



# The HIGHLANDER

The Official Newsletter of The Rotary Club of Dundas

OCTOBER 2014



## PROGRAMS:

October 07 - Committee Meetings  
October 14 - Classification, Keith Green  
October 21 - Helen Norris, Helping Hands Mission  
October 28 - Marguerite Ward, Her experiences in South Africa

## BIRTHDAYS:

October 01 - Gary Caldwell  
October 16 - Russ White (H)

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## THE IMPRESSION THAT I GET

### John Germ selected as 2016-2017 Rotary President

Adapted from an article by Ryan Hyland, Rotary News 05/08/2014



John F. Germ, a member of the Rotary Club of Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA, and chair of the International PolioPlus Committee, is the selection of the Nominating Committee for President of R.I. in 2016-2017.

In 1965, after four years in the U.S. Air Force, Germ, an engineer, joined Campbell and Associates Inc., an engineering consulting firm. He now serves as the company's board chair and chief executive officer. He also serves on the boards of several

organizations including the Public Education Foundation, Orange Grove Center Inc., and the Blood Assurance Inc. He is the founder and treasurer of the Chattanooga State Technical Community College Foundation and is president of the Tennessee Jaycee Foundation.

In 1970 he was recognized as Tennessee Young Man of the Year, Engineer of the Year, and Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year in 1992.

A Rotary member since 1976, Germ has served Rotary as vice president, director, Foundation trustee and vice chair, chair of Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge, and RI president's aide. He is a recipient of Rotary's Service Above Self Award and The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Award. He and his wife, Judy, are members of the Arch Klumph Society.

"For Rotary to thrive members must face current and future challenges and opportunities with passion, enthusiasm, perseverance, and above all, integrity," said Germ "I envision Rotary boldly and creatively engaging the success of polio eradication, membership and identity issues, strengthening clubs, working with youth – our future lifeblood, and the creation of critical, strategic partnerships."

"The 2016-2017 Rotary year offers a tremendous opportunity for Rotary International and the Foundation partnership unified and thriving, on all levels, via the six areas of focus," he predicted, "No one should ever have to ask — *'What is Rotary?'* — We will enhance Rotary's public image by successfully and enthusiastically marketing who we are, what amazing things we are doing, and incredibly, have done locally and globally."

"With the global economy still unpredictable," he said "Rotary must make participation affordable and also be unfailingly diligent in efforts to ensure we spend every dollar effectively and efficiently."

"Rotary will adapt to a rapidly changing world by embracing innovation within the guidelines of our tradition and values," says Germ. "By aggressively embracing new technologies, social media, and new opportunities, individuals and businesses will see that Rotary helps promote a good civic and public image while adding credibility to their people."

He will become the president-nominee on October 1<sup>st</sup> if there are no challenging candidates.

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## OCTOBER MEETING RESPONSIBILITIES

	OCTOBER 7	OCTOBER 14
Setup/Take down	<i>The Usual Suspects &amp; The Phantom Defendant</i>	<i>The Usual Suspects &amp; The Phantom Defendant</i>
Greeter	Allyson Wenzowski	Gary Caldwell
Invocation	Steve Volf	Keith Green
O' Canada	John Attridge	John Attridge
Intro./Thank Speaker	John Attridge	George Eastwood

	OCTOBER 21	OCTOBER 28
Setup/Take down	<i>The Usual Suspects &amp; The Phantom Defendant</i>	<i>The Usual Suspects &amp; The Phantom Defendant</i>
Greeter	Kamal Shankardass	George Eastwood
Invocation	Kevin Beagle	Judy Shepalo
O' Canada	John Attridge	John Attridge
Intro./Thank Speaker	Keith Green	Gary Caldwell

## GOLFPOCALYPSE TALES OF TERROR FROM THE 17<sup>TH</sup> HOLE

All was quite that afternoon, to quite some would say.

We were enjoying the sunshine and marveling at the deer when the first scream of "Incoming!" shattered the calm.

Wasting no time we hurled ourselves to the ground as the first barrage of golf balls rained down and Paradise became Hell! The smell of charred fairway... the unrelenting hail of balls... their banshee wail as they tore the sky... we saw the greens turn red – it's true what they say about there being no clean BVD's in fox holes.

As the barrage continued, with no end in sight, the men began to get twitchy – "They got Timmy!" howled Bob rushing out into the onslaught of dimpled death. "Timmy? Timmy?" we wondered "Who's Timmy?" but we were under fire and questions had to wait.

