

The Spirit of U'Hills

February 13, 2009



PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

- Feb. 20 ...Jack SelwayRotary Global History Fellowship.....Subj: Fellowship in Rotary and the Value of History**
- Feb. 27 ...Curt FentressArchitect Subj: Trends in World Wide Architectural—Contextual Regionalism**
- Mar. 6Denver Art Museum Visit Members and Guests**
- Mar. 13 ...Melissa Kutchner-Rinehart.... Subj: DU Woman's Gymnastics Program**
- Mar. 20 ...Dr. Stephen Jordan..... President, Metro State College.....Subject: Trends in Higher Education in Colorado**

INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE AND PLEDGE

Dixie Davis, Past U'Hills President, ran our meeting today. Our usual Master of Ceremonies, President **Mike Hitchcock**, went skiing with 15 or so other U'Hills members at Winter Park via the Ski Train. **Dixie** welcomed us to "Another exciting meeting of the University Hills Rotary club where service comes before self." Then, she introduced **Art Judd** who had our inspirational message and Pledge of Allegiance. The message was a good one, first penned by *Theodore Roosevelt*:

It is not the critic who counts. Not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself for a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat.



Art Judd

—Theodore Roosevelt

"Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to..."

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mike Brewer and **Tom Murphy** were our greeters today. Due to cramped seating in the dining room, however, they weren't able to ply their greeting trade to any significant extent before we all sat down and started on our food. We thank them for their effort, however.

Rich Sattizahn then took over the task of introducing our visitors and guests today. He had the Winter Park contingent on his cell phone and tried to conduct an interview through **Jay Carpenter** on the other end of the phone connection. Certain bits of information were made available...such as the snow and ski conditions, the weather...things like that. All told, it was a comforting interview. At least we know they got to Winter Park, they're on the ski slopes, and they appeared to be in good health and were having a good time. **Rich** made a big hit with **Mike Hitchcock** by telling him that in his absence, "We're trying to run the meeting on time for a change. G'bye. Catch you next year."

Next was **Steve Werner** from the Denver Southeast Rotary Club. His guest is **David Kunia**, from Nairobi, Kenya and, "I'll give him more of an introduction later on in the meeting. He'll tell us of a project in Nairobi, Kenya. He's been giving the presentation to clubs and groups, 20 of them so far, all week." Steve also introduced other guests, **Dorothy Harrell** and **Meghan** and then another **Mike Brewer**. **Don Goe** told us a bit more about **Dorothy Harrell**, "She was winner of the Bevans Award a few years ago for her work in vocational education and related subjects. She's been a member of the Golden Rotary Club for quite some time."

Tom Murphy had some guests also, the family of the winner of our West Middle School Outstanding Student award, **Max Morrison**. Names? Kay, David, Annie, and Liza. "Annie, Max's sister, is going to Uganda for a year after she graduates from Cherry Creek before she goes on to study in college or she starts her career in Manhattan, shopping, whatever she has in mind."

And then there were the young ladies from CSU. They're members of CSU's Global Social and Sustainable Enterprise. [I had to get her to say it twice, slowly, and I'm still not sure I got all the words correct.] The four of them are CSU graduate students and are going to Kenya this summer to try to implement a water and sanitation project as a social enterprise. They had heard that David was speaking here today so they piled into a car, came down to hear him and what he had to say about Kenya in general, Nairobi and Kibera in particular. [Get out of



the way, world. These young ladies are coming your way. They gave all appearances of a group who knows what they want to do and will make things happen the way they want them to happen.]

Dave Hill had with him a couple of guests from the DU Rotaract. One was **Brian Travis**, co-president of the DU Rotaract. **Mike Morrett** (sp?) was the other guest. **Mike** is majoring in International Business in Arabic. Now, that's a rare one.

