

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News



Congratulations to Phil Meade on his appointment as Assistant Governor for the 2006-07 Rotary year!

June 29 Meeting Notes:

Paul Chan, Chief Information Officer, National Weather Service talked about data on global warming, its effects and future trends. There was little trend during the nineteenth century, marked warming to 1940, relatively steady conditions to the mid-1970's, followed by a rapid warming during the 1980's. Over the period of record, globally-averaged temperatures have risen approximately 0.5 degrees C. Thanks so much to Paul for bringing us such a timely talk after the record flooding rains we've been experiencing.

Guests: We welcomed guests **Eric Case** and **Ted Asfaw**. Eric is a neighbor of President Peter McWhite.

Happy Birthday: We sang Happy Birthday to **Lou Fettig**, celebrating his 89th birthday. Lou quipped that if he had known he would live this long, he would have taken better care of himself.

Happy Dollars: \$75

Upcoming Rotary Club Events:

July 6 - No Rotary Meeting

**July 9 - Sunday 1pm:
Installation of Officers for 2006-2007
and Celebratory Luncheon**

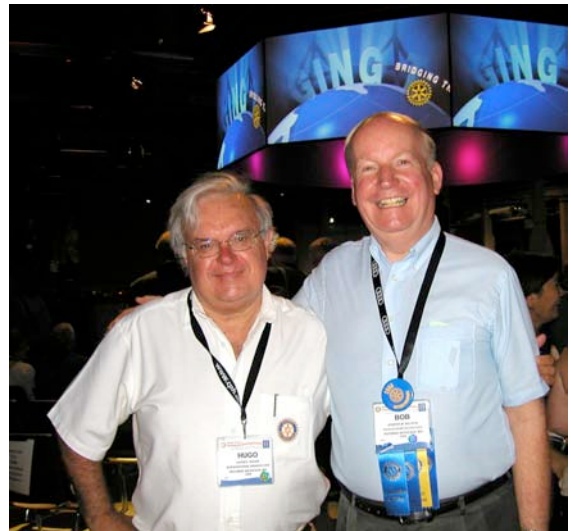
Old Georgetown Village Community Center
11400 Commonwealth Drive
North Bethesda, MD 20852

July 11 - Manna Night - 7pm

**July 13 - Rotary Meeting at Hunter's
Inn - 6:30pm**

**July 20 - Rotary Meeting at Hunter's
Inn - 6:30pm**

July 22 - Saturday night 6pmpicnic
and baseball game at Shirley Povich baseball
stadium at Cabin John Regional Park.

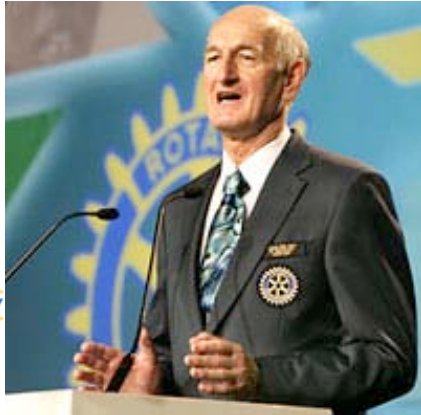


Hugo Souza and **Bob Nelson** at the Rotary International Convention in Copenhagen. 14,000 people attended this year's convention. Delegates elected Wilfrid J. Wilkinson as RI's 2007-08 President.

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President Boyd encourages Rotarians to Lead the Way

1 July 2006

New RI President William B. Boyd is encouraging Rotarians to *Lead the Way* in the 2006-07 Rotary year, calling his choice for the RI theme "an affirmation of my belief in the power of Rotarians to change the world, one positive act at a time."

Boyd, who is a member of the Rotary Club of Pakuranga, Auckland, New Zealand, stresses sustainability in Rotary projects. "As Rotarians, we understand the truth of the old saying that when you give a person a fish, you feed him for a day; when you teach him to fish, you feed him for a lifetime," he told incoming district governors at the International Assembly in February.

Boyd has selected water as his first emphasis. "Without clean water, little else is possible. If you are thirsty, nothing else matters," he says.

Citing high childhood mortality rates caused by illness and malnutrition, Boyd has chosen health and hunger as his second emphasis. "Without food, there is no health," he says. "And without health, there is no hope."

His third emphasis, literacy, is fitting for Boyd,

who used to work in his family's bookstore. He sees literacy as "the escape hatch from the cycle of poverty" and a natural complement to his emphases on water and health and hunger. "Literacy enables communities to take care of their water resources, address their own health and hunger issues, and teach the next generation," he says.

Given Rotary's need to think about the future, Boyd is also emphasizing the family of Rotary, which he says includes Rotaractors, Interactors, Rotary Youth Exchange students, Inner Wheel club members, Rotary Foundation alumni, and Rotarians' families.

"We are the ones who must *Lead the Way*," Boyd told 2006-07 district governors at the International Assembly.

