



St. Catharines Torch Club

March 2014 Newsletter

David Dean: Health Care in the U.S.A. and Cuba

Dr. David Dean will be our guest speaker at our Torch meeting on Wednesday, March 12th. David is the President of the Buffalo Torch club and he has chosen to speak on Health Care in the USA and Cuba.

David was born and grew up in Buffalo. He obtained a B.A. degree majoring in chemistry from Bowdoin College in Maine, and his degree in medicine from the prestigious Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland in 1956. In the same year, David married Jean who has been an occupational therapist. They have two sons and a daughter.

David's special area of expertise is cardiology and cardiac rehabilitation. He has worked in several hospitals in Rochester, Boston and Buffalo, with academic appointments, and has had responsibilities for staff training. He is a Clinical Professor in Medicine and Rehabilitation, and is an Attending Cardiologist at the Buffalo General Hospital. He has a book on interpreting ECGs and has given lectures in countries in Asia, Europe, and South America, as well as Mexico and Canada.

David has been following the support and need for the Affordable Care Act, or Obama Care, in the US, and will compare the level of health care and its expense in the US and Cuba, which he visited recently. We look forward to hearing David's informative insights into this politically interesting and very important subject.

Next Meeting

- Wednesday March 12, 6 pm social hour, 7 pm dinner.
- Best Western, St. Catharines.
- **Dinner:** Assorted Salads, Vegetarian Lasagna with white sauce, Vegetarian Pizza, Vegetarian balls, Vegetables, Tartufo Ice Cream, Tea/ coffee
- Cost: \$25.
- **Speaker:** David Dean.
- **Topic:** Health Care in the U.S.A and Cuba
- Please let your phone captain know whether you are coming.
- If you require a special meal, please contact Alexandra Fic or Merle Richards.
- If you need a ride, contact David Warren at 905-934-9765.

February 13, 2014 Meeting

Attendance numbers: 32

Meeting called to order by Dave Sydor

Toast and Grace: Sensitively accomplished by Ivan Hrabowsky

Business Notes:

Brief comments by Ivan Hrabowsky regarding the upcoming conference.

Speaker: Brenda Gibson

Introducer of Speaker: Gerda Northover

Summary of Presentation: Israel: Then and Now

Brenda began by describing her Jewish roots growing up in England and her experiences traveling to Israel as a young woman to work on a kibbutz. After the required 6 month service, she traveled all over Israel, finally stopping to work on another kibbutz bordering on Lebanon.

Throughout this time, she became aware of the social and political issues facing Israel, combined with the pride and optimism the young small country felt against what were emerging as considerable odds. Following this period, she went to the Weizmann Institute of Science where she worked as a lab assistant in biophysics. Here she met her husband Martin, and they began their life together.

Brenda fervently believes that the Jews have many good reasons for wanting their own country after years of being barred from specific occupations, being persecuted (the Holocaust being the most recent example) and pogroms which turned so many Jewish families into refugees. Thus, the need for a state where the Jewish people could live in peace and security. She points out that the return to Israel is foretold in the Old

Testament and that the Feast of the Passover includes the pronouncement "Next Year in Jerusalem."

The projection of a map of Israel served to illustrate just how small Israel is and how surrounded it is by enemies. Some of the land is desert and at its narrowest Israel is only 9 miles across. She identified the issue of the West Bank settlements and pointed out the vulnerability of Israeli people to rocket attacks.

Brenda pointed out to us that we live with friendly neighbours and a peaceful border and therefore, it is hard for us to understand the realities of daily life in Israel with the constant presence of dangers that surround them. She also pointed out that Europeans have conquered and occupied foreign lands particularly in America where land was taken from Aboriginal people. She reminded us that Israel is the only democratic country in the region and that Israeli Arabs are well represented in the Israeli parliament.

While Brenda hears frequent criticism of Israel, she does not hear the same criticisms of Arabs and their treatment of women. Additionally, she questions why Palestinian refugees have been left to live in refugee camps for three generations by their Arab compatriots. Finally, she pointed out that Israel is not a member of NATO and has no treaties that commit any country to come to its aid if it is attacked. Although it has joint interests with several western countries, Israel has to protect itself. The recent instability in the Arab world has made Israel's heightened concern about its security easy to understand.

A lively and varied discussion ensued.

Thanks to Speaker: Merle Richards

Minutes: Anne Elliott