

**MARCH 2024** 

Monthly Bulletin of Rotary Club of Tai Po

# TAL POST

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

The "Year of the Loong" kicked off with a jam-packed calendar. In addition to celebrating Valentine's Day and attending several birthday parties, we also observed the Shangyuan Festival, better known as the Lantern Festival in English. This festival is often dubbed the Chinese Valentine's Day, marking the first full moon of the new Lunar year.

We were still in the thick of Chinese New Year celebrations. I participated in numerous spring dinners, including our Rotary District 3450 Area 6 Spring Dinner, the Four Generations Spring Dinner, the Tai Po Lam Chuen Spring Dinner, my alma mater Maryknoll Secondary School's Spring Dinner, a spring dinner with an industrial association, another in China, and the RC Tai Po Spring Dinner. The most exhilarating and fun was definitely our club's spring dinner. Kudos to Henry and his Team #4 for organizing the event and pulling together a bunch of hilarious activities, including a Lion Dance contest for our members. CP Donald and everyone else had a blast. We had a fantastic evening. The Four Generations Spring Dinner is another highlight—a longstanding tradition where we celebrate with the extended family of our parent club, the Rotary Club of Peninsula. There are numerous clubs in the Peninsula family, with the Rotary Club of Kowloon as our 'grandma' club, and we have two 'baby' clubs: Rotary Club of Central and the Rotary Club of SoHo HK. We also have a host of sibling clubs.

Concurrently, we conducted several service project activities. One highlight is our signature project, Sunshine Teen Makers, which had students engaged in creative crafts and a new ball game. We also participated in a Blind Bowling competition with our two teams. It was a great opportunity for our friends Ruby Zhu and Dr. Mansan Ho to learn more about Rotary and enjoy our camaraderie. Additionally, I attended the Caring for the Future seminar, which showcased initiatives and efforts by Hong Kong's Ocean Park, the government, and local organizations to promote sustainable green food and environmental conservation.

On a positive note, at our last board meeting, we approved the reapplication of our former member, Benjamin, to rejoin RC Tai Po. I extend my congratulations and warm welcome to Benjamin as he begins a new chapter with Rotary. I'm also thrilled to congratulate my classmate from 2016/2017, CP Jimmy Lau, on his election as



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Cheers, William

Meeting at 7PM every other Monday

@ Regal Kowloon Hotel









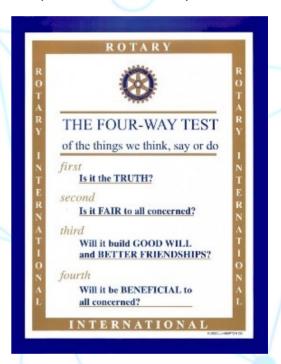
There are recent discussions by the Board about changing our service partner due to the Salvation Army not meeting our expectations. How shall our club mover forward? It is important for our club to set strategic service goals that align with the current situation in Hong Kong or more specifically, the Tai Po district.

Drawing inspiration from the story of the good Samaritan, we see the power of compassion in helping those in need. Rotarians today embody the spirit of the Samaritan, being good neighbors and extending a helping hand wherever possible. That is why some of us might feel frustrated at times. As Rotarians, we should have all experienced problems with lack of time, lack of support, and lack of resources. There are far too many opportunities out there but as a club, we seem to lack a clear branding as viewed by the Tai Po community.



So, what can we do? One potential solution lies in revisiting the core principles of the Rotary movement, particularly our Four-way Test: Of the things we think, say or do

Is it the TRUTH? Is it FAIR to all concerned? Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIP? Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

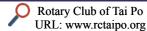


This test reminds us to consider the truth, fairness, goodwill, and overall benefit in all our thoughts, words, and actions. The latter two questions of the Four-way Test, focusing on goodwill, better friendship, and overall benefit, serve as conditions attached to the first two questions. It means that as Rotarians, we should uphold truth and fairness until doing so would jeopardize relationships or cause hardship to others. By actively applying this test, we can strive for truth and fairness and work diligently to rectify any failures in our community.

Restoring truth and fairness does not necessarily mean solely engaging in charitable works. It can involve sharing the realities of our professions with young people, warning others about dubious financial products, or advocating for neglected issues such as child safety at home. In doing so, we are not merely promoting Rotary but embodying the values on which Rotary was founded, going beyond being good Samaritans. Service partners other than the Salvation Army who shall be able to line up such services should be approached for collaboration.

By setting strategic goals that prioritize truth, fairness, and the betterment of our community, we can navigate the current situation and continue making a meaningful impact in Tai Po.

















