



San-Captions

District 6960 Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club Organized 1979 *
Chartered March 18, 1980

Get all our club news on these

Social Media Platforms view or join us on:

Web-site: www.sanibelrotary.org

FACEBOOK: Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club

Twitter: #@sancaprotary

Board of Director Officers:

- President: Chris DeCosta
- President Elect: Charlie Emerson
- Vice President: Holli Martin
- Secretary: Chet Sadler
- Treasurer: John Danner
- Sergeant-at-Arms: Don Russell

Board Directors:

- Jack Alexander 2018
- Eldon Bohrofen 2017
- Bob Guggino 2017
- Dorrie Hipschman 2018
- John Mason 2016
- Alex Werner 2016
- Immediate PP...Bill Rahe

Trust Fund Board

- Chairman, John Grey 2017
- Secretary, Mike Raab 2016
- Foundation, Chet Sadler 2016
- Lee Almas 2017
- Dan Cohn 2018
- Treasurer, Scott Congress 2018
- Bill Rahe (Immediate PP) 2016

SPEAKER SCHEDULE:

FEBRUARY Coordinators : Rachel Tritaik and Ed Wheeler

12 Rotary Fair Setup

- 19 Reto Weder, Switzerland "Rotarian's Work with Doctors following Earthquake"
- 26 Paul Tritaik Ding Darling Update

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE FAIR FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS + SHIFT CHECK-IN... BOOTH R near the Kettle Korn

BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY TO "COOKING WITH THE ISLANDS' STARS" SUPPORT OUR ROTARY CLUB SPONSORED CHEF...JOHN DANNER Wednesday, February 24th

The fun begins, when the Chefs prepare their best family, favorite family, or unique recipe on the Community House stage before an audience of discerning foodies and a three-member judging panel. Proceeds from "Cooking with the Islands' Stars" will be earmarked directly for the purchasing of professional-grade kitchen & catering equipment for the new Community House Kitchen.

\$100PP CALL THE COMMUNITY HOUSE FOR DETAILS. 239 472-2155

\$150PP VIP TICKETS (limited number available) – seats up front at tasting tables. **SOLD OUT**

6:00 PM PRE-COOKING PRESENTATION...

BAR & HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES

POST-COOKING EVENT...VOTING FOR YOUR FAVORITE CHEF & DESSERTS

MARK YOUR CALENDERS:

APRIL 11TH 36th Installation Dinner of the Sanibel Captiva Rotary Club will be held at the Captiva Island Yacht Club, 15903 Captiva Drive, Captiva. Cocktails are a 6:00 PM followed by Dinner at 7:00 PM. MORE DETAILS TO COME.

APRIL 15TH ROTARY TEAM NEEDED FOR "RELAY FOR LIFE" more information to come

CLUB SONG

Giver of all things good, We Thank you for this food,
With one accord Lead us we humbly pray, Onward in Rotary's way
Of service day by day, Most Gracious Lord
(Tune of My Country Tis of Thee)

**District #6960
Gov. 2015-2016
Cyndi Doragh**



**RI PRESIDENT
2015-2016
K.R. Ravindran**



Trust Board will meet every third Wednesday each month. For information contact John Grey 239-472-0590

SPEAKER NOTES

On January 5th Sanibel-Captiva Rotarians were spellbound by our speaker for the morning. We welcomed Rotarian, James Graham from Brownsburg, Indiana to talk to us about his involvement and personal experience with Rotary's "Gift of Life" program. His presentation was titled "Legacy of Qudrat".

"THE GIFT OF LIFE" PROGRAM is a worldwide Rotary International Service Program. Its primary purpose is to help those needy children who require corrective heart surgery secure another lease on life through the miracle of open-heart surgery in a Gift of Life participating hospital. The Mission of Gift of Life International, Inc. is to further the cause of world peace and understanding by facilitating free medical services to children suffering from heart disease and other similar or allied diseases, regardless of race, gender, creed or national origin, and who would otherwise lack access to such services. San-Cap Rotary has been involved in Rotary itself but not in a direct way more in providing monetary support for the program.



