

# THE HOPTARIAN



ROTARY CLUB OF HOPKINS, MINNESOTA

Raspberry Capital of the World



## Meeting of July 2, 2009

**Tim Dillon** presiding.

**Roger Struthers** recited a 4<sup>th</sup> of July poem for Invocation.

**Josh Kruse** was our greeter today and explained that his NAPA hat has been his since the age of four when he got it from his grandfather. It is meant to be worn only while running the tractor so when he was eight years old he finally convinced his grandpa that he could run the tractor and mow the lawn and all the jobs a big boy can do. It's remarkable that it still fits him!

**John Anderson** gave us the Oasis Project update. We are making progress! Yesterday a group of members got the signs moved and John awarded **Lee Radermacher** the "Smoking Hot Award" for his work yesterday (a bottle of Tabasco). Enjoy some Bloody Marys with that, Lee! **Jim Hance** and **Scott Anderson** were also a part of the group. Thanks for your contribution, guys! John said there will be more opportunities upcoming to help out and encouraged us all to join in in whatever way we can – be that providing some water or other refreshments – all are welcome! The next scheduled date is on Saturday, July 11 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Come for a part or come for the whole time. They would love to have you!

Tim announced that we need host families for next fall for Dominique from Quito, Ecuador. Please consider this for yourself or for anyone you know who might be a good fit.

Tim presented none other than **ROGER STRUTHERS** with our ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR award and plaque. Roger has shown exemplary service to our club and we all appreciate his continued dedication. Thanks to **Bonnie Hammel** for arranging our awards this year and updating the plaque. We passed the plaque around acknowledging past winners of this award.

Next week we will be meeting at Tuttle's for our club assembly and the following week (July 16) we will be at Music in the Park. Don't forget!

**Greg Palmer** stepped in for **Ed Stiele** for Recognition. Birthdays were celebrated for **Don Carlson** – 77 and **Suzanne Abrams** – the big 30.

Happy Bucks -- **Suzanne** announced the results of her recent ultrasound this week and it will be a little brother for Felix! Lucky boy and mama... **John Anderson** is excited for his team's playoffs that start

### MEETINGS

Thursdays at 12 noon  
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**Randy Travalia** July 13

**Jim Justus** July 16

next week – Good luck!

Greg doled out fines to the following members: **Jim Block** for missing his Back Table duty last week, **Roger Struthers** in recognition of his Rotarian of the Year award, **Jim Benshoof** in appreciation of his service as Club President over the past year, and The Oasis Project workers from yesterday – **John Anderson, Lee Radermacher, Jim Hance, and Scott Anderson**. Greg gathered a few more bucks by way of Independence Day trivia.

Greg thanked everyone for their contributions to the Rotary Foundation for the fiscal year. The numbers aren't in yet, but we always show good numbers. Let's hope this year is the same or better!!

Today's speaker was **Yamit Taragan**. She is our Ambassadorial Scholar for the year 2009-2010. Yamit is a 2001 graduate of Hopkins High School. She received her BA in International Affairs from George Washington University in Washington DC in 2005. She has a stellar résumé of experiences and going by her polished presentation, she will be a top-notch representative of our club. In the fall she will attend the University of London School of Economics in pursuit of her Masters in Public Policy as a Rotarian Ambassadorial Scholar.



She presented a gift to our club in thanks for our sponsorship – a Palestinian Pottery piece with a painting of the Old City of Jerusalem. Yamit shared a bit about herself and her goals for next year. She was born in Israel on a Kibbutz (commune) to an American mother and Israeli father. Kibbutz Urim is near Beer Sheva in the desert. They spoke only Hebrew at home and she didn't learn English until she was eight years old when they moved to Minnesota.

Some important attributes that she strives for were learned from the experiences of her life. In her time

rowing for Crew at GWU, she learned the importance of teamwork. From her time interning with the Wellstone campaign (the year before he passed) she learned conviction. She studied in Havana, Cuba for part of her junior year and realized the value of humility, since your perspective is only one of many.

Yamit joined Teach For America after college and taught sixth grade at an elementary school in Charlotte. After that she worked with Teach For All, a program that assists those who want to replicate Teach For America in their own country. For two years she worked in this program. She helped to attain 13 million in funding from the federal government in Australia for their Teach For Australia program and the Israeli organization is launching next year with 50 teachers.

Yamit's goals for next year in London are to give 10 to 15 presentations abroad and eight upon her return, to become involved in Rotaract in London, write her thesis on Int'l Ed., explore the UK and of course, to graduate with high marks.

Yamit gave us her thanks for the opportunity and encouraged us to stay in touch and follow her blog.

<http://ytaragan.blogspot.com>

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Submitted by,

*Suzanne Abrams*

**Next Meeting July 9, 2009**

**Program: TBA**

**July 9, 2009**

**Presiding:** Tim Dillon  
**Invocation:** Tom Radermacher  
**Greeter:** Gunnar Carlson  
**Recognition:** **Open**  
**Hop. Reporter:** Nelson Berg  
**Back Table:** Mike Winship

**July 16, 2009**

**Music  
In the  
Park**

**Back Table: Ron Johnson**