#### For the love of dogs

Members of a Korean Rotary club adopt a pup-friendly service project from RI Website Feb. 2024

Wearing protective suits, 20 young people open the gate of a fenced yard and enter. Immediately, dozens of large dogs swarm around them. The dogs wag their tails, lick people's hands, spin in place, and playfully nudge their heads against the visitors. Their overwhelming joy threatens to knock people over. It's just another day at this animal shelter in Icheon, Korea.

"You must wear protective suits because these dogs love you so much," says Song-Hee Lim, the executive secretary/ director of the Rotary E-Club of MZ, Gyeonggi, Korea. "They get so excited that their shed fur sticks to you, and sometimes your skin can be scratched."

The animal shelter the club members are visiting is called Yugigyeon Soop, meaning Forest for Abandoned Dogs, and specializes in large dogs. The shelter provides a home for around 100 animals and hosts breeds such as Korea's native Jindos, shepherds, Siberian huskies, and Labrador retrievers. For most of the dogs, though, their exact breed is unknown. Many also are missing limbs or have eye injuries.







**INFORMATION** 

Jun-Sung Park, the owner of the shelter, initially ran a dog hotel. Sometimes people abandoned dogs there, and Park began to care for them. One dog became two, two became 10, and eventually Park established an animal shelter. "There are not many shelters that accept big dogs – especially dogs like the ones here. They have nowhere else, having been in fights or gotten injured," Park says. Although Park was initially able to find homes for a few of the dogs, most of the adopted dogs were eventually returned to the shelter.

"I don't want them to go through that again," he says. "I just hope these dogs can live happily here until the end of their days."

It can be difficult to own large dogs in Korea, especially because most people live in apartment complexes. Yards and other open spaces are rare, leading to a high abandonment rate for large dogs. Finding new homes for them, even shelters or temporary foster situations, is challenging. Even those that are adopted from shelters are frequently returned – and often euthanized. From April to October 2023, 25% of the small and medium-size dogs (15 kilograms and under) received at animal shelters in Gyeonggi Province were euthanized, compared with 39% of dogs weighing over 15 kilograms (about 33 pounds).

Although they were abandoned by their owners, the dogs at the shelter are still friendly around people and obviously enjoy their company. The club members clean the facility, change bedding, and donate supplies. Most important, they spend time with the dogs.

"What dogs need most is human touch," Park says. Today, the members have brought heartworm and parasite medicine for the dogs. They've also brought paper towels, garbage bags, and blankets and carpets they've collected.

"We need lots of blankets. Even if we lay one down, it won't last a month before the dogs have torn it apart," Lim says. "Because it carries the scent of people, it seems to provide the dogs with emotional comfort." The E-Club of MZ, named for millennials and Generation Z, was founded in 2022 with members in their 20s and 30s and a focus on service.

"Young people may not have a lot of money, but they have energy. Our club's motto is Taking Action for Service," Lim says. "Learning that this animal shelter cares for dogs that have been abandoned multiple times, until their last breath, we decided to volunteer here quarterly." Kyungmin Park, the club's service projects chair and the owner of a plumbing company, appreciates Rotary's approach to vocational service. "I plan to discuss with the shelter's owner if there are any facility-related needs," he says. "Our club includes plumbing experts like me and interior specialists. There might be tasks that are easy for us but are essential for those who need them."

As the time approaches when club members need to leave the shelter, there's a sense of sadness among both the volunteers and dogs. The dogs gather near the club members, who extend their hands past the fence one more time to touch the animals. "We need to meet in person and do hands-on volunteer work to attract young people," says Kyungmin Park, petting one of the dogs. "We've only just started, but we'll improve year by year."















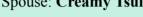


## Frankie WU

Name: Frankie WU 胡意發



Spouse: Creamy Tsui





Grandchildren: Joy, Enzo





Year Inducted to Rotary / RCTP: 2006

Year As President 2010-11 Building Communities

— Bridging Continents







Current Post in Club: Honorary Auditor Classification: Optical Media

Schools: University of Hong Kong Qualifications: Bachelor of Science in

Engineering

Passions and Hobbies: Golf





Notable Rotary Activities: 2010 President of Rotary Club of Tai Po 2015 Assistant Governor of Area 6 2016 Committee Chair of Rotary Ultramarathon 2016 Rotarian of the year























#### **PP Frankie Rotary Photos**



At勇闖高峰youth project fire station visit in May 2008. Thanks Fire Officer Wilson Woo for the arrangement.



Club visit to Rotaract Club of Tai Po meeting at Mariner's Club in Tsimshatsui in Feb. 2008.



