# ROTARY CLUB OF WYNBERG

# **WYNPRESS**

Vol. 64 No. 26

2nd May 2013

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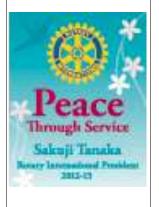
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# ROTARY CONFERENC MONTH



# Those were the days, my friend

By Clem Sunter

I saw a beautiful movie last weekend called *Quartet* featuring four retired opera singers performing together at an old age home for retired musicians. Played by Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly, Tom Courtney and Pauline Collins (whom I remember as Shirley Valentine talking to the wall), the four sing at an annual gala concert held on Verdi's birthday at the home. Of course, they were only play-acting, but they were accompanied by real musicians who had reached the top of their professions in their previous careers.

### The democracy of aging

The film really got to me for two reasons. The first one is that as I get older, everybody gets older with me. No matter how rich you are, no matter how healthy a life you lead, you age. Julia Roberts now has lines on her face, Robert Redford's eyes are even more crinkled and Mick Jagger cannot strut his stuff quite as energetically as he did. The memory bank grows as the future shortens and the body grows weary.

I spent 11 years going to a British nursing home in Salisbury, Wiltshire to see my mother. As an only child, I would spend two to three weeks with her every year. I remember one evening in the communal dining room sitting at a round table with my mother and some of her co-residents. We were all sipping our regulation one glass of red wine when an old lady at the table says: "Why are we all here?" Her companion in her late 80s replies: "Because, my dear, we are not all there!" Logical and very funny and all of us nearly laughed ourselves to death.

Just like the home in the movie, there was a lot of fun and mischief and interesting interplay between the residents and the much younger staff. I thoroughly enjoyed those 11 years and when my mother died a few years ago, I said goodbye to all the people at the home with a genuine heaviness of heart. I haven't been back since, thus it has joined all the other memories in my bank. Yet I know, God willing, that one day through the democratic process of aging I will be joining those ranks. Nothing can put that off.

### The eternity of music

However, there is one thing that does not age and that is the beauty of music and the passion to play it. In their advanced years, those musicians in the film - playing piano, violin, bass and wind instruments - did it with the same gusto as they had done in their prime. Which brings me to the second reason I loved the movie: I was a musician too but not of that elite sort. I played rock music with a friend of mine around the UK in the 1960s and one of my memories (which no one can take away) was playing at the same gig as the Rolling Stones in the summer of 1964. We alternated on the stage all the way through the night and had a big breakfast with all the party-goers in the morning.

The Stones are now celebrating their 50 years together with a concert in Hyde Park. I am sure they will blow the crowd away. In my case, I came out of retirement in the parking lot of the Rosebank shopping mall the other day in Johannesburg. A busker was playing a 1960s song on his guitar at the pay point, so I offered to show him how we played it at the time. I must have been an interesting sight for some of the shoppers who came up to pay, as they did drop coins into his hat.

Anyway I would like to end this article by quoting the magnificent lyrics of Gene Raskin, an American folk singer, in a song made famous by Mary Hopkin in 1968:

Those were the days my friend

We thought they'd never end

We'd sing and dance forever and a day

We'd live the life we choose

We'd fight and never lose

For we were young and sure to have our way.

Old age is not for cissies, but it is a privilege bestowed by surviving the slings and arrows of life. Enjoy it while you can.

### **MEETING OF 2 MAY 2013**

Attendance	
Membership	24
Present	17
Make ups	3
Apologies	4
Attendance	75%

Visitors: Roy Zazeraj & Ian Prusch from Newlands Rotary Club, Lars Skjaerris, Aarup Rotary Club in Denmark, Sarah Yousuf.

Attendance to Biffy 082 468 7504 or <a href="mailto:aecon.e@mweb.co.za">aecon.e@mweb.co.za</a>.

**Sergeant Graham** asked Roche to perform the loyal toast. The international toast was done by Francois who toasted the Netherlands clubs who this week celebrated their first King in over 100 years.

Lars was given a minute or two to introduce himself and his club. Lars has been to Cape Town several times but this was his first Rotary meeting. SA is a most friendly country and he has been coming here for 15 years. He compared SA to paradise. Lars is a PP (but grateful not to be in politics) and been a Rotarian for 5 years. His club has about 40 members and their population is about 3.5 million. Most of their projects target Indonesia and are mainly water projects bringing water into houses via gravity using local workers (often with the whole town celebrating on completion). This has led to better hygiene and health. They have also donated a vehicle to Eretria for disabled people. Lars works for Dellner Brakes and winches in large factories. Mervyn mentioned to Lars that our club is looking for overseas partners.

