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**TUNG FENG**

香港東區扶輪社週報 THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG ISLAND EAST

## Last week's Proceedings -

**8th October, 2008**

This was the 15th Rotary meeting of the RCHKIE of the year, with President Andy in the chair. Thirteen members and two visitors, including the speaker, were in attendance. After an unmaterialised scare, our speaker eventually arrived at 1:15pm and the meeting promptly started.

Our two visitors were the Ambassadorial Scholar of our Club, Eddie Walneck, and our speaker for the day, another Ambassadorial Scholar Brendon Johnson. There were no birthday boys. Welcome-backs were extended to Rotarians Alex and Kenny.

President Andy announced the good news that Director Eric has received word from our sister club at Osaka Jonan that they will co-sponsor again our Community Project in the Playright Project for the Hospitalised Children. 11 October 2008 is the Rotary Flag Day, and our Lingnan Rotaract Club will support this venture with 49 volunteers. They will also cooperate with the HK Federation of Youth to visit 50 elderly people in the Lok Fu Area, and distribute bags to them.

The Acting Sergeant-at-arms, IPP Laurence, with a last minute appeal, collected \$1,300 for the red box, which was earmarked for the coming flag day.

PE Norman introduced the speaker, Mr. Brendon Johnson, who is reading a Master's course in the University of HK in Social Studies.

Brendon started by saying that the world is not perfect, and is full of problems, and illustrated this with magical manoeuvres with a pack of cards. And that we should all reach for the ideal. He presented his talk in 4 areas:

1. Who I am. Brendon is from the Philadelphia area of the US. He, apart from being a student, is also a magician, a cellist (musician who plays the cello) and has been a mascot for a few years.
2. What I have done. He had spent some time in South Africa, where he witnessed first hand the problems of poverty, HIV/AIDS, crime, murder, rape and income irregularities. He showed pictures of shanty townships and soup kitchens which dished out daily soup to 6,000 school children. He created projects, fun fairs in the US for the awareness to these problems and had 1,000 participants, raising \$30,000 USD in 3 years work.
3. Where I am going. He is in HK University reading a Masters course and wants to use the recent developments in China as model. His future path is with the people and on inequalities, hoping to transform communities, inspiring actions and leaving legacies.
4. Why I am here. He was in the meeting and contact with Rotarians to learn and compare the cultural values between Asian vs US. To understand the field of change, and he requested us to teach him, shape him, and leave our own legacy.

His e mail address is [brendonjohnson@live.com](mailto:brendonjohnson@live.com)

Questions flowed, but in view of time, Rotarian Tony was asked to thank him - who suggested that maybe one lesson he could convey to the people of US from Asia is to save money for one's children and not to spend their money in advance.

The meeting ended with a toast to the sponsoring club of Brendon, Westtown-Goshen in Pennsylvania, area 7450 and RCHKIE, and a group photo was taken.

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## Rotary Potpourri

Please see the following message from RI General Secretary Ed Futa regarding the impact of U.S. financial crisis:-

RI general secretary addresses impact of U.S. financial crisis

Rotary International News -- 29 September 2008

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Dear Rotarians.

Given the troubling news from Wall Street over the past several weeks, we have received many inquiries about the impact these events will have on Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation. Although our investments have lost value in the short term, we believe they will recover when the financial markets stabilize. In addition, Rotary maintains a diversified portfolio that includes investments outside of the markets that were adversely impacted by recent events. Rotary's investment policies have proven to be sound through past down markets. This prudent management should allow our programs and projects to continue as planned.

Many Rotarians have asked specifically about our investment holdings, insurance coverage, and reserves, so I would like to note the following:

1. Both The Rotary Foundation's and RI's investment portfolios have only minor exposure to the companies that were taken over by the U.S. government (Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and AIG), purchased by other financial institutions (Merrill Lynch and WaMu), or declared Chapter 11 bankruptcy (Lehman).
2. Although RI has some insurance coverage placed with AIG, AIG's insurance businesses are safe in that they are separate legal entities closely regulated by both state and federal agencies.
3. Both RI and the Foundation have strong cash balances, and year-to-date revenues from sources other than investments are ahead of last year.
4. All money in the PolioPlus Fund is invested in U.S. treasuries, the safest securities available.
5. Both RI and the Foundation have adequate reserves to operate without having to sell investment securities at a loss.

