

The Spirit of U'Hills

7 August 2009



PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

- Aug 7.....Mayal Tshiabulla from Kinshasa, Congo
Subject: RI Foundation Grant
- Aug 14....Jim SheelerSubject: Final Salute—
A Story of Unfinished Lives
- Aug 21....Larry ZimmerSubject: Football in 2010
- Aug 28....Rabbi Levi Blackman..Subject: The Wis-
dom Behind Jewish Business Success
- Sep 4.....Loy Dickinson, PDG ... Subject: Mission
263 Over Czechoslovakia
- Sep 11Erik JohnsonDU Women's Basketball
Coach
- Sep 18....Rotation Day
- Sep 25....Paul NeubertGeneral Manager, Green-
wood Athletic Club Subject: Healthy
Life Style
- Oct 2.....Phil Beaver.....Subject: 9/11 At The Pen-
tagon
- Oct 16.....Harvey Steinberg..... Defense Attorney

GREETERS

And here we have Past President **Linda James** being welcomed by one of our greeters today: **Andrew Dodgen**. They both seem to be enjoying the occasion, don't they? And, as you know, it only gets better inside. Come on in and grab a seat—the buffet line is just about to open.



Linda James and Andrew Dodgen

INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE AND PLEDGE

Our inspirational message designee today is none other than one of the new members of the class of RY 2009, **Joannie Schneider**. First, however, your editor has another confession to make: He took three pictures of Joannie. In two of



Joannie Schneider

them, her eyes were closed. In the third, she must have been having a bit of trouble with some combination of vowels and consonants that produced a slightly unflattering mouth configuration. So, the fallback position is her new member picture from the membership notebook. It's a picture of a really nice looking young lady. And, her message was a keeper.

Joannie started with her own confession, always good for the soul: "I had some help picking out this message—from my husband. This short story reminds us that regardless of our current challenges, if we have love in our life, wealth and success will follow:"

A woman came out of her house and saw three old men with long white beards sitting in her front yard. She did not recognize them. She said, "I don't think I know you, but you must be hungry. Please come in and have something to eat."

"Is the man of the house home?" they asked. "No," she said, "He's out." "Then we cannot come in", they replied.

In the evening, when her husband came home, she told him what had happened. "Go tell them I am home and invite them in," he said."

The woman went out and invited the men in. "We do not go into a house together," they replied. "Why is that?" she wanted to know. One of the old men explained: "His name is Wealth," he said pointing to one of his friends, and said, pointing to the other one, "He is Success, and I am Love." Then he added, "Now, go in and discuss with your husband which one of us you want in your home.

The woman went in and told her husband what was said. Her husband was overjoyed. "How nice!" he said. "Since that is the case, let us invite Wealth. Let him come and fill our home with wealth!"

His wife disagreed. "My dear, why don't we invite Success?" Their daughter-in-law was listening from the other corner of the house. She jumped in with her own suggestion: "Would it not be better to invite Love? Our home will then be filled with love!"

"Let us heed our daughter-in-law's advice", said the husband to his wife. "Go out and invite Love to be our guest."

The woman went out and asked the three old men, "Which one is Love? Please come in and be our guest." Love got up and started walking toward the house. The other two also got up and followed him.

Surprised, the lady asked Wealth and Success: "I only invited Love. Why are you coming in?" Wealth and Success replied together: "If you had invited either of us, the other two would have stayed out. But, since you invited Love, wherever he goes, we go with him. Wherever there is Love, there is also Wealth and Success."

"Please join me in the pledge."

"I pledge allegiance to the flag, of the United States....."



INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joe McCaffery introduced our guests and visitors today. First was **Rick Clark** from the Littleton Rotary Club. He will introduce our speaker today, **Mayal Tshiabuila** from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Dorothea Cicchinelli had a guest: **Mandy Hepworth**. "Mandy is a graduate from CSU and Metro. Her major is in business and finance. And, by the way, if anyone has a job opening, just let her know."

