

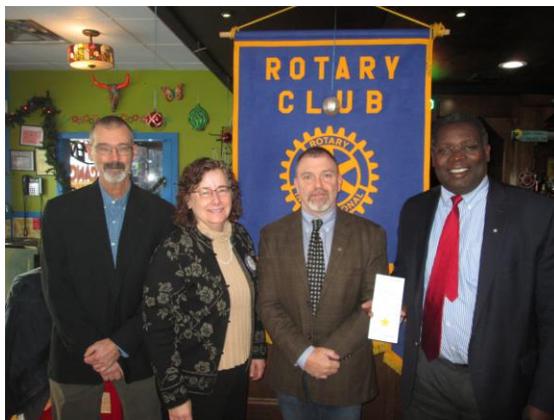
Rotary Club of Red Hook, New York

Weekly Bulletin

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

December 3, 2019

<http://www.redhookrotarclub.org/>



In photo, left to right, are: Jim Ullrich, Speaker Host Christine Chale, New Paltz Rotarians Bob Rich and Pascal Guirm
Photo by Jonah Treibwasser

The meeting at Cancun’s started at 7:30 am on a snowy day with a number of Rotarians attending, including Chris Chale, Linda Greenblatt, Jonah Triebwasser and others. Significant snowfall ending early on December 3rd prevented others from getting to the meeting. Following the pledge, four-way test, and a blessing, those attending and their guests shared breakfast.

Our guests this week were New Paltz Rotarians Bob Rich and Pascal Guirma with their friend Jim Ullrich. They spoke about their special project in the village of Guirgho urkina Faso, Africa. Friends of Guirgho’s mission is to partner with rural schools in Burkina Faso, beginning with the village of Guirgho, to maximize the potential of every student by providing access to state-of-the-art educational tools and technology.

Burkina Faso is a small country in western Africa with one of the lowest literacy rates in the world. It is also a place where people are warm and welcoming, where young people routinely greet their elders with gestures of respect, where Muslims and Christians and indigenous religious and ethnic groups live side-by-side and intermarry — a place teeming with life and possibility.

Guirgho is a rural village nestled in the center of Burkina Faso. In Guirgho, the challenge for teachers, as in many rural schools, is the lack of resources. Teachers often have to teach up to 80 children with diverse abilities in a single classroom. Text books, when available at all, are often outdated and insufficient in quantity for all students. The primary teaching tool remains the chalk board, on which teachers must write or draw entire lessons.

Currently, children in Guirgho attend kindergarten to 12th grade without ever seeing or touching a computer. The prospects for children without basic computer skills in today’s global economy are very limited. Friends of Guirgho believes that greater access to technology will result in a larger pool of

potential innovators able to meet the challenges facing their families, their communities, their country, and the world.

The centerpiece of Friends of Guirgho's vision is a computer center that will incorporate space for computer assisted instruction for teachers and students. During non-school hours, adult members of the village may also use the facility to advance their education. Our objective is to help enhance the existing curriculum and see where we can be of support to the teachers and students.

All of Friends of Guirgho's efforts will result in a template that can be scaled, replicated, and implemented throughout the country and beyond. In addition to the computer center, the plan includes:

- Construction of a workshop, with tools and training, to enable students to learn how to repair desks and develop trade skills that can be used for other school and/or village-related projects with, perhaps, income potential;
- A school garden to help feed the students and grow additional produce that could bring in supplemental income for the school;
- Cotton spinning, which is a traditional but dying craft in the village. Friends of Guirgho can support its revival, thereby generating and stimulating a market for weaving;
- Establishing a preschool to provide young children with essential pre-literacy experiences.

