

Service Above Self

Rotary Club of Anchorage Gateway eBulletin Gateway

Wednesday, April 27, 2011

 [Club Web Site](#)

Editor: Vittorio Montemezzani
If you have any comments or questions, email the editor.

Future Speakers

Apr 29 2011

Nieghbor Works Anchorage

*"Paint the town"***May 7 2011**

SPAGHETTI FEED

*"St. Patrick Church"***May 11 2011**

Board of Directors Meeting

May 20 2011

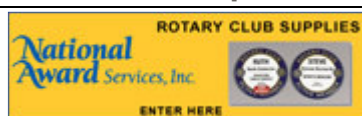
Elements of Photography

Jun 24 2011CHANGE OF GUARD (no
Reg Meeting)

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President Corner 0401

by Vittorio Montemezzani

Regular meeting 04/01/11

President's comments, notes and announcements.

Donations to The Rotary Foundation.

Just a reminder that if you will make a donation to the Foundation (\$100 or more) during the month of April, our club will match your donation with Dollars points so your donations will double its value toward your Paul Harris reward.

"Empty your pocket" jug, winner.

The container was emptied and its contents added up to \$47. Our VP Jim drew a name from the envelope and, guess what, he managed to pick out his own name!

This amount will be deposited into Foundation under Jim name.

Board of Directors

Next Board Meeting is on 04/20/2011, Denny's at noon.

Future events.

May 7th. "spaghetti feed" at St. Patrick Church. Jay and MariJo had tickets and brochure ready for distribution. A big THANK YOU to MariJo and her office staff (AK YMCA) for the beautiful job done on designing the brochure and printing the tickets.

Speakers:

Just a reminder of who is in charge of providing good speakers: Owen and Mary for the month of April, Ron for May, and Ken for June.

Members Happy Moments 0401

by Vittorio Montemezzani

MEMBERS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HAPPY MOMENTS .

MariJo was kind of happy to be back to our Meeting, after a 3 weeks of absence due to the sadness and sorrow for her father death.

Ken, while still on drugs, was happy because he truly enjoyed the 3 root canals he had done (or received).

BEST WISHES TO OUR MEMBERS :

Birthday & Anniversary Report

Date Range : March 31 to
April 8

Sort By: [Member Name](#) | [Date](#)

Birthdays

Member Name	Birthday
-------------	----------

No member(s) have birthdays
within this range.

Anniversaries

Member Name	Anniversary / Spouse Name
-------------	---------------------------

No member(s) have
anniversaries within this range.

Club Anniversaries

Member Name	Induction Date / Number of Years (Effective the day of induction this year)
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Evans, Barry	March 31 1998 (13 years)
Evans, Jacqueline	March 31 1998 (13 years)
Evans, Mayfield	March 31 1998 (13 years)
Pace, Russell	March 31 1998 (13 years)
Tatum, Alex	March 31 1998 (13 years)
Belanger, Mary	April 7 2008 (3 years)

Rotary International Corner

by Vittorio Montemezzani

Japanese Rotarians witness devastation

By Ryan Hyland
Rotary International News - 6 April 2011

The earth seemed to be shaking forever, and it was so strong," says RI Director Masahiro Kuroda. "I thought I was going to die."

Kuroda, a physician, was seeing a patient on the second floor of his medical clinic in Hachinohe, Aomori, Japan, when a 9.0-magnitude earthquake off the country's northeast coast struck on 11 March.

"I escorted her downstairs. Holding each other's arms tightly, we walked down very slowly. After we reached the bottom floor, the earthquake stopped," says Kuroda. "I led all the other patients outside and told them to go home, but she said she was too scared to leave and wanted to stay in the clinic. I didn't know what to say -- she was so frightened. She left a couple of hours later and safely arrived home."

The quake, the largest to hit Japan in recorded history, triggered a tsunami that swept 6 miles inland, destroying entire villages.

Kuroda and several staff members stayed at the clinic overnight after hearing on the radio that the waves had come close to the building. Kuroda's home and clinic were spared, but just a couple of miles east, the tsunami and quake had caused major destruction.

"All I was trying to do was to prepare for the night and get heat," he says. "It was very cold. I tried to find some oil and batteries for the stove and candles. The electricity went out, so it was dark and hard for everyone to walk around. There were constant aftershocks, really strong ones. We all were very scared."

Kuroda says he couldn't reach fellow Rotarians at first.

"Landline phones, cell phones, and e-mail were down for three days, We were completely isolated," he says. "In the hardest-hit areas of District 2520 [Iwate and Miyagi], we don't know all the details of the damage. There are still Rotarians we haven't been able to contact yet."

Naoki Narayama, governor of District 2520, visited some of the affected villages soon after the earthquake.

"Our district, especially its Pacific coastal areas, sustained very severe damage. The devastation is much bigger than what we are seeing on TV," he says. "Search and rescue efforts continue. In the areas hit by the tsunami, there is an acute shortage of food, water, gas, and medical supplies."

Narayama fears that the death toll, already estimated at more than 12,000, will rise. But he is encouraged by the response of Rotarians.

"In this darkest hour, I have received numerous heartwarming messages from Rotarians all over the world," he says. "Their considerate inquiries and kind offers of helping hands have greatly encouraged us to tackle this daunting destruction."

Tatsuo Seshita, governor of District 2550 (Tochigi), says his district wasn't hit by the tsunami but was badly damaged by the quake.

"I kept under my desk. I was afraid that the shaking would continue forever," says Seshita. "When the big pillar in my office cracked, I thought it was going to fall down on top of me. Luckily it stood, but I thought my time had come."

Seshita traveled to the city of Kamaishi on 2 April to deliver relief supplies to a medical clinic run by Toshiro Ueda, of the Rotary Club of Otsuchi, Iwate. Ueda was barely able to escape to the fourth floor of the clinic during the tsunami, which reached up to the third floor.

Kuroda says Rotary clubs are doing what they can to support those affected by the disaster. "Despite the shortage of gasoline, many Rotarians are driving to deliver supplies to the areas most in need," he says. "We all, as Rotarians, are working together. I am deeply moved by what I'm seeing Rotarians do."