



Rotary Club of Beijing

President: Kevin Fong

Weekly Meeting

24th February 2009

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

615 / 145

Kempinski Hotel, Beijing

People's Republic of China

Editor: Grace Zhou assisted by Rtn. Gilbert

Pictures: Rtn. Peter Danford

Opening

President Kevin Fong opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to our guests and fellow members.

Rtn. Serge Kioes led the Four Way Test.

Sergeant-at-Arms Gilbert welcomed visiting Rotarians:

Mr. Jean-Marie Marneffe, from RC of Jodoigne, District 1630, Belgium

Ms. Helen Boyle, from RC of Northwick Park, London, UK

Mr. Albrecht Berkessel, from RC of Köln-Ville, Germany

And visiting guests:

Ms. Ilse Mann, guest of Rtn. Niels-Uwe Behrens

Ms. Charlene Chuang, guest of Rtn. Serge Kioes

Mr. Benjamin Zhou, guest of Rtn. Vicky Wong

Mr. Thomas Pattloch, guest of Rtn. Benjamin Thoma

Mr. Nicolas Berbigier, guest of Rtn. Charles Lagrange

Mr. Emile Bootsma, guest of Rtn. Matthias Kann

Ms. Melody Chia, guest of Rtn. Vicky Wong

Ms. Priscilla Wong, guest of Rtn. Vicky Wong

Ms. Helen Zhang, guest of Rtn. Charles Lagrange (Speaker)

Mr. Joshua Navarrete of Rtn. Alan Babington-Smith

Mr. Allen Yang, guest of Rtn. Ruby Chang

Happy Money

During the meeting, Sergeant-at-Arms Gilbert raised RMB 3,740

Attendance

Attendance rate was 48%

Banner Exchange

Banners were exchanged with the following Clubs:

- Rotary Club of Jodoigne, Belgium
- Rotary Club of Köln-Ville, Germany

Reports & Announcements

Earthquake relief Committee Chair Rtn. Serge Kioes reported on the progress of the “Love Library” Project, which is a joint RCB collaboration project with the China Soong Qing Ling Foundation (CSCLF). The project aims to equip six schools with libraries in Wenxian County, Gansu Province, close to the Sichuan border. Each library costs around RM 20,000 and Chair Serge encouraged members and their guests to make donations to help the disaster hit area to build up their libraries. Our partner, CSCLF has entered into an agreement with the respective local educational authorities and it is hoped to have the library books in place before the end of March 2009. Chair Serge stated that he holds a number of brochures on the Love Library Project and any member interested in the project, should contact him for more details.

Rtn. Gilbert showed the one page advertisement from Rotary International that came out in the International Herald Tribune, talking about the polio program.

President Kevin also encouraged members to make contributions to Rotary via the RI website. He explained that there is no limitation as to the amount, and what is contributed today will come back to the Club for project purposes after three years. Kevin recommended members who are not clear about how to donate on-line should consult Rtn. Regula for assistance.

Birthday Celebration

Happy Birthday to Rtns. Serge Dumont, Regula Hwang Ma, John Barnes, Mattias Kann, Wade Dawson. Rtns. Regula and Mattias cut the birthday cake on behalf of all members celebrating their birthdays during February.

Speaker's Program

Speaker's program coordinator, Rtn. Charles Lagrange introduced today's speaker, Ms. Helen Zhang. Ms. Zhang was born in mainland China and spent 8 years in Australia where she worked in both management consulting and investment banking before relocating back to Beijing in 2002.

Ms. Zhang gave an interesting talk on the hidden subtleties and nuances when interacting with Chinese people. Drawing from her book “Think Like Chinese”, written together with her partner Geoff Baker, Helen Zhang shared with us the following

- Why Chinese are different – 5 core elements of Chinese thinking: Chinese language/philosophy, law of yin & yang, born connectedness, mid-stream living and mianzi (Face)
- “Only tell people 1/3 of what is on your mind” – How Chinese communicate
- What to do

Rtn. Gilbert thanked Mrs. Zhang for her introduction to Chinese culture, which he felt was particularly helpful to expatriates to better understand China and its people. Gilbert explained the book triggered his new project - to write his own book about Chinese society and attitudes.

Conclusion

President Kevin Fong closed the meeting with a toast to the visiting clubs, Rotary International, our sister Clubs - the Rotary Club of Copenhagen, the Rotary Club of Hong Kong, Rotary Club of Great Neck, the Rotary Club of Shanghai, the Rotary Club of Del Mar and Interact Club of Dulwich College Beijing.

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Rtn. Gilbert, PR Director and webmaster.