together and using Rosetta Stone software as one of the tools for English education. We also have a half hour of group discussion that has been very beneficial.

Here is a quick overview of the progress thus far:

- There have been a total of 60 hours of volunteer / New American interaction during 3 days of the class (February 28, March 7 and March 21)
- 21 New Americans have participated
- There are 20 unique Rotary-affiliated volunteers, who have contributed 39 volunteer days to the project
 - 7 unique volunteers and 12 volunteer days by Fargo Rotary Club
 - 5 unique volunteers and 9 volunteer days by Fargo West Rotary Club
 - 5 unique volunteers and 12 volunteer days by FM-AM Rotary Club
 - 1 Rotaract volunteer participated 2 days .
 - 2 non-Rotarians have contributed 4 volunteer days
- The average number of New Americans and Rotarians participating each evening is 11-15 (a near one to one match)

The need for volunteers is great. More New Americans show up every week as the word spreads. There are many who do not speak English and are not being incorporated into our society as a result. We are making a difference in their lives.

Adult ELL Photos



Ryan helping with computer



Arden assisting with one of the adult students



Thank you Letter from Carl Ben Eielson

Dean Wilson
Asst. Principal

Bradley Larson
Principal

Barb Weber
Asst. Principal

March 6, 2011

Last Monday night I was witness to a truly inspirational scene; visual, palpable hunger for learning English shown by parents of our ELL students. Through the efforts of Rotary (our business partner) volunteers, our ELL teachers, and Vonnie Sanders these parents will be meeting weekly until the end of the school year. They meet between 6:00 and 7:30 Monday nights, pair up with volunteers, and learn English through the Rosetta Stone software and through conversation with their mentors.

This project, spearheaded by *Rotarian Heather Ranck*, has the potential to turn around low scores on high stakes tests reflected by this population. Our refugee parents, empowered by learning English, will better be able to communicate with their family members and other community people, will be less likely duped by their children, and will be assimilated into American culture more quickly. Parents, having their own English language skills, won't need to take their kids out of school to be translators. This is a win-win project for all parties involved and will improve the quality of life for our refugee families and enrich the culture of the Fargo/Moorhead area.

Parents have asked if Rosetta Stone could be taught at Jefferson Elementary, too, because that location is so much closer to Community Homes where most of them live. I have talked to Mr. Franklin and Tamara Hoffman, ELL social worker, and that would be a possibility if they had more Rosetta Stone licenses and enough computers to accommodate our parent learners.

Heather is seeking ways to purchase more Rosetta Stone licenses through Rotary, matching government funds, and donations. She is a ball of fire, and I hope that we in the Fargo Public Schools can assist her and the Rotary in as many ways as we can to make *Project English* a solid program.

Sincerely,

Barbara Weber



Happy Birthday!

4/9	Jim Thompson
4/13	Brenda Podetz
4/17	Zac Paulson
4/15	Mary Johnson
4/20	Randy Dailey-Ruddy
4/21	Joyce Linnerud
4/25	Mark Hulbert

Harley Update

Brad Dahl is chairing the Harley Davidson raffle again — aided by the very competent **Jennifer Dahl**. We don't realize the work they put into this club fundraiser. They spend every Saturday going to the different locations to collect the sold tickets and check on things. Plus they coordinate all the volunteers and field all the problems.

We all need to step up to the plate and do our part in order to continue this great fundraiser. This has been a successful club project since 1999; and we need help if it is going to continue. At the very least, each member should either buy or sell at least one ticket.

The raffle drawing is 2pm at Harley Davidson in West Fargo on May 14. There are only 600 tickets available. They are \$100 each. The number of tickets sold thru March 31 is 221. Tickets for sale and bikes are on display at:

Straus

- Scheels All Sports
- Scheels Hardware**
- Don's Car Wash on 13th
- Don's Car Wash on 52nd
- Bernie's on S University**
- Holiday Inn**

Thank you to our member businesses for their support!

We *need* volunteers to work Saturday's from 9am-2pm at the Harley dealership in West Fargo April 23, 30, May 7 and 14. These are great opportunities to sell tickets. Contact Brad Dahl 701-371-8657 for tickets.

Thanks to the following members who have helped so far this year with the mailer or/and working the Crusader's motorcycle show : **David Wrolstad, Tammy Jones, Tom Fellman, Paula Grimestad, Jed & DeeAnn Kreig, Steve Shark, Randy Daily-Ruddy, John & Sherri Stern, Arden Glanzer, Heather Johnson-Kjos, Paul, Kay & Melissa Hannaher, and Melvin Whitney Jr., Betty Opheim**. Also, we appreciate **Mark Hulbert, Bernie Ness, Daphne Meyer and John Stern** for displaying the bikes and selling tickets in their stores.

Our participation in the Topper's show has been cancelled because of lack of volunteers.

Burchill's had a boy!



Doug and Jolynn Burchill added to their family on March 3 about 3 pm. Carter Douglas weighed 8

lbs, 4 oz and was 20" long. He's their second child. Grace turned two in January. They do have beautiful children — congratulations!

Club member news

Some people just don't let moss grow under their feet!



Judy C Pearson (NDSU Associate Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences) has been nominated as a YWCA Woman of the Year. Also, she will

be inducted into the Central States Communication Association Hall of Fame in April. To be inducted into the Hall of Fame, a member of the association must achieve the highest level of service to the organization. Judy served the 13-state association as its president and went on to become president of the National Communication Association and of the World Communication Association.

