



Rotary Club of Nicosia-Aspelia Ροταριανός Όμιλος Λευκωσίας-Ασπέλια



District 2452, Club 31029

MONTH September: *Basic Education and Literacy Month*

Worldwide, 67 million children have no access to education, and more than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. Our members support educational projects that provide technology, teacher training, vocational training teams, student meal programmes, and low-cost textbooks to communities. Our goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy.

BULLETIN NO. 6

Next Club Meeting on Thursday, 17th of September at 20:30

20:30	President's Party at PAG Elena Tanou's home
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Minutes of Lunch Meeting on Friday, 11th of September 2015:

Grace: Rtn Savvas Omorphos

Sergeant at Arms: Rtn Patrick Elston

Present: 15 Rotarians, 1 Rotaractor and 1 guest

Apologies: PPs Katerina Nikolaides, Caterina Kalavas and Loucas Vrionides, Rtns Nina Sadek, George Petrou, Marianna Trokkoudes and Vasilis Skronias.

Sergeant at Arms Rtn Patrick Elston welcomed the esteemed guests and fellow Rotarians before reading out the apologies, after which a brief lunch followed.

P Nazo opened the meeting, thanking everyone who attended, particularly the guests and then proceeded to make the following announcements:

- The President publically thanked PAG Elena Tanou for her generosity in providing her home for the President's party which will take place on Thursday, 17th of September at 20:30
- Rotary Club of Nicosia Lefkothea will have a lunch meeting on Monday, 21st of September with Guest Speaker Mr. Bert Pijls at Hilton Hotel and have cordially invited the members of Rotary Nicosia Aspelia to attend.
- Rotary Club of Nicosia is organizing "Cyprus Folk Music-Dance Festival" on Wednesday, 30th of September at 20:00 and they have invited Nicosia Aspelia to attend. The proceeds of this event will be going to the Alzheimer's Foundation and ELPIDA, supporting children suffering

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Rotary Club Nicosia-Aspelia Scholarship Fund, Registered Charity no.: 13.36.002.04

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from cancer and leukemia. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Rtn Ioanna Kyprianidou as she has a block of tickets available.

- P Nazo briefly touched upon Martino Tirimo's concert and gave the floor to IPP Louisa Coudounaris for further explanation.

IPP Louisa introduced the event to all the members, noting its high profile status due to the excellence of the artist and the prestigious location at which the performance will take place. The event will take place at the Presidential Palace, under the patronage of the First Lady, Ms. Andri Anastasiades. IPP Louisa informed the members that for the first time in the Presidential Palace's history, the platform of the piano will be elevated so as to be visually accessible to everyone in the audience. IPP Louisa further stressed the importance of the event as the proceeds will go to the Scholarship Fund of the Club. Finally, IPP Louisa encouraged all members to attend and promote the event in order to achieve success, especially with such an excellent artist and for such an important cause.

Following IPP Louisa's speech, Secretary Nairy Merheje introduced the main speaker for the meeting, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, H.E Brechje Schwachöfer with a brief biography, noting the highlights of H.E Schwachöfer's career, which has been very diverse so far.

The Speaker: H.E Brechje Schwachöfer, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Ambassador Schwachöfer expressed thanks for the introduction and said she was honored to be present and to see George Papanastasiou, who is the president of the Cyprus Netherlands Business Association among the audience. The Ambassador's speech was mainly about her career in the diplomatic world, the work that the Embassy is doing currently in Cyprus and touched upon the more global impact of the Netherlands.

Regarding her personal career, the Ambassador talked about her diverse postings and the things which she found most challenging and rewarding about each job. She mentioned that out of all her postings, she found the most enriching to be her work at the International Criminal Court. Currently, in her duty as an Ambassador, she noted on the more public image she had to deal with and the comments she received as a young woman in her position.