James Graham had worked for Rotary's "Gift of Life" Indiana for a number of years and, of course, his children grew up seeing their mother and father's involvement with "Gift of Life"... Therefore, when the Graham's son, Major Richard Graham, serving as executive officer of the Indiana National Guards, 1st Battalion 151 Infantry in Afghanistan, visited a UN refugee camp near Kabul, Afghanistan, his attention was immediately drawn to a 14-month old boy in dire need of life-threatening heart surgery. If the child didn't get surgery immediately he would die within days. Straightaway he e-mailed his father, could the Indiana "Gift of Life" program at the Riley Hospital for Children help this boy? A call to the Riley Hospital and the doctor's on staff got the answer Lt. Graham was hoping for. The surgery was put on the hospital's emergency schedule and Qudrat was expected at Riley for surgery 48 hours later. The National Guard flew Qudrat and his father, Hakim to Indiana for the surgery. This Afghan family was taking a huge risk; they had to trust the Americans. They didn't speak English, Qudrat was only 14-months old, the father would have to leave

The surgeries required repairing a hole in Qudrat's heart and correct a more serious congenital heart defect called transposition of the great vessels in which the vessels are reversed causing not enough oxygen to flow from the heart to the rest of the body... The two surgeries were successful. His recovery was magical; Qudrat's little body was healing and he blossomed.

Medical staff, Rotarians, National Guardsmen all grew extremely attached to Qudrat, especially James and his wife Roberta. Speaking through an interpreter and standing side by side in Qudrate's hospital room the two fathers, Hakim and James, found an amazing connection. So close were the families that the Grahams referred to themselves as Qudrat's American grandparents. The hospital recovery went well but a complication arose after surgery, one of the staff at the hospital had come down with a communicable disease. Qudrat was released from the hospital, for a three-week medical quarantine stay at the Cameron's home. After being in James and Roberta life for four-months, it was time for Qudrat and his father to return home. This little child, this little angel was flying home after his medical all-clear.

L to R:
Major Richard Graham
Qudrat & Hakim in hospital
Qudrate & Hakim
Karem's school



Unfortunately the story doesn't end on that happy note. Qudrat died 24 hours after arriving back home, cause unknown. Everyone connected to this "Gift of Life" tragedy mourned. But Qudrat's dad didn't let that sorrowful time define the future for himself or his family, he wanted to payback in some way the extreme kindness shown to Qudrat by "Gift of Life" and the people who had extended themselves to save his child. The experience changed him forever. His American Rotary families, the National Guard, and especially Jim and Roberta Cameron were in his heart. He had observed the hospital staff and the gender equality within the hospital setting and outside the hospital. Women could read and write. Women were educated; they worked shoulder to shoulder with men, and attended meetings as equals with men. He knew what he would do now. First he would bring all of his five children together again and then he would travel to Pakistan to study medicine, using some of the \$13,000 in a fund collected for the family in the States. Two years later, the Grahams had an opportunity to travel to Afghanistan on a Rotary Polio eradication effort. Unfortunately, the UN discouraged Roberta from going on this trip. They were afraid for her safety. James did go and wanted to re-connect with Hakim in person. This was more difficult then it seemed; Jim e-mailed Hakim told him the hotel he would be staying in and hoped that Hakim would show up. Hakim did show up. Hakim revealed his plans. He was building a healthcare facility and school in a small village area, a school that would educate boys, girls, and women of the village. There is definite danger in identifying the location where Hakim and the schools is located. The area is now in the hands of the Taliban.

James and Roberta Graham had faith in Hakim and decided that they would help; it was now the Grahams project too. They had connections through Rotary and beyond, connections across state lines. Whenever they travel they tell the story of Qudrat and Hakim. They have risen over \$310,000 to build two schools and a medical clinic in Afghanistan with a well and latrines. It provided sewing machines and material that more than 100 women are using to generate income. "Hakim's efforts to educate and empower girls and women are one of the things that bring the most pride to the Grahams. More than a third of the students in the Qudrat Schools are female. They are now raising money for a women's health clinic. Hakim wants to uplift the women of Afghanistan because he saw how much women in American did." Hakim will soon have a partner in his work. His oldest son is now in medical school. All that Hakim is doing will perpetuate the "Legacy of Qudrat". All this started with one gift of kindness.