Sun ovens will save lives and trees in Mali

By Vukoni Lupa-Lasaga Rotary International News
26 June 2006

A group of Chicago high school students and teachers have traveled to the West African nation of Mali with a gift of two solar ovens from area Rotary clubs.

On 15 June, a week before departure, members of the team gathered at Schurz High School to learn how to use the ovens so they can teach their Malian hosts to cook with the sun as a source of energy.

Ronald Mutebi, of the Rotary Club of Chicago Far North, was their enthusiastic instructor. As the international projects chair of his club, Mutebi has visited places where the sun oven can be a real godsend.

"There are countries where you will look for

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miles and you can't see a standing tree," he said. "People will struggle to get food and firewood. Sometimes they get the food [but] not the energy to cook it with. A sun oven solves the problem of fuel."

Over a two-week period, the team will break ground for a school building, lay bricks, and experience life in rural Mali without access to running water and electricity. Village residents cook with firewood or charcoal. Wood fire is a health hazard because it gives off toxic fumes that can lead to severe respiratory problems, especially in children.

"These sun ovens will be beneficial for their health, their time, and the environment," noted Veronica Quintero. She has been volunteering since grade school, but the Mali trip will be her first outside of the United States.

"I think going to Mali and building a school for them will have a big impact on their life and mine," she said.

"I'm very excited," said fellow student Matthew Kallen. "Everybody who I've talked to thinks it's going to be a life-changing experience."

Maricore Kimoto, a team member and English teacher at Schurz High School, explained that students from the eight schools involved raised US\$6,500 toward the cost of building the school in Mali. The initiative will be an invaluable lesson for the group of eight students and three teachers who volunteered to travel.

"I was really attracted to the project because it makes students become more aware of

what's happening in the world," she said. "All of us want to come back a little bit more knowledgeable and to actually feel that we can help. Often times, students feel that they are so far away and so removed from these problems that they don't know how they can help."

Building with Books, the Chicago Public Schools administration, and Sun Ovens International are co-sponsors of the effort in addition to the Rotary clubs. Building with Books, the technical partner of the Mali initiative, has 15 years of experience coordinating similar projects in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Sun Ovens International, manufacturer of the ovens, works with Rotary clubs to supply the ovens to those who need them.

"The four organizations have come together and done a wonderful thing," said Kimoto. *Andrew Chudzinski contributed to this story.*

Indian and Pakistani Rotarians talk peace

By Vukoni Lupa-Lasaga Rotary International News
9 June 2006

A peace conference cosponsored by Indian and Pakistani Rotarians was a welcome and timely bridge between the two neighboring countries, which have a long history of war, border skirmishes, and frosty relations.

"The president of the ruling party of Pakistan confessed that the presence of Rotarians from India and [the] holding of this Rotary conference happened at a time when there was a stalemate in the dialogue process between the two countries," says Mohammad Faiz Kidwai, 2005-06 governor of District

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3270 (Afghanistan and Pakistan), who was among the more than 500 attendees at the conference.

Aimed at promoting peace and understanding through joint community projects and improved cultural and economic contacts, the Indo-Pakistan Conference on Conflict Resolution and Peace was held 2-4 June in Islamabad, Pakistan's administrative capital.

"We believe that our contact at a person-to-person level takes on added importance given the shifts in political and diplomatic winds between our two countries," said conference chair Navaid M. Khan in a pre-event press release. "When you read the newspaper, you may be frightened for our future, but when you work together you realize that we have so many common bonds, that peace can be a reality."

These common bonds include a shared culture and history. Hindi, India's official language, and Urdu, the lingua franca of India and Pakistan, are closely related, and residents of both countries enjoy Bollywood movies, South Asian pop music, and the game of cricket with nearly equal passion.

Although Great Britain once ruled India and Pakistan as a single colony, the two countries experienced a traumatic breakup upon independence and fought three wars, which have resulted in a nuclear arms race. A continuing source of tension is the status of the disputed Kashmir region.

Indian and Pakistani Rotarians have responded to the escalation of conflict in their subcontinent by cosponsoring humanitarian

initiatives and meetings to promote peace.

"To counter the stereotype image of hate and hostility promoted by fundamentalists, Rotarians have decided to team together and undertake community service projects in both countries under the slogan Peace Through Community Service," says Deepak Talwar, 2005-06 governor of District 3010 (India).

An outstanding example of this effort is the 17 Pakistani children with congenital heart problems who have undergone surgery in India since 2001.

Even when official ties between the countries were all but severed, Rotary clubs and districts maintained their relationship. For example, when border tensions flared up in 2002, Indian and Pakistani Rotarians announced plans to build bridges of understanding between their countries. They pledged to establish Rotary Youth Exchanges, a Group Study Exchange, and intercountry meetings.

Their most recent meeting, attended by government and business leaders from both countries, featured plans to establish a state-of-the-art blood bank in Karachi, Pakistan, and a vocational training institute in Delhi, India, with support from Rotarians in both countries.

According to local media, the event concluded with a peace walk to signify the start of the march to peace and prosperity.

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Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov]*