



ROTARY ROUND-UP



Kathy Ball, President 2018-2019 Celebrate Rotary Number 26 for The Week of February 14, 2019

PROGRAM



Karina Alvarez introduced Imperial Valley College President Martha Garcia, Amy Ochoa and Bianca Bisi, the college's student equity and homeless coordinator to talk about an innovative vision to build student housing for homeless students attending the college. Dr. Garcia said currently there are 160 homeless students attending IVC to better themselves. Some are living in cars, some are couch surfing and some are living on the streets. Concern for the safety of those students gave rise to the idea of Lotus Living Rising Above, which will be a sustainable housing community for students. The community will feature tiny houses for student living arranged around a central community garden. It also will have a community meeting room where classes could be offered on parenting, budgeting, entrepreneurial skills and the like.

Dr. Garcia said the IVC Foundation is spearheading the project and is seeking community funding to buy land for the project intended to create a safe environment in which students could live. Currently two properties are being considered for the development, a 3-acre lot on Clark Road and a 4-acre parcel in Brawley.

She noted that investing in the project is really an investment in the local economy because when they complete their educations, the students will become contributing members of the community. And she introduced, Amy Ochoa, who is a homeless student at IVC. Amy said she and her partner sleep most of the time in their car. She said she's had a troubled background, she's been into drugs, she lost her kids and she's been in jail and got out in 2013.

She said it is her partner who encouraged her to go to school, She said she is grateful that IVC for all the tools given to her to succeed. She gets meal tickets, and hot meals hygiene kits, a place to take a shower and books. Amy now works for the student equity program assisting other disadvantaged students. Today, Amy has a 3.83 grade point average, is studying to be an alcohol and substance abuse counselor and is on track to graduate in 2020. Thank you all, for a very compelling program.

Pledge, Prayer and Song

Frank Miranda led the pledge. Ed Snively prayed and added a special prayer for Dick Fragale who had died earlier in the day in Yuma. And,



Emma Jones, despite a technical glitch, led the song.

Visiting Rotarians and Guests of Rotarians

Resident visitor Richard Acosta, Holtville and Harold Mendez, Calexico.

Ed Snively introduced Robert Romero, a graduate of IVC and UCLA, who responded to a Face-



book page invitation for those interested to attend an El Centro Rotary meeting. We hope to see more of Robert.

Whining and Fining

Frank Miranda paid \$50 for a 10-day work/pleasure trip he took to Chili that included a lot of hiking, beautiful scenery and a lot of fun. Karina Alvarez also paid \$50 for enjoying the



Air Show Gala for Rotary and for agreeing to be one of IVROP's Dancing with the Stars dancers for the event to be held March 3 at the Q to raise funds for scholarships.



POT



Dan Nuffer won the drawing for \$25, but not the pot that now has \$432.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Kathy said, the District Peace Forum will be held Feb. 23 at the Kroc Institute of Peace Theatre at UCSD. To attend, sign up on the Rotary District 5340 website.

March 1-3 is the District Conference at the Catamaran Hotel in Mission Beach. On Friday, the conference will include an International Project Fair with Rotary Clubs from Baja. President Kathy suggested our club might find projects we would like to work on at the fair. Registration is on the District website for all or parts of the conference.

Harold Mendez announced the Calexico Rotary Club will have its 42nd annual Crab Crack on March 23. Tickets are \$45. And Holtville Rotary Club will hold its first pulled pork cook-off on March 30. Richard Acosta has tickets.



John Levada was recognized for doing a great job chairing the effort to provide food for the Thousand Smiles team during the recent Clinic.



Rotary



THE FOUR-WAY TEST

of the things we think, say or do

- 1 Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2 Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3 Will it build **GOODWILL** & **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4 Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?