



Bulletin

Rotary Club of Beijing

President: John Barnes

Weekly Meeting

09 March 2010

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

666 / 196

Kempinski Hotel, Beijing
People's Republic of China

Editor: Nancy Liu & Einar Tangen
Pictures: Agustin Carioni

Opening

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

Four way test led by visiting Rotarian Gilbert in English & German

Sergeant at Arms Charles welcomed:

Visiting Rotarians

Rtn. Jacob Zilber, RC Indian Land, SC, USA
Rtn. Charles Chan, RC Taipo, Hong Kong
Rtn. Philinn Moslberge, RC Reutlingen – Tübingen Germany
Rtn. Andrea Volpe, RC 2060 Cividale Del Friuli Italy
Rtn. Elisabeth Villao, RC KØse Nord, Danmark

And visiting guests:

Mr. Robert Webb, guest of Rtn. Gilbert
Mr. Gian-Marc Widmer, guest of Rtn. Curt
Ms. Sprunglin Yuan, guest of Rtn. Ruby
Ms. Klaus Eiegles, guest of Rtn. Ruby
Mr. Dickson Leung, guest of Rtn. Ruby

Mr. Bossmart Simon, guest of Rtn. Ruby
Dr. Bennovon Canstein, guest of Rtn. Marlis
Mr. Benny Shadmi, guest of Rtn. Nicolas
Mr. Gary Permenter, guest of Rtn. Josephine
Ms. Joanna Dear, guest of Rtn. Ruby
Mr. Vicent TeboÚl, guest Rtn. Ruby
Mr. Arics Lam, guest of Rtn. Ruby
Mr. Jan H.W. Kuhlefeldt, guest Rtn. Curt
Mr. Augstin Carioni, guest of Rtn. Einar

Happy Money RMB 4,540 for club projects

Attendance was 52%

Banners were exchanged with:

RC Reutlingen – Tübingen Germany

Reports & Announcements

Bazaar Sponsorship Awards

2009 Bazaar chairman Rtn. Ruby presented appreciation awards to representatives from the bazaar sponsors:

- LehmanBrown
- Marriott Hotel NE
- BISS School
- Harrow International school

2010 Ball updates

Ball chairman Raphael Goue announced the ball contracted will be signed shortly with Sofitel Wanda. Raphael gave an elaborate course by course description of the diner and mentioned that it is the same menu used for the French Chamber of Commerce Ball and the last chance to sample the culinary expertise of the young chef who developed the menu, who will be moving to another country shortly after the event. He will invite two members to a tasting and will get back to the members with a selection process. Members who are interested please contact Nancy.

No news on the wines which Raphael has assured the board would be complimentary. Unfortunately his menu duties have prevented him from being able to do much on the sponsorship side. To date we have 2 cash sponsors, including Pricilla and LehmanBrown and two in-kind sponsors including Swiss Air and a furniture company. Raphael is therefore asking for help to locate and entice sponsors and auction items. The ticket is RMB 1,000/each, each member is obligated to buy 4 tickets, those not attending should contact Raphael about making a donation.

Jazz Music

Rtn. Thomas announced that well-known German Jazz Vocalist Mr. Michael Schiefel will be performing his a-cappella repertoire on:

30 RMB cover charge

Monday 15 March 2010 9 PM

At YUGONGYISHAN 愚公移山:

West Courtyard Former Site of Duan Qirui Government,
Zhang Zizhong Road 3-2,

100007 Dongcheng district Beijing – China
北京市东城区张自忠路 3-2 号段祺瑞执政府旧址大门西侧 100007
Tel 电话: +86 10 8402 8477
www.yugongyishan.com

Michael Schiefel is a post Wall phenomenon. Reviewers and fans sing his praises for chameleon-like idiosyncratic stylings. "Germany has never seen a singer like Michael Schiefel before," Sueddeutsche Zeitung said last year of Schiefel, who is also a professor of jazz vocals at the Franz Liszt Conservatory in Weimar. He is listed as "one of the few great German jazz musicians who possesses a truly original style" (German Jazz Encyclopedia, 2005), whether performing solo or in concert he is a treat.

<http://www.michaelschiefel.com>

Speaker's Program

Rtn. Ruby introduced today's speaker, Ambassador Blaise Godet from the Swiss Embassy in Beijing.

Ambassador Godet gave an interesting presentation on the Swiss approach to China. Overall he was very upbeat about the Sino-Swiss trade relationship and believes there are a number of areas where the countries can have productive trade. Switzerland is one of the few countries which has a trade surplus with China, and it is his belief that the two countries have a complementary rather than a competitive relationship. Specifically he mentioned Swiss expertise in the areas of banking, pharmaceuticals and value added merchandise like watches as areas with bright futures. For Chinese businesses, even though Switzerland is not part of the EU, he believes it will be an attractive doorway to the EU because of its numerous bilateral trade treaties, financial expertise and relatively more business friendly employment laws.

Rtn. Christian thanked Ambassador Blaise for his gracious and informative speech.

Unfortunately the speech was marred by a number of side conversations which the Ambassador could clearly hear. After the meeting he made a point of expressing his disappointment and it now stands as an embarrassing moment in our club's history. His observation and a number of complaints by members make it imperative that we adjust our behavior. It would also be appreciated if those responsible were to express their apologies in writing. Many members have expressed an interest in having interesting and persuasive presentations and speakers which will not be possible if we get a reputation for being inconsiderate and juvenile. Those who do not wish to listen should in future leave the room.

Conclusion

President John 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, Interact Club of Dulwich College Beijing and the Rotaract Club of Beijing.

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