March 16 program

‘What in the world is going on in Egypt?’

Also, a belated happy birthday to Rotary

Our own Rotarian Dr. Nabil Saleh will share his thoughts and expertise with insights and an update of the happenings in Egypt. Postponed from Feb. 23, Rotary Club of OPRF will be celebrating Rotary’s 106th birthday with a birthday cake generously provided by our own Lou Fabbri and the Abington Banquet bakers. Also, at this time, Foundation Chair Charlie Williams will be conducting our annual drawing for a Paul Harris Fellow. You receive one entry ticket for each $100 contribution to “Every Rotarian, Every Year.”

Also, Jim Flanagan, Chairman of the Senior Committee for Oak Park Township, is also president of the Celebrating Seniors Coalition. Jim will take about five minutes to explain the weeklong celebration being sponsored by the Coalition during Older Americans Month in May. He would like to talk to us about how we can become involved in this project.

Notes from our contacts in Japan:

Following the devastating earthquake and subsequent tsunami that hit Japan, members of our club corresponded with former exchange student Maki Kishimoto and a future inbound Group Study Exchange member from Japan, Seiko Aiba. Their correspondence follows:

Dear Maki –

First, how are you and your family? Are you okay? I am sure you have many things going on in your life right now with everything that is happening in Japan, but I am concerned that you and your family are okay. If you can, let me know. You can email or if you want to and can, you can call my cell phone.
Everyone from Rotary asks about you all the time, and everyone - us especially - miss you very much.
Let me know what's going on.
Love and Many Hugs,
Lesley

Here is Maki’s reply . . .

“This thank you for worrying about me.

“At first, me and all my family members are okay. small earthquake is still hitting her so we should still be careful.

“And luckily, the town I live in didn't get that much damage. But since the disaster in north eastern side is awful, our government decided to have "planned power failure". It divide the area around Tokyo into 5 groups and turn off all light 3 or maybe 6 hours a day in turns.

“The earthquake was awful. When it comes to my house, I was with my sister and as soon as we felt that, we escaped into under desk. and my sister shouted "Open the window!!!". I thought it was really bad one and maybe i was going to die. And next, we found we could not reach to any family members cuz the line was messed. That night, all train system was downed. Next morning I found all my family is home and feel safe. But what i saw next was awful disaster in our country.

“And now, i am kind of upset with too much informations.

“We are really appreciated for your cheers. We really do.

“Do not worry about me. I am okay. I hope everyone is doing well and I miss you all a lot!

Maki Kishimoto

This came a couple of days later:

“My graduation has postponed till this Saturday. I will send you some pictures from my graduation. There will be no gown nor that square hat though:) And because of this earthquake, most of inbounds in my district are going back their own country.

I feel so sorry for them. Hope they will come back to japan someday.”

Maki Kishimoto

Charles Wells’ message Friday after he heard about the terrible destruction, now estimated at more than 10,000 lives, is below his:

We are very sorry for the terrible devastation that your country has just experienced with the earthquake and devastation. Please accept our deep concern and fond hopes that you and your family have been spared from this terrible destruction.

My wife Sue and I expect to be your hosts the first week of your visit to Illinois. As soon as you can, let us know of your situation and whether you can still come and be with us.

I have traveled to Japan 40 years ago—Okinawa and Tokyo, when I was in the U.S. Army as a lieutenant coming to Tokyo to work with the U.S. Army printing plant there. I was in Viet Nam at the time and they were printing a magazine we started for the employees of the U.S. Forces in Viet Nam.

Our prayers are for your safety and that you are in good conditions in spite of all the troubles Japan is experiencing.

Your new friends in Oak Park,
Charles

Dear Mr.Wells,

“Thank you very much for your kind e-mail.

“I finally returned back home. At the time of the earthquake, I was at 29th floor of an old high-rise building in Tokyo.

“It wobbled dangerously. I thought I was going to die. I really appreciate to be alive now.

“After the earthquake, I escaped in a park. I stayed there until things calm down and

“I went to a hotel that GSE Chicago members stayed. I was very lucky spend the night with them.

“Now Japan is in a difficult situation, but I wish everything is settled as soon as possible.

“I'm really looking forward to seeing you in Chicago.

Best regards

Seiko Aiba
GSE JAPAN
March 23 there’s gonna be a jailbreak

With apologies to Thin Lizzy, next week there’s gonna be a jailbreak.

Enjoy an early lunch — noon rather than 12:15 — with fellow Rotarians, and then head off in teams of two or three to help deliver dictionaries to third-graders in Oak Park, River Forest and Forest Park public and private schools as well as three Chicago Public Schools. If 12-15 teams of Rotarians each deliver to two or three schools, passing out dictionaries to third-graders, sharing the Rotary story, and taking a few photos, everyone should be done no later than 3 p.m. AND ALL the dictionaries will be delivered and in the hands of our local third-graders where they will do the MOST good! The Literacy Committee is asking everyone to step up to the plate. This is an opportunity for us to give until it feels good. All that’s necessary is a few hours of your time. Please let us know ASAP that you will be able to help, so a schedule can be created.

When you’re a Jet …

Come see exchange student, Jakob, in ‘West Side Story’

Fenwick High School’s production of West Side Story — including our very own Viking Jakob Windolf-Nielsen — is scheduled for the weekend of April 15-17. Fenwick has generously offered to host both pre- and post-private receptions for our Rotary: “Wine and Cheese” before the performance and “Coffee” afterwards.

