



THE CU SUNRISE ROTARY EARLYBIRD – January 10, 2008

...all the buffet you can eat every Thursday morning!

Why is "abbreviated" such a long word?

ANNOUNCEMENTS...

If there are any lingering payments from the fruit sale, see Ata. Jack's in Florida.

Mahomet Rotary is meeting at the Hideaway during the month of January.

Urbana Rotary is meeting at Kennedy's on January 15th.

Family of Sunrise Committee: January contact: Reuben Chambers. This committee provides support to our members and other Rotarians who are dealing with a family crisis situation, i.e. death in immediate family, hospitalized family member, etc.

CU Sunrise Board meets at 11:30 on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at First Federal Savings Bank, 1311 S Neil Street.

At the end of this newsletter are addresses for both the Rotary International as well as our Rotary district web pages.



PROGRAM...



Professor Merlin Taber, retired School of Social Work, UIUC, spoke of his experience as a conscientious objector during World War II. Merlin was born in Ohio and attended a Quaker boarding school. These were formative years in deciding to pursue conscientious objector (CO) status for the military draft. Registering for the draft Mr. Taber decided that violence was counter productive to society. He asked the draft board for CO status and received a 4-E classification.

There were not many CO's in WW II, probably around 42,000. Of those, 25,000 became medics in the military, 6,000 went to jail for whatever reason, and 14,000 participated in the a work camp program called Civilian Public Service or commonly called CPS camps. The choice of Merlin was the latter, and he was assigned to a CPS camp in North Dakota. They worked on an irrigation project near the Missouri River, and one summer he was sent to southern California to fight brush fires.

Merlin never regretted being a CO, and in his words, "Making peace is hard work." For those of you interested in learning more about conscientious objectors, look it up on the Wikipedia website as there is a surprising amount of information.

Mary Hodson forwarded the following note Professor Taber sent via email expanding on several of the topics discussed at our meeting:

DOUKHOBORS. In the mid 1700s in Russia this sect arose, denying the divinity of Jesus and calling for a more human understanding of the gospels -- opposed to any military service and calling for communal life style. After a century of persecution

and even torture, Doukhobors were admitted to Canada. Tolstoy and friends, and US Quakers, supplied money and about half migrated to Canada about 1900. They've had a sometimes rocky time in Canada -- schisms in the sect, Canadian govt. crackdowns including taking away children as we did with American Indian children -- but at present things are quiet, they no longer live communally, and extreme behavior is gone. There are some 30,000 in Canada, a few crossed over to the US and a like number still in Russia.

I found to my surprise that the first statutes to protect religious objectors were adopted in Massachusetts in 1661. James Madison wrote right to religious objection into the Bill of Rights but was voted down. Anyway between 1948 & 1970 some 170,000 applied for CO status. We must note that many of those were probably looking for a way to escape going to Viet Nam & were not sincere. During The Gulf War 1990 - 1991 some 2,000 at least in the service applied for CO status. In the past decades the big issues have been - do those objecting on philosophical or political grounds (Muhammad Ali for example) have the right to be exempted from service?? Our courts and administrators have gone back & forth on that.

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR is an example of the claim that violence is always self defeating. This book/movie came up at our table briefly. I was trying to say that Charlie Wilson gave Al Qaeda its start. What I meant was that our Defense Dept & CIA cooperated with Wilson a charismatic and free-wheeling congressman in channeling some billion dollars worth of arms and training to Mujahedeen fighting the Russians -- all 'off the books'. We were delighted to have these hard fighting 'freedom fighters' killing Russians for us as our surrogate soldiers. Fast Forward one plus decade, lo and behold these same Freedom Fighters are Terrorists and killing US troops.



Upcoming Programs...

- 1/10: Ariana Brodsky, Rotary Exchange to Germany and Courtney Gaul, Rotary Exchange to Russia.
- 1/17: Tom Ramage, PhD, President, Parkland College
- 1/24: Michael Hirschi, PhD, Professor, Agricultural and Biological Engineering, UIUC, and member of Champaign West Rotary, on Champaign West's International Project in Honduras.
- 1/31: Kathleen Liffick, Director, Champaign County Head Start and Early Head Start.
- 2/7: Rich Martin, UI Professor of Journalism, former General Manager of Roanoke Times, Roanoke, Virginia
- 2/14: Lex Tate - discussing her book on the history of UI, the physical campus
- 2/21: Chris Lubienski, Professor of Education UI, discussing his research on school vouchers
- 2/28: Stanley Ambrose - UI Professor of Anthropology. (Professor Sue Kieffer recommended him when she spoke to our club the last time)

ROTARY BIRTHDAYS...

Robin Winkas – 01/03 (last Thursday)



VISITING ROTARIANS...

none

GUESTS...

none

Sorry We Missed You...

Adams, Ackermann, Anderson, Barringer, Chalifoux, Eaton, Giertz, Gould, Helfer, Kakoma, Kamerer, Nelson, Olsen, Poling, Schluter, Ulen, Winkas, Woolard, Young

Other local club meetings:

MONDAY

Champaign – Hawthorn Suites – 12:00 p.m.
Danville – Days Inn – 12:10 p.m.

TUESDAY

Rantoul – Caddyshack/Willow Pond Banquet Center – 7:00 a.m.
Urbana – – 12:00 p.m.
Danville South – Deluxe Restaurant – 12:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Mahomet – The Hide Away – 6:45 a.m.
Champaign West – Round Barn Centre – 12:00 p.m.
Monticello – Community Building – 12:05 p.m.

THURSDAY

Danville Sunrise – Days Inn – 6:45 a.m.
Savoy – The Windsor of Savoy – 12:00 p.m.
Villa Grove – Pizza Man – 12:00 p.m.
Illini After 5 – Kennedy's – 5:15 p.m.

Visit our District web site www.rotary6490.org/

Visit the Rotary International website at www.rotary.org

UPCOMING DUTIES...

| | January 10 | January 17 | January 24 | January 31 | February 7 |
|---|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Introductions | Cary Woolard | Kathy Young | Clemmie Ackermann | Curt Anderson | Oktay Baran |
| Invocation | Tanya Gould | Sherry Helfer | Jan Ison | Larry Johnson | Ibulaimu Kakoma |
| Greeter | Diana Dummitt | Dan Eaton | Donna Giertz | Tanya Gould | Mary Hodson |
| Greeter | Clemmie Ackermann | Curt Anderson | Larry Barringer | Alan Chalifoux | Neal Chamberlin |
|  | Ibulaimu Kakoma | Ben Lapid | Barb Lintner | Ben Mast | John McDaniel |
| Notetaker | Mary Hodson | Ed Perry | Paul Conforti | Allan Penwell | Ben Mast |

Invocation Tip: The “About Rotary” section at the Rotary International website describes clubs as “nonpolitical, nonreligious, and open to all cultures, races, and creeds.” If you have the invocation please consider that not everyone in our club may be of the same religious background as yours. Please construct your invocation accordingly.

Paul Conforti compiles edits and publishes information for the Earlybird. If you wish to have information included within this weekly document, contact him by 5:00 p.m. on each Tuesday at paulcon40@aol.com.

