

## Rotary Club of Tysons Corner

[www.tysonsrotary.org](http://www.tysonsrotary.org)

### Officers, Directors, and Communication Functions

President	Ingrid Parrish-Hicklin	ingrid.parrishicklin@fairfaxcounty.gov
RCTC Foundation Chair	Ronnie Chantker	rmccpa97@aol.com
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President Nominee	Martin Shields	mshields@westfinancial.com
Secretary	David Talebian	dtalebian@accessnationalbank.com
Treasurer	Carolyn Stys	cstys@bluemontcapital.com
Sergeant-at-Arms	Richard Kaplar	kaplar@mediainstitute.org
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Directors		
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Communication Functions		
Program Chair	Richard Lanier	lanierphoto@verizon.net
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Communications Chair	Richard Kaplar	kaplar@mediainstitute.org
Tower Talk Co-Editors	Richard Kaplar Hunter Herron	kaplar@mediainstitute.org hunter.herron@comcast.net
Historian	David Danner	added dldanner@ideamatics.net

### Nearby Clubs

Monday	7:30 am	Fair Lakes, Fair Lakes Hyatt
	12:15 pm	Fairfax, American Legion Post 177, Fairfax City
	12:30 pm	Alexandria West, Sheraton across from Steak & Ale
	12:30 pm	Sterling, Logan's Roadhouse
Tuesday	7:30 am	Burke, Brion's Grille
	12:00 pm	McLean, Redeemer Lutheran Church
	12:15 pm	Alexandria, Belle Haven Country Club
	12:30 pm	Rosslyn/Fort Myer, Holiday Inn Westpark
Wednesday	7:30 am	Crystal City/Pentagon, Crystal City Marriott
	7:30 am	Herndon, Amphora Diner
	12:15 pm	Annandale, Squire Rockwell
	12:15 pm	Reston, Hidden Creek County Club
	12:15 pm	Vienna, Marco Polo Restaurant
Thursday	7:30 am	Great Falls, Riverbend Golf & Country Club (375 Walker Road)
	7:30 am	Tysons Corner, Tower Club (8000 Towers Crescent Dr., Vienna)
	12:00 pm	Ashburn, 1757 Golf Club
	12:15 pm	Arlington, La Cote D'or (2201 N. Westmoreland St.)
	12:15 pm	Springfield, J.W. and Friends Restaurant (6531 Backlick Road)
	6:30 pm	Falls Church, Harvest Moon Restaurant
Friday	7:30 am	Bailey's Crossroads, Goodwin House (3440 S. Jefferson St., Falls Church)
	7:30 am	Dulles, Dulles Hilton
	12:00 pm	Dunn Loring-Merrifield, Tower Club (8000 Towers Crescent Dr., Vienna)

# Tower Talk

The Weekly Journal of the Rotary Club of Tysons Corner

Volume VII

July 21, 2011

Issue No. 3

### Today's Speaker

## Priya Krishnan

### Project Touch Foundation

Today we welcome Priya Krishnan, a high school student who has made it her mission to help financially needy autistic children.

After seeing how her autistic cousin benefited from using an iPod Touch device, Priya researched the field and confirmed that autistic children respond better to intuitive, predictable touch devices than to

fellow noisy humans.

Priya then founded Project Touch, a nonprofit foundation that provides iPod devices to autistic children from low-income families. She raised almost \$12,000 to purchase iPods and, with the help of Autism Speaks, identified needy autistic children in Virginia who were given the devices on April 10.

Priya, who will be a senior at Thomas Jefferson High School this fall, hopes to expand Project Touch into a national and international organization.



### Living the Dream:

Educator Thomas Musa recounts how he built a successful life in America after a boyhood spent in his native Eritrea in East Africa. He offered some inspirational ideas on living and some surprising thoughts on foreign aid to Africa at our July 14 meeting. See page 2.

## From Eritrea to America: The Journey of a Lifetime

Growing up in the African land of Eritrea, Thomas Musa stretched his imagination by listening to Voice of America broadcasts and reading books donated from the United States. If America could put a man on the moon, that's the country where he wanted to live, he decided.

At the conclusion of his formal schooling, which began at his local St. Joseph's Elementary School, Thomas had the good fortune to find a benefactor who gave him a scholarship to St. John's College in Minneapolis — his ticket to the United States.

Today Thomas is a successful

educator, teaching information technology at several area universities. He offered a few words of wisdom at our July 14 meeting:

"The world is a beautiful place. We don't have to be limited by our beginnings," he said. "Be fearless. If you die, it's okay. But if you're afraid, you die a million times."

Africa is not a poor continent as many Westerners believe, Thomas said, citing extensive gold and copper deposits in Eritrea as an example. He said it would be better in the long run if other countries invested in the development of African countries rather than sending foreign aid.

## Back Issues of 2010-11 Tower Talk Available

Collectors take note: Back issues of TOWER TALK are now available for most weeks from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. The editors of TOWER TALK have opened the vault to make these mint-condition bulletins available to members at no charge for a limited time only.

This is the perfect opportunity to fill in any issues missing from your

permanent collection. The award-winning TOWER TALK offers a wealth of information on Club activities plus the eye-catching photography of Hunter Herron. TOWER TALK bulletins are also archived on the Club website, tysonsrotary.org. Check online to see which copies you would like in print format. Don't miss this rare opportunity!

## Future Speakers

July 28	Bettina Lawton	District Governor's Message
Aug. 4	TBA	

## Solve This Brain Teaser, Win Valuable Prize

Here's a TOWER TALK brain teaser that might leave you baffled — but solve it and you can win a valuable prize!

From July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011, we published 50 issues of TOWER TALK. And we took three weeks off: Sept. 2 (Tower Club closed); Nov. 25 (Thanksgiving); and June 16 (Installation Dinner).

Alert readers will note that this is a total of 53 weeks. How could this occur in a 12-month span that had only 52 weeks?

E-mail your answer to Rick or Hunter (addresses on page 4). The winner will be selected from among all correct entries received. Deadline is Monday, July 25.

### Thursday Thought:

What other people think of you is none of your business.

## SAVE THE DATE...

**Saturday, July 30:** "End Polio Now Night," Washington Nationals vs. New York Mets at Nationals Park in D.C., 7:05 p.m. (Tickets still available.) See Ronnie Chantker.

**Monday, Aug. 8:** Board of Directors meeting, Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Fairfax, 6 p.m.

**Thursday, Sept. 1:** Fall Backpack Drive sponsored by Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Dept. at Fire Station 11 in Alexandria, 8 a.m. Rotarians needed to help stuff 2,000 backpacks with school supplies. See Duane Dodwell.

## Dinner Schedule for Alternative House

July 27	Suzanne McDougall	Aug 31	Katherine Barnett
Aug 3	Rick Kaplar	Sept 7	Ronnie Chantker
Aug 10	Marshal Hyman	Sept 14	Christoph Roessler
Aug 17	David Burger	Sept 21	Duane Dodwell
Aug 24	Richard Lanier	Sept 28	Tony Rounds

Dinner providers should call 703-356-6360 on the Tuesday before delivering dinner on Wednesday and ask the counselor on duty how many persons are expected to be present for the meal at 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna.

[www.thealternativehouse.org](http://www.thealternativehouse.org)