As the divots settled and the day waned an eerie calm crept across the scarred greens. We could hear the groans and sobs of the wounded and as the light faded we carried them back to the 19<sup>th</sup> hole and safety.

We'd survived and were thankful, but we could never forget Timmy... our fallen comrade... Timmy... "The Lost Rotarian of The 17<sup>th</sup> Hole."

# ANTI-VACCINE MOVEMENT MAY HAVE GLOBAL REPERCUSSIONS

By John Hewko, Rotary News 12/09/2014  
(This op-ed first appeared in the San Diego Union-Tribune)



Polio-Vaccination in Maiduguri, Nigeria.  
Photo Credit: Diego Ibarra Sánchez

Supporters of the anti-vaccine movement question the safety, efficacy and necessity of the very medicines that have so greatly reduced our children's risk of catching a host of once-common but potentially very serious infectious diseases, such as mumps, measles and whooping cough.

And then there's polio, the disabling, sometimes fatal virus that was every American parent's worst nightmare until effective vaccines were developed in the 1950s — and which still infects children in the developing world.

Some who oppose vaccines are well-meaning parents who have come to believe — wrongly in the view of mainstream medical science — that the medicines are to blame for their own children's health problems, especially in the case of autism.

What they don't realize is that refusing vaccinations jeopardizes not only their own children's health and that of every unvaccinated child in the community, it also undermines a core principle of global health: that vaccines are essential to safeguard all children against disease.

The anti-vaccine movement is quick to publicly criticize anyone it deems to be a shill for the pharmaceutical industry.

Which brings us to "Invisible Threat," a documentary produced by a group of broadcast journalism students at Carlsbad High School. The film takes an unbiased look at the debate over vaccine safety. It includes interviews with physicians; parents who believe vaccines are linked to autism; and parents who have lost children to vaccine-preventable diseases. After considering both sides and weighing the evidence, the students conclude that vaccines are safe, effective and tremendously important. What slight health risks vaccines may pose are vastly outweighed by the good they do.

A no-strings-attached grant of \$60,000 from several San Diego-area Rotary clubs in 2012 funded the project, and the sponsors are proud of the results. Unfortunately, controversy delayed the film's public release until last month, when it was posted online.

Anti-vaccine groups say the film is propaganda for the vaccine industry. In a press release, one group cited the Rotary grant as evidence. Why? Because Rotary "receives large grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, a major investor in vaccines." In truth, both Rotary and the Gates Foundation are "major investors" in improving children's health worldwide. Since 2007, Rotary's collaboration with the Gates Foundation has raised nearly \$763 million, funds that Rotary dispenses as grants to the World Health Organization and UNICEF to fight polio worldwide. The oral polio vaccine is the primary weapon.

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As the students report, polio — now so close to eradication — is still only the proverbial plane ride away, placing every unvaccinated child at risk. Even kids in Southern California. In 1952, polio paralyzed a record 21,000 Americans, most of them children. Do we really want to relive that nightmare?

Opposition to vaccines is not unfamiliar to Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which since 1988 has reduced the incidence of polio by more than 99 percent. It is true that misperceptions and rumors about the polio vaccine sometimes cause parents in developing countries to refuse immunization. Such challenges are anticipated and overcome.

In recent months, however, religious extremists with political agendas — most notably in Pakistan and northern Nigeria — have gone far beyond fomenting fear and distrust. They have actually attacked polio vaccination workers, killing dozens. This is reported in "Invisible Threat."

A concern now is that the noise generated by the anti-vaccine movement here will be heard by the extremists attacking health workers abroad. The last thing needed at this critical juncture of the polio eradication effort is for a violent fear-monger to point to a news headline and tell families, "Look, even American parents fear the vaccines."

Such a scenario would only further jeopardize the health of children denied access to lifesaving vaccines, while increasing the danger faced by the brave health workers dedicated to protecting them.

It is completely understandable that parents of children with unexplained health problems are desperate for answers. But as "Invisible Threat" reports, the weight of medical science comes down squarely on the side of vaccines.

To quote astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, "The good thing about science is that it's true whether or not you believe in it."

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## GIVING VOICE TO CHILDREN WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE LIVE IN A SILENT WORLD

By Ryan Hyland, Rotary News 04/09/2014

Misheelt Batjargal and her fellow club members are giving a voice to infants and toddlers in Mongolia who would otherwise live in a silent world. As part of a large-scale community project, the Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar Peace Avenue, Mongolia, is equipping hospitals with screening devices to test newborns' hearing. Batjargal, an ear, nose, and throat physician, says screening to detect hearing loss is not routine nationwide in Mongolia. She estimates that more than 200 hundred children in the country lose their hearing each year.