Jeff Stotler had his sister **Christie**, "Smarter and wiser and much better looking" than Jeff, in Jeff's own words.

And, we had a visiting Rotarian, **Al Johnson**, Assistant Governor for Area 14, District 5450, from the Parker Club.

SERGEANT AT ARMS



Jeff Duer

Jeff Duer, Sergeant at Arms, took over the lectern for his sometimes weekly audience loosening and happy thought for the day session. It began with, "All right! I have several goodies for you guys today. Let's start with where do eggs go on vacation? (silence) How 'bout New Yoke City?"

"What kind of storm is always in a hurry? Right. A hurricane.

"Lastly, my first knock-knock joke. OK, knock, knock. Response: who's there? Amish. Amish who? That's funny, I didn't know you guys were shoes." Five or ten second delay on what Amishoe really means.

"Now for the happy thoughts. **Phil Beaver** was the first volunteer with two potential contributions. He volunteered the information that a few weeks ago, when he brought his father to a U'Hills meeting, there was a conversation between his Dad and one of our younger members, **Alan Coldwell**. "The conversation pertained to a \$10.00 wager as to who was older, **Dad Beaver** or **Alan Coldwell**. After extended research it was determined that Alan is older than Dad by a month." The \$10.00 was produced, handed to Alan, and immediately turned over, by Alan, to **Larry Bell**, the licensed and bonded funds transfer agent. The second Beaver report was a recent sight-seeing trip, a couple of weeks ago, by the Beaver family. It was to Santa Barbara, LA, and Vegas. It included Mesa Verde, Monument Valley, Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, Moab, etc. The succinct evaluation: "The Southwest has a lot of big rocks." Laughter ensued, along with observations that Phil got it right...a lot of big rocks.

Jeff Duer: Anyone have a birthday? Anniversary? Happy thoughts for the day? Response from Pat Pool. "Yeah, I have one. I don't think anyone knew this, but my wife, Earline, has had a pulse rate of 40 for the last five or six years. The referral cardiologist said, 'Walk down the hall with me.' with stethoscope and BP cuff in place. So, she walked down the hall with the cardiologist. They came back. He said,

'Your pulse rate went up. You're OK.' Then over the next several years, she experienced events that would be expected from patients with a bradycardia (slow heart rate) condition. Finally, after a general lack of energy developed and grew worse, we said, 'Let's start over. She's not any better.' So, we did. Her first cardiologist told us that this was his first day on the job at the U. C. Hospital. OK. Must have been at the head of his class because he took over. Big time. Nuclear stress test: heart's basically sound. Heart catheterization: no blockages. Conclusion: you're set up for a pacemaker procedure this next Wednesday. Compared to today, that was last Wednesday. Pacemaker installed. Report from patient: 'I haven't felt this good in the last five years.' Overall evaluation: Great outcome. Specific evaluation of initial diagnosis: Decision on potential pacemaker candidacy should include more than a walk down a hall. And that's the Pool household happy thought for the day."

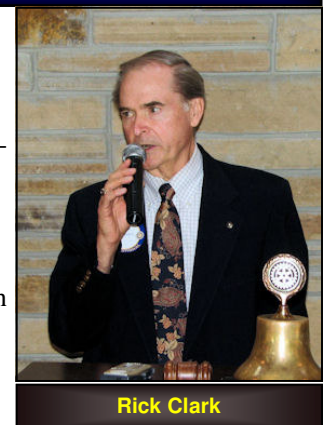
There were several anniversaries and birthdays reported that didn't quite make it into the recorder then **Lowell Palmquist** announced that "Thanks to our poet laureate, **Gus Achey**, we've had some inspirational poetry on various personality and vocational traits. Now, he's written another one—on the Four Way Test. I gave a copy of it to our bulletin editor and he's going to publish it. (n.b. It's rather long, so it will be handled as an addendum to the regular newsletter.) So, be sure to read Gus Achey's Four Way Test poem."

