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# Happy New Year Members of Hong Kong Island East!

This Meeting: Samatar Elmi

Information about Refugees in Hong Kong - by the Justice Centre:

## **FACTS**

Justice Centre Hong Kong advocates for the rights of refugees, other people seeking protection and survivors of torture, human trafficking and forced labour. Here are some facts and figures you maybe didn't know.

# **FACTS ABOUT REFUGEES**

- No one chooses to flee their country to be a refugee, but everyone has the right to seek asylum and receive protection.
- Hong Kong has one of the smallest global refugee populations.
   There are only around 10,000 people seeking protection here from countries like Sri Lanka, Burundi and Somalia. That is only 0.2 per cent of people in Hong Kong.
- There are 19.5 million refugees in the world. 86 per cent of them are hosted by developing countries.
- Although China has signed the 1951 UN Refugee Convention, it
  has not been extended to Hong Kong, making it one of the only
  wealthy, developed jurisdictions in the world not party to this
  human rights instrument.
- Many Hong Kongers were once refugees themselves. Between 700,000 and 1 million refugees came to Hong Kong in the 1950s, eventually comprising one-third of the city's population.

# THE OBSERVER: LAST WEEK'S MEETINGS PROCEEDINGS

- President Gilbert called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.
- President Gilbert made the following announcements:
  - a) Anniversary Party: April 6th 2019
  - b) Upcoming Fellowship Dinner on December 27th (Announcement made by PP Jonathan)
- One behalf of the ONE HK, IPP Stacy presented a cheque of \$5,000HKD to our Club for nominating the winner of The ONE HK Humanitarian Award 2018 - Jeff Rotmeyer. This 5,000HKD was allocated to our daughter club's Homeless Youth service project.
- We enjoyed Fellowship and the wonderful Christmas lunch set arranged for us.
- After the appetizers our HKIE band got to work and performed 5 songs for us!
- Santa Claus came and distributed gifts (we were all very good in 2018!)
- IPP Stacy lead the gift exchange.
- Red Box Collection was 3,000HKD.
- Meeting was adjourned at 2:05p.m









# WE ARE ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY!



# Our Christmas Party - reported by IPP Stacy

President Gilbert always says "Welcome Back Everyone!" (because we only have 2 meetings a month now.) However in my report I would like to make a special shout out to our dearest Rotarians who we haven't seen as frequently as others due to their work/family/business schedules. A shout out of welcome back to: Alex Ling, Kenny Chan, John Poon, Leo Yu, Stephen Leung, John Yao, Raymond Chu, Peter Yeung, PP Norman, PP Hubert, PP Henry, PP Jonathan, PP David, PP Tajwar, and PP Nancy! (and our former member Colin Chau)

And a shout out to our regulars (those with at least 70% attendance): PP Andrew, PP Andy, PP William, PP Tim, PP George PDG Eric, PP Eddy, PP Rudy, Tony Loy, IPP Stacy and President Gilbert. A total of 26 members + 1 soon to be member (Colin) attended our Christmas Lunch!

As P Gilbert says, "Welcome Back Everyone!"

















Our HKIE Band diligently met up earlier at 11:30am to practice. PP David was feeling a little under the weather however the show must go on! He had no appetite for our luscious lunch meal, so he sat at his keyboard the entire luncheon. So diligent! PP Hubert also prepared 30 copies of all the Great Hits! And Christmas Carols on the set play list (for all club members to follow). Accompanying singers were: PP Eddy, PP Jonathan, PDG Eric, PP Nancy and PP Norman.







We sang Happy Birthday to our December Birthday Gents! As you can see there is our former member Colin Chau joining the bunch! He is likely to join back any day now. Happy Birthday to PP Hubert, PP Henry, Rtn. Leo and Colin! This birthday song experience was on another level this time because PP David was on the keyboard playing the Happy Birthday song!

Here Comes Santa Claus!



Behind the scenes, P Gilbert and I were helping Santa get ready to visit our luncheon. We all were rolling with laughter when Santa asked when was the last time we dry-cleaned his costume. I didn't say anything. P Gilbert said, "Well, maybe last year?" And there was a pregnant pause.

We all looked at each other and had a good laugh!

Merry Christmas to all and to all a goodnight!









PAGE 5

For the gift exchange game, all members were asked to bring a gift worth approximately \$100. Members who forgot to bring a gift so creatively created a gift on the spot with the help of a Regal Hotel Envelope! PP Andrew had prepared a gift however forgot to bring the gift, so in his envelope he wrote "IOU - from PP Andrew" After the gift exchange game though...we do not know who received PP Andrew's IOU gift! PP Andrew asked me to find this out because he prepared a very nice gift and he is bringing it back to the club to gift to the rightful owner. So if this is 'you' then please let me and PP Andrew know!:)

For the gift exchange, I combined Rotary Information time with our Gift Exchange. Hence, I wrote a Rotary Story. The game rules: follow the directional words of the story, when the reader says Left - pass your gift to the left, when the reader says Right - pass your gift to the right, and when the reader says Across - pass your gift across the table.

The gift exchange story was lots of fun and members were laughing a lot. I think a lot were concerned that they would get the gift they came with! And lo and behold when the game was over...PP George laughed out loud, "This is the gift I brought!"



