

Rotary News **April 29th 2019** by Amy Remmert

President Jeannie Brandenberger called the meeting to order, and we sang the National Anthem.

Ann Rohrbaugh gave the invocation, and Dan Sytsma gave the art news.

Visiting Rotarians – Penny Briscoe joined us from Vicksburg.

Guests: Sue Williams was the guest of her husband Mike Williams

April Goodwin led us in song with "Rain Drops Keep Falling on My Head" which was appropriate for our rainy spring days.

Rob Peterson announced that the Satellite Club will be hosting their meeting at Louie's Trophy House on North St., on May 15th at 5 pm.

Reminder: Keith Mumma in his efforts to raise funds on behalf of District 6360, for the Wider Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) project, is selling his photographic book of photos of his work in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Books are listed at \$60 and the proceeds will be donated to the WASH project.

Dan Ingles presented a check to Laura Lutterbeck from Jr Achievement for their continue work in Career Development and business skills in our schools.

Jeannie Brandenberger reiterated that dues statements are out along with our Kalamazoo Rotary Charities donation statement. Please keep in mind that we are no longer asking individually for projects like Adopt a Family, Operation Ray or Casa Amparo. Those projects are now being supported by our Charities account so we don't have keep coming back numerous times during the year for additional funds. Please consider supporting our Charities fund. If we all give, we will be able to continue to support our special projects and those that come along through grant requests.

Program Our speaker is our club member Mike Williams. Mike has been working on the Huatulco Bookmobile Project. So Mike started with a little history.

Brad Coombs name is familiar name to many Kalamazoo residents but what people don't know is that Brad was an activist and a donor participant in a project in Huatulco Mexico. Brad started a Rotary Club there and that club was made up mostly of women who wanted to effect change in their community. Brad decided that he wanted to build a library to help the local population with learning and literacy but Brad died before he could accomplish this monumental task. There

was (I believe) a foundation set up by the estate of Brad and a few years later the library was built. This was accomplished through Phase I of a well-conceived plan with a master plan for the future.

Phase II envisioned the addition of a bookmobile with additional multi-faceted enhancements including a reading garden, reading trail, quiet corner, cistern, utility sink with plumbing and to include sculptures of turtles on the grounds. Turtles are very highly regarded in Mexico and the population does much to protect the species.

Mike has been in fundraising mode to support this project and has developed the Bookmobile and hired a sculpture artist to make realistic renderings of sea turtles. These were available for members to view after the meeting. Because this qualifies as an international project meeting criteria set by Rotary International, matching funds are available to help support the completion of this project. If you are interested in getting more information from Mike, he can be reached at 269-381-3012 or by email at mwilliamssign@hotmail.com