In addition, this week we received the following e-mail from a former Red Hook Interact Club member: This is Declan Dwyer-McNulty. I was a member of Red Hook HS's Interact Club. I hope you and the rest of the Red Hook Rotary Club are healthy and happy. I am currently serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in The Gambia, West Africa. My village, Kuli Kunda, dearly wants to have a public tap system to complement their four hand pumps. I submitted a grant through the Peace Corps for American federal assistance, but I still need to do some fundraising to meet the full cost of the project. Here is the grant/fundraising link: <https://www.peacecorps.gov/donate/projects/village-water-system-part-1-lgl-19-635-018/>. Sorry, it is not particularly well-written. I thought I was just writing an internal document, not a public fundraising missive. If anyone in the Rotary Club could make a small contribution, I would deeply appreciate it, as would my neighbors. They'd certainly pray for you. They love to pray. All the Best, Declan

The speaker hosts are listed below on the calendar but substitutions are welcome. Send your suggestion to Susan Ezrati or Rob Latimer.



Next Club meeting: December 10, 2019 at 7:30 am at Cancun's in Red Hook, NY. It will be a business meeting.

Red Hook Rotary Club seeks host families for our inbound youth exchange students. Watch this spot for further information. Contact Chris Chale with volunteer families

Club Meeting Schedule and member responsibilities:

Date	Speaker	Speaker host	Greeter	Sargent-at-Arms
Dec 10, 2019	Business Mtg		Dave Wright	Linda G
Dec. 17 2019		Rebecca Kent	Jen Van V	Susan Ezrati
Dec 24, 2019	No Meeting			
Dec 31, 2019	No Meeting			
Jan 7, 2020	Business and Bd		Barry Ramage	Susan Simon
Jan 14, 2020		Barry Ramage	Michael Shafer	Fred Cartier
Jan 21, 2020		Jonah Triebwasser	Linda Greenblatt	Bud Weaver
Jan 28, 2020		Susan Ezrati	Chris Chale	Dave Wright

Radio Rotary

This weekend on RadioRotary: Clean Water

Tune in to the award-winning RadioRotary on Saturday, December 14th at 11:30 a.m.. (on WTBQ 93.5 FM and 1110AM or <http://www.wtbq.com/>) and Sunday, December 15th at 6:30 a.m. (on WBPM 92.9 FM or <http://www.wbpmfm.com/>) and at 9:30 a.m. (on WGHQ 920AM and 92.5FM, WBNR 1260AM and WLNA 1420 or <http://www.realcountryhv.com/>) when we talk with Rotarian Miriam Cajuste about clean water in Haiti.

Listen to Radio Rotary on WTBQ 93.5 FM and 1110AM Saturdays at 12:00 noon or <http://www.wtbq.com/>

WBPM 92.9 FM Sundays at 6:30 a.m. or <http://www.wbpmfm.com/>

Real Country WGHQ-AM 920 AM, WBNR 1260AM, WLNA 1420 AM or WGHQ-FM 92.5 FM Sundays at 9:30 a.m. or <http://realcountryhv.com//>

Anytime at www.RadioRotary.org

Listen to all RadioRotary previous programs on your MP3 player on any of these new podcast platforms:

iTunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/radiorotary/id1412396239?mt=2>

Google Play

Podcasts: <https://www.google.com/podcasts?feed=aHR0cHM6Ly9hbmnob3luZm0vcy81NGQxYjg4L3BvZGNhc3QvcnNz>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/show/5OxiufAMMo49dh5bvorVG9>

Stitcher <https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/anchor-podcasts/radiorotary>

Anchor: <https://anchor.fm/radiorotary>

RadioPublic: <https://play.radiopublic.com/radiorotary-85n3Dz>

Breaker: <https://www.breaker.audio/radiorotary>

Pocket Casts <https://pca.st/Qdxz>

Castbox: <https://castbox.fm/channel/id1376565>

Overcast: <https://overcast.fm/itunes1412396239/radiorotary>

Podbean: <https://www.podbean.com/podcast-detail/9a4jb-71b94/RadioRotary-Podcast>

Stitcher: <https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/anchor-podcasts/radiorotary>