Let’s show our support for Jakob and at the same time make a few extra dollars for the club. The cost of the tickers is $15 for adults and $10 for children. (Yes, it’s a few dollars more than advertised ticket cost, but it’s worth it to support both Jakob and the club!)

So, HEADS UP — SAVE THE DATE. We will attend the Sunday 3 p.m. performance. Reception details to follow. Mark your calendars now.

Glee Club to perform March 16

Our very own Irish Rovers, the Rotary Club of Oak Park-River Forest Glee Club will be performing traditional irish songs in honor of St. Patrick’s Day.

Leader Bob Giles is asking that Glee Club members — or anyone who wants to sing — meet in the dinning room about 11:40 before the meeting on March 16 to rehearse a couple of songs. He will have the music for the troup and the words for the club so the club can sing along.

March 9 Meeting Notes

Rick Hibbert opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Curt Cruver led the Four-Way Test. Jerry Lordan delivered the invocation. … Lesley Gottlinger announced the day’s guests: Tom Nelson, Don Lennie, Dick Tresselt, all guests of Curt Cruver; Tom Wetzel, speaker and guest of the club; Bill Miller, brother and guest of Geri McLauchlan; and Jocelyn Vetrano, guest of the club.
PET OF THE WEEK

Scrabble arrived at ACL as a young kitten (abandoned at our back door at the tender age of just five weeks), and, sadly to say, has had to grow up in a shelter. Though she shared foster care with her littermates, her return to the shelter found Scrabble left behind as her littermates moved on to homes of their own. Scrabble is a gentle cat who, once upon your lap, may remain contented there for quite some time while you stroke her lovely fur. Scrabble continues to find shelter life difficult with all the comings and goings of strangers that she needs to meet to find that forever home of her own. She longs for a quieter home with a patient caregiver who will take joy in providing an environment where Scrabble can feel safe and become all she can be. We hope she will find it soon. Children over 8. Quieter home.

GSE Team from Japan to visit April 30-May 7

The Group Study Exchange Team from Japan will be arriving April 30. Our club will host the group at the May 4 meeting. Coordinators for the GSE Team are Lee Latham, Marie Olmos and Tina Levy.

Werner and Laurie Huget will host team leader Tomoyo Hiraiwa; Robert and Marilyn Giles will host team member Toshiaki Takai; Charles and Suzanne Wells will host team member Seiko Aiba; Jorge and Marie Olmos will host team member Erika Miyaki; Lee and Bill Latham will host team member Yoshiaki Ono; and Thomas and Grace Ewert will host Takeshi Kokaji.

RI Convention travel details:

The Rotary International Convention in 2011 will be held in New Orleans, La. May 21-25. There will be several Rotarians and spouses from our club attending the convention. All club members are welcome.

United Airlines and Amtrak are offering discounts for travel. Jerry Lordan is riding the “City of New Orleans” from Chicago departing Union Stations at 8 p.m. May 20 and arriving in New Orleans at 4 p.m. May 21. The price before discount is $112.

There are multiple hotels listed on the convention website. Jerry Lordan will be staying at the Queen and Crescent Hotel.

Club Members are urged to share their travel plans with the President to facilitate travel and lodging arrangements.

Upcoming District Events

- **District Assembly** — Saturday, April 9 — register at the District website for this day of planning and preparation for the ’11-’12 club year.
- **District Rotary Leadership Institute** — Saturday, April 16 — register on the District website for this day of training. Gain skills for
leadership and service not only specific to Rotary, but also for your career and community service.

- **District Conference** — May 13-15 at Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan, WI. Register at the District website so we can have a strong OPRF presence at the conference. Blue Harbor is family-friendly and Sheboygan is a beautiful lakefront city just a few miles from Kohler. So there is plenty to see — many opportunities for a great weekend getaway.

**Other clubs in the area:**
Missed a meeting or want to see what neighboring clubs are up to? Here is a list of neighboring clubs
- **Addison**, meets 12:15 Wednesdays, Alta Villa Banquets, 430 N. Addison Road, Addison.
- **Bensenville**, meets 12:15 p.m. Tuesdays, Two Chefs Restaurant, 3 S. Center St., Bensenville.
- **Broadview**, meets 12:15 Thursdays, Sawa’s Old Warsaw, 9200 W. Cermak Road, Broadview.
- **Brookfield-Riverside**, meets 12:15 p.m. Tuesdays, Paisan’s Restaurant, 3720 Grand Blvd., Brookfield.
- **Chicago O’Hare**, meets 12:15 p.m. Thursdays, Great Escape, 9540 Irving Park Road, Schiller Park.
- **Cicero**, meets 12:15 p.m. Thursdays, Alessandro’s Restaurant, 6050 W. Cermak Road, Cicero.
- **Elmhurst**, meets 12:15 Thursdays, Wilder Mansion, 211 S. Prospect Ave., Elmhurst.
- **Elmhurst Morning**, meets 6:45 a.m. 1st and 3rd Thursdays, Elmhurst Restaurant, 441 W. Lake St., Elmhurst.
- **Elmhurst Morning**, meets 6:45 a.m. 2nd Thursday, Bob Bretl’s Office – Business Meeting, 444 York Road, Elmhurst.
- **Elmhurst Morning**, meets 4th Thursday, Fitz’s Pub, 172 N. Addison Ave., Elmhurst.
- **Maywood**, meets 12:15 p.m. Thursdays, First Congregational Church, 400 N. Fifth Ave., Maywood.
- **Norridge-Harwood Heights**, meets 12:15 p.m. Tuesdays, Vince’s Italian Restaurant, 4747 N. Harlem Ave., Harwood Heights.