Joined our club delegation to visit Sichuan earthquake victims hospital in Chengdu in Dec. 2008.



With Creamy at our Elderly visit to Tap Mun organized by 基督教聯合 那打素社康服務 in Mar. 2010.



As 2010-11 President to renew sister club agreement with RC Taipei at their annual dinner in Oct. 2010.



At Star Reaching project "Life Infinity" Closing Ceremony in Feb. 2011.



As 2010-11 President to support our winning teams at District Rotary 10K Race in Shatin in Nov. 2010.



During Frankie's term as President, at our 12 Jul. 2010 meeting in Royal Park Hotel with speakers from Japan, our club was presented with the 100% Paul Harris Fellow Club banner for the first time by District Rotary Foundation chair Kenneth Chow.



At Rotary "Adopt a School Programme" signing ceremony with partner school Tsun Tsin Christian Academy Headmaster Samuel Cheng in Jan. 2011.



As Theme Night Group leader at Hong Kong Club in Oct. 2016.



As member of RCTP golf team in our District Golf Tournament in Fanling in Jan. 2020. Frankie always supported the club and the event!



















#### **RCTP Chinese New Year Spring Dinner**

19 February 2024 Henry Wang









RCTP Team 4 was asked to organise the RCTP CNY Spring fellowship dinner on 19 February 2024. Team leader Henry and team 4 worked closely with President William, Armstrong, Natalie & others on organising a very successful fellowship dinner which was enjoyed by some 40 Rotarians and guests.



















The fellowship dinner was held at the new Star Place Restaurant. It was recommended by Armstrong and the team accepted it after a good tasting. They served us a fellowship dinner which was delicious with many festive dishes, including suckling pig, lobster, fish etc.































There was a full program for the evening in six parts. We started with a short RCTP Club meeting by P William. He shared with us the recent club activities plus planned future activities.









The second part was a wonderful RCTP Club CNY Photos Show by Peter. He shared with us some wonderful historical photos of various RCTP CNY gatherings and activities over the last 30 years. We all enjoyed it very much and can find some of us in each of the photos. We all gave Peter a great round of applause for his wonderful efforts. President William and Henry presented Peter with a laisee for all his wonderful work.

The third part was a great CNY Fun Game by Mac. He asked us all to write a word on a piece of paper. Then he shuffled and distributed them to various tables. We had then to compose some CNY verse from the words on each table. There were some wonderful verses from each table. President William and Henry then distributed laisees to the winners from each table.























The fourth part was a wonderful and informative CNY Story Telling by Louis. He shared with us the results of his research on the Chinese New Year tradition and history. He gave these facts in a wonderful story which we have all found very interesting. He then asked the audience some key questions to test our knowledge on various points. Good answers were given by various participants showing that they have really listened and learnt. President William and Henry distributed laisee to the winning listeners.







The fifth part of the fellowship dinner was a wonderful Lion Dance Competition. It was organised by President William and Bebe. William first showed us videos of lion dancing to prepare us. Then teams from each of the four tables perform their lion dancing after putting on the appropriate gears. We all had a lot of fun and laugh. There were many wonderful performances. CP Donald was wonderful on the drums. Peter and Henry were very funny as the clowns. Alvis and KF were very good at moving the lion heads. President William and Henry gave laisees to all the winning teams from each table for their great performances.



























The last part of the fellowship dinner was to thank the sponsors and distribute Laisees for all plus taking a Group Photo. President William and Henry gave laisees to the various sponsors for their generous supports. These included Natalie on the red wine, Peter on the whiskey, Armstrong on the moutai, Wilson Lam on the Chinese spirit etc.

CP Donald and Henry then gave laisees to all the participants after they have each given their CNY wishes to CP Donald. Finally, we all got together and took some nice group photos to remember a wonderful and memorable CNY fellowship spring dinner.































#### 4-Generation Chinese New Year Joint Meeting

23 February 2024 Peter Lam

The event was held on Friday 23rd February (初十四) at the Ho Choi Seafood Restaurant in Yaumatei which was participated by members from our mother club, the Rotary Club of Peninsula's (半島扶輪社) family, namely RC Pen's mother club RC Kowloon, RC Pen's baby club RC Tai Po and our baby club RC Central, RC Peninsula South, RC Peninsula Sunrise, RC Peninsula East, RC Kowloon Central and its baby club RC Green HK. RC SoHo HK joined its sister club's anniversary and could not make it that evening. Presidents of all the clubs were seated at the horizontal head table facing about 10 round tables with about 120 participants and our club was represented by President William & Bebe, PP Wilson Woo, PP Peter and Rtn. Henry.

