

Rotary District 7780

Carolyn Johnson, District Governor

April 18, 2014

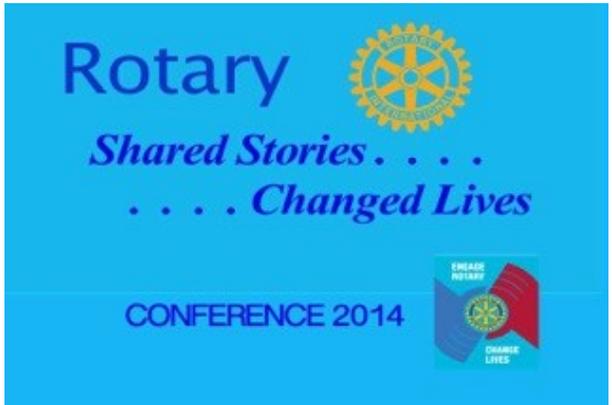
www.rotary7780.org ... or friend us on Facebook!

District Conference Highlights

Want to make a difference? Get involved in our Conference service project! Many of you heard Leslie Morissette, a speaker at District Assembly last weekend, describing her outreach to provide technology and Internet access to seriously ill children so they can keep up with their education. *Grahamtastic Connection* collects new and gently used laptops, tablets, and desktop computers to connect children, face-to-face, with their classrooms and teachers, family and friends, and medical teams. At our Conference, there will be an area to leave off technology (*functional and less than five years old*) that you would like to donate to support this great endeavor. To learn more: www.grahamtastic.org

Are you a "Survivor?" For a little fun and a lot of inspiration, join us on Saturday morning to welcome Bob Crowley, the Maine teacher who won *Survivor, Gabon*. Bob has done a little of a lot of things in his life — he's been an entomologist, a physics teacher, a first mate on a research vessel, an arborist, and a skunk relocater, and now developer of Maine Forest Yurts as a means to show support for veterans. Similar to Rotarians, Bob believes in "paying it forward and paying it back." Guaranteed, Bob's story will inspire, entertain, and challenge each of us to persevere in all that we do. [2014 Rotary District 7780 Conference](http://2014.Rotary.District.7780.Conference)

Great news - this just in! The Westin has released an extra block of rooms to us! We sold out, but were able to negotiate additional rooms - don't procrastinate any longer! These luxurious rooms will go quickly, so if you would like to treat that special someone to a special weekend in Maine's only five star hotel, book your room now! Group rate is extended until Friday, April 25

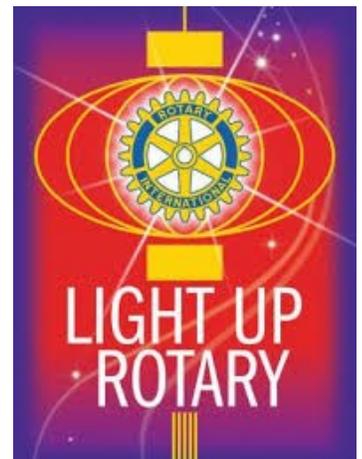


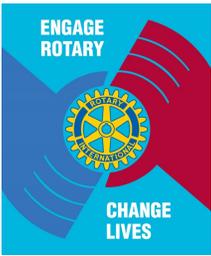
**District Conference
May 16-18
Portland Westin Harborview
Hotel**

District Assembly Prepares Rotarians for Next Year's Rotary Roles



A crowd of 175 District 7780 Rotarians gathered in Westbrook last weekend to share ideas and prepare for next year's work to "Light Up Rotary" through service projects and fellowship. Governor-elect Lawrence Furbish and his team had crafted an agenda with something for everyone — including new Rotarians and those who will be taking on leadership roles at the club and District level. Congratulations to everyone involved in planning and executing this wonderful training event!





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Hampton Uses Foundation Monies to Provide Water in Guatemala

Fifty families in Guatemala will have clean water in their homes thanks to the Hampton Club — and Rotary Foundation grant monies.

Last November, **Hampton** Rotarian Tracy Gagnon traveled with Governor-elect Lawrence Furbish to Guatemala as part of a Rotary Foundation Springboard Grant to determine possibilities for future Foundation projects and, specifically, to identify a community in need of clean water. One of the places they visited was Santa Cruz, a small, isolated community on the shores of Lake Atitlan. Amigos de Santa Cruz has been working in Santa Cruz la Laguna for the past 15 years, helping support education, better health, a cleaner environment and economic development projects. One of Amigos' goals for 2014 is to see that all participating families have access to clean water in their homes.



Tracy recognized that Santa Cruz offered a good "fit" for Hampton's "Drop by Drop" program, which started as a local community Foundation project to educate Hampton school children about this precious resource and teach them ways to conserve water. As part of the Drop-by-Drop project, the club gave each elementary school in Hampton a rain barrel with instructions for collection and conservation.

Now, the club's Drop-by-Drop committee plans to collect money from the sale of rain barrels to fund the cost to purchase 50 water filters and transport them to Santa Cruz.

Have you got a project that could benefit from Rotary Foundation monies? The deadline to apply for Springboard and Community Foundation Grants is June 1! Information and application forms are on the District website — go to the drop-down tab marked "Foundation" and you'll find everything you need to apply.

Tennis and Golf Events: It Must Be Spring!

The **Fryeburg Area Rotary Club** presents its second annual Fryeburg Tennis Open, May 31, 2014, featuring men's and women's doubles, and mixed doubles. The event will support the Harvest Hills Animal Shelter. FMI: David Chaffee, [207.240.1643](tel:207.240.1643) or dkchaffee@roadrunner.com.



Fryeburg Area is also planning its sixth annual Golf Tournament, which will be held June 21 at the Lake Kezar Country Club in Lovell, ME. 8:00 a.m. shotgun start; \$55 per person — includes greens fees, cart rental and lunch. FMI: Dick Cote, [207-935-2793](tel:207-935-2793)

Community Honors Rochester Rotarians

Members of the **Rochester** community gathered recently to honor those who consistently make a difference in the city at the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner and awards banquet. The Chamber's two main awards, Business Leader of the Year and Citizen of the Year, were presented at the banquet — and both awards went to Rotarians!

Gerry and Claire Basillion were jointly named Citizens of the Year for their volunteer work in the community. The couple happened to be in Aruba celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary, but their acceptance speech was broadcast at the dinner. "Claire and I are humbled and honored to be the recipients of this prestigious award," Gerry said. "We volunteer because we want to ... We never thought we'd be acknowledged." "This is the best 50th anniversary gift any couple could receive," Claire added.



Rotarian Dave Keefe, of Federal Savings Bank, was named Rochester's Business Leader of the Year. "I've always thought that if you're working in the community, you have to give back," Keefe said. "It's as simple as that...I've always had that approach."

Our congratulations to Dave, and to Gerry and Claire, for living the motto of Service Above Self!