#### The Rotary Story: Gift Exchange Script

The Gift of Rotary

ACROSS the World, there are approximately 36,000 Rotary Clubs with 1.2 million members. North South East West LEFT ACROSS and RIGHT all around the world Rotarians gather together to make a difference.

What is a Rotarian?

Rotarians originate ACROSS various specifications/classifications/vocations. It doesn't matter if a Rotarian Is LEFT Wing or RIGHT Wing. All that matters is the heart to serve. RIGHT?

We gather together to help those who have been LEFT behind. LEFT out.

One powerful standard question that Rotarians always ask is, 'how can I help you?' through our resources including network, capital, time, we seek to help by opening the RIGHT doors, connect them to the RIGHT people.

One very proud achievement is how close we are to eradicating polio. Since 1985 we have putting the right resources into eradicating polio. A disease that at that time had 350,000 cases annually. Now ACROSS the world, so very proud to say that we have lowered that number to not 1000 cases LEFT, not 100 cases LEFT...not even 50 cases LEFT. In 2017 reports say there are 22 cases LEFT!!

RIGHT! As I don't have much time LEFT with my talk I want to give you the RIGHT message. And that is

LEFT, ACROSS, RIGHT, RIGHT, RIGHT, ACROSS, LEFT

Now I hope you have the RIGHT gift for yourself because that is all that's LEFT of our story except to wish you a very blessed Christmas and a Happy new Year! And to remind you that before you leave please make sure you don't have anything LEFT behind. You may now open the present you are LEFT with. :)

#### **ROTARY KNOWLEDGE**

When you join a Rotary club, your potential to make a difference in the world grows exponentially. That's because you're joining a network of over 1.2 million people who take action — volunteers from all over the world who share a goal of improving others' quality of life. In fact, the top two reasons people join Rotary are to connect with and give back to their communities. These are the same reasons members stay in Rotary year after year. But simply joining isn't going to change lives or make those connections. That happens when you get involved. You'll shape your own experience and decide how to get the most out of your membership.

Membership in a Rotary club offers you opportunities to connect with other professionals who aren't afraid to lead and are dedicated to making a difference. Spending time with your fellow club members — whether to attend a meeting, plan a project, exchange ideas, or just have fun — can lead to lifelong friendships. When you get involved and make connections, you will inevitably grow as a person and develop new skills. Here are some ways to connect within your club.

SHARE YOUR IDEAS with club leaders to help your club achieve its goals, enhance its projects, and improve the member experience. Your suggestions could become the next big initiative in your club or community.

FIND A MENTOR or mentor another member to share professional expertise, community knowledge, and Rotary information.

ORGANIZE A CLUB EVENT or service project and gain new skills and experiences like event planning, public speaking, or managing volunteers.

TRY A NEW ROLE. Broaden your knowledge and apply your experience and skills in a club leadership role. Take the first step by asking where your club needs help. If you've already been in a club leadership role, try serving in a district role. Ask your district governor and governor-elect where your expertise and talents could be useful.

BECOME A LEADER IN ACTION. Participate in your club's leadership development program. If it doesn't have one, talk to your club leaders and help develop one for the members of your club.

#### A MOMENT IN TIME

History of Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island East Flashback to 1975-1976. Memoirs of Past President William Zao

From Weekly Bulletin: Vol.23 No. 21 19th November 1975

#### Another way to say service above self:

"No Act of kindness, no matter how small is ever wasted." - Aesop

#### Quotes from "The World of Rotary"

"To the next generation Rotary must mean companionship and service. To Rotary the next generation means (and will always mean) the future of mankind." -A,R. Dreaver

### **Announcements**

**Upcoming Meetings:** 

- 1. January 16th 2019: Jeff Rotmeyer The ONE HK Winner Our club nominated ImpactHK for the Humanitarian Award THE ONE 2018 and Jeff won! He was awarded 200,000HKD prize money for his two NGOs and our club also was awarded 5,000HKD for our service projects.
- 2. Blind Bowling: January 20th Register with IPP Stacy
- 3. February 13th 2019: Chinese New Year Celebration: Choy Sun is coming (God of Prosperity)
- 4. February 20th 2019: "If your fingerprints could talk..." we have a speaker who builds corporate training and other events based on the art form of Dactylography (Scientific Study of Fingerprints)

Happy Birthday to our Splendid Rotarians! Our January Gentlemen!



January Birthdays:

- 1. January 2nd Rotarian Peter Yeung
- 2. January 11th PDG YK
- 3. January 25th Rotarian Tony Loy

# Joke of the Day:

Jemima was taking an afternoon nap on New Year's Eve before the festivities. After she woke up, she confided to Max, her husband, 'I just dreamed that you gave me a diamond ring for a New Year's present. What do you think it all means?'

'Aha, you'll know tonight,' answered Max smiling broadly.

At midnight, as the New Year was chiming, Max approached Jemima and handed her small package. Delighted and excited she opened it quickly. There in her hand rested a book entitled:

'The Meaning of Dreams'.



Club postal address: P.O.Box 47064, Morrison Hill Post Office, Hong Kong

Meeting Venue : Regal HK Hotel, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong Meeting Schedules : Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 12:30 pm