But Batjargal believes this is preventable. Early screenings are crucial for infants because, left undiagnosed, hearing impairment can impede children's development in speech, language, and cognition.

"If we can detect hearing loss before babies turn six months old, we can fit them with hearing aids or cochlear implants and give them good early intervention programs that will allow them to communicate normally at school and with friends," says Batjargal, who noted that only one hospital in Mongolia conducted screenings before club members launched the project in 2013. "Our club is helping prevent hearing-impaired babies from growing up in a world of isolation."

The club has held two fundraisers since January, including a performance of the ballet "Swan Lake." They raised more than \$10,000 – enough to outfit two hospitals with screening devices. The Ministry of Health worked with the club on both events, which indicates the issue's importance

for Mongolia, says Enkhtur Sodnomtseren, chair of the club's service committee.

"Hearing disability has been largely ignored by the government, as it is seen as low-priority in the overall list of pressing health issues," says Sodnomtseren. "It's also been under the radar of most charity and grant organizations. We as a club want to fill this gap. We can see that with a little extra effort and time, we can dramatically improve the quality of life, for not only the affected babies, but their families as well."

Sodnomtseren says that the club, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Health, can expand the project. It hopes to raise enough funds to supply every maternity ward with screening devices and training over the next few years. More than 78,000 infants will be tested each year, he estimates.

Batjargal, who plans to train other medical practitioners in how to use the screening devices, says this project exemplifies the positive change Rotary can make.

"Instead of waiting for the government to address this problem, our Rotary club has decided to solve it," says Batjargal. "We're making a major contribution to society. This is simply what we do."



Photo: Enkhtur Sodnomtseren

## FREE VEGETABLE GARDENS SPROUTING UP AROUND FRANCE

By Dan Nixon, Rotary News 12/09/2014

Imagine a community where the residents are all free to plant, grow, harvest, and eat healthy food whenever they want without having to pay for it.

Sound too good to be true? That's exactly what residents of more than 20 cities and towns in France are doing through a project called Potalib. Launched by the Rotaract Club of Versailles, Potalib was inspired by the Incredible Edible project, an international food-sharing movement founded by Nick Green in England. The Rotaract members obtained Green's permission to apply the concept in France, changing the name to "Potalib," a contraction of "potager libre" (free vegetable garden).

The club registered the Potalib name, created a brand, and now sells the project as a kit to French institutions, local communities, and corporations. The materials include seeds for as many as 18 kinds of vegetables, information on how to cultivate them, and 12 wooden bins, each about a cubic meter in size and filled with around 270 kilograms of soil. In cities where the gardens are planted, the club sponsors a festive opening-day ceremony, featuring a free meal cooked by club members and a professional chef.

"The goal is quite simple: To give everyone, from the wealthiest to the poorest, the opportunity to eat quality vegetables," says Club President Thibaut Mathieu.

"Everyone knows that fries do not grow in the ground," joke the project's supporters even though according to a recent survey, one in four children in France doesn't know that fries come from potatoes.

Potalib also offers the homeless a reliable source of free healthy food.

"People readily take responsibility for maintaining the vegetable gardens and no instances of theft, hoarding, or vandalism have been reported. Instead, Potalib is bringing communities closer together," Mathieu says.

"I was almost afraid to take some vegetables at first," says Nathalie from Plaisir, a suburb of Paris. "But now I do it with great pleasure. I made new friends there. We plant seeds and we have a good time!"

Each Potalib package costs more than \$15,000. Mathieu says that would be a high price for one person to pay, but not for a town, government department, or a company. The money is paid directly to the club, which then pays the suppliers, "who have become genuine and trusted partners," he says.

Potalib is also good for local business. If the community isn't able to fund the entire project, the club contacts companies in the area. Mathieu says a



Versailles Rotaractors and friends launch a Potalib project in Vélizy-Villacoublay. Photo: Courtesy of Thibaut Mathieu

local company can finance one or several bins in its city, and in doing so, improve its image by showing the public that it cares.

Outside of France, Rotaract clubs in Belgium, Canada, and Germany have inquired about duplicating the project.

"We receive, on average, four new applications from cities per week," says Mathieu, adding that the Versailles club is planning to create a separate Potalib website soon.

The Versailles Rotaractors started Potalib in 2012, around the time they were forming their club, which was chartered in 2013. The project has not only benefited an increasing number of communities, it's also helped to expand the club's membership, which has mushroomed from 16 members to 60.

