

By Aretha Fouch Price

Rotary International News - 19 March 2008

Girls living in and near the village of Deh'Subz, outside of Kabul, Afghanistan, will hear school bells ringing closer to their homes for them for the first time starting in March.

Rotarian Razia Jan, a native of Afghanistan, visited her homeland in 2001 after the Taliban's reign (1996-2001), and in 2002 she began working with the orphanages in the area. It was during her visits that she decided the girls who walk more than two miles each way on a dirt road to school and those who have never had any formal education needed a school closer to where they live.

"A whole generation of girls have never been to school because of the Taliban's rules prohibiting girls from attending school and the destruction of the schools," said Jan, a member of the Rotary Club of Duxbury, Massachusetts, USA. "But that is about to change."

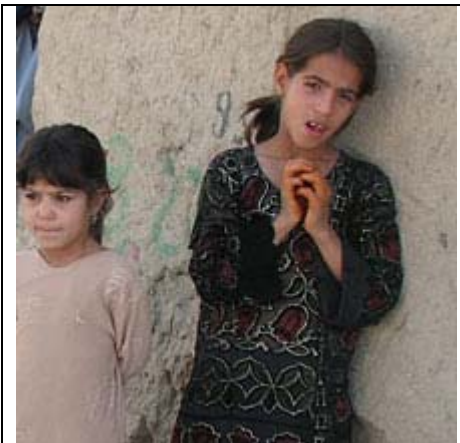
Seeing firsthand the need for girls and women to be educated and productive in her homeland, Jan became inspired to build a school for girls that also will serve as an adult education center for women.

"Our club is just about to open a school for girls in Afghanistan to help break the cycle of poverty [through] access to an education in a very poor village," Jan says. "By providing them with an education, we are giving them a ray of hope to protect them from the vicious cycle of poverty, malnutrition, and hunger."

The year-round school is scheduled to open with about 200 girls, ages 4-18. The adult education center is expecting 20 to 30 women, many of them widows with children, to come to learn a trade or how to start a business.

During two visits to Afghanistan, Jan found the site for the school, which she says is in a safe location and within walking distance of six or seven villages. By the time it's completed, the school will cost more than US\$150,000, and additional funds will be needed to sustain it.

The 17-member Duxbury club has raised more than \$100,000 so far. "My club is very supportive," Jan says. "We had two big fundraisers for this project, in 2005 and in 2007, and they both were very successful." The fundraisers included a program with a book signing by Khaled Hosseni, music by Ehsan Aman, a silent auction and a gourmet Afghan dinner.



Girls in the village of Deh'Subz , near Kabul, Afghanistan, anticipate the opening of a school for girls and an adult center for women. Photo courtesy of Razia Jan



# The Four Way Flasher

## Rotary Club of MeadowRidge Newsletter

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Web-site: [www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge\\_Rotary](http://www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary)

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Gourmet Hideaway Restaurant

President:	Bob Shantz	Phone: 604-463-9319	<a href="mailto:rdshantz@telus.net">rdshantz@telus.net</a>
Secretary:	Maureen Goodrick	Phone: 604-329-2879	<a href="mailto:maureen.goodrick@interprotech.ca">maureen.goodrick@interprotech.ca</a>
Editor:	Peter Boekhorst	Phone: 604-465-3392	<a href="mailto:mrrotary@telus.net">mrrotary@telus.net</a>

### March is Literacy Month

#### INVOCATION

Apr. 1	Gord Robson	Apr. 8	Mary Robson
Apr. 15	Bob Shantz	Apr. 22	Valerie Spurrell

#### BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15 - 8:15	8:00 - 10:00
April 17	Mina Park	Debbie MacRae
May 15	Doris Gagel	Valerie Spurrell



Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or email [peter.boekhorst@telus.net](mailto:peter.boekhorst@telus.net)

**TODAY'S PROGRAM:** Fireside Meeting (Rotary House, Lawn Bowling Club).

**NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM:** New Membership Campaign – (Lunch at La Trattoria)

#### CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
April 1	Noon	New Member Drive Meeting	La Trattoria
April 12		District Assembly	Kwantlen University College, Surrey, BC
May 15		2008 District 50/50 Conference	Holiday Inn, Pine Street, Everett, WA
June 15 -18		Rotary International Conference	Los Angeles

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$737.00 + 1/2 of today's sales, 23 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

## LAST WEEK'S MEETING

I have some pictures from last week's meeting, but as I wasn't there and my 'reporter in the field' had some major technical difficulties, there is no text with the pictures.

I guess it has something to do with ShelterBox. As we started this campaign the goal was to raise \$12,000, but as you can see, we surpassed the \$18,000. This is a result, nobody expected.

Peter



Patrick O'Brien signs the cheque for the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club



Michael Cheptea signs for the Haney Club



The three major players exposed.

L to r: Patrick O'Brien, Dick Drew, Michael Cheptea

## THE 4-WAY TEST

### Great News!

**We have received the green light from School District 42 to offer two "4-Way Test" sessions in an elementary school in our area. Thus, two separate classes will benefit from this.**

#### A. Sessions in the classrooms:

##### We have two dates:

1. The first class: morning of April 23 -needed a minimum of 8 Rotarians,
2. The second class: morning of April 28 -needed a minimum of 6 Rotarians

#### B. FAMILIARIZATION SESSION

**in order to give our members an introduction on how to lead a session with a group (5-6) of students we are going to have ONE FAMILIARIZATION SESSION (2 HOURS ONLY).**

PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHICH DATE IS GOOD FOR YOU.

Starting time afternoon 1,2,3 or 4 PM: April 1, 7, 9 or 10.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP, WHICH DATES ARE GOOD FOR YOU AND I WILL CHOOSE A FIRM DATE FOR THE FAMILIARIZATION SESSION BASED ON THE RESPONSE.

**This is just a fantastic opportunity to do something for the students in our community. You promised me that you would help. Please let me now know what dates you are available, because without you this will not happen.**

Thanks,

Matt DeBruyn 604-462-1570

### The 4-Way Test

**Of the things we think, say, or do:**

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?