

January 24, 2012

On the Record

Prayer & Pledge: Chuck Peterson
Music: America the Beautiful
Birthdays: JD Vasquez

Lucky Bucks

\$26 collected with \$13 going to Jo rita Jordan

Happy Bucks

Jo Rita Jordan
Lisa Darling
Kim Schilling
Jon Whitten
Sandy Poppers
Marylena Melton
Joel Scheinberg
Barbara Ewing

John Demlow
Sharon Vander Meer
Bob Vander Meer
Lawrence Quintana
Kathy Henderson
Rose Taylor
Chuck Peterson
Kayt Peck

Visitors

Kathy Henderson, Amanda
Fatima of UWC, Farid of UWC (speakers)

**Rotary Club
of Las Vegas**

**PO Box 3524
Las Vegas, NM 87701**

Directors

Officers

President Kayt Peck
President Elect Jonathan Whitten
Vice President Chuck Peterson
Secretary Sandy Poppers
Treasurer Rose Contreras-Taylor
Sergeants at Arms Pat Patrick
..... Gary McKinley
Past President Bill Taylor

Directors

Service Projects Chuck Peterson
Membership Jean Warner
Public Relations Jo Rita Jordan
Foundation Marshall Poole
New Generations Kim Schilling

Newsletter

Jo Rita Jordan/Janet Remenyik/Marylena Melton

Rotary Web Sites

Rotary International www.rotary.org
Zone www.zones25-26.org
District www.rotary5520.org
Club www.rotary5520.org/lasvegas



El Toro



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

Jan. 24 Events at
Rotary Club 1311
Las Vegas
New Mexico
Founded 1920
District 5520



Featured Program

Featured Program: UWC students

Lisa Darling introduced two students from Afghanistan - Farid, a first year student and Fatima who is completing her second year. Their country has been a war zone for 40 years with conflicts involving the Soviet Union, Taliban, and NATO including the USA. The youth have never lived in a non-war but that does not make the condition normal. They have a strong desire "to live without war".

Farid has spent most of his life living as a refugee in Pakistan to avoid attacks by the Taliban. Schools had been destroyed by the Taliban and girls were given no education under Taliban rule. His family was able to return to Kabul after several years of living in Pakistan where housing was not really available. This meant living at subsistence in a building which had no plumbing or electricity.

Back in Kabul, he was able to attend school and also consider the depth of the local problems. The schools were in session 3 days per week for only 3 hours per day. Of the 14 classes being taught 3 were religion classes.

Much of the day the youth spends on the street looking for something to do. Here the Taliban attracts them to classes which include indoctrination which can lead to suicide bombing attacks. The people have lived in isolation over these years as war raged and an integrated community life with work, school, and commerce was very limited or nonexistent. This lack was compounded by a total ignorance of the rest of the world.

As a high school student he was given a year in the USA by the State Department. He spent a year with an American family in Maine where he first became acquainted with the cartoon entertainment which is common on TV. Flintstones and Simpsons are cartoons which American youth take for granted but for which Afghan children would not know.

He enjoyed his year in Maine which involved community service (unknown in Afghanistan) where

cooperation made possible building a tennis court and enjoying the game. When returned to Kabul he organized a group of youth to build a tennis court and learn to play the game.

Fatima is completing her second year at UWC and is a strong voice for education of girls and woman in her home country. She very much admires her father who provides for her family and encourages the girls to be their own person. Because the economic condition in Afghanistan does not provide opportunity for work and the men are expected to provide for the family there is a lot of drug abuse and family violence as this is impossible in many cases.

She would like to return home and set up a factory where employment would be given to men first and help restore some stability in the families. She recognizes the threat of Taliban as they give money and purpose to the young men but not a future. Today there are 5 million people living in Kabul which was designed for only 1 million. Crowding and life on the street have become the norm for those now living in the city.

Her home area is north of Kabul, but it resembles the war-torn Kandahar region; it is a city of about 800,000. Though progress has been made in building schools and girls going to school, she does not see this as continuing when the USA and NATO forces leave. She thinks that the Taliban will again emerge as a power force and much of the gains will be lost. She is nevertheless planning to study business after leaving UWC in order to return to Afghanistan as a business founder. Give the men meaningful work so that they can provide for the family and things could become stable and peaceful.

News & Notes

- Paul Harris awards were given to four recipients for the years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. Janet Remenyik presented the certificate and Kayt Peck the official pins to Jo Rita Jordan, Sandy Poppers, Bill Taylor and Joel Scheinberg.
- Dues for the second half year are \$63.50 and to be paid to Jo Rita as soon as possible.
- Charlie Goddard is now at home and enjoys visits and calls.
- Jack Swickard, a member of the Roswell Rotary Club, and Tom Baca, of Albuquerque, will be giving a program in Albuquerque about a heroic rescue mission they flew in Vietnam. The story is attached to the email, and more information can be found at:
<http://roswellesgr.blogspot.com/2012/01/rescue-helicopter-pilots-to-speak-at.html>
- Please send announcements for El Toro to Jo Rita Jordan at joritaj@mac.com.

