

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News



*Congratulations to Steve Naron on his appointment to the District Strategic Planning Committee for the 2006-07 Rotary year!*

## July 13 Meeting Notes:



During the time of an oppressive regime in Ethiopia, **Ted Asfaw** left Ethiopia in 1980 to study in Kenya and Andrews University in the US. His PhD is in the ministry of Pastoral Care and Counseling. In his position as Director of Mission Integration and Clinical Pastoral Education at Adventist Health Care he talked about end of life issues, the role of the ethics committee, power of attorney, allowing natural death, advanced directives, living wills, etc. His talk generated a large amount of interest and discussion. Thanks so much, Ted, for a great talk!

## Upcoming Rotary Club Events:

**July 20 - Board of Directors Meeting at Hunter's Inn - 6:30pm**

**July 22 - Saturday night 6pm .....picnic and baseball game at Shirley Povich baseball stadium at Cabin John Regional Park. Get your dinner and game tickets at the picnic pavilion. Thanks so much to Bruce Adams for providing the free tickets!**

**July 27 - Rotary Meeting at Hunter's Inn - 6:30pm - County Councilman George Leventhal**

**August 3 - Rotary Meeting at Hunter's Inn - 6:30pm - District Governor Pat Kasuda's Official Visit**

**August 8 - Manna Food Center - 7pm**



**Nadim Salti** appeared on the local NBC TV news on July 17. His niece is in Beirut, Lebanon: "The part of the city where she lives is very safe, but you feel the impact of the bombing and it is nerve wrecking. Also, there are shortages of bread, water and fuel." We pray that she will be evacuated safely very soon.

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## **Development expert honored with alumni service award**

By Joseph Derr Rotary International News  
6 July 2006

For more than four decades, John R. Schott has worked with the United Nations, World Bank, U.S. Agency for International Development, and other global organizations to help communities in Africa and Southeast Asia find sustainable solutions to meet their needs. He has ensured that U.S. foreign aid reaches the people it is intended to benefit and worked with the Thai and Indonesian governments to help farmers and small businesses set up cooperatives. He has consulted with major international relief agencies and other nongovernmental organizations to help them revise policies, programs, and financial management to better address long-term development issues in the aftermath of natural disasters.

In recognition of his exceptional career in international development, Schott was named the recipient of The Rotary Foundation Alumni Global Service to Humanity Award for 2006. He accepted the honor during the 2006 RI Convention in Malmö, Sweden, and Copenhagen, Denmark, in June.

Schott says it was his 1956-57 Ambassadorial Scholarship, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, USA, that charted his future direction. At Oxford University's Brasenose College, he began the year studying English language and literature, but new interests soon began to emerge.

"Oxford is an education of debate and endless discussion, whether it's in the Oxford

Union or in the local pubs," Schott recalls. "Through those conversations I started to define what I wanted to do in life."

His interests moved from literary to political theory. Through a Coslett Foundation Fellowship, Schott stayed at Oxford for a second year, which laid the groundwork for a PhD in government at Harvard, a subsequent Fulbright fellowship in Uganda, and his later career as an international consultant.

Rotary provided him with not only a scholarship but "a home away from home," he says. "E.H. Birchall [1954-55 president of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland] was a second father to me when my father died during my second year at Oxford. His two daughters became everlasting sisters to me and have become long-term friends ever since. In that sense, the experience continues to this very day."

Schott founded Schott & Associates in 1974 and now lives in New Hampshire, USA. Throughout his career, he has says he has seen how Rotary's motto reflects his own values.

"Consciously or unconsciously, I was linked up to Rotary's notion of Service Above Self," says Schott. "I wanted to be what was useful and helpful to other people."

The scholarship also cultivated Schott's lifelong interest in learning, which inspires his work philosophy to this day. "My interest has always been seeking out the kind of people who can tell me something that I don't know anything about," he says.

Throughout his career, Schott says he has felt

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equally at home with high-level politicians, peasant farmers, and small business owners. "I felt like I was one of them. It was never my telling people, 'This is what needs to be done,' but rather working out with them as colleagues what needed to be done."