The Assistant Governor for our area, **Al Johnson**, got into the happy thoughts a bit when he spoke of a recent safari he went on. "Back in April, I saw an ad for a photo safari to South Africa. It was on my bucket list anyway, and it turned out to be a fund raiser for a Rotary Club, northeast of Johannesburg about 250 miles. My wife and I went, had a marvelous time. We were there for two weeks and got a lot of great pictures. So, that's my happy thought today."

President David, not seeing any more members who had a happy thought to contribute, turned the meeting over to Rick Clark from the Littleton club who will introduce our speaker.

**MAYAL TSHIABUILA
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

Rick Clark began with a remark that was nice to hear: "I've got to tell you that one of your sister clubs here in the Denver area, Littleton, has a warm spot in its heart for the University Hills club for many decades...none more memorable than your recent partnership with us in helping to fund an international project whereby we were able to get matching grant funds for a place we seldom give a thought to, and that's West Africa, and in particular, the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Through a remarkable set



Rick Clark



of circumstances, my wife, through her non-profit organization became aware of Mayal, our speaker, and his remarkable school and another school formed in a similar manner, separately, independently in the same type of education situation in circumstances that the people sitting in this room cannot even begin to comprehend. Two days ago, Mayal and I were on the west steps of the capitol watching a news conference where Governor Ritter proclaimed Tuesday, 4 August, as *Darfur Awareness Day*. He also informed us that the State had successfully divested itself of every investment in any company, anywhere, that had any ties with the Sudanese government.

“But, let me tell you that those atrocities don’t stop at an imaginary line called a border. Not in Africa. What you will hear from Mayal today is going to be an education, an inspiration and I’m so proud of U’Hills and our club and the four other Rotary clubs in our district that joined to make this wonderful project happen. With no further to do, let me introduce Mayal, our friend from the Congo.”



Mayal Tshiabuila

Mayal thanked Rick for his “Very nice introduction. As Rick said, I am very, very honored to be here and speak to you, you people gathering together to do good for humanity. I am happy also that we started the school. We started the school in the Rotarian spirit, to do good, to help fellow human beings. It is also a privilege to be here because Congo is over 7,000 miles from this place¹, and here I am, talking to you about me starting this small school. It had never, never occurred to my mind that I would be speaking to people like you, and telling you about this project. It had never, never occurred to me. So, here I am, thanks to God, to thank you for your donation. You are going to help hundreds of kids now and for many more years to come with what you have put up for the two Congo schools.

“When you learned that I was going to tell you about this project, you may have wondered about where is Congo. It is not very well known to many Americans. I know you love to travel. Tourism is one of your strong points. But, mostly you visit Kenya, English speaking east Africa. Congo is not Kenya. You probably have heard of South Africa since it became independent with Nelson Mandela. Recently, President Obama went to Ghana, which is in the west of Africa along the Ivory Coast. But, Congo is in the very center of Africa. The map helps you visualize where Congo is. It is a very large country. It’s about the same size as all of the United States east of the Mississippi River. Congo will hold all the countries in



¹ It’s actually a little over 8,000 (8,046) miles, ±127 yards, great circle distance.

western Europe...Spain, France, Benelux, Holland, Italy, Germany, Austria, and so on. Its size has made it very difficult to develop with a poor administration.

“Let me tell you a little bit about how we got there with humanitarian efforts in Congo [It’s interesting to note here than Mayal’s pronunciation of Congo is not the way we say it, as though the first letter is ‘K’, not ‘C’...Kongo. His pronunciation is as if the first letter is a ‘G’, as in Gongo, both Gs pronounced the same way.]



“We have another map of just the Congo² that shows more about the country. It is 70% agricultural, 70% developed. Rick was telling me today, travelling up to Georgetown, some of the houses and buildings date from the 1880s. In the Congo, in 1885, the European powers of the time divided up Africa...this is my share, I take this, you take that. At that time Congo became

the property of the King of Belgium, Leopold II. It was his personal property and he was the sole owner of Congo from 1885 till 1908. At the time, Congo was just jungle and it cost Leopold a lot of money to organize the country and establish helpful infrastructure projects to develop the country. There was little attention to human rights during this time. For example, he would chop off the hand of those who disobeyed him. But, Leopold became very rich from the products that were exported, primarily rubber...also copper and diamonds from the mines that were opened.

