



CogNotes



The Rotary Club of Swarthmore May 7, 2009

www.swarthmorerotary.org

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Rotary Foundation	Mike Malone
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Table Grace

The poet has reminded us that a person's "reach must exceed his grasp, else what is heaven for?" In fact, what is it that makes life worth living but our response to the high goals such as Rotary embodies? Impress on us, Lord, the importance of the ideals for which Rotary stands. Give us grateful hearts for the blessings we enjoy. Amen.

The Rev. Dr. Frederick E. Christian

Last Week: Rudy Rubeis

Last week Rudy Rubeis gave a talk on the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District, and though this editor had to miss the talk, she heard it was insightful and very well received.

MAY IS MONTH

Today's Program

May 7 David Swanson, Philadelphia Inquirer Staff Photographer, "My Life in Pictures: Ground Zero, Afghanistan and Iraq."



Pledge of Allegiance

SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!
Installation Day: June 10

Future Programs and Events

May 14 - Mark Kuperberg, Economics Department, Swarthmore College, On the Economy

May 21 - Michael Smith, Project Forward Leap, Summer Institute

May 28 - Anne Hansen, Update on Belize Water Project.

The Rotarian's 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?

Here is the latest news of Anne and her colleagues working in Belize -- from Ray

We had breakfast with the Rotary club this morning. They are involved in a huge number of projects. One of the hot ones coming up is a canoe race. I'm not sure how long, but first prize is \$1000 BZ and there's a big party at the finish. We met a young woman from Telluride CO who is studying environmental sustainability here for credit at U of Vermont. That sounds like a good thing to do during a Vermont winter if you can arrange it.



Dan and Sheree took off on a trip look for other

potential sites. The Director of Rural Development, whom we had met last February, had suggested a few places to look at, and they went to check on them. It was a pretty long day; they didn't get back until around 7:30.

Anne Hansen got a ride with the Rotary president to a village where Swarthmore Rotary is sponsoring a preschool. He owns a huge amount of land with timber and cattle and builds super-expensive houses and owns a couple of hotels. I think she got an eyeful of how the other small fraction lives. She caught up with us at Yalbac in time for lunch.



Dave and Aki and I went to Yalbac to work on the treatment system. On the way, we stopped in Spanish

Lookout for some PVC for the well. I ran into Mike from In His Will Ministries, where Dale and I stayed on our survey trip in 2007. It's interesting to run into people at different places from where they fit in your picture of the country.

Dave says progress on the treatment system was incremental. I thought it was very exciting. We got the new well pump into the well, with wire for power into the treatment building but no plumbing beyond the wellhead. Dave and Aki are much more patient than I am: I would have hot-wired the pump to the generator to see a geyser from the well.



Anne and I had a teaching session with the kids. We

kind of commandeered them for the afternoon. The teacher went home and let us do our thing. We talked about germs and illness and handwashing and when to use the clean water they would get from their treatment system. They were pretty excited about the songs and games, and they didn't want to go when we declared the session finished. We had to shoo them out with the promise that they could come back tomorrow afternoon

My wildlife report isn't very exciting because we haven't been in the right places. Yesterday I saw clay-colored robins at the resort and great kiskadees and green parrots at Yalbac. A gecko

almost fell on Anne at the resort. This morning at the hotel where Rotary meets we saw blue-gray tanagers, a female shrike-tanager, a hummingbird that the local record suggests was rufous-tailed, and a basilisk lizard, which has the interesting behaviors of running on its hind legs and running on water. The flowers are beautiful, especially several varieties of bouganvillea.

Tomorrow Anne and I will have teaching sessions with some of the women in the morning and the kids again in the afternoon. I'm really looking forward to that and to seeing water from the well.

For more information on club news and activities, log on to our website at www.swarthmorerotary.org