Schott believes that service and self can be connected through the personal pleasure and satisfaction one gets from serving others. "Focusing on what can I do for you – or your project or organization – has given me a great sense of satisfaction," he says.

Schott's advice for current and future scholars is to help heal the wounds of hatred and fear in the world by diving into the experience with open minds. "Ambassadorial scholars are really ambassadors for the entire world, not just their own countries," he says. "You're not there to tell how wonderful or good your country is but instead listen. You're not telling, you're learning."

In his acceptance speech at the convention, Schott praised Rotary's ideals. "Rotary has done [exceptional work] in respecting cultural differences, [and has instilled] in others the notion of Service Above Self and promoted cultural interchange and discussion of differences. To be honored by The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International and people like you is something quite singular and very special. You've honored me, may I say I honor you."

## **Kofi Annan's special adviser praises Rotary's grassroots efforts**

By Yukoni Lupa-Lasaga Rotary International News  
5 July 2006

Rotary is an outstanding example of ordinary people changing the world through citizen action, says renowned economist Jeffrey Sachs in an article published in Asian newspapers in the last week of June.

In the piece featured in *Taipei Times*, of Taiwan, and *Daily News*, of Pakistan, Sachs writes that instead of waiting for politicians and public agencies to act, Rotarians have led the way toward the goal of eradicating polio worldwide.

"Rotary took on the challenge of getting vaccines to the poor, in regions with weak or nonexistent public health systems," he notes. "Rotarians dreamed not only of reducing the number of polio cases but of eradicating the disease entirely."

Sachs says that the progress made against polio, a 99 percent reduction in cases, is historic and that despite some last-minute difficulties the goal of eradicating the disease is now within reach.

"More importantly, Rotary's leadership on polio offers a more general lesson in the fight against extreme poverty, hunger, and disease," he says.

Improving the lives of all the world's citizens is a concern that Sachs, who is special adviser to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, shares with Rotarians. He has authored *The End of Poverty*, a best-selling book that discusses the economics of eradicating poverty, and speaks on the issue at every forum available to him, from summits of world leaders to gatherings of volunteers.

On 14 June, Sachs, who also is head of the

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UN Millennium Project, made a keynote address at the 2006 RI Convention, in which he identified Rotary's grassroots approach to humanitarian initiatives as key to ending poverty. The Millennium Project promotes the Millennium Development Goals adopted by world leaders at the 2000 UN Summit in New York.

In the newspaper article, Sachs expands on the idea that volunteer organizations like Rotary are indispensable to the success of the Millennium Development Goals.

"Even when politicians don't lead, it is still possible for committed individuals and voluntary organizations to change the world," says Sachs. "The key is to link a bold idea with a practical and powerful technology, and then to push the idea and technology forward through mass citizen action."

## **UN agency honors RI for polio work**

By Vukoni Lupa-Lasaga Rotary International News  
5 July 2006

For Rotary International's role in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and helping give more than two billion children a life free from polio, the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations' antihunger agency, honored Rotary with the WFP Award for Exemplary Humanitarian Leadership.

WFP Executive Director James Morris presented the award after brief remarks at the opening ceremony and dinner of the agency's global meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 18 June.

RI President Bill Boyd, who received the honor on behalf of Rotary, said the world is 99

percent free of polio because of the unprecedented level of cooperation among governments and organizations involved with the effort.

"As much as Rotary has given to this project, in volunteer time and in financial contributions, we could not have begun to try to eliminate polio by ourselves," he noted in an acceptance speech. "The scope is simply too great."

Boyd said that the planning and teamwork that has gone into polio eradication can be applied to the goal of eliminating hunger, WFP's chief concern, on a global scale.

"If we work to fight hunger sustainably, by creating renewable supplies of food within the communities that lack them, we will always be moving forward," he said. "It is not something that anyone could achieve alone. But together, we will do our best. And every step that we take along the path to defeating hunger will be something to celebrate."

Attendees at the award dinner included UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Danish Development Cooperation Minister Ulla Tomaes, and WFP goodwill ambassador Princess Haya of Jordan.

RI will receive another award for its PolioPlus program in August. The organization is the overall winner of the 2006 Associations Make a Better World Award from the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) and the Center for Association Leadership.

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