It was indeed a formal meeting with reports by each club, remarks by Area 7 AG Alex Lau (on behalf of DG Andy who could not join), and RC Peninsula's PDG Arthur Au and very senior Rotarian PP Wilson Wong who witnessed the RC Peninsula's family growth and development since the early days. After dinner was served there was keynote talk by PP TK Wong of RC Kowloon West who was both an architect and an expert in Chinese Zodiac Fortune Telling so the topic was an obvious one for the occasion - 龍年運程. The meeting rounded off with Birthday Cake cutting celebration and it was very special that the date of the event fell on same day as the Birthday of Rotary International when Rotary was first formed by Paul Harris in Chicago on 23 Feb. 1905. Of course, our very own President William's birthday was also only few days away on 26th so he joined the VIPs on stage for the celebration too! The venue of this typical local Chinese Banquet Hall was very crowded so I and other members did not move around too freely to chat with others. After taking one final photo with the Fortune God, I left and skipped the Group Photo taken on stage.



With mother club PDG Arthur Au and President George Au.



With mother club PP Daniel Chun, baby club RC Central P. Eric Lui & Inez.



4 Gen. Club Presidents leading Rotary Song singing.



Remarks by Area 7 AG Alex Lau from RC Central.



Report by Pres. William and IPP Martin Ganz from RC Kowloon.



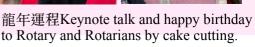
With IPP Simone Kong of baby club RC Central.

With mother club RC Peninsula and Rotary dignitaries.



Meeting at 7PM every other Monday @ Regal Kowloon Hotel















#### **Area 6 Spring Dinner**

26 February 2024 K F Tam

Area 6 Spring Dinner was held on February 26th. Every year, Area 6 organized several joint events, and the Spring Dinner was the most joyful one, possibly because it was under the Chinese New Year atmosphere.



The program for the evening was very rich, with each club president having their assigned tasks and coordinating the different activities. The event took place at the Royal Plaza Hotel in Mongkok, which was beautifully decorated with a festive New Year atmosphere.













There were many interesting games and an exciting lucky draw. Of course, the highlight was the session featuring a famous Feng Shui master who talked about the overall trend of the Year of the Dragon and the fortunes of different zodiac signs.









There was also a ceremony for the installation of new members, as well as the distribution of lucky money by the God of Wealth. Our Past President, Frankie, received \$500 in a red packet. Finally, there was a fun segment called "Guess the Song," where the organizers played some music and the audience tried to quickly guess the song title and even sing some lyrics to win. The atmosphere was very lively, and every club member enthusiastically participated in this game.









The Area 6 Spring Dinner was always a happy event, and we were eagerly looking forward to participating again next year.





Meeting at 7PM every other Monday @ Regal Kowloon Hotel













#### 14th HK Bowling Tournament for All cum 13th HK Blind Bowling Tournament

25 February 2024 Wilson Woo

It is a blessing to have the supports from friends and family, just like the supports we always received from our members, their families and friends. A reflection on our beliefs is well demonstrated in the "14th HK Bowling Tournament for All cum 13th HK Blind Bowling Tournament" which was held in the morning on 25.2.2024. If you have no idea what I'm talking about, please note that it is a meaningful district event for having bowling games with the visually-impaired persons at South China Association Bowling Centre. The tournament has been organized by the Hong Kong Blind Sports Federation (HKBSF) and co-organized by Rotary International District 3450 every year.

As informed by the organizing committee, it was "full house" again this year, which means we had more than 200 participants gathering, occupying 50 lanes, and playing bowling together with the visually-impaired friends. Our club formed 2 teams to support the event. President William led us roll the ball and raised the self-confidence of people with visual impairment by participating equally in sports training and sports tournament. Through our action, the public awareness on their abilities would be arouse.



























Taking this opportunity, I have to report that apart from our bowling Master PP Peter, I spotted other professional players in our club. They are Bebe and Mansan HO. What a pity that I haven't taken the video! Their techniques and bowling stances are wonderful and beautiful. I believe we can have more games for fun when there is no meeting, and you still have chance to watch them play. Another surprise is coming from Ruby ZHU, Sara and Sharon. In the beginning, they all professed that they didn't know how to play the game and rolled the ball. But at the end of game, it's hard to believe that they got such great improvement. You can tell from the scores. Let's look at the photos and see how we had enjoyed the game!