**Pres. Mike** welcomed all, and especially the extended Rotary families and Lars. Mike mentioned that we were dispensing of Roy as AG but getting yet another Newlands Rotarian as an AG in Ian Pursch.

Mike then **inducted Alan Jackson** as our newest member with words and waving a magic wand. Gee, no rap song tonight. Mike reminded Alan that he was joining the best Rotary Club in the world (never mind Cape Town) and that friendship and fun were extremely important at all times. Alan was about to become the newest Rotarian I the World at this very moment.

Alan responded saying the closest he had ever gotten o Rotary was speaking at a Rotary Club and always saw Rotary as stiff and formal and stayed. Sorry to have shattered your illusions Alan. Alan has been a social worker and has spent his life in service to others. His father set an extreme example by being a Round Tabler for 20 years and then a Rotarian for 40 years (Rotary Club No 3 in Johannesburg). His father was also a PP, DG, etc and set a high standard. His reason for joining ............................... Meeting Stephen through their Civic organization who he respected and who extended the invitation to meet us. Alan's response was "I'll pop around". Alan thought if they can take on Stephen they can take me on and then he just never left. Then he met Biffy who he had worked with years ago who advised Alan to take it easy and come and check us out. Alan did so and we and Alan seem to have passed the test even though he had no knowledge of the rigorous conditions. But he found family and enjoyment and feels it will be a privilege to work with us.

Fellowship announcement: Mike's birthday on Tues 7<sup>th</sup> May. Schrieber household is open for drinks and food from 17:30 onwards (Lindsay says she is leaving town). Instead we may even get a drink on Mike next week as next Thurs is his anniversary as well (no pressure).

### **SLOTS**

**Mervyn** recommended the Dave Canoe Tours around the marina in the moonlight at 10:30pm with port at the Clevelands afterwards.

**Biffy:** Your old Rotary magazines would be appreciated. Still looking for beds, kitchen ware, etc for Christine's place. Beware the parking outside. Last week some members received tickets. Please obey the traffic signs and markings. Welcome to Alan who is going to make a great member as he was already offering apologies before he even became a member. Alan has already offered the services of himself and his wife, Pam, for Proms.

**Gordon via Graham:** still short of manpower for the Proms. IMPORTANT – import friends and family (no mistresses). That is how we snared the Murphy. Please do not forget that there is always cleaning up afterwards to be done after the show. Especially String's bar upstairs and the cocktail party. The committee are worried about rain but have a Plan B. Sales left to go with 8 days to go: 178 seats remaining for Sat and 215 for the Sun unsold. The adverts have been heard on Fine Radio but no mention of Wynberg Rotary Club.

### **BUSINESS MEETING**

Jackie reported on matching grants that have been a long long time in the completing phase. They were initiated by the 2010 Ambassadorial student. It started with Haven of Hope and was later transferred to Beautiful Gates (also an AIDS project). Initially kitchen equipment, sewing machines, etc were supplied until problems were experienced with the premises and no support from Social Welfare. The focus then changed to Beautiful Gates where cottages that were furnished 9 years ago needed replacement furniture. Today laptops were delivered which completed the project. Now all that is required is the final report and pictures.

**Bev:** Laura is writing exams and then goes on her placement job training in criminal investigation in Oxford. She has bonded well with her digs mates and is now being split up from them. Her final exams are in Nov. She has had an astounding time and her Mom has just been to visit. She has also seen a fair deal of Matt.

Sarah we have kept up well with as she regularly attends meetings and functions. Stephen asked for pictures from Laura to go with her reports on the web site.

**Pam:** Pam has spent (or shall we say over-spent) all her money allocated. Mainly on Victoria Hospital where a new ward has been re-opened with 19 beds. 9 beds for a general ward area and 10 beds for an isolation ward. Previously there was no isolation ward at Victoria Hospital which is a fair achievement. We will maintain an ongoing relationship wit Victoria Hospital in line with Future Vision. Proms proceeds will go to Victoria Hospital and St Lukes this year. The long term vision of Victoria Hospital is that it will move premises in about 20 years time. Victoria Hospital serves over 800 thousand people. Grants for future work here could be sought.

**Mike:** On Finance this time (new hat on). Mike has had the greatest respect for the person who has managed to produce real-time accounts on paid and over-paid entities. All aims set have been reached. Spar and the car park are about he only outstanding issues where they are about 2 months in arrears and Graham is sorting this out.

Karen: Her new Board for the next year will be: Jackie – President Elect and New Generations Biffy – Community services Stephen – Secretary Mike - Treasurer and PP

Bev – International relations but will not serve on the Board but perform these duties when required.

