Today’s Programme: Katherine Barber, The Word Lady
Topic: “English: An Incredible Journey”
Location: The Imperial Room; Fairmont Royal York
Host: Valerie Clarke

Here’s a challenge for you: how many ways can the syllable that sounds like see be spelled in English? Can you think of an example to illustrate each of those spellings? Keep thinking! All will be revealed. Because English-speaking people have always been such enthusiastic borrowers from other languages, our spelling is notoriously non-phonetic. It causes grief to both native speakers and second-language learners. But its sheer quirkiness has contributed to what we can only call a “language as a parlour-game” phenomenon: English speakers love to test their linguistic mettle (or is that “metal”, “meddle” or “medal”?) in games like spelling bees, and our many homophones make the language a fertile ground for punsters.

So, what’s your Legacy?

If you knew you were going to die tomorrow and were asked, “What will your Legacy be?” would you have an answer? Would you smile knowing your time here will continue to benefit the lives of others?

We are beginning a campaign to collect the personal Legacy stories of people around the world, Rotarian and non-Rotarian, and publish them in a book… for the world! The book will be part ‘Guide’ (how to create Legacies) … and part ‘Stories’ (real examples of what people have created).

"Many of the great personal stories of the commitment of Rotarians are frequently lost…stories of those personal legacies they would leave to their family, friends and others. By recording these stories, they may become a splendid motivation for present and future Rotarians, and non-Rotarians, to preserve the tales of the opportunities they have found and experienced in their lifetimes. I look forward to reading them."

Cliff Dochterman
President, RI 1992-93

We define Legacy as something you enjoy creating ‘now’ that will continue to benefit the lives of others when you’re ‘gone’.

Your Legacy is your footprint in the sand. Your Legacy proves you were here. It leaves a mark, large or small. And I believe there’s joy and energy in creating them, now.

By writing and submitting a story about a Legacy you’re building, or about one that you’ve seen created by someone else, you will excite another person’s imagination with what they can do.

“I think the idea is excellent. Stories of personal Legacies will be a great inspiration to Rotarians… and others who may then join Rotary. I’ve met thousands of Rotarians and each has a story that needs to be told. These stories need to be documented and they’ll become an inspiration to other people… particularly to our youth.”

Wilfrid Wilkinson
President RI 2007-08

Your Legacy can be anything you want it to be, large or small. We think there are three broad categories of Legacy, and the book will detail ‘how’ to create in each category, and tell stories of Legacies already created. Those categories are:

1. Money. Are you using tax-efficient, planned giving to change lives, and are you enjoying the effect now? Have you structured your estate to continue to enhance lives when you’re gone?

2. Stories. How about a written, audio or video history of Dad, Mom or anyone else in the family that informs and entertains generations to come? Perhaps your ‘ethical will’ telling of your values that family will read in a hundred years?

3. Stuff. This is the biggest category because anything can be a Legacy if it continues to benefit others when you’re gone: flowering bushes planted up a country road; a hospital wing; a charity you began; a park you helped build; an environment you created; skills you taught that continue to be passed on.

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"These stories show that the most important thing in life is not so much what we get, but how willing we are to give it all away."

Monty Audenart,
Past RI Vice-President 2008-09

When a person plants a seed, they may never sit under the tree’s shade. But others will. That’s Legacy. We are collecting stories that will act as catalysts for every reader of the book to dream of what their Legacy could be, and then create it. Your story will excite another person, Rotarian or not, to begin to think about, then create, their own Legacy. This means the story of one of your Legacies (yes, you can have many!) will stir another person to create theirs.

The key: This is your personal story, perhaps taken from the three broad categories of Legacy mentioned earlier. This Legacy may have been created as a Rotarian…or in your personal & family life. This is NOT a book about Rotary…nor about the accomplishments of Rotary. But it will be a book filled with personal legacy stories of Rotarians and non-Rotarians. It will tell of legacies that have been left by others, or the personal legacy you’ve completed or are working on. The author of each legacy story chosen will be identified, and if the author is a Rotarian, the reader will learn of that resourceful, caring spirit…and hence about all Rotarians.

“Too often our personal stories go untold…we haven’t captured the stories of people who made contributions as they thought what they were doing was ‘run-of-the-mill’. We shouldn’t lose any more history. Our personal stories are important to capture, for us…and younger generations. This is a great project to do that.”

Steve Allan, Governor
Rotary International District 5360

Creating a Legacy, large or small, while young and healthy, adds energy, joy and focus to any life. And when each of us ‘goes’, there’ll be a proud smile on our face, as we know we’re leaving a mark.

Author Robb Lucy, and Rotarian & publisher K.G. Knowles & Associates Ltd., will gather, edit and select stories for a new book, tentatively titled:

Legacies aren’t for Dead People.

