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Next Meeting: Thursday, November 7, 2013

Guest Speaker: Salim K. Najjar, P.E. Heart of America — RLI Regional Coordinator Title: Miracles Made Possible by Your Rotary Foundation Contribution Introduced by: President Randy Coe



## Buffet Opens: 11:30 am / Meeting Begins: 12:10 pm Meeting Location: Galt House West, 3rd Floor, Archibald Room



Salim came to the U.S. from Lebanon in 1958 at the age of 17 to attend college. He graduated from Tri State University in Angola, Indiana in June of 1962, and began his career as a bridge design engineer for the Indiana Highway Department. He joined the Rotary Club of Indianapolis in 1982, and in 2001 Salim led District 6560 Group Study Exchange Team to Brazil District 4590. Since then he has championed the work of the Rotary Foundation and especially global projects. He served District 6560 as GSE Chair for five years, and in 2003 he transferred his membership to the Rotary Club of Carmel, Indiana. In 2006-07 he served as President of the Carmel Rotary Club, followed by two years as Assistant Governor and in the Rotary year 2010-2011 served as District Governor of Central Indiana District 6560. In 2011-2013 he served as an Assistant Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator for

Zone 30.

Salim and his wife Paula are the proud parents of six children and twelve grandchildren. They are Major Donors of The Rotary Foundation; Salim is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, a member of the Paul Harris Society and a member of the Bequest Society; Paula and two of their children are also Paul Harris Fellows. In September 2013, Salim received the Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service Award.

The presentation is entitled "The Miracles Made Possible By Your Rotary Foundation Contribution", a first-person account how a Rotary Foundation grant made it possible to perform life-saving pediatric heart surgeries, while training surgeons and medical staff at a hospital in Uganda to perform these pediatric surgeries.

Inside this issue:		Be a Bell Ringer! Several days and times are	Basketball Season is Almost Here! Let's play Rotary College Basketball!	Birthday	
Calendar & Events	2	available to choose from. It's easy to sign up online at:	ne at: Thursday, November 14 is the deadline	Dennis Dolan Ann Wells	Nov 7 Nov 7
That's Entertainment!	2	www.mysignup.com/rotarysalvationarmy		Dick Brien Bob DeWeese	Nov 8 Nov 8
10/31 Rotary Mtg. w/ Bryan Anderson	3			Jim Hill Tom Hirsch	Nov 8 Nov 8
Rotary Night Out URBAN Style	3			Pete Lanham Ken Selvaggi	Nov 8 Nov 8
Holiday Extravaganza!	3		up today!	Ken Grossman Cynthia Knapek	Nov 9 Nov 9
Jan. 10 'Sister Act'	3	What is RLI? R	ngratulations RLI Graduate Phil Tamplin!	Mike Kull Jon Mapp	Nov 10 Nov 10
Nov 15-17 Annual Con- ference at The Brown	3		Rotary Leadership Institute is a leadership gram in three one-day fast-paced, interac- it provide Rotary knowledge and develop for future leaders of Rotary clubs and dis-	Cyndi Caudill	Nov 12
New Member Celebra- tion Photos	3	tive sessions the		John Bush Jerry Gerichs	Nov 13 Nov 13
Websites / Contact Info	4	tricts. Rotarians interested in RLI should email rota- ry@rotary45.org.		-	



## **October 31, 2013 Rotary Meeting**

Impressive—heartwarming—entertaining ... three words that one would hardly expect to describe a Halloween program that featured a triple amputee from the Iraq conflict. Having Past President Wayne Perkey as substitute for President Randy began setting a tone for the day and the Invocation delivered by Susan Smith was comforting. Suddenly we were confronted by 75 uniformed young people in their Future Farmers of America uniforms, who filed in and stood, three deep, before the speaker's platform where they sang the "Ignite" medley following the Pledge of Allegiance. Only one of the four eligible birthdays was



"recognizable", Thom Crimans, who was serenaded appropriately. Guests were introduced as was the table up front with ten guests with distinguished military service. Several announcements were made by President Randy, Past President Alexander and Greg Braun.



Bill Roby then introduced our uniformed and decorated speaker as he wheeled himself up front in his wheel chair, jumped backwards from the chair onto the platform and then lifted the chair up behind him and jumped onto it until he was able to sit on the back of the wheelchair, high enough to be seen by everyone.—all of this with no legs and only one hand! After introducing himself, 32 year old Bryan Anderson thanked us for inviting him and then introduced "the elephant in the room," the fact that he had no legs and only one hand. "Don't be afraid to laugh at me. I'm okay." And, as a true showman, he made us laugh as he told his life story, beginning with growing up in Chicago and his first job, at Ameri-

can Airlines, the decision he and his fiancée made to join the Army, because they wanted to "see the world." He joined the Army in April 2001. But that life was not for her. *"It cost me \$10 to get married and \$900 to get a divorce,"* he said. In 2003 he was deployed to Kuwait, where they never seemed to know what was going on in Iraq, until they were finally transferred there and found the heat oppressive (153 degrees). In January of 2005 he was flown to Baghdad where he began to learn about IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) and where there were 60 bombs a day within six miles of his base. On October 23<sup>rd</sup> he was driving a truck and remembers the spark as he lit a cigarette at the moment that an IED exploded by his truck. He knew he was injured when he tried to wipe the flies from his face but did not know how badly until he awoke a week later in Washington and saw his mother's face looking down on his mangled body. At this point in his talk he jumped from his chair to the stage and demonstrated how he learned to skate board and snow board during his rehabilitation. He concluded by saying that from that time on he has only wanted to help other people, and he closed by thanking Rotary for our commitment to service! *David Reed* 







## **Rotary Club of Louisville, Inc.**

401 West Main Street, Suite 810 Louisville, Kentucky 40202 Phone: 502-589-1800 / Fax: 502-589-1636 Email: rotary@rotary45.org

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