



The Rotary Club of Wynberg

Wynpress



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Rotary's May focus is Youth Service

EDITORIAL

Early Rail Travel

Judging by its impact on the world's economic growth, no invention has had a greater impact on civilization than the railroad and its companion invention, the telegraph.

Experiments began [around 1800] with steam-powered engines that could move on ... tracks. George Stephenson and his son built such an engine in Great Britain; on or about September 27, 1825, the *Locomotion* carried 600 people 12 miles. For his first run, Stephenson placed modified stagecoaches to ride on wooden rails, spaced to meet the coaches' wheels. The train had no brakes, nor was it able to go up an incline or even make wide curves. A friend wrote: 'Nothing can do more harm to the adoption of railroads, than the promulgation of such nonsense that we shall see locomotive engines traveling at a rate of 12, 16, 18, and 20 miles per hour.' Four years later Stephenson's *Rocket* carried passengers at 30 miles an hour.

In America John Stevens put a steam engine on a platform in 1825, carrying a half-dozen people on a small circular track. In 1830 the Baltimore & Ohio railroad began a horse-drawn service from Baltimore to Ellicott's Mills. On September 18 Peter Cooper, with 36 people aboard his *Tom Thumb*, made the run in an hour. On the return trip, Cooper raced a man in a carriage and was well ahead until a crack developed in his engine. That December, 140 guests rode four miles on *The Best Friend of Charleston*, just outside Charleston, South Carolina. The first regularly scheduled train, the Mohawk & Hudson's *DeWitt Clinton*, ran 17 miles from Albany to Schenectady on August 9, 1831. The same trip via the Erie Canal and the Hudson River was 41 miles long; boats passed through more than two dozen locks for the 240-foot drop between the two cities. In addition to the time difference, canals froze in winter. Entrepreneurs and investors quickly threw their support behind railroads, while those who had invested in or were employed by canals fought back with repressive legislation, sabotage, and occasional murder.

Nevertheless, American artisans were soon designing, constructing, and operating railroads, discovering as they went novel concepts such as centrifugal force. They thought, fiddled, and filed patents so that trains ran and stopped with a modest degree of regularity. Safety requirements brought dramatic change. Wood track, for example, gave way to wood with an iron overlay, 'strap iron'. But it often broke. When that happened it became a "snake," in railroad lingo, knifing its way through car floors and impaling hapless passengers. Track quickly became all-iron, gradually increasing in weight per yard because of heavier trains. Virtually every piece of railroad construction, equipment, signalling, and operations had to be invented or modified from stagecoaches and steam ship engines. ...

Travel from Lancaster to Philadelphia via horse car rail in 1833 took 12 hours; but steam engines proved faster and more efficient and by 1836 were replacing horses for longer trips. In 1838, despite ice, snow, and having to take two ferries, Philip Hone travelled from Philadelphia to Baltimore in seven hours, commenting on 'what a contrast this is to the old winter traveling between the two cities on a detestable road and a dangerous ferry, and two days and a night consumed.'

The concept of railed travel spread rapidly. In 1839 daily service between Boston and Springfield was inaugurated. A one-way 90-mile trip in the wooden, double-decked passenger train took 12 hours; but just 32 years later express trains travelled twice the distance (Boston to Albany) in half the time. In the 1830s regional promoters like Philip Hone, Eleutheros Cooke, and hundreds of others developed routes, raised money, and built roads. Despite swindles and failures, the successes allowed dramatic growth to continue.

Complementing and greatly contributing to the leap in railroad construction in the 1850s was the perfection of the telegraph, first demonstrated in 1844. The telegraph ushered in a new era. Most American railroad construction was single track, so trains had to wait at sidings to meet or be passed by other trains. With telegraph operators sending signals from stations, trains could increase their average speed, and more trains could use the same track.

Submitted by Don Lidgley.

CHRONOS vs CHAOS

At the start of Greek civilization (9th century BCE), the ancient Greeks believed that a titanic struggle between two gods, order (Chronos) vs. disorder (Chaos) controlled their lives. The meaning of our word "chaos" dates back to these ancient times. The god Chronos was the god of Time and Order (hence our word "chronology"). The ancient Greeks saw that their crops and their cities took time to grow. They believed that, before the beginning of Time (Chronos), all that existed was unformed disorder (Chaos). However, with the beginning of Time (Chronos) there became order and the universe formed. The ancient Greeks believed that nothing lasted for ever, because eventually Time (Chronos) would destroy it. These ancient Greeks believed that those individuals that allied with Chronos by making long-term plans, and living an ordered life, would be rewarded. Whereas, they believed that those individuals that allied with Chaos by being impulsive, and living a disordered life, would be punished. This battle between individuals living an ordered, law-abiding life vs. those living a chaotic, law-breaking life continues today - 2,800 years after the ancient Greeks first conceptualized this struggle.

