

Rotary Club of the Villages - Evening Evening Edition

Officers & Directors

Officers

President
Tim Treat
President Elect
Gay Ratcliff-Seamens
President Elect Nominee
Carole Iberer
Secretary
Pat Cronenberg
Treasurer
Cindy Ivy
Past President
Jamie Losito

Directors

Dusty Rhodes
Public Image
Martha Friedman
Service Projects
Tom Reed
Youth Service
Dusty Rhodes
Club Service
Nancy Yerkey
Membership
Julie Schmied
Foundation

Club Positions

Sergeant-at-Arms
Rich Iberer
Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
Dusty Rhodes
Assistant Treasurer
Tim Treat
Assistant Secretary
Kay Roth
Programs
Mike Roth



Yes Virginia

In 1987, the New York Sun received the following letter from Virginia O'Hanlon Dear Editor, I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a mous reply. Virginia, your They do not believe ex- nothing can be which is minds. All minds, Virginia, dren's, are little. In this mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge. Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy.



(Continued on page 2)

Hanukkah

The eight-day Jewish celebration known as Hanukkah or Chanukah commemorates the rededication during the second century B.C. of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, where according to legend Jews had risen up against their Greek-Syrian oppressors in the Macabean Revolt.



Led by the Jewish five sons, a large-scale rebellion broke out against Antiochus and the Seleucid monarchy. Within two years the Jews had successfully driven the Syrian-relying largely on guerilla warfare tactics. Judah, Mattathias's son, called on his followers to cleanse the Second Temple, rebuild its altar and light its menorah—the gold candelabrum whose seven branches represented knowledge and creation and were meant to be kept burning every night.

(Continued on page 3)

Wednesday's Meeting



Instead of a speaker Wednesday night we had a club assembly. Our Foundation Chair, Julie Schmied, shared the second part of her presentation on the Foundation. Last month she explained the good job the Foundation does as a steward of our money and the six areas of focus.

It is easy to feel detached from the real-life good that the Foundation Grants do because we don't see first-hand the results of the efforts of the local clubs and the grants they manage. Julie then aired a brief video highlighting the conditions in one of the countries the Foundation helps with the grants. The extreme poverty, minimal housing, lack of what we consider bare necessities, and how hard every day life for them is. More information is available on the RI website.

President Tim then quizzed the membership on several awards relating to Foundation giving.

- **Paul Harris Fellow**—A member who gives \$1,000 in cash or points to the Annual Fund.
- **Paul Harris Society**—A member who gives \$1,000 annually to the Annual Fund
- **Benefactor**—When you include the Endowment Fund as a beneficiary in your estate plans or donate \$1,000 or more to the fund outright.
- **Bequest Society**—When you have made a commitment of \$10,000 or more via your estate plans.
- **Major Donor**—When your cumulative donations, in cash only, reach \$ 10,000.
- **Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY)**— Members are encouraged to donate to the Annual Fund annually. A club is an EREY club if all members make a donation during the Rotary year.
- **Sustaining Member**—When you give \$1,000 or more per year to the Annual Fund.

Since the club's inception our total donations to the Foundation are in excess of \$270,000.

Virginia (Con't from page 1)

Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world. You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding. No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Special thanks to...

Pat Cronenberg for her work in making our Polo BBQ another success netting over \$6,000.

Dusty Rhodes & Jim Bodenner for playing Santa Claus for the Kindergarten and Pre-K classes.

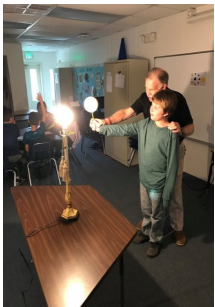
Cindy Ivy—For her work on the LovExtension Christmas party and Carols by Candlelight.

Harbour View Happenings

.Bike Program

Thanks to Norm Davis who traveled to the school to help the PE teacher with bikes. Norm reported the enthusiasm and appreciation the students displayed.

Science Program



We continue to provide, on a weekly bases, science experiments and demonstrations for fifth graders. The most recent was a demonstration on the phases of the moon. Our efforts have paid off with a marked improvement in recent science testing. We are looking for volunteers help Sue Bodenner and Tim Treat with the experiments which are conducted on Tuesday mornings.

Santa's Visit.

This past Monday and Tuesday, Jim Bodenner and Dusty Rhodes played Santa for the Kindergarten and Pre-K students. Each child had a picture taken with Santa.



.Hanukkah (Con't on from pg 1)

Even though there was only enough untainted olive oil to keep the menorah's candles burning for a single day, the flames continued flickering for eight nights, leaving them time to find a fresh supply. This wondrous event inspired the Jewish sages to proclaim a yearly eight-day festival.

The Hanukkah celebration revolves around the kindling of a nine-branched menorah, known in Hebrew as the Hanukah. On each of the holiday's eight nights, another candle is added to the menorah after sundown; the ninth candle, called the Shamash ("helper"), is used to light the others. Jews typically recite blessings during this ritual and display the menorah prominently in a window as a reminder to others of the miracle that inspired the holiday.

In another allusion to the Hanukkah miracle, traditional Hanukkah foods are fried in oil. Potato pancakes (known as latkes) and jam-filled donuts (sufganiyot) are particularly popular in many Jewish households. Other Hanukkah customs include playing with four-sided spinning tops called dreidels and exchanging gifts. In recent decades, particularly in North America, Hanukkah has exploded into a major commercial phenomenon, largely because it falls near or overlaps with Christmas. From a religious perspective, however, it remains a relatively minor holiday that places no restrictions on working, attending school or other activities.

Carols by Candlelight



Rotary After Hours

One of the fellowship activities our club enjoys is getting together after our regular meeting to enjoy dinner at various local restaurants. All members, guests and significant others are invited. If you will be attending upcoming dinners email Cindy Ivy @ allesivy@hotmail.com

Dec 25th NO MEETING
Jan 1st NO MEETING

Weekly Assignments

Greeter

Dec 25th NO MEETING
Jan 1st NO MEETING
Jan 8th Carole Iberer

Set Up

Dec 25th NO MEETING
Jan 1st NO MEETING
Jan 8th Rich Iberer

Reflection

Dec 25th NO MEETING
Jan 1st NO MEETING
Jan 8th Open

Clean Up

Dec 25th NO MEETING
Jan 1st NO MEETING
Jan 8th Nancy Yerkey

Visiting Rotarian & Guests

Rotarians

David Bruno
Chuck Bares

Guests

Francine Jackson

Notes and Announcements

Holiday Schedule

December 25th NO MEETING
January 1st NO MEETING

HVES Volunteer Opportunities

Science Judging

Harbour View will be holding their Science fair on January 14th from 8:00 to 9:15am. They are in need of judges so if you can help out please contact Sue Bodenner.

HVES Summer Swim Program

Dr. Sandy announced at our meeting that, due to circumstance beyond the control of the Sumter County Health Department, he will need to cancel the summer swim program for students at Harbour View.

January Board Meeting

At the board meeting on Wednesday, the board voted to change the date of January's meeting to January 15th. All members are invited, and encouraged, to attend a monthly board meeting. This is an opportunity to understand how decisions that effect our club are made.

Schedule of Meetings & Events

Meeting

Dec 25th NO MEETING
Jan 1st NO MEETING
Jan 8th Nancy Ganun—Sumter Library
Jan 15th John Corneille—Fighting Blindness

Committee Meetings

Jan 15th Board Meeting

Event

Jan 22nd Human Trafficking Seminar
Mar 16th Wine Bingo Fundraiser
Jun 6-10 Rotary Convention

Visit us on the Web

www.rotaryvillagesevening.com