Last week, The Rotary Foundation Investment Advisory Committee met with Rotary's independent investment consultant and several money managers for its regular investment review.

The committee confirmed that the current investment policies set by the RI Board and Foundation Trustees continue to be appropriate for the long term. The committee advised the Trustees to continue diversifying the portfolio to further mitigate the impact of losses in any particular market.

You can be assured that Rotary's senior leaders, the general secretary, the Financial Services staff, and Rotary's investment consultant are monitoring this situation very closely. We are confident our investment and reserve policies will allow the good work of Rotary to continue around the world.

Sincerely,

Ed Futa

General Secretary,

Rotary International

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## Electronic Make-up Questions

~~You can submit an electronic makeup for this missed meeting by answering the following questions:~~

Name:

Email:

1. Who were our visiting guests today ? Ans)
2. How many members have attended our meeting today ? Ans)
3. Do we have any birthday boys today ? Ans)
4. We have welcomed back whom today ? Ans)
5. When was the Rotary Flag Day to be held this year ? Ans)
6. How many volunteers from our Rotaract Clubs have signed up to help on the Rotary Flag Day ? Ans)
7. What was the Red Box collection of today ? Ans)
8. Where is our speaker come from ?

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## Joke

*Subject: Sex ,church and pancakes*

### Sex

The mother of a 17-year-old girl was concerned that her daughter was having sex. Worried the girl might become pregnant and adversely impact the family's status, she consulted the family doctor.

The doctor told her that teenagers today were very willful and any attempt to stop the girl would probably result in rebellion. He then told her to arrange for her daughter to be put on birth control and until then, talk to her and give her a box of condoms.

Later that evening, as her daughter was preparing for a date, the woman told her about the situation and handed her a box of condoms

The girl burst out laughing and reached over to hug her mother saying: 'Oh Mom! You don't have to worry about that! I'm dating Susan!'

### Church

A man went to church one day and afterward he stopped to shake the preacher's hand He said 'Preacher, I'll tell you, that was a damned fine sermon. Damned good!'

The preacher said, 'Thank you sir, but I'd rather you didn't use profanity.'

The man said, 'I was so damned impressed with that sermon I put five thousand dollars in the offering plate!'

The preacher said, 'No shit?'

### Pancakes

Brenda and Steve took their six-year-old son to the doctor.

With some hesitation, they explained that although their little angel appeared to be in good health, they were concerned about his rather small penis.

After examining the child, the doctor confidently declared, 'Just feed him pancakes. That should solve the problem.'

The next morning when the boy arrived at breakfast, there was a large stack of warm pan cakes in the middle of the table.

'Gee, Mom,' he exclaimed. 'For me?'

'Just take two,' Brenda replied. 'The rest are for your father.'

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## Photographs of our meeting

on

8th October, 2008



PDG Uncle Peter Hall, Ambassadorial Scholar Brendon Johnson & Pres. Andy Wong



PP John Kwok, PE Norman Lee & IPP Laurence Chan



(L to R) Rtn. Alex Ling & Rtn. Kenny Chan



(L to R) Rtn. Tony, PP Stephen, PP Hubert, Dir Eric & Rtn. Peter



Acting SAA, IPP Laurence reported the Red Box collection which will be contributed to the Rotary Flag Day on 11 October 2008



PE Norman Lee introduced our speaker to the members



This week's speaker - Ambassadorial Scholar Brendon Johnson from the US



Pres. Andy exchanged the club banner with Ambassadorial Scholar Brendon John



Rtn. Tony Loy gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the club to the speaker



Group Photo with members & visiting guests



(L to R) PP Mimi Lau from Rotaract Club of HKIE, AG Wendy Mung, DG Albert Wong, Pres. Adny Wong, Pres. Manny Lee & Brian Cheung from Rotaract Club LNU

Pres. Andy Wong & Pres. Ming Wong of Rotaract Club of HKIE



PP Mimi Lau from Rotaract Club of HKIE & Pres. Andy Wong

Members of Rotaract Club of HKIE & Rtn. Colin Chau (Middle)



Rtn. Colin Chau at Hung Hom Station



(L to R) DG Albert Wong, Pres. Andy Wong & Pres. Manny Lee from Rotaract Club of Lingnan University

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