SERGEANT AT ARMS

Jeff Stotler, our tried and true Sergeant at Arms, took to the lectern with another story for the ages. It's about the pet shop in the main lobby of the building in which he works. One recent morning, as he was walking through the lobby, a parrot, on a small perch, came up with a "Squaaaakkkk. Hey mister, you're real ugly." Jeff, not overly sensitive about such matters, still thought it wasn't a very good endorsement of good customer relations on the part of the shop owner. Then, later in the day, as he left the building, he walked by the shop again and received another "Squaaaakkkk. Hey mister, you're real ugly." Well, that's the last straw. He walks into the store, told the store owner what happened, told him about the attorney in U'Hills Rotary Club, that if the bird says that one more time, it's curtains for the bird. Owner apologizes, says he'll take care of it right away. Next time he comes by, he's waiting for how well the owner followed through on his promise. So, as he walks by, the parrot says, again, "Squaaaakkkk! Hey mister. *You* know." A good one, Jeff. Good laugh from the crowd.



Jeff Stotler

"OK. Who's the first contributor?"

Sam Hill came to his feet with his omnibus announcement of events. "First I have my wife's birthday, my daughter's birthday, and our 51st wedding anniversary. One of the reasons I haven't been able to announce these events is that at a previous meeting, I was here eating my lunch, primed for the announcement when the receptionist came in, said I had a phone call. My wife locked her keys in her car in a supermarket parking lot, so I had to leave, didn't get to take care of the announcement. Then, last week the Sergeant at Arms segment was timed out. And, that's my story of how the birthdays and anniversary have been happening in my family."

Rich Sattizahn spoke of his younger son, who knows Max (the outstanding student recipient) and recommended *Jurassic Park* to him. "Wonderful, enthralling story. Anyway, my son took a State of Colorado mathematics test (reading from the math test that his son had taken) final round, University of Northern Colorado, and they gave the same test to seventh through 12th graders, and I brought the test." Scanning the test, he continued, "It's 11 questions and they had

three hours to finish it. First question was 'How many positive three digit numbers, A, B, and C, are there such that $A + B = C$. For example, 202 and 178 have this property but 245 and 317 do not.' That was the first question. Then there were the other questions that we don't even understand.

"Then another thing, my Dad did pass away last Friday evening. He was 90 years old. And I told Pat that he was a good guy in spite of the fact that he was president of the local Kiwanis Club. One of the things about Dad was that somewhere along the line he developed this signature apparel feature. He'd decided that red socks went with everything: suits, flannels, khakis, white pants—red socks with all of it. There was an issue at the nursing home that said he ran out of red socks. My brother ordered some more on line, solved the nursing home problem. But, my wife said, 'How could he run out of red socks? His kids have given him red socks for every birthday, Father's Day, Christmas for the last 20 years?'"

"So, we looked in his dresser, found a stash of about 50 pairs of red socks, some of which had never been worn, still in their cellophane wrapping. So, at his funeral Tuesday, every member of the immediate family—with the exception of my Mom because she says red is not her signature dress code—wore Dad's red socks." Sure enough, Rich had a picture of the family (about 25 strong), lined up on both sides of Mom, that he passed through the assemblage.

Red Holland revealed receipt of an email, last week.

Red and Betty were pleased to read that their youngest granddaughter, a student at CU, made the Dean's List. "She is a junior and is studying psychology. The email said that in order to be recognized, they must carry at least 20 credit hours and have a GPA of 3.75 or above. We're kinda proud of that. Also, I want to read a little from her letter we received yesterday. 'Dear Grandma and Grandpa' and then goes down to 'This semester, I am taking Psychology in Society, Developmental Psychology, Social Movements in the U.S., Global Human Ecology, and African American Women in Cinema. I really enjoy them all.' Then, she goes on down and says, 'I'm also baby sitting three days a week, working at a bakery on Sundays, and volunteering at the State Safe House one day a week. I'm keeping busy but having fun.' Then, she concludes by writing, 'Spike and my boyfriend, John, are both healthy and that is fine with me.' Spike is her cat and she gave the cat's name before she gave her boyfriend's name, we noticed."

