

Gulf Breeze  
April 5, 2011

Last Week

**Guests:** Dave Garris, North Dunedin; Nan and Duncan Chisholm, Scotland; John Mueller, Michigan; Wayne Mineo, Safety Harbor.

**Happy Bucks:** Chuck Dean for being a guest of Jeff Rhoads at the FAES, good times to be had in Florida; Deborah Kynes for her visit with her son in Berlin (did not get to a heavy metal bar), also thank you to John Hubbard for his years of service to the city; Peter Krulder for the annual earth days at the Honeymoon Island State Park coming up April 15, 16,17; Helen Gleason for her daughter's safe return to Japan; Lynn Wargo for our club's support of the Interact breakfast and for the excellent S4TL candidates this year; Bob Wheeler for Boston 3, Toronto 2; Sallie Parks for the Bellaire Fund raiser where she won a trip to Highlands, NC; Joan Guitierrez and Martine Stapp for the very successful Florida Orchestra fundraiser where the North Suncoast Associates of the Florida Orchestra raised \$25,000.

**50/50 Drawing:** Derrick won \$4 from the pot of \$128.

**Announcements:** Remembrance of Rotarian, Ed Smith; thanks to Bob Wheeler for his dedication to the success of the Harley Raffle; thanks to Roberta Cantor who as a member of the scholarship committee reads that applications each year.

**Program: Building Communities and Bridging Continents**

**The Dunedin Rotary International Committee and Literacy Committee reported on activities that resulted in successful community building projects in Dunedin and Belize during Rotary years 2009-2011. Bev Fisher, Martine Stapp, Pat Bauer**

**The International Committee** was looking for one long term project and we found it in Belize. Bev Fisher, one of the committee's co-chairs met Jimmi Jones at Dunedin's First Presbyterian Church in 2009. He was giving a speech about his training at Morningstar Fisherman's Training Center where he learned how to start his own Tilapia fish farm in Lords Bank, Belize. The church sponsored him while he was in the training program.

Shortly after that Bev was invited by the Belize Ministry of Education to conduct several teacher trainings. Each time she was in Belize City for her work she went to the fish farm in Lords Bank to see the progress Jimmi was making. On one occasion she asked what he needed more than anything else to be successful and to help the village people. He said a water well. Bev knew that the International Committee was looking for a water project to satisfy their goal of a long term project so brought the idea back to the committee.

The Dunedin Rotary International Committee voted yes to the **well project** and not only sent a check for nearly \$5,000 but also asked the local Belize City Rotary Club to visit the site and help with the project.

The communication on the well project led to 2 additional relationships. One was with Jimmi's wife, Sandra-Lee who was the administrator for Lords Bank's pre-school. Bev found out on one of her visits to Lords Bank that the pre-school teachers needed to be certified to teach through the Ministry of Education. Also, there were several other pre-school teachers in the surrounding rural areas who needed the official certification as well. **Our committee arranged for over 40 teachers from rural pre-schools to be trained** and certified in pre-school education.

Another relationship was developing. It was with the Belize City Rotary Club. When the International Committee decided to work on a project with the Literacy Committee led by Pat Bauer, we knew we could count on help from our new friends. Since Bev had worked with the Ministry of Education in Belize City and knew that there were several elementary schools which needed reading materials, she asked the Director, Carol Babbs to help with a project we called **Books for Belize**. Our plan was to collect the books from Dunedin Elementary Schools and involve the Belize City Rotary Club in the distribution of the books. They became our eyes and ears for the project. They sent pictures and told stories so we could feel more a part of it.

Our goal is to **continue our work with the Belize City Rotary Club**. They told us of their feed the **children's lunch program** at 2 schools that were in the most disadvantaged areas of town. We sent \$500 to them to help feed the children which costs about \$1.37 per child per day for a nutritious lunch. For some children it's the only meal of the day. Since the children have been eating their nutritional lunches attendance and grades have gone up.

Kids can't learn if they are hungry.

We plan on continuing our help with this program as long as needed.

Update: We have recently heard that Jimmi is volunteering his time to **help the local Girls Home** set up a fish farm and aquaponics system of growing vegetables. He is also working with 2 local high schools helping them start an aquaponics system which will eventually become part of the school's curriculum.

**Literacy Committee:** Building Communities in Dunedin to Bridge Continents

These community building activities took place beginning in fall 2009 and continued through spring 2010.

**Dunedin Rotary International and Literacy Committees-** Gained club support for a literacy project in Belize by pointing to success of water well and fish farm in the same area as the targeted schools.

**Dunedin Elementary Schools-** Gained approval from staff at 3 Dunedin Elementary Schools to promote book donation among students. Met first with School Media Specialists, then with sponsors of multi-cultural clubs who agreed to make it a year-long activity, culminating in book collection after spring break. Children donated their gently used books to become part of classroom collections in Belize primary schools without libraries.

**Tom Bauer-** Gained commitment from Tom to provide support and man power necessary to collecting and storing books temporarily in our garage.

**Huntington Learning Center-** Worked with Terri Davis to arrange for shipment of instructional materials to primary teachers in poor village schools in area where water well and fish farm projects were implemented.

**Print Source-** Worked with Ray Kingsbury to get labels printed for the book boxes and crates of teaching materials from Terri Davis.

**Anchor Archives-** Worked with Michael Kallaugher (referred by Jim Haley) a Rotarian who owns a storage facility in Oldsmar, to obtain free boxes for shipping books. Arranged for pickup of teaching materials, Terri Davis had stored in Anchor Archives, for shipment.

**Lealman Asian Neighborhood Family Center-** Worked with Danielle Harkin, a teacher at the center (who I knew from the PPLC Board) to sort books and prepare for shipment. Arranged for some books (not so gently loved) to be donated to the afterschool program in the Lealman neighborhood Family Center.

**AIT Worldwide Logistics-** Worked with Tom Ormerod (a guy Tom Bauer knows from the gym) to arrange for pick up and shipment of books at his cost.

Next Week:

Invocation – Pat Bauer

Joke- Mark Brandt