“Civil rights violations were severe and were criticized by other countries in Europe. Finally, due to pressure from other European countries, the Belgian government took control of Congo from 1908 to 1960. During this time they set up an administration and there was rapid development of industries and society. That was the time that Congo became alive as a country. But, then, they did not have a vision of what the Congo could become, like in 10 years, in 50 years, and so on.

“As you probably know, after the creation of the United Nations in 1945, there came the wind of independence and there was pressure from the United States to give independence to African countries. So, when those winds began to blow, Belgium did not train people who could take over the administration of the government. But, they could not resist the winds and decided to grant independence to the Congo in June 1960.

“When Independence Day came, after some political unrest, Congo had only 16 college graduates. And, they were

² We may as well stop here and explain that there are two Congos in central Africa. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC, Mayal’s country of birth) was the former Belgian Congo. The Republic of Congo (RC) adjoins the DRC to the northwest, was a part of the former French Equatorial Africa, and is only 5% of the size of the DRC—132k square miles vs. 2.345 million square miles.



not trained in governmental matters. So, that was the problem. Immediately after Independence Day, trouble began. Congo had about 400 different tribes. So, all the tribes became political parties, each fighting for independence and a share of power. It was a time of political unrest.

"It was at this time that Patrice Lumumba who happened to be a victim of the cold war of the time. He became prime minister. The day after he took power, the military tried to mutiny. They wanted their salaries raised. But, Lumumba didn't know how to raise their salaries. So, they went mad, started beating and killing everyone they encountered.

"When the Belgians granted independence, they believed that they would leave behind an administration that was then in the hands of Belgians so that the Congolese could slowly take over. But, when the soldiers mutinied and shot in the air and threatened the white people who were there and started looting shops and businesses, all the white people just left—about 100,000 of them. All the civil servants just left.

"I was happy to talk to a woman this morning who was a female doctor who was in Congo at the time and she said that at that time, the Belgians ordered about 500 Belgian doctors to just leave Congo, leaving nothing behind. And that was where we were shortly after achieving independence. So, all that period from 1960 to 1965 was utter chaos.

"Then, in 1965, **Mobutu**, a strong man, took power with the support of the United States CIA. It was a period of cold war and we had communism in Angola to the south, Tanzania to the east and Republic of Congo (RC) to the north. The U. S. would not allow communism to come into the Congo so they supported **Mobutu** to take control of the military that staged a military coup and took power³. He was a strong man and stabilized the whole country, which was good. But, after that he wanted to be a strong man and not tolerate any dissenting voice. So, anyone who dissented was killed.

"He accepted no ideas except his own and took complete control of the economy. He began by nationalizing all the big mining companies in the country. When that was finished, he tried to take over all the small businesses. At the time, all the small businesses were owned by expatriates. So, he woke up one day and said, 'From this day on, if you are Belgian, Spanish, American, Jew, whatever, and have a small business, your business must be controlled by a Congolese citizen.' He told these businessmen that they should calculate what their business was worth and he would reimburse them later. It was a death blow to the Congolese economy.

"That was in the early '70s. From then on, the economy went from bad to worse. In the early '90s, Mobutu's military went and looted every business in the capital city of Kinshasa.

They looted every shop, all of them! That started a humanitarian crisis that is still going on today.

"In the mid '90s, because of the genocide in Rwanda, thousands of Tutsis fled the Hutus into Congo. It was another crisis and the Congo is still suffering from that mass movement of Tutsis. The Hutus would not tolerate any Tutsis in Rwanda so they invaded Congo in 1996 and started to push the Congolese back into their own country. The trouble is still going on today.