A Guide to creating and really enjoying yours… now!

For some sample Legacy stories and biography of author Robb Lucy, go to http://legacysmile.blogspot.com/

So, we’d like your stories:

1. Have you benefited from another's Legacy? And if the person who created it is still alive, are they enjoying it too, knowing it will still be there when they’re gone?

2. Are you creating a Legacy, or Legacies? Is it one you & others can enjoy now...knowing that when you go, it will continue to enhance other lives?

Please email your **400-word Legacy story** to mvstory@legacysmile.com. Please keep your story to **400 words maximum**. We don’t want to edit your story, and your legacy. We want this to be YOUR story.

We will contact you for permission to use your story in the book. And please add your comments on the official **Rotary Linked In site**. Search for the “So, what’s your Legacy?” discussion.

Pioneer psychologist and philosopher William James said: “The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.” We believe that personal Legacy stories from Rotarians around the world will cause a burst of creativity in several generations that want to leave the world a better place.
What you missed  
by Paul Truelove

President Bert welcomed three visiting Rotarians, three Rotaractors and nine guests. Peter Love shared some of the points of interest from the large club conference in Birmingham Alabama. Our club has been a member of this group since 1961. It is three days of participation with other Rotarians that face the unique challenges of being a large club. Peter will be sharing additional information with committee chairs that was gleaned from this conference. Mark Stoiko did an amazing introduction for our guest speaker Terence Young. Terence has been driven by tragedy to make a difference to all. He shared the pain of losing his daughter to a prescription drug that had fatal side effects. These side effects made up part of the warnings for the drug label. However we all agreed that reading over 50 pages of small print with very confusing terminology really wasn’t a fair warning at all. He went on to inform us that BigPharm has been bending and breaking the rules all for the sake of profit. It seems that they only pull drugs off the market when they are no longer profitable. He also told us that 97% of all new drugs have no substantive increase in therapeutic gain. And yet the billions of dollars they make tends to keep them above the law. All in we agreed that we should really become more informed about what is in our medicine cabinet before it is too late!

The 50/50 draw had $2226 in the pot but Richard White decided on the wine. John Fortney will be your voice reporter next week.

International Dining and an evening of Fellowship at The Sultan’s Tent  
by Valerie Clarke

On Tuesday, Feb 16, a small group of members enjoyed an evening of dining and entertainment Moroccan style at the Sultan’s Tent with our member Bill Bressmer and his charming wife Ann, acting as host to our members for this intimate event. The restaurant which was originally located at Bay and Yorkville relocated to Front St. in 2006 and to quote a customer from the restaurant’s website: “Marvelous Moroccan: Sultan’s Tent gets your belly dancing with edible exotica”. It certainly was an interesting evening filled with surprises. The beautiful, nubile belly dancer had our Justin Brown out on the dance floor teaching him some of the more sensual moves of this beautiful art and as we witnessed he was a fast learner! So intoxicating was her performance that in no time she had Millie Amato undulating to the rhythms and I must say Millie seemed to be exceptionally skilled and appeared very comfortable in that environment. I’d say Millie’s got the moves….you go girl!

The fare was ample and very exotic and the selections provided an excellent sampling of the rich, tasty Moroccan cooking. Maftoul – hand rolled Moroccan cigars of hot crispy pastry stuffed with a mix of mildly spiced beef, cashews and raisins topped with a chipotle aioli; Couscous Royale - sweet and savoury couscous and tangine; chicken marakesh and their award winning rack of lamb were among the many delicious dishes presented. My favourite was the finale of mint tea kissed by orange water and poured from great heights, was beyond all expectations.

A disappointing number of members were in attendance (only 13) as the three previous dinners have all been sold out and with a waiting list. This was my first international dining experience which is a rather popular program being presented by our Fellowship & Entertainment Committee. Also in attendance were: Paul Truelove, Pat Neuman, Lori Brazier, Joe and Millie Amato; Justin Brown and his guest, Mazher and Rosalyn Jaffrey, Bill and Ann Bressmer and Michael and myself.
His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death. The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved. "I want to repay you", said the nobleman. “You saved my son's life.” “No, I can't accept payment for what I did”, the Scottish farmer replied waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel. "Is that your son?" the nobleman asked. “Yes”, the farmer replied proudly. “I'll make you a deal. Let me provide him with the level of education my own son will enjoy. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll no doubt grow to be a man we both will be proud of.” And that he did. Farmer Fleming's son attended the very best schools and in time, graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin. Years afterward, the same nobleman's son who was saved from the bog was stricken with pneumonia. What saved his life this time? Penicillin. The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill. His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill!