



A Congolese band whose lead singers are polio survivors is making its way onto the world music scene after a documentary on the group's origins received critical acclaim at the Cannes Film Festival in May.

Staff Benda Bilili, which means “look beyond appearances” in Lingala, is a band of eight former street musicians from Kinshasa. Five of them are polio survivors. Their song “Polio” speaks of the disease that changed their lives and urges parents to immunize their children.

The band's debut album, *Très Très Fort*, won the 2009 Womex Award for international music. French filmmakers Florent de la Tullaye and Renaud Barrett decided to create a documentary on the band after falling in love with its music when they were in Kinshasa in 2004, working on a movie about the city's music scene. The film *Benda Bilili!* premiered 13 May during the festival.

Band members have also joined other musicians across Africa in lending their voices to the final push to rid the continent of polio. Through the Kick Polio Out of Africa campaign, a soccer ball signed by Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu and a growing number of public figures has been making its way through the continent to raise awareness for polio eradication before traveling to the RI Convention in Montréal, Québec, Canada.

“Of course we’re happy to be part of the campaign. After all, we’re handicapped by polio, and we are the first group to sing about polio, so naturally we’re ready to help,” said bandleader Ricky Likabu. “Our song ‘Polio’ is simply to implore parents to take their children to health clinics to be vaccinated, as the WHO [World Health Organization] recommends. Parents are responsible for their children, and they need to know how to avoid diseases.”

Staff Benda Bilili's European tour began in April. The band will stop in Greece, Sweden, Poland, the Netherlands, Belgium, and France in June, before performing 5 July at the Montreal Jazz Festival.

Read more about the band in the [June issue of *The Rotarian*](#) .



The Four Way Flasher

**Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter**

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Web-site: www.MeadowRidgeRotary.ca

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JUNE IS ROTARY FELLOWSHIP MONTH



INVOCATION

June 8	Rustam Yazdgerdian	June 15	Laurie Anderson
June 22	Liz Attarmigirian	July 6	Terry Becker

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

June 12: Sharon Rempel

June 14: Bob Shanz

TODAY'S PROGRAM: MLA Marc Dalton

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Business Meeting – Year End

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
June 20-23		Rotary International Convention	Montreal
June 29	6:00 pm	Installation Executive 2010/2011	Heather Hills Farm
Aug. 21	1:30 pm	Golfun	Useless Bay Golf & Country Club Langley, Wa

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$1010.50 + 1/2 of today's sales, 19 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Ineke announced a signup sheet for Installation at Heather Hills is being circulated – please indicate your numbers for the caterers. Cocktails @ 6pm and Dinner @ 6:30pm Guests are welcome.

Jim introduced our guests: Billy Weseloski, Irena Shantz, Mary Ella Ignatiaff.

Happy/Sad:

Marco was happy he was able to have a short trip to Arizona and announced he will be becoming a Snowbird once he's fully retired. He was also pleased that one of his colleagues was just presented a Paul Harris.

Robert shared a happy buck as he and Cailin will be launching their very first CD and a release party will be announced shortly.

Lynda has \$10 happy bucks on behalf of Peter and Lise who couldn't attend today as they are opening their new store in Haney Place Mall.

Matt shared his happy buck by announcing that all our Bursaries have been applied for.

Billy had a happy buck for being with us again today.

Ineke shared her Happy Birthday story of being given tickets to Rain (Beatles) and said it was something we should all attend.

Brian Bekar was so pleased that he and his neighbour had finally bear proofed their garbage within a steel container – however, he is now sad as the bear has discovered and raided his freezer!

Mike Davies is happy he has retired again! He has just had to enter into his own cell phone contract!

Finemaster today is Patrick O'Brien who quickly produced his latest copy of the Rotarian amidst groans from the group and a list of excuses as to why we hadn't memorized it cover to cover yet!

Mystery Greeter – Lyndy Buzy-Kerr – added some coins to the cup!

Rotary Moment by Lynda, who gave us a short history of how GSE came to being. In 1955 – Rotary's 50th Anniversary, 6 men from New Zealand started the first GSE. Marco added that this is near and dear to his heart – Marco led a GSE team a few years back.

Robert gave us a timely education piece on how to do "make up" meetings on the web. www.RotaryE-ClubOne.org Once you've completed one, Alphonse receives an email and will enter the information into the attendance records.

We had a short presentation on Golfun to be held at Useless Bay Golf Course. This is the District's Fundraiser for the Rotary Foundation, and Marco wanted to see if we could enter a 4-some. Lyndy, Kevin, Brian, Lindsey and Terry all showed interest and amongst them will enter a team. Motion by Doris and second by Robert to have the Club pay ½ of the entry fee – Carried.

Marco announced that he had received an email from Don Ohlgren of Shelterbox Canada. Don has indicated that he will no longer be involved with Shelterbox, and in fact is starting his own company to compete with Shelterbox. Marco indicated that he found the email disturbing. Billy asked how long Don has been a Rotarian – Marco said it has been quite a long time. Ineke suggests we wait to hear from District before we make any decisions or formal statements – Marco agreed. He said nothing has been received yet.

50/50 was won by our guest Mary Ella Ignatiaff - \$40.00

Submitted by Terry Becker

D 5050 Golfun 2010 - Saturday, August 21, 2010 - 1:30 pm Tee-Time
Useless Bay Golf & Country Club on Whidbey Island, Washington
5725 Country Club Drive Langley, WA 98260

Semiahmoo Weekend Drawing for Registration Paid Prior to July 1

Golfun information, including a video and registration forms,
are located on the district website: www.district5050.org

Schedule

11:00 AM Lunch

11:00 AM Contests Longest Drive, Putting

11:00 AM Individual contests for:
Longest drive
Putting

Additional options are available

Sandwich Bar Lunch \$15 USD includes tax & gratuity
Ferry Pick-Up Available
Home Hosting Available

Prizes include:

1st thru 3rd overall handicapped
1st thru 3rd co-ed and ladies handicapped
Paul Harris Hole-in-One

Cost

USD\$110.00

Includes green fees, cart & dinner
(no discount for walkers)



Golfun Benefiting

**The Rotary Foundation
Polio Plus Program**

Contact Information

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