



Swarthmore Rotary Cog Notes

P.O. Box 4, Swarthmore, PA 19081



August 6, 2020

Holger Knaack
RI President 2020-21
Kevin M. Katarynick
District 7450 Governor

Swarthmore Rotary
Leaders

William Clinton Hale
President
Kathryn Jones
President-Elect
Brian N. Casey
Club Executive Secretary
Webmaster
Craig Fava
Past President
Secretary
Sonya Pappas
Treasurer
Barbara Whitaker-Shimko
Rotary Foundation Chair
Betty Ann A. Flynn
Club Director
Anne C. Hansen
Club Director
Lori Markusfeld
Service Projects Chair
Penelope Reed
Public Relations Chair
Ann K. Seidman
Membership Chair
Barbara Amstutz
Grants Committee Chair
Maria Michael Zissimos
Past President
Francy Cross
Assistant Governor

Service Quotation

No man is an island,
Entire of itself,
Every man is a piece of the
continent,
A part of the main....
Any man's death diminishes me,
Because I am involved in
mankind,
John Donne

Rotary Celebrations!

Birthdays

No Birthdays Found

Wedding Anniversaries

Penelope Reed
August 9th
Rudolf S. Amann
August 9th

Meetings and Events

August

6th - Meeting

Speaker: Jared Reed, Producing Artistic Director, Hedgerow Theater Company
Subject: Hedgerow: A Sustainable Theatr (The Most Fun You'll Ever Have on a Zoom Call)

Table Grace

By Frederick E. Christian

Lord, make us instruments of understanding. May we bring comfort to those who are regarded of little account. In this land of many races, make us courteous to the humble and understanding to the resentful. Teach us what we need to know so as to deal helpfully with others. Amen.

4 Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Last Meeting Summary

Julie Kornfeld is a lawyer, working for the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP). Julie is a candidate for a Rotary Peach Fellowship. IRAP's activities on behalf of refugees are varied; including promoting legislation to aid refugees and publicizing their plight. Julie's role is to represent refugees who are trying to enter the U.S. while they are still in their home country. Julie clarified the difference between refugees and asylum-seekers. Both consider themselves to be in danger in their home country. Refugees are still in their home country and are trying to obtain permission to enter the U.S. Asylum-seekers are persons already in the U.S. who are seeking permission to stay.

Julie said the current administration has made her job a lot harder since it took office. Some of the administration's actions receive a lot of publicity, such as the President's Muslim ban. From Julie's point-of-view, a more important action of the administration is to introduce delays and arbitrary decisions at every step of the process of admitting a refugee. She gave an example of a musician who won a Grammy. He was not considered to have sufficient evidence of his profession. However one may feel about the topic of immigration, some of the cases IRAP deals with are compelling. One is given below.

IRAP

From <https://refugeerights.org>

IRAP

The United States' presence in Iraq and Afghanistan has relied on the life-saving assistance of thousands of Iraqis and Afghans who put themselves in danger to serve alongside U.S. troops, diplomats, and contractors. Since 2008, IRAP has stood by these allies. IRAP is working to:

- Lead advocacy efforts urging Congress to renew and extend the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa

Years of Service

No Years Of Service Found

Happy Dollars

pledge \$320

2020-21 Happy Dollars
for Polio Plus Fund
(\$3 to fully protect one child)

2019-20 total: \$3355
2018-19 total: \$3,845
2017-18 total: \$4,515

Guests Last Meeting

Hogie Hansen (Anne's husband)
Peter Mardinly (Media Rotary)
Earl Varney (Bill's guest)

(SIV) program and provide sufficient visas based on the number of applicants;

- Ensure that Iraqis, who no longer have access to the Iraqi SIV program, can access legal and safe pathways through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program's Direct Access Program (DAP);
- Build public support for the DAP and Afghan SIV programs, by supporting national and international media and engaging networks of veterans and other national security experts to speak in support of the program; and
- Leverage IRAP's extensive direct legal aid experience on behalf of Afghan and Iraqi SIV advocates to provide concrete proposals to improve and accelerate processing in the SIV programs.

Farah's Story

Farah was born and raised in Babylon, Iraq. In 2003, she began supporting U.S. forces by establishing an engineering firm. Her company constructed helipads, security barriers, and roads, and supplied security equipment to U.S. bases throughout Iraq.

As a result of her efforts, Farah and her family were placed in grave danger, targeted by local militias who condemned her support of the U.S. mission in Iraq. The threats Farah faced were real. In 2006, a group of masked men invaded her home. They assaulted her, kidnapped her father, and murdered her husband.

In spite of these devastating losses, Farah was resolute in the face of tragedy. She continued her work and even began serving as a linguist for senior members of the government and U.S. military. But the risks she and her family confronted every day eventually led Farah to seek safety and freedom outside of Iraq. Farah applied for a Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) to come to the United States, but waited for four years with no response. Finally, in 2012, Farah contacted IRAP for assistance after a friend told her about IRAP's work. Just a few months after our attorneys took action on her case, Farah and her two children were awarded sanctuary in America.

In America, Farah fell in love and remarried. She now resides with her children and her husband, a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Reduction in District Fees

Thanks to Craig Fava for the following message:

I think this is worth noting in the Cognotes:

REDUCTION IN DISTRICT FEES

DG Kevin Katarynick received approval from the District Board of Directors to eliminate the annual \$400 per club training fee for this year.

In addition, the semi-annual \$7.00 per member fee will be forgiven for the first half of 2020-2021. The fee will be charged for the second half of 2020-2021 and will be billed in January, 2021. "We continue to economize," Said Kevin. "The fun part is providing better training for less money."

These are fees that are passed onto the members, so that is why the district part of our dues are less this half. I took it from the District newsletter.