

# The Rotary Club of WINDSOR-ROSELAND

## News WHEEL

February 26th, 2024

### Message from President-Elect

Afghan refugee Kobra Safi shared her extraordinary story of escape and survival from Afghanistan in 2022 and described her journey that led her to Windsor. As a young plastic surgeon, Kobra had to leave her family, friends, and career behind in her search for a better, safer life. She arrived in Canada in September 2022, found her way to Windsor, and also found great support from the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County.

Rebecca Saad, Education Program Manager at the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County, was also on hand to highlight the work that MCC does to support newcomers to the community.

Growing up, Kobra's father felt strongly about the importance of educating his six daughters. While he himself was illiterate, Kobra was empowered by her father's support to break gender stereotypes. She finished high school and entered university with the highest GPA in her district in 2009. Her graduation from medical school was another major breakthrough for many Pashtoon females who remain uneducated generation after generation.

Unfortunately, Kobra had only practiced medicine for a short while before the Taliban started taking over different regions of Afghanistan. Despite the danger, Kobra worked with two female colleagues to set up an emergency aid camp to support the thousands of displaced Afghans living on the streets of Kabul. She decided to flee after the Taliban killed a female colleague for not wearing appropriate body coverings during a surgery.

"After the Taliban invasion, day after day, our fear of being targeted increased," Kobra says. "I was afraid and felt miserable. I had to make the most difficult decision of my life."

Kobra dreams of practicing medicine in Canada, and is working to prepare for an art exhibition to raise money for children and women's education in Afghanistan. She is currently working as a Life Skills Worker at MCC, helping newcomers to empower them to lead successful lives in their new community. She received the Kathleen Thomas Inspiration award from MCC.

"I finally made it to a safe and secure place where I feel comfortable. I am very thankful to all those individual and international organizations who helped, supported, and saved our lives to come to Canada".

This week's evening meeting is Poetry Night, where we will hear from Youth Poet Laureate Chidera Ikewibe and Grade 11 IB Student Caprice Strgar. Looking forward to this incredible evening.

Mander Matharu, President-Elect

26 Feb 2024

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[www.roselandrotary.org](http://www.roselandrotary.org)

**THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW!**

**Birthday Wishes!** February 27 – Joyce Jones

**Wedding Anniversary Wishes!** None

**WE Rotaract Update**

Mara Riccardi recently connected with Sahana Kalidindi, President of the WE Rotaract Club. Sahana provided a list of many projects they have worked on since Sept 2022, including volunteering at the Downtown Mission 10 times (most recently on Feb 17, 2024) and the Gleaners.

They also executed events such as Chartwell Afternoon Tea, where the group brought tea, sandwiches and games to have an afternoon with the residents.

The Rotaractors meet every 2 weeks on Sunday at 5pm via Zoom. We are happy to have connected and look forward to working on projects together. Welcome!

**The 70th Anniversary of Gulf Beaches Rotary Club in Madeira Beach, Florida**



Richard Rosenthal, Bob and Milka Brown celebrating with the Rotary Club in Madeira Beach, Florida.

**Membership Minute**

Last week I spoke of the Action plan and the Vision Statement. This week I bring you Priority #1.

**Increase Impact** – We are People of Action. We must find a way to tell our story, work on projects with measurable impact, and create projects that are sustainable.

Working alongside agencies and communities is a way to tell our story, working alongside groups in our community creates measurable impact, and working on projects with our community partners makes them sustainable.

Next week stay tuned for Priority #2.

Mander Matharu, President-Elect

**CLUB Meetings/Information**

Meetings: Every Tuesday at Noon to 1:30pm  
Fogolar Furlan

Last Tuesday of the Month: EVENING MEETING

**February 27<sup>th</sup>** – Poetry Night – Youth Poet Laureate Chidera Ikewibe and IB Student/Poet/Author Carpice Strgar

**March 5<sup>th</sup>** – Windsor-Walkerville Ukrainian School Project in Budapest – Eleonora Csepregi

**March 12<sup>th</sup>** – Windsor Essex Community Foundation – Community Contributions – Lisa Kolody

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Yuhi Nishi, former Exchange Student from Japan, visited our club and brought greetings and thanks for her time in our community as an exchange student. With her were her husband and two young children. Yuhi is staying with the Gallaghers while she is here!

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**CALLING ALL ROTARIANS!!**

Share your story and passion for Rotary through our “Member Profiles” series on social media. What a great way to “tell our story!”

Please send your story and photo to Ann Hetherington ([ahetherington2854@gmail.com](mailto:ahetherington2854@gmail.com)) by March 5<sup>th</sup>!

When did you join Rotary and why?”

What is your vocation and what attracted you to this career path?

What committees have you served on, or things you have been involved in with Rotary?

Who are one or two hero’s in your life and why?