#### **District Blood Donation Day**

9 March 2024 Wilson Woo

I feel bad for being selfish this time! I didn't make sufficient announcement for the District Blood Donation Day, which was successfully held at Sze Pang Nien Memorial Headquarters Donor Centre on 9.3.2024. President William representing our club, had attended the ceremony and showed our support to the District, and the donors from different Rotary clubs as well.

You may be aware that donating blood offers benefits both to others and the donor himself. Through blood donation, you can directly save lives, promote health, screen your own health condition, fulfill social responsibility, and experience psychological satisfaction. Donating blood is definitely beneficial to all concerned, which could strengthen one of the important pillars in Rotary.

Donating blood can be a life-saving act, especially for patients suffering from severe anemia, undergoing surgery, involved in accidents, or dealing with certain medical conditions. Blood donations provide vital blood and blood components to treat patients and replenish their lost blood.

As informed by the staff of the donation centre, blood donation contributes to maintaining the donor's overall health. By donating blood, the body stimulates the production of new blood, which helps in boosting the functionality of the bone marrow to generate more fresh red blood cells. This aids in maintaining stable hemoglobin levels and reduces the risk of cardiovascular diseases.

Personally, I treat the regular donation as a health screening exercise. During the blood donation process, I am required to undergo a series of health checks, including blood pressure measurement, blood tests, and infectious disease screenings. These assessments provide information about my health condition and serve as an early warning system for potential health issues. All in all, it is a demonstration of social responsibility and allows us to make a positive contribution to society.



















#### **Regular Meeting**

4 March 2024



PP K F welcomed back long-timeno-see PP Sally.



PP Armstrong updated us about the long-awaited Trip to Xiamen.



IPP Danny introduced his friend and our potential member Sim Sim as speaker of the evening.





Speaker Sim Sim 賴閃芳 introduced us to the interesting topic of "Noon Disco: what creative health is and the importance of aging actively". It all started with her parents' retirement which saw them plunged into a sense of uselessness/loneliness. Noting that life expectancy will reach an average of 100 years and that the 30+ years of life after retirement would benefit from being active and in good companionship, she considered Art and Creativity as low-risk but high-return option for health improvement. Making use of her performance experience, her connections and resources plus her creative ability, Sim Sim staged successive "Noon Disco", a platform for the elderly to meet and disco-dance. The project receives encouraging participation and positive feedback from across the generations. Sim Sim ended by sharing with us a saying which spurs her on: "It is good to remember ourselves that it is our intangible assets – our family and friends, interests and passions – that are ultimately the greatest source of lifetime happiness."



PP Wilson Woo asked whether Sim Sim has plans to further the Project. Pres William delved into the costs for running the Project.







PP KF gave a Vote of Thanks to the Speaker for giving us insights into a project which can be relevant to each one of us.



Pres William gave a gift set of bottle of Goat Milk Wine from Mongolia for Raffle Draw and PP Louis added another wine set to his collection.



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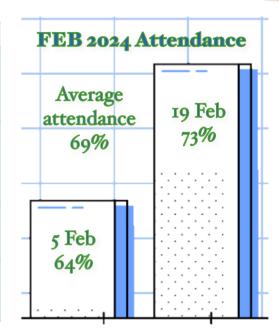


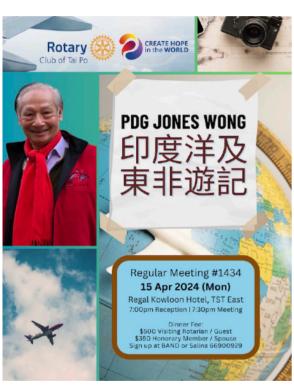




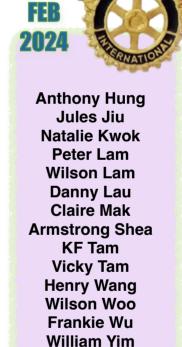


Date	Time	Event	Venue
29 Mar (Fri)		RCTP 6-day Trip to Xiamen	Xiamen
15 Apr (Mon)	19:00	#1434 Regular Meeting Speaker: PDG Jones Wong "印度洋及東非遊記"	Regal Kowloon Hotel
20 Apr (Sat)		Rotary Clean Day	Lantau Shek Pik Tai Long Wan
29 Apr (Mon)	19:00	#1435 Regular Meeting Speaker: Mr David Hsiung	Regal Kowloon Hotel











### MARCH

Masayuki Tsubaki (19th) Ping Leung (27th)



#### Got something to say?

Tai Post wants to hear from you. Write in to clairemak.rctp@gmail.com Tai Post reserves the right to edit articles for length and clarity.

> The editorial board Claire Mak, Peter Lam









