

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

June 8 Meeting Change of Venue:

Legal Seafood

Montgomery Mall

Democracy Blvd at I-270

Great Food – Private Dining Room

Choice of four entrees:

- *North Atlantic Salmon* • *Baked Scrod*
- *Grilled Chicken Breast* • *Shrimp and Garlic*

June 8 Speaker just back from Iraq:

Linda A. Smythe of the Montgomery Village Rotary Club has just returned from a 10-day trip to Iraq and Jordan. Linda created a partnership with a nonprofit organization, "Physicians for Peace", and restarted an existing Prosthetics Center in Basra, Iraq. It is estimated that there are over 5,000 amputees in Basra, many of them children who have had the misfortune of finding and playing with mines or who have been injured as a consequence of war. Our Rotary Club is one of the participating Rotary Clubs in the District. Come and bring a guest!



Miwa Omori and Past President Steve Naron

June 1 Meeting Notes:

Past President Steve Naron showed us how to save lots of money on long distance telephone calls. He set up a demonstration using a cell phone and a laptop computer to send his voice over the Internet. And Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar Miwa Omori addressed us wearing a kimono. She described her home city of Nagano, Japan, and her studies in psychology at George Washington University. She has been surprised at the large food portions here in the US as compared with Japan. **Dick Alsmeyer** raised **\$76** in happy bucks.



Rotarian **Smiljka Soretic** is back from her trip to Belgrade for the funeral of her mother. She reports: *"The funeral was in the orthodox tradition with a priest in the chapel and procession to my family's tomb. I was surprised that a lot of people came as I assumed that all my mother's friends are dead. But children of our family's friends and my brother's and my friends came. Even my children's friends came. I had some time to see my damaged apartment and find people to organize repair. I worked with publisher of Fedja's Monograph and sold some paintings."* Our sympathy goes out to Smiljka and her family.

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www.pb-rotary.org

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President Peter McWhite Says "Thank You" With Social Event:

With the Rotary year drawing to a close, President Peter McWhite hosted a happy hour at the new Montgomery County Convention Center on June 5. Everyone enjoyed the finger food and drinks as you can see from the accompanying photos. We welcomed a number of spouses. What a great treat to toast the completion of the Rotary year!



Upcoming Rotary Club Events:

June 15 - Rotary Club Meeting back at Hunter's Inn



June 17 - Saturday night.....picnic and baseball game at Shirley Povich baseball stadium at Cabin John Regional Park.....bring your entire family.....community service activity with the Jewish Group Homes.....dinner will be paid by our club

June 22 - Rotary Club Social at Hunter's Inn

June 24 - Governor's Installation

Pat Kasuda's installation "luau" is on Saturday, June 24th, from 6:00 to 10:00pm at Chartwell Country Club in Severna Park. The installation is open to all interested Rotarians. Cost is \$70 per person; entree selection is Grilled Mahi Mahi or Apricot Chicken, and payment may be by check or credit card. Dress is "Hawaiian Business Attire". For reservations please contact Denise Patterson at 410-760-1363 or at drp@cablespeed.com You may mail reservations and payment to The Rotary Club of Glen Burnie, PO Box 175, Glen Burnie MD 21060.

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Upcoming Rotary Club Events:

June 29 – Rotary Club Meeting at Hunter's Inn

July 6 – No Rotary Meeting

July 9 - Sunday 1:00p.m. in Rockville at the Old Georgetown Village Community Center. Invitations and directions to be mailed shortly. Please hold that date for the Annual Installation of New Officers.

The foundation of Rotary stands firm in earthquake's aftermath

By Tonya Weger

Rotary International News 2 June 2006

With more than 6,000 people killed and 30,000 injured by Saturday's 5.9-magnitude earthquake on Indonesia's Java island, relief is in great need. Rotarians are busy providing grassroots aid for hungry villagers, who news outlets are reporting to be pleading for food.

"At this time of crisis, one thing appreciated in the Rotary organization is the benefit of the communications systems in place," says Rodolfo Balmater, district governor of District 3400. "This assurance provides hope to many local Rotarians that they are not alone in undertaking humanitarian works for the less privileged members of the community."

Rotarians in the neighboring cities of Solo City, Semarang City, Purwokerto, and Cirebon have donated necessities such as food, blankets, and medicine. And large-scale relief efforts are already taking place.

"As I see it, the inner strength of the Rotary organization is the value of the networking," Balmater says. "Our fellow Rotarians from

Europe, USA, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, and other parts of the world quickly assured Rotarians in Indonesia that they will help during the emergencies and also the forthcoming rehabilitation and reconstruction."

An estimated 130,000 homes – including Balmater's – were destroyed or damaged by the quake.

In response, London Rotarians quickly flew about 400 Shelterboxes – containing tents and necessary equipment – to the stricken region. The [ShelterBox](#) project began in England but has since spread to Australia, Canada, and the United States. The Rotarian-sponsored groups ship units globally to areas in need.

Rotarians reach out to assist after earthquake

31 May 2006

Dear Rotarians,

We are deeply saddened to learn of the recent earthquake in Indonesia. We are touched by the commitment of Rotarians to assist the communities affected by this disaster, which has taken the lives of more than 5,000 people and left thousands homeless.

RI's International Service Programs section is continuing to provide information regarding club and district relief efforts on the RI Web site

(www.rotary.org/programs/wcs/disaster/reliefforts.html).

Additional club and district relief efforts will be posted on the Web site as they are reported to RI. Please continue to check the

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Web site regularly regarding opportunities to assist those affected by the disaster. Rotarians wishing to contribute funds, donated goods, or both, directly to club and district relief projects may visit the Web site for opportunities to work with Rotarians in the affected areas.

As always, we encourage you to work with organizations such as UNICEF and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Doctors Without Borders and grassroots Rotary projects, ShelterBox and Aquabox, to meet the immediate needs of victims affected by the disaster.

Thank you for your continued commitment to helping those in need and in demonstrating *Service Above Self*.

Sincerely,

Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar

RI President

Frank Devlyn, Trustee Chairman

The Rotary Foundation

[Share what has been happening with you.

Just send information and photos to

Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov]

Watch for daily Web coverage of the 2006 RI Convention

The family of Rotary will reunite again at the 2006 RI Convention, to be held 11-14 June in Malmo, Sweden, and Copenhagen, Denmark. For the first time, a Rotary convention will span two countries and two cities, underlining the global bond of Rotary.

Not able to attend the convention? Let www.rotary.org bring the event to you. Get all of your convention news at www.rotary.org, starting with pre-convention coverage on 9 June. Daily reporting and photo galleries will be posted throughout the convention starting with the opening ceremony on 11 June and running through closing ceremony coverage on 15 June.

Look for coverage of convention highlights, including a fireworks-filled kickoff from Copenhagen's famed Tivoli park, a special visit from Denmark's royal family, keynote addresses by *The End of Poverty* author Jeffrey Sachs and South African literacy advocate Sister Ethel Normoyle, and much more.

Two of our Club Rotarians will be attending this year's convention, **Bob Nelson, Hugo Souza** along with their wives.