

Taos Milagro Rotary Club Meeting 4-25-18

Blessing: Yale

Guests: Steven Johnson, Suzanne Mulvaney, Marco Smith, seven representatives from Americorp/CCC

Announcements from Bruce:

- Taos News reports TMR received the Best of Taos #1 community service club for 2018 - the fourth year in a row
- June 30th – date set for the strategic planning meeting at Valverde Commons, all are welcome. More information coming
- Received two grants through Taos Community Foundation: \$1000 to support the Chile Challenge, and \$1000 for the Himalayan stove project
- District Conference this Thursday – Saturday
- Reminder about Cinco de Mayo & Barn Raising social at Bruce's place 2-6 PM

Presentation: Reem Ghunaim, Executive Director of Rotary Peace Action Group

Reem grew up in Palestine in the 90s and was a witness to an enormous amount of conflict and suffering. Through a scholarship provided by Rotary Peace Fellowship Program, she was able to study at Duke University and receive a degree in Community and Economic Development. She cites other fellows from around the world who also studied in that program as a source of inspiration. She now works in Portland, OR with the Rotary Peace Action group, whose primary goal is to connect local communities with global resources, and whose "tagline" is "Invest, Institute, Impact." She finds the work rewarding as it bridges generations and cultures and helps us all to understand one another, which fosters peace. She recently had the opportunity to return to Palestine to speak to a group of students, which she found incredibly rewarding as it gave others the idea and inspiration that many things are possible, even when you live in Palestine. This trip was sponsored by the Rotary club in Ramallah.



Announcements

- Jim – need more volunteers for Chile challenge! Keith volunteers to chair raffle committee.
- Lucille – "what Jim said!"

- Gary – is chair of golf committee for Chile challenge, needs help – Joe volunteers
- Steve – today is “Habitat for Humanity” day at Quechua – go have a meal and support the cause
- Trotsky – “what Steve said!” – all are welcome also mentioned Dream Tree students participated in cooking at the restaurant recently and learned much.

Good News

- Jim – thanks to speaker for an excellent presentation
- Allen – thanks to Jim and Jay, who helped to clean up a common area at the retirement village for the residents’ enjoyment
- Yale – thank you to Reem
- Keith – daughter Camille turned eight, thanks to YFC for the venue to celebrate
- Lisa – thanks for the kudos to Taos Community Foundation, also a nice legacy gift received from the Clark Funk estate, highlighting how valuable and important legacy gifts are to the community
- George – thanks to Catherine Hummel and the work of Dream Tree, and for asking our Americorps/CCC guests to come – thanks to them for their work in the community
- Lillian – thanks to Americorp/CCC guests

Drawing – Gary wins