Jim MacDermott announced "Last week was a bell ringer for us. On Tuesday, my granddaughter who was playing JV and Varsity basketball at the Eldridge School found out that she was now a starter in Varsity and then on Friday, my son-in-law who has lived outside of Cheyenne and was laid off back in October, with his occupation in Recreation, was hired to be a Recreation Director at the Centennial Recreation Center here in Centennial. Beside getting a job, the good news is that they are now moving back to Colorado and we'll have the youngest grandchild real close by."

Next up: **Paul Bauer**. "I have a bell ringer too. I want to start with thanks to **Jim MacDermott**, who visited with our Rotaract Club earlier this week and talked about his vocation and participation in Rotary and since I'm recognizing



Jim, I'm also recognizing **Tom Benson** who did this for us last December, and also **Mike Hitchcock**. So, since I have a \$20, that leaves one more, so the next one to raise their hand ... that's what the additional \$5.00 is for.

Dave Hill was next up to add a comment: "Paul is the adviser for the Rotaract Club at DU and he's also with the University. This fills a great hole for Rotaract because it allows the group to be a sanctioned organization at DU. It's very important to being able to operate on the campus. Paul deserves a hand for his work in keeping this club going and doing a great job."

WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Max Morrison and Awards

As **Dixie Davis** next observed, "There is one announcement we look forward to almost every month. It's the Achievement award for a West Middle School student. And **Tom Murphy** is ready to make the award." Tom?"

"I'd like to introduce **Max Morrison**. We often have trouble finding young men who can compete with the

young ladies at the 7th grade level. We did not have any trouble last Friday. At first, Max was a little retiring, didn't say too much until we let him talk. Then, we shut up and had a wonderful time listening to what Max had to say. Listen..." So, Max said, "I'm very active with the kindergarten kids and I help the teachers and ..." Then, Tom tried to prompt him and was told my the assembled members, "Shut up, Tom, and let him talk." So, he did, and Max finished what he wanted to tell us. Tom closed with: "Do you like football?" Max: "Yes." "Tom: "Do you like to dance?" Max: "Yes." Tom: "What type of dancing?" Max: "I don't really care." A few more questions then,

Tom explained the ground rules about where Max's name goes on the plaque (top, right hand row), where the award is hung in the school, and how Max can take the Certificate home and put it on his wall someplace special. "The selection starts in the school with some research by the teachers and principal. By the time they get to us, they've been grilled several times." Then, he read the Certificate. It said that the recipient is a credit to the school and that his presence makes the school a better place to learn. One person *can* make a difference. Then Pool took his picture and that's it above. Max's family stood and waved and everyone applauded and it was a lot of fun for all. When asked if he had anything else to say, Max set his weekly (or is it monthly?) allowance in concrete for a long time, with "I want to thank my Mom for being such an inspiration and a great Mom and leading me to who I am today. Thanks, Mom." Tom: "Now that, friends, is a very smart young man." Everyone agreed.

Tom then called on **Don Goe** for some words about the

Rotary literacy program. Don began with, "It's always nice to meet someone who is both literate and plays football. [Howls of laughter and appreciation] As part of the Rotary Literacy Program, here is a gift certificate from Barnes and Noble for \$25.00. Max: "Thank you very much."

DAVID KURIA KIBERA PROJECT, NAIROBI, KENYA

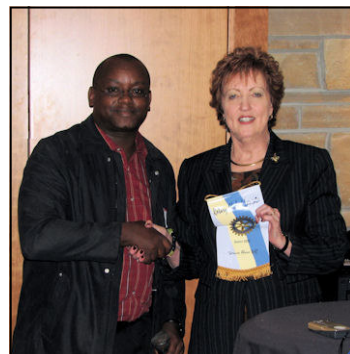
Next item on the agenda: **David Kuria** and the Kibera Project in Nairobi, Kenya. He was introduced by **Paul Bauer** and **Steve Werner** from the Denver SE Rotary Club. Paul said that Steve didn't need an introduction so the honors were all Steve's.

