

Valley View Rotary Update

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Program:

Jerene Mortenson, mother of Greg Mortenson, author of the bestselling book *Three Cups of Tea* and founder of Central Asia Institute (CAI). Jerene gave a wonderful presentation about the work of CAI, the Pennies for Peace campaign and the inspirational story of how the program was started.

In 1994 Jerene invited Greg to speak at the elementary school where she served as principal in River Falls, Wisconsin. Greg spoke about his experiences in Pakistan and the need for educational opportunities in that region. The students heard the message and responded by raising 62,340 pennies to help Greg build his first school in Pakistan! CAI was then founded in 1996 with the mission to promote and support community-based education, especially for girls, in remote regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Since then, over 130 schools have been built in the region, which provide (or have provided) education to over 51,000 students. In addition to the obvious benefits, the resulting increased literacy provides better economic opportunities in the future and also helps to neutralize the power and influence of extremist leaders. You can learn more about the program at www.penniesforpeace.org

Our District Governor, Dean Dickinson, then thanked Jerene for her visit and the wonderful work that she and Greg are doing to make the world a better place, truly exemplifying the spirit of Rotary!

Thanks Stephanie for organizing this excellent program!

Announcements:

Rotary Float

The Rotary Float will be in the Torch Light Parade this Thursday night, October 1st. Please join the fun to help decorate and/or be in the parade. Meet near the intersection of North and Charles Street around 6:30pm and/or contact Terry Bauer if you have any decorations to contribute to the cause.

Kringle – Sell, Sell, Sell!!

Thank you to Heidi Blanke for stepping up to sell Kringles to the Downtown Rotary Club! We are looking for one or two more members to help Heidi.

Final orders are due next Wednesday, October 7th. Complete an order form indicating pick up date (26th or 27th) and time (4,5 or 6pm), total kringles ordered, by flavor and number of Happy Joe's lunch buffet coupons needed. Forms are available from Russ and are also on our website. You can also email this information to Russ at roxcal@charter.net

Contact Russ or Steve regarding any questions or if you are able to help.

District Membership and Foundation Seminar

District 6250 is holding a Membership and Foundation Seminar on Saturday, November 7th, at the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells. This is a free training event offering valuable information sessions that will benefit our membership and foundation efforts in our club. If you are interested in attending please let me know so we can coordinate transportation there. The registration deadline is November 1st. For more information and to register go to http://www.rotary6250.org/events/2009/11_07_membership_foundation.shtml

District 6250 Traveling Bell

The bell is on the move. We are looking for a group to capture the Rotary Traveling Bell. Becky Brockman expressed an interest in possibly being a part of the Valley View "Capture the Bell Team". A group of at least 5 members are needed. See more about the Traveling Bell at <http://www.rotary6250.org/district/travelingbell.shtml>

Youth Exchange

We are looking for members to volunteer to take a month to be involved with, Marcos. Heidi Blanke passed around a sign-up sheet for members to sign-up for one week each. There were quite a few weeks left open in the next few months so please contact Heidi if you are able to help out. This can be as simple as taking him out to eat or inviting him to join you for a meal at your home or including him in a trip to a sporting event or most any activity. Volunteer Affidavits must be completed by those having contact with him outside of a group setting. Please contact Larry Clark regarding the forms and any questions you may have. The forms are also available at http://www.rotary6250.org/downloads/Youth%20%20Exchange/In-Bound/CSVolunteer_Affadavit.pdf

Denmark Rotarian's Son – Job Search

Our club recently received a letter from a Denmark Rotarian and his son, Christian Comlossy. Christian recently moved to La Crosse and is looking for a communications-related job. I have a copy of the letters and Christian's resume. Please pass the word and if you would like more information contact me.

Upcoming Programs

10/7 A Little Vocation Persuasion

October is Rotary International's month to highlight vocational service. So, we'll find out a little more about RI's vocational service programs — along with getting up-to-speed with our own club's work in vocational service.

10/14 An Eagle-Eye View of the National Eagle Center

We'll have two special guests today ... a bald eagle and its handler from the National Eagle Center in Wabasha. You won't want to miss finding out about this unique center just upriver, not to mention seeing a real, live bald eagle up close and personal — right here at our meeting at Famous Dave's! Get a preview of the Center at: <http://www.nationaleaglecenter.org>.

10/21 The New Field on the Block: A Visit to the Veteran's Memorial Field Sports Complex

Join us at the Veteran's Memorial Field Sports Complex at UW-L. Get a behind-the-scenes look at the press boxes and suites. Throw a touchdown pass on the field. (No Favre jersey required.) And, find out how the university is celebrating its first 100 years. Don't miss this special visit to UW-La Crosse.

10/28 A Girl of Summer

When the boys of summer couldn't take to the field during WWII, the girls of summer did. Hear from La Crosse's very own baseball player who played in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. (Remember the movie, "A League of Their Own.") Dolly Osborne will tell us what it was like on the field, and share how she's still winning people over all for the game of baseball.

11/4 District Governor Visit, Dean Dickinson

October Assignments:

Programs: Brad Quarberg

Router: Ed Jaekel

Greeter: Dave Villeneuve

Invocation: Kate Dunnum

Take Down: Club Service

Dates to Remember:

10/1 Valley View Float in Torchlight Parade

10/17 Grand Opening of Miracle Field, 12:00-2:00pm, North YMCA in Onalaska

10/23 2nd Annual Best Band World Tour, Onalaska Omni Center

11/4 District Governor Visit (Dean Dickinson)

11/5 Business Expo, 11:30–7:00pm, La Crosse Center

11/7 District 6250 Membership and Foundation Seminar, Wisconsin Dells

5/21-23, 2010 District Conference in La Crosse!

Web sites:

Prizm Greeting Cards: <http://prizmGreetings.com/>

Visit <http://www.rotary6250.org/> for more information about Rotary and Dist. 6250

Rotary Works Foundation Application Form link: [Rotary Works Foundation Grant Application](#).

You can get more information about the [Rotary Works Foundation, site pages, Rotary Club of La Crosse](#).

Thanks and have a great week!

Tom