"Now, back to the humanitarian crisis and what led us into the school in Kinshasa. As I said, without a functioning government, they were not paying the civil servants, the school system just collapsed. No hospitals, no new roads, decaying infrastructure. Kinshasa is a city of eight million people. This city, in 1960, when the Belgians left the Congo, had less than one million people. At the time the Belgians left, we had six big hospitals. Even today, about 49 years after our independence, we still have the same number of hospitals. So, from that you can see the depth of the crisis.

"So, when the government was not able to keep all of the facilities open, some private individuals jumped in to salvage the school system. They asked parents to contribute to the salaries of teachers. After

that, the practice became generalized in all the public schools. Others started private schools that would only take students who had good grades...but, most parents could not afford the tuition.

"During that time, I was working for the United Nations Development Program, had been for over 15 years. But then, came 2002, there was a UN restructuring. They cut back on our funds and they terminated the programs, giving the employees a severance package. So, in 2002, I found myself without a job. Then, I said to myself 'It's time to do something for myself.' I'd visited the United States and had read about the many small businesses, they were their own boss, so I said, 'Let me start my own company.' So, I went into chicken raising. I built a small room in my property and started to raise chickens. I bought 100 chickens, raised them to the point they were laying eggs.

"It went on OK but after awhile the chickens started dying, there were no eggs and I lost the chickens and lost the business.

"The chickens were gone, but I still had this room I built. So, with time on my hands I walked through the neighborhoods and was surprised at the number of children just playing in the streets. Congolese families have lots of kids: six, seven, 10 children. Many of them not going to school at all. Then I said, 'What is wrong here?' I talked to some of them and they said, 'Our parents don't have the money to send us to school.' Then, I said, 'We are going to do something. I have a room, we may take two hours a day, check in with groups of ten, and teach them how to read and write.' That is how it began. So, we started taking groups of 10-15 kids. It started like that.

"Then, we started getting more and more kids till we felt

Kinshasa is now a city of 8,000,000 people. In 1960, when the Belgians left, it had less than 1,000,000 people and had six hospitals. Today, after 49 years of independence, with 8,000,000 inhabitants, we still have six hospitals.

³ This Mobutu was not exactly your shrinking violet type of leader. Example: In 1972, he renamed himself from just plain *Mobutu* to *Mobutu Sese Seko Nkuku Ngbendu Wa Za Banga*. Translated, it means "*Mobutu, the all powerful warrior who, because of his endurance and inflexible will to win, goes from conquest to conquest, leaving fire in his wake.*"



we needed some assistance. I knew some Rotary exchange students and started to talk with some of them about the school. Through them, we started getting a few dollars, \$50-100 at a time, to use to buy some equipment.

"Then, I met a lady who had her own NGO, helping children throughout the world. She was on the internet and that's how I became connected with the Rotary people here in this area and they contributed to a project to sustain what we had been doing.

"We have four different programs at this school at this time. The largest one is for dropouts for kids who have dropped out of elementary schools. These are kids from eight to 16 years old. For many reasons, they have been unable to complete elementary school. They come to our schools. We divide them up into three different levels ranging from beginners to level three. When they graduate from that level, they take a government exam. Then they go onto secondary school education.



"We teach them in a small room that was meant for chickens but they are happy to be there. Without the schools, they would just be on the street.

"We also have a sewing program for single mothers. Without schools like this, they would not have any job and no education. They come to learn

some sewing skills and make stuffed animals that are distributed to the local orphanages.

"There are a lot of kids who have been abandoned by their family and with no place to go they just live in the streets and sleep wherever they can. With help from some of the local churches, we are taking some of these kids and giving them a place to sleep, food to eat, and time in our classrooms to get an education.

"As I said earlier, I never thought that I would be coming to America and talking with people like you who are helping people like me make changes in my country that correct some of the problems we have...never, never, never.

"We've looked at our operation to determine how much money we need to keep our schools open. It costs about \$2,000 a month to pay the teachers and our other bills. That's close to \$24,000 per year. So, we appreciate everything you have been able to send us and appreciate your continued support.

"Thank you very much for your attention. Are there any questions?"

Question (Krug): "What is the AIDS situation in your country?"

