

BULLETIN



Meeting date: April 9, 2024

Virtual or In-Person: In Person

Visitors / Guests: Dulcie Fernandez; Visiting Rotarian Trish McQueen from Red Deer, AB

The meeting started with the celebration of the octogenarians in the club, organized by Joan Peggs. Each was called to the front of the room to stand beside a large birthday cake, Joan read a bit about each person, and then each was given a candle to light and put on the cake! Those included were Terry and Joan Toone, Eugen, Perry, Wynn, John J, David Sheppard, Jacqueline Sheppard and Joan F.

Announcements:

Joan Peggs thanked the Saturday Bottle Drive volunteers who worked tirelessly filling a record 19 bins – over \$1400 in funds received from the Bottle Depot.

Program Overview: Jacqueline and David Sheppard gave an excellent overview of the Guatemalan Project. Jacqueline has been going to Guatemala for 30 years and David for the last 12. Members from the Chemainus, Qualicum and Richmond Rotary Clubs also made the journey to help with projects. The projects are done in the areas of San Antonio and Palopa on Lake Atitlan. 50% of Guatemalans live in poverty. Jacqueline works with the locals to come up with their needs and projects to be done each year. This year the projects included starting a cooperative Chicken Project to provide a family income. 20 families were picked to participate in the project by learning how to raise hens. These families were given hens, coops and education about the nutrition and care of chickens. Hundreds of shoes were brought and distributed to children. Set up of a computer lab in a rural school using the Rachel system which does not need internet. Distributing a powder supplement to improve the health of children. Distribution of school supplies and backpacks. Oak Bay Rotary club paid for a printer. Jaqueline and David usually go to Guatemala January – March. They will be going in 2025 to do projects such as potable water, stove repairs and home repairs and reconstruction. They are more than happy to have new people join them.

Joan P., Sonnet, Dulcie Fernandez and Bryan gave an overview of the project in Bucerias, Mexico. The project was not as hands on as they had hoped but they were able to do some painting and worked in gardens along with some Interactors from Edmonton. Bryan gave a first aid course at the community centre. They distributed some goods to the locals which were very much appreciated.

Celebrations Master: Victoria Pitt – only had two minutes to fine a few people so she included an overall fine for everyone. Susan Shepherd won the 50/50 for \$47!

Next Meeting: April 16th – speaker Stacey Gillespie from Anawim House