Minutes

4th May 2017

Compiled by Barry Cleveland

Attendance	12 members present
Visitors	Stephanie Thomas, Rtn Doug from Claremont Club, California
Fellowship	None reported for the week ahead
From the President	<p>Adele Michalowsky is still on crutches, and Aubrey will be back at Rotary in 2 weeks. Karen has had her gall bladder removed, She should be fully recovered and back at Rotary by month end.</p> <p>Thanks to Dennis for his editorial in this week's Wynpress.</p> <p>Reminder: Rotaract Induction on 20 May.</p> <p>Visit by RI International President scheduled for April 2018.</p> <p>Thanks to the Proms committee for another successful Last Night of the Proms. Wittebome High School have just launched an Interact Club – our 8th!</p> <p>Appeal from PDG Rodney Mazinter to help Mrs de Lange in her anti drugs programme. Need cans of old paint, concrete blocks etc.</p>
Slots	<p>Are gave a detailed account of our 15 year relationship with Oddemarka Junior School from Kristiansand, Norway. The NLC has received R2.3 million over this period, distributed as bursaries to our schools.</p> <p>Justin described a 2 day first aid training course offered by Matthieu Snaith for R550. See separate flier.</p> <p>Annual Quiz scheduled for 26 Sept. Looking for prizes, vouchers etc.</p> <p>Biffy and Doug met a group of Rotarians from Mumbai at Cape Point this week – recognized because all were wearing Rotary regalia. There is a message here....</p> <p>She had a call from Phil in Singapore, who is looking for a Rotary club to join.</p> <p>Imitation Iris brooches are available from the District Office at R10. Proceeds towards Polio Plus fund.</p> <p>Barry thanked the club for all the assistance given towards Proms this year.</p>
Special moments	Biffy and Doug saved a one day old Springbok, entangled in a fence, and saw it rehabilitated with its mother.
President's song	Nobody got "Rolling in the Deep".
Swindle	Doug drew Biffy's name and she drew the Jack of hearts (shame!) Attendance prize of R20 went to Barry.

My goal for 2017 was to lose just 5 Kg ... only 8 to go.

Ate salad for dinner ... Mostly croutons & tomatoes ... Actually just one big, round crouton covered with tomato sauce ... and cheese ...

OK, OK, it was a pizza ... I ate a pizza.

Duty Roster

	MAY			JUNE
	11th	18th	25th	1 st
Sergeant	Schreiber	Todd	Barnard	Cleveland
Wynpress Editorial	Munday	Murphy	Overbosch	Schonegevel, J
Wynpress Minutes	Howard	Van Niekerk	Cleveland	Maunder
Door Duty	Schonegevel, R	Schreiber	Smith	Todd
Grace	Lidgley	Maunder	Munday	Murphy
Loyal Toast	Bayes	Barnard	Bird	Danckwerts
International Toast	Smith	Bayes	Todd	Van Niekerk
Speaker Intro	Van Niekerk	Bird	Bayes	Danckwerts
Speaker Thanks	Todd	Cleveland	Van Niekerk	Bird
Entertainment for the month	Bayes, Barnard, Bird, Danckwerts, Gowdy			Schonegevel, R, Howard, Hovstad, James, Maunder

Dates To Diarise

11th May

PP Stephen Breedenkamp on "The Dark Side....and Onions!"

18th May

Intrepid American traveller and author, Annette Jahnel, will talk about her recent solo drive around the entire USA (having previously circumnavigated the globe!) and will share some thoughtful insights gained along the way. This will be a great evening for friends and family to attend! Signed copies of Annette's books will also be available for sale.

25th May

Kevin Simpson will speak about beekeeping and its importance for the environment. Considering the disastrous implications of the present threat to the global bee population, this will be another compelling talk for visitors to attend.

1st June

James Hurford (aka 'the Confidence Doctor'), who is a public speaking coach, will share some of his valuable training tips.

8th June

Oliver Bing, the outstanding Wynberg Boys High School learner who was awarded the Rotary Good Fellowship Award in 2016, has been invited as a special guest.

15th June

TBA

Hugh's Nughs

JERUSALEM

The most prominent building in the Holy City is the '**Dome of the Rock**' with its Gold dome. It is often thought to be a mosque but there is an actual mosque, nearby, with a dark grey dome

We entered the old City of Jerusalem through the Dung Gate to see the Western Wall, also known as the Wailing Wall. This is the most sacred site in the Jewish world and where, for centuries, Jewish worshipers have gathered to pray.

We visited King David's Tomb, situated in a ground floor corner of the remains of the former Hagia Zion, a Byzantine Church. Just outside is a large statue of David which has an inscription in Russian on it.

We also visited Dormition Abbey – a Roman Catholic Church and Abbey of the Benedictine order, dedicated in 1910, commemorating the place where Mary, mother of Jesus, 'fell asleep forever'. The fortress-like building with a conical roof and four corner towers, stands South of the Old City's Zion Gate.

We also visited the Cenacle, also known as the 'Upper Room' which is considered to be the site of 'The Last Supper'. It was built by the Crusaders, 1000 years ago, and is one of the few relics not destroyed by the Muslims when they ejected the Crusaders. They revere Christ as a very important profit but could not resist writing some Arab text on the wall next to the Exit. The room also has a bronze olive tree presented by Pope Paul II.



Gethsemane, the site of Christ's betrayal and arrest, has a grotto of olive trees, some of which are, by tradition, to be old enough to have been alive at that time. '**The Basilica of the Agony**', a church in the garden, has been rebuilt three times from AD380. The latest one was completed in 1924. It has also been called 'The Church of all Nations' because of the contributions offered by many different nations.

Tail Piece

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal with his son, "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

Dad's reply:

"Did you also notice that they all walked everywhere they went?"

Submitted by Herbert Herrmann



Wynberg Rotary meet every Thursday, 6 for 6.30pm, Palm House, Wynberg.

For more information about our club, like us on Facebook or visit our website:

Wynbergrotary.org.za