Congratulations!



Dianne Mondry resigned from Fargo West Rotary to take a job with Health and Human Services in Washington DC. She is working with the agency

that administers the Family Health clinics. **Carol Rogne** says, "I think her job is that of an analyst. I talked to her this week. She arrived in DC on Friday and started work this Monday." We will miss Dianne — she was a ready volunteer and contributed much to our club. Good luck in your new job!

Congratulations, Jill

Jill Berg was presented with her multiple Paul Harris Fellow pin with 2 rubies. This means she has given \$8000 to the Foundation since she joined Rotary.



Jill Betty President Heather

The Paul Harris Fellow is in recognition of a \$1000 contribution to The Rotary Foundation. This donation can be made over time by you or someone else in your name. Every Rotarian should support the Foundation.

We join Rotary because "we want to make a difference" and that is what Rotary is doing. All of the programs of Rotary are funded via the Foundation — it depends on donations. Every time you read the good Rotary does in the world you are reading what your money has done.

Fargo West Rotary donates \$50 for each new member to get started as a Paul Harris Sustaining Member. Most club members have **Cory** bill them quarterly for whatever amount they want to contribute. Please consider donating to our wonderful Foundation.

Saberi tells her story

Roxana Saberi was our program on March 28.

She was an Iranian-American journalist working on a book about Iran and its culture/society



when she was arrested and accused of spying. She was taken to Evin Prison — Iran's most notorious jail.

Evin Prison is known for housing political prisoners, such as journalists, bloggers, and human rights activists, as well as murderers and other criminals. Many are tortured physically, some to the point of death; Roxana suffered white torture, which is a psychological torture. You can read about white torture at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_torture.

She was originally sentenced to 8 years in prison. But thanks to international pressure, she was freed after 100 days. Roxana gave a moving program about her experiences. The whole ordeal has affected her deeply.

Upon her release, she wrote her book "Between Two Worlds: My Life and My Life and Captivity in Iran." It's a gripping story of her imprisonment, her trial, her eventual release and the faith that helped her through it. She speaks of the culture, the friends she made there and the oppression of the regime. It's hard to comprehend what is going on in countries that have no human rights. Buy her book — it's very well written and you will have a better insight of life in Iran as well in many other Middle Eastern countries.

Saberi lunch photos



Roxana autographed her books. Plus, everyone who bought her book received a copy of her father's novel that he wrote in 1980, published in 1982. Her parents and her boyfriend also attended the meeting. They were very gracious and it was exciting to have the opportunity to meet them.

We owe **Kathy Skramstad** a huge THANK YOU! She just joined our club in March and was our photographer. She did a fantastic job! The photos are our club's history. They tell the story of what happened and who was there. **Tammy Jones**, another newer member, was going to take the photos, but she had to go to Grand Forks for a meeting at the last minute. **Kathy** stepped up, brought her camera and skills and became a great back-up photographer for **Arden Glanzer**, who was in basking in 40° weather in Texas. **Daphne Meyers** handled the lion's share of setting up the meeting at the Holiday Inn as well as setting up Eventbrite for on-line reservations. **Rachel Clarke** volunteered to work the registration table. What a memorable meeting! Thanks to all who attended and brought guests.

April is magazine month

Rotary International sets a theme for each month and year. April is Magazine Month.

In Rotary, our official magazine is the Rotarian. Do you read it? Have you read the April issue? One thing I notice each month is how Rotary continues to focus on world problems long after the media has forgotten them. The magazine helps us understand the goals of Rotary, what Rotary is and why we have the programs we do. It highlights different issues and projects each month.

You learn what clubs in other countries are doing. These projects offer the opportunity to partner with other Rotary clubs. Fargo West Rotary and District 55880 are involved in projects internationally. Many of our projects mirror ones that are highlighted in the Rotarian. The benefits of Rotarian’s involvement are applicable in every country. New ideas for projects often are a result of reading an article that captures the imagination of a Rotarian. That person takes the idea to their club and the club determines if that is something in which the club should become involved.

Our sergeant-at-arms used to read the magazine and then ask one or two questions about something that was in it. Of course, if you didn’t know the answer, you paid a little fine. That applied to the whole club, not just one individual.

There are many other publications provided by Rotary. Each of you received a small packet of information at your induction. Have you read it? Why not? This is your organization — most of the time we join because we profess we want to make a difference. The beauty of the magazine and other printed materials is that they DO show us *how* we are making a difference, albeit, indirectly. Rotary can’t exist without its members. It’s the members who are volunteering their time and skills and donating their money.

Rotary.org is a digital magazine that offers an answer to every question you have. Learn to explore the website for more information. A Rotarian can’t be too informed.

Important Rotary Info

April Meetings

Greeter: Doug Burchill

4/4 Minnesota State Community and Technical College — Fgo W Scholarships Awarded

4/11 TBA

4/18 Russ Richards — Rebuilding Together

4/25 Libby Hall — Women in Business

Make up meetings at any of these local clubs:

Fargo West Rotary meets Monday noon at the Holiday Inn

Moorhead Rotary meets Tuesday noon at the Moorhead Courtyard by Marriott

Fargo Rotary meets Wednesday noon at the Radisson Hotel.

FM/AM Rotary meets Thursday at 7:00am in the Overture Room at the Ramada Plaza Suites.

FM/PM Make up meeting is at 5:15 pm on the 1st & 3rd Wed of every month at the Winery