Karen hoped that those in the current positions will support those incoming positions on the Board. A spreadsheet with committee representatives for the next year will go out soon (to be finalised at the next Board meeting). Please let Karen know if you want to serve on any particular committee (otherwise no complaints). An updated membership booklet will be produced soon (Karen had been waiting for Alan's induction!!).

**Graham:** On Trust matters. The Trustees met Alexander Forbes on Mon. Our capital investment has grown from R1,7 m last year to R2,12m this year. A substantial growth rate. In terms of the trust deed a draw down is required each year to support bursaries and this will R50 000 for the coming year. Mike explained that this is a vehicle set up by Wynberg Rotary Club and the trustees have to be members of Wynberg Rotary Club. Current trustees are Are, Graham, Dennis, Mike and Barry. The ambit of the trust is wide and projects can be put forward if they confirm to the terms and aims of the trust. Graham is to circulate to all members a copy of the Trust Deed. Important to note is that projects to be supported must be registered PBO and tax free.

**Gordon:** New Generations: not available at time of going to press.

**Sarah:** Sarah came to the meeting to justify her existence and explain that she has not just been partying. Sarah gave the club a short report back on her work status so far. Originally Sarah wanted to study the Diversion programme in SA through NICRO but NICRO had not been helpful and Sarah has now turned her focus to the Cease-fire programme. Although originally piloted in Chicago it has now been implemented in Hanover Park. The aim is to create a just and peaceful society which is not always easy for those used as "interrupters" and are usually reformed gang members and reformed criminals trying to put themselves in the firing line to stop the crime and violence. Sarah has now formulated her title for her dissertation and has to get down to reading and writing. With only 3 months to go this could be a hard ask. Sarah is going to look into the possibility of an internship for 6-12 months to stay on and complete this. She also just has tooo much still to do and see in SA (and loves us and being here).

### **PROGRAMME**

Ambassadorial scholar from Kentucky & Philadelphia, Pennsylvania / Rotary Family roms in the City Hall
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bassadorial scholar from Washington, USA
otary action sports day
ckwerts, Schreiber, Smith, Williams, Lidgley

6 June Normal meeting: speaker booked – details to follow

13 June Brett Glasby, SPCA Wildlife Unit: "Unusual catches" Also lots of

visitors

20 June Induction Dinner

27 June Board meeting

### **DUTY ROSTER**

	9 May	16 May	30 May (social)	6 June	13 June	20 June
Sergeant	Cleveland	Smith	Overbosch	Van Wyk	Gowdy	
Attendance Officer	Danckwerts	Danckwerts	Danckwerts	Danckwerts	Danckwerts	
Wynpress Editorial	Munday	Overbosch	Smith	Todd	Van Wyk	
Minutes for Wynpress	Knight	Cleveland	Danckwerts	Knight	Cleveland	
Compilation of Wynpress	Danckwerts	Knight	Cleveland	Danckwerts	Knight	TNIDILIC
Door Duty	Bird	Michalowsky	Munday	Hovstad	Smith	INDUC-
Grace	Gowdy	Hovstad	James	Murphy	Knight	TION
Loyal Toast	Hovstad	James	Barnard	Knight	Michalowsky	DINNER
International Toast	Knight	Michalowsky	Munday	Overbosch	Smith	
Speaker Introduction	Murphy	Van Eeden	TBA	James	Jackson	
Speaker Thanks	Williams	Lidgley	TBA	Van Eeden	Bird	

IF YOU CANNOT MAKE YOUR ROSTERED DATE, PLEASE SWAP WITH ANOTHER ROTARIAN AND INFORM THE DUTY SERGEANT

### **JACKPOT**

The jackpot stands at over R3 200.00. Lars was asked to draw a name. He drew Sarah's name and she was only able to find the ♣Q. Ag shame. Rob won the attendance prize. Down to 8 cards now. Attendance becomes more and more important with only 5 meetings left.

## PRESIDENT'S QUOTE

From Paul Harris:

"FRIENDSHIP was the Foundation Rock on which Rotary was built and tolerance is the cement which holds it together."

### **TAILPIECE**





In the 1400's a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have 'the rule of thumb'

Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled 'Gentlemen Only...Ladies Forbidden'... and thus, the word GOLF entered into the English language.

The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV was Fred and Wilma Flintstone

The first novel ever written on a typewriter, Tom Sawyer.

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history: Spades - King David Hearts - Charlemagne Clubs -Alexander, the Great Diamonds - Julius Caesar

 $111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$ 

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died because of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes

Q. What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers have in common?

A. All were invented by women.

Q. What is the only food that doesn't spoil?
A. Honey