Mathieu credits the project's success to the Rotaract club's sponsors, the Rotary Club of Versailles. "They have always given us good counseling. Without 'our' Rotarians, we would not be here today," says Mathieu.

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## HOW EASY IS IT TO CHANGE THE WORLD AND MAKE HISTORY?

*Thie C.L. Convery, Dundas Rotary Club  
Chair, End Polio Now, Rotary District 7090*

If you ask anyone if they would like to leave their mark on history and change the world for the better, the answer would be “yes”.

Not everyone has an idea on how to do just that and the actual task can seem quite overwhelming. However, my experience with Rotary shows that one person can make an impact, even with small steps. It can be done by shining a light on a specific issue, signing a petition, donating or raising funds for a cause, or even as easy as putting your fingers “this close” in a picture.

World Polio Day is quickly approaching on October 24<sup>th</sup>. This is a chance for Rotarians, clubs, and districts across the world to come together to fight polio. There are many ways your club could mark the day. You could dedicate your club meeting that week to focus on Rotary’s work to end polio. You could host a community fundraiser around World Polio Day to raise awareness of our cause. You could wear your End Polio Now pin on World Polio Day and encourage your friends and family to do the same. You could take the opportunity to remind government officials to support the global commitment to a polio free world – Rotary’s top priority.

Most importantly, by encouraging your Board and your Club to continue your support by donating all you can, we can end this crippling disease!

Please make cheques payable to “The Rotary Foundation - Polio Plus” and mail to:

### **In Canada:**

The Rotary Foundation (Canada)  
c/o 911600  
PO Box 4090 STN A  
Toronto, ON M5W 0E9

*We promised the children of the world  
that we would eradicate polio – and Rotarians keep their word.  
We are “this close” and getting closer every day.  
Thanks to you, we will End Polio Now!*

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## THIS WHEEL’S ON FIRE

### MENDING THE LINGERING EFFECTS OF JAPAN’S TRIPLE DISASTER

*By Ryan Hyland, Rotary News 02/10/2014*



More than three years after an earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster triggered widespread devastation in Japan, the physical scars are beginning to mend. Debris has been removed. Coastal communities are being rebuilt. Farming and fishing have resumed, and thousands of people have moved in to new housing.

But the Rotary Clubs of Koriyama West, Japan, and Englewood, New Jersey, USA, are concerned with the emotional and psychological impact caused by the triple disaster, known in Japan as 3/11, which claimed more than 19,000 lives and displaced hundreds of thousands of people.

In a country that prides itself on stoicism, it is difficult for survivors to seek and accept mental health care. “We believe that the first step to overcome the grief is to be able to talk about what they’re going through and share their personal experiences,” says Englewood club member Ikuyo Yanagisawa.

With a Rotary global grant, the clubs purchased mobile video conference equipment for four mental health clinics in areas most affected by the Fukushima nuclear power plant crisis. These tools now connect mental health care providers in Japan with trauma experts at the Arnhold Global Health Institute in New York City, where psychologists treated survivors and witnesses of the September 11 attacks.

To augment the new resources, Koriyama West members will organize multidisciplinary mental health care teams from Fukushima Medical University to make outreach visits to temporary shelters and schools in and around Tohoku, a town near Fukushima. Additionally, survivors of 3/11 will be able to talk via video conference to 9/11 family members and first responders who lost loved ones and colleagues in the tragedy.

“Despite the differences between 9/11 and 3/11, survivors of both events share a similar healing process by overcoming the shock, grief, and isolation,” adds Yanagisawa. Last November, the Englewood club teamed up with Japanese Medical Society of America and American Airlines to fly five members of the September 11<sup>th</sup> Families Association to Tohoku to share their stories and give encouragement to 3/11 survivors still displaced by the tsunami and Fukushima nuclear disaster.

“The 9/11 members would open each conversation with the Japanese expression ‘otogaisama’ which means ‘we are all in the same boat’” says Yanagisawa, who accompanied the team. “This helped 3/11 members open up more and feel at ease with sharing their story. I could see how deeply connected the two groups were. It was remarkable to see.”

Yanagisawa says that 3/11 survivors came to her after group sessions to say how encouraged they were to move forward with their lives.

“This is our [the two participating clubs] goal: to help communities in Japan overcome their grief and find the strength to rebuild their lives,” she says. “Bringing together survivors from two different disasters, from opposite ends of the world, we hope will bring about a sense of international community.”

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