Steve: "**David Kuria** is a member of the Langata Nairobi Rotary Club. He joined the club after getting involved with our Kibera Project. I won't say much more about David's talk because that's why he's here, to tell you first hand, the progress that's been made. But, one thing just to set the context. Kibera is right in the heart of Nairobi. It's only one km from the downtown area. But most people, especially most tourists, go right by it because it's walled off. The land area of Kibera is about the same size as Denver's City Park and there over 1,000,000 living there. [Per Google, Kibera is the second largest slum in Africa. The largest slum is Soweto in South Africa. Kibera is at an elevation of 5,500', and is ~1.3 degrees south of the equator.]

"Very few organizations, Rotary, or CARE, or Catholic Relief Service or anybody else are involved in urban areas because there are a lot of different ethnic groups living close together. But, just imagine a million people living in an area the size of City Park without water, sewers, electricity, garbage collection or any other basic service. When **Mike Klingbiel**, a past president of our club, came back from a church visit to Kibera and talked about what could be done there, I mentioned that I had worked with David in the past and he would be a great person to get involved. We contacted David and he agreed to be our project manager.

"Two things happened after we started the project. David joined the Langata Rotary Club in Nairobi. Second, David was awarded a fellowship through the Ashoka Foundation and is active in that capacity. We got the project started with the Langata Club and many partners; you'll see how many partners there are in David's presentation. We were concerned that even though we built the structures, we knew they would fall apart in a few years because there was no revenue stream. People didn't really feel it was their project. David has done a great job.

"So, we—the Ashoka Foundation and Denver SE Rotary—asked him to come to Denver. We've been



David Kuria and Dixie Davis with Langata Rotary Banner



busy all week with talks like this one. Then, next week we have a lot of meetings set up on the east coast with some large foundations and USAID, the U.S. Government foreign aid agency. We're hoping we can attract the funding to scale up. I mentioned the million people in the size of City Park but our project is in only one neighborhood, Silanga. We're only reaching 10%. Reaching 100- to 150,000 people at one time makes this one of the largest water projects in the world. David?"

David's first act was to present Dixie Davis with a Rotary banner from the Langata Rotary Club. Dixie, of course, reciprocated with the University Hills Rotary banner. [See picture, page 3]

David began by defining the scope of what he would be talking about. Kibera is the name of the Nairobi suburb with a million people living in the size of Denver's city park. The project that Steve Werner mentioned and about which David spoke in more detail, is Silanga, population of "about" 145,000, the fourth largest village in Kibera. Looking at the pictures in David's PowerPoint presentation, from an overhead view, it's not an easy task to define where one village ends and another starts. The entire area of Kibera is one expanse of corrugated metal and plastic roofs, no gaps apparent.

David did show us an example of one of the paths through the village...an open sewer about a yard wide and a yard deep, dirt lips at the top of the ditch about two feet wide. The ditch was spanned by occasional collections of what appeared to be tree limbs three to four inches in diameter and a little longer than the ditch was wide that could be used to cross the ditch if your balance is average or better.

Recall, Steve Werner told us that Kibera had no utilities...no water, sewer, electricity, garbage collection or any other basic service. If you want to make a village with this many problems a place in which people can live productively, you must start somewhere. And that somewhere is potable water and sewer facilities.

David spent a few minutes on the potable water issue, showed us some sizeable storage tanks that had been built to hold the clean water that came out of wells. It's not exactly hot and cold running water but it is clean water that will prevent the spread of water borne diseases. A trip or two a day to the water faucets would provide clean water in the shacks...one small step for man.

But, the next step is one that David apologized for by telling us that use of the "s" word is going to be just plain unavoidable. It was a little more bearable coming from him because he didn't pronounce it the way you hear it on TV at night. The "s" word from David was "sheet". So be it. We're going to have to talk about the basic sanitation problem of what to do with the omnipresent solid human waste in Silanga.

He showed us the toilet shacks that were the norm before the project really got down to solving the problem. Coming from the corrugated metal shacks, apparently held together with wire, a few nails, and string, was a trench of human waste making its way into the open sewers. And that's enough of that. Our imaginations can grasp enough of the problem to

understand the scope of the task ahead.

