

Local Rotary Club welcomes international guest speaker

Peace through Service theme announced for Rotary International

“Peace is not something that can only be achieved through agreements, by governments, or through heroic struggles. It is something that we can find and that we can achieve, every day in many simple ways.”

Peace has different meanings for different people, Rotary International President, Sakuji Tanaka said. “No definition is right, and no definition is wrong,” he said.

“However we use the word, that is what peace means for us. “No matter how we use, or understand the word, Rotary can help us to achieve it,” he said.

Mr. Tanaka, a businessman from the greater Tokyo metropolitan area, shared how becoming a Rotarian broadened his understanding of the world. After joining the Rotary Club of Yashio, in 1975, he began to realize that his life’s purpose was not to make more money, but to be useful to other people.

“I realized that by helping others, even in the simplest of ways, I could help to build peace,” Mr. Tanaka said. He noted that the tradition of putting the needs of society above the needs of the individual helped his country rebuild after the tsunami and earthquake in March of 2011.

“This is a lesson that I think the whole world can learn from, in a positive way.



Courtesy photo
Rotary International President, Sakuji Tanaka visited with local Immokalee Rotarians recently. He brought with him a message for all Rotarians to carry with them, “Peace through Service.”

When we see the needs of others as more important than our own needs — when we focus our energies on a shared goal that is for the good of all — this changes everything,” he said. “It changes our priorities in a completely fundamental way. And it changes how we understand the idea of peace.”

“In Rotary, our business is not profit. Our business is peace,” he said. “Our reward is not financial, but the happiness and satisfaction is a better, more peaceful world, one that we have achieved through our own efforts,” Mr. Tanaka said.

Career focus on child care

By Matt Kindermann
Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Just as home owners should consider a licensed contractor for home repairs, parents should consider a licensed child care facility for the care of their children. Child care facilities organized under the Department of Children and Families (DCF) are categorized as one of the following: Licensed Child Care Facility, Licensed Family Child Care Home, Licensed Large Family Child Care Home, Licensed Specialized Facility for Mildly Ill Children or as a Registered Family Day Care Home.



Matt Kindermann

10 hours of continuing training each year thereafter. Credentialing classes are offered on-site in Lee and Collier counties, or they can be taken on-line. The classes cost \$160, and the credential is essential in order to gain employment in the child care industry. Child care job seekers should be aware that there are currently more qualified workers than available jobs in his field. Competition is stiff and the median income in the Fort Myers metropolitan area

is low at \$19,300 or about \$9.50 an hour. You can find the credential class information at www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/childcare and click on “Course Registration.” Workforce funds do not currently cover the cost of credentialing because most positions pay less than the level of self-sufficiency. Residents of Collier County can receive scholarships for the credentialing and more information can be found at www.collierchildcare.org.

Southwest Florida Works is the regional state workforce board for Hendry, Glades, Charlotte, Lee and Collier counties. For job search assistance or employer support, speak with an employment representative nearest you by going to www.swflworks.org and click on “Locations.”

All licensed facilities are subject to on-site inspections by DCF except Registered Homes, which are not site inspected but do have to comply with employee certification requirements. In addition, all Licensed and Registered facilities must abide by state rules concerning staff credentials, capacity and ratio limits, safety and health precautions and proper record keeping. To find licensed child care facilities and homes, go to www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/childcare and click on “Child Care Provider Search.”

All direct care staff of Licensed and Registered facilities must be credentialed by attending a 40 hour DCF course and receive

Immokalee area Democratic Club plans to meet

The Democratic Club of Immokalee will meet on Tuesday, July 24, at 6:45 p.m. at Rib City, 621 North 15th Street, Immokalee, 239-657-4003. The club will discuss the upcoming August 14 primary election and ballot races and issues. The meetings are open to all.

Lipman provides matching grant funding for Science Center

Lipman, North America’s largest field tomato grower, has committed to donating up to \$35,000 to the Imaginarium Science Center in Fort Myers. The Imaginarium Group, Inc. – the nonprofit that supports the facility – will be gifted a match for all donations acquired until October 28 (or until the match is satisfied).

The funds will be used to make improvements to the newly named Lipman Family Courtyard, which will serve as an integral part of The Caloosahatchee Experience exhibit (currently in phase II of construction). The area will be landscaped to include native and “Florida-friendly” plants and a butterfly garden.

“We rely on support from companies like Lipman to provide funds for educational programs and exhibitions,” said Matt Johnson, executive director of the Imaginarium Science Center. The nonprofit dedicated the Lipman Family Courtyard and kicked off fundraising for this project during its 2012 Cherish Gala.

Courtyard will serve as a gathering area for educational programs, special events, and field-trip orientations.



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