Answer: "HIV AIDS? It's a problem. 5% is the national average. But it varies throughout the country. In some prov-

inces it's as much as 9%. In the east where we have the problem with Tutsi refugees, it's a little higher."

Krug: "Is it going up or down?"

Answer: "We are not really sure. Our government doesn't have the resources to develop these kinds of numbers, so we just have the UN figures about the rates of infection."

Question (Achey): "What's the national language?"

Answer: "French. There are other native languages used in different provinces, but the national language, and the language used in schools, is French."

Question (Rewey): "What resources are available to help students go on to higher education? If a student completes the education at his school, then goes on to secondary school and is successful at that level, what opportunity is there for that student to go on to university studies?"

Answer: "There are several places that are trying to provide for these levels of education and they are well utilized in DR Congo. My daughter goes to a university in Kinshasa but the conditions need improvement. There was one class she attended that had to be cancelled because there was not enough oxygen in the air in the auditorium because of the large number of students...people were fainting. There were 1,800 students trying to hear that lecture...a full auditorium, then lots of kids outside listening to loud speakers.

Pool: "Did you say 18 hundred in the same classroom?"

Answer: "Yes, 18 hundred. Most are smaller classes, but some have 350 to 500."

Pool: "Sounds as though you have a fair sized problem."

Answer: "Yes, we do."

End of presentation followed by appreciative applause.

President David thanked Mayal for coming to speak to us and gave him one of the U'Hills pennants as well as our certificate for five polio vaccines for the Rotary PolioPlus program, purchased in his name.

DAVID'S THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

David's thought for the day was from the pen of Benjamin Disraeli:

*Action may not bring happiness,
but,
There is no happiness without action.*

*—Benjamin Disraeli
(1804-1881)*



THE ROTARY FOUR WAY TEST

The four-way test contains the guiding principles for Rotary Members.
We try to live by these simple, yet profound rules and then remember.

We should always act in a way that tries to follow these important rules.
Rotarians have for years been guided by these moral and ethical jewels.

The first rule is "**Is It the Truth?**" which we should consider in all we do.
We should strive to tell the truth no matter what it may lead to.

We cannot serve others if they cannot believe in what we say,
If our word is not beyond reproach and honest in every way.

Our organization will wither and fade away like so many groups now gone,
Who lost sight of their purpose and failed to get their promises done.

The second test asks us if what we do is "**Fair to All Concerned.**"
We should always be careful how we implement what we have learned,

And insure that fairness is always at the root of our service to society.
We should avoid treating one person over others and maintain propriety.

So that all we do benefits those we serve consistently and with persistence,
No one should be harmed because we have picked another for assistance.

"**Will it build goodwill and better friendships?**" reminds us of the importance of friendship.
This applies not only to our fellow Rotarians, our friendship for others shouldn't slip.

However, building better friendships is only part of the goal,
Building goodwill is critical so that what we do does not take a toll.

We should strive to not only serve but to create the respect of those we assist.
Rotarians should also be aware that others who also provide help is a huge list.

We must be careful to enhance their assistance, not overshadow or replace.
Rotary is not here to receive credit but to assist others, who in their grace,

Are already aiding causes that are worthy and necessary to those in need.
If we build goodwill and better friendships we will be able to succeed.

Finally, "**Will It Be Beneficial to All Concerned**" should be our overriding interest
If what we do is not beneficial to all concerned and cannot pass that test,

We must evaluate whether we are living up to the standards set so long before.
They were set up by people who were wise and were able to envision what society had in store.

Our Rotary forebears dreamt of an organization that set the standard.
Our behavior must be exemplary in so many ways so we don't retard,

The good works of many who have gone before and who provided an example
For us to emulate and try to achieve. The opportunities for service are ample.

As are the opportunities for us to follow the Four-Way test in all we accomplish.
If we remember these four simple rules we Rotarians can help others as we wish.

So, let us be guided by these glorious thoughts and try to act as they say.
When we engage in our daily activities we should honor them every day.

— Gustav V. Achey