The solution to the problem was to clean out the open sewer trenches, lay concrete sewer pipes from a toilet facility under construction to the connection with the Nairobi sewerage system. The toilet facilities had the basic equipment—toilet stools (sans seats), stalls, and wash basins. Some also had showers.

But, there was a problem. Evidently, in the society in which the slum of Kibera developed, reference to body wastes was something that wasn't done. Use of the word "toilet" was not an acceptable part of normal conversation. So, the name "IkoToilet" was coined and inserted into the language. The term even had its own logo: a stylized "Iko" with an arc from the "k", under the "o", to the "t" in "toilet". In subscript under "Iko toilet" were the words:

"Thinking beyond a toilet".

Whatever, something must have worked. The idea became a part of their vocabulary and the facilities even became a part of the parent city, Nairobi. David showed us a picture of the grand opening of one of the iko toilets on a street in Nairobi with multi-storied office buildings on both sides of it.

The structure has two components (approximately 20 x 30 feet in size) separated by an open air clear space of the same size. In the front segment was a small store that carried items in the, pardon the expression, "toiletries" line, and a couple or three chairs raised above the floor level where patrons could sit and have their shoes shined. Business was brisk in the pictures. In the rear segment of the two part structure were the actual toilet facilities...with a moderate sized **iko toilet** sign suspended over the whole building. So, it appeared to be off and running. The revenue stream mentioned by Steve was in place, business was good, and the entire concept seemed to be acceptable to the local community. David said they even had a guest book to be signed by visiting dignitaries.

And, speaking of toiletries brings to mind an activity that developed after the installation of the potable water source.

David had a picture of a well dressed young lady demonstrating to a small group of girls how to brush their teeth. The girl helping in the demonstration was the first in her family to own a toothbrush.

David had a picture of a well dressed young lady, in a playground setting, demonstrating to a small group of young girls how to brush their teeth. The girl helping in the demonstration was the first in her family to own a toothbrush. If you go to the store in the front of the **iko toilet**, you can buy one of your very own. Sort of a closed eco system.

Off and running? Not quite. As is well known, people being people, toilet facilities need someone on or near the premises to keep them clean. And, if someone who wants to take another (or a first) step up the economic ladder by asking for and taking a custodial job in the local **iko toilet**, what does one do when they go home to Kibera? If a neighbor asks the newly employed person what kind of job they got, the culture would frown on the answer, "I clean up toilets." So, in that culture, it's not a job to brag about although it is an essential job. [One of the local Rotarians suggested that they say, "I'm a sanitation engineer with the Nairobi Sanitation Department."] David had no comment although the Rotarians seemed to accept it as a suitable way



around the problem.

OK. That's what is going on in the Kibera Project in the effort to help people out of the squalor of the lives they're born into and can't get out of by themselves. What does the future hold given the assistance that a number of organizations are willing to offer? We all know that any well run enterprise must have a plan—frequently a five year plan. Well, David and his Langata Rotary Club, assisted by the Denver SE Rotary Club and other willing donors, have a five year plan. It goes like this:

FIVE YEAR PLAN		
200 IKOTOILETS IN 20 MUNICIPALITIES		
Phase 1	2008	10 Ikotoilets (Completed)
Phase 2	2009	40 Ikotoilets
Phase 3	2010-12	150 Ikotoilets

So, collaborating with organizations such as Denver SE Rotary, Ashoka, Acumen Fund, CARE, Safaricom Foundation, Global Water Challenge, etc., that's what the Kibera Project is all about—where they've been and where they plan to go.

And, that's where David ended his talk.

Dixie thanked David for his presentation on a project that most of us knew absolutely nothing about. "And we want to signify our appreciation for your work and talk with a certificate that we're buying five polio inoculations in your name from the Rotary PolioPlus Program."

Then, turning to the young ladies from CSU, the members of the Global Social and Sustainable Enterprise (GSSE), Dixie said, "We hope you will come back from your trip to Kenya with a photograph proving that you've been to an **iko toilet** and have signed the guest register."

"My closing thought for the day is:

**Songs or poems, forget love...
I'd rather fall in chocolate.**

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