Ambassador Schwachöfer went on to talk about her priorities as an Ambassador, in accordance with her budget to accommodate both the 500 or so citizens of the Netherlands in Cyprus as well as to promote the interests of her country. She pointed out the most important points in her day-to-day work:

- Ensuring the safety and well-being of the citizens of the Netherlands.
- On EU matters: with the current refugee crisis, the Embassy works on promoting the policy of their country and they also report on the implementation of the Memorandum set by the TROIKA in Cyprus, through continuous assessments.
- The Embassy also works to support the growth of business from the Netherlands in Cyprus although she did comment on the level of difficulty in doing business on the island due to complicated bureaucracy and the constant change in priorities of the

government. The Ambassador also commented on the missed opportunities the island faces and that it should aim to be more hospitable to businesses.

- The Netherlands aims to promote innovative entrepreneurship and it has the expertise to do so, therefore one of its priorities is to become one of the 5th most competitive economies in the world, as currently, it ranks at 7th. The Ambassador made note of the concrete tools the country offers to encourage innovation:
 - A fund of 75 million EUR for this particular area
 - Measures that ease bureaucracy
 - Promotion of cooperation between businesses and universities in attempts to connect young adults to the labour market and also promoting the creation of their own business.
 - Opening of all kinds of electronic tools to assist the youth
- Although not officially part of the Embassy's agenda, Ambassador Schwachöfer also stressed the importance of promoting cultural events, in particular bi-communal activities.

A lengthy Q&A followed during which the Ambassador was asked about a variety of topics, ranging from her personal diplomatic life, about the contribution of cannabis to the GDP of the Netherlands, about the main sectors of the economy as well as the stance of the Netherlands regarding the refugee crisis. Her Excellency tackled all the questions with enthusiasm, allowing her to further elaborate on previous points.

Before finalizing the meeting, Mr. George Papanastasiou, President of the Cyprus Netherlands Business Association as well as Managing Director of VTT Vasiliko Ltd gave a brief speech about the leading role of the Netherlands in the global economy and that it could be an excellent example to Cyprus due to the similarities of the two countries. Mr. Papanastasiou also gave an update on the project of VTT Vasiliko, the new oil terminal in Vasiliko with €300 million invested from the Netherlands. On that note, he listed the accomplishments achieved by the oil terminal within the short span of 9 months since opening, while noting the need for a change in the mentality of Cypriots.

P Nazo made closing remarks, thanking both speakers for their speeches and saying what a pleasant, interesting meeting it was.

Meeting Concluded: 15:00

Raffle: Rtn Walter Bopp

Programme September 2015

September 2015 (Basic Education and Literacy Month)

Thursday, 17 th	President's party at PAG Elena Tanou's house at 20:30 . RSVP to Ioanna at 96840728 latest by Friday, 11th of September. Drinks meeting cancelled
Friday, 25 th	Lunch meeting at 13:15 at Hilton International

October 2015 (Economic and Community Development Month)

Friday, 3 rd	Drinks meeting at 19:30 with finger food at the Fontana Salon. Guest speaker Dr. Christian Fessas on cosmetic and reconstructive surgery. Visitors welcome. Price: 15 EUR per person. RSVP to Ioanna at 96840728
Friday, 9 th	Lunch meeting at 13:15 . CLUB ASSEMBLY. MEMBERS ONLY
Friday, 16 th	Martino Tirimo's Piano concert at the Presidential Palace under the patronage of Ms. Andri Anastasiades. Ticket price: 20 EUR. More information to follow. Drinks meeting cancelled
Saturday, 17 th – Sunday, 25 th	DG Nasseredin's visit to Cyprus. More information to follow
Friday, 30 th	Lunch meeting at 13:15 at Hilton International . Guest speaker Director General of Cyprus Shipping Chamber Mr Thomas Kazakos. Visitors Welcome. Price: 20 EUR per person. RSVP to Ioanna at 96840728





Nairy Merheje

Secretary of Rotary Club of Nicosia Aspelia 2015 - 2016

