

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Welcome District Governor Pat Kasuda!



Upcoming Events:

August 3 – 6:30pm – District Governor Pat Kasuda's Official Visit

August 8 – Manna Food Center – 7pm

August 10 - 6:30pm - Ken Solow - a dynamic speaker - don't miss his exciting talk about

Rotary Recruitment And Retention

August 17 – 6:30pm special speaker, Alexis

Meade; completed her first year at Vassar University; has worked as a 'Congressional Intern on Capitol Hill for the last 3 years.

Hear what really goes on behind closed doors and secret chambers in the capitol!

August 19, Saturday: Joint community service project with the North Bethesda Rotary Club;

Indoors: painting; drywall repair and carpet cleaning; Outdoors: planting fall flower beds.

Great project-group homes run by the St. Luke's Church in Bethesda. Lunch at noon.

Upcoming Speakers:

-Stanford Kelley-EXXON-MOBIL executive

-Pastor-Ethiopian Church of Washington, DC

-Asst. Director of Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation in DC

Don't miss a meeting...September's Programs are even better!

Notes from the Meeting on July 27:

President Jerry announced that two Rotarians are receiving the "Rotarian of the Month Award" for August. Hugo Souza has taken over as the new Treasurer. Steve Naron is already coordinating with the Japanese Embassy to arrange the spring International Night Program. Congratulations to Hugo and Steve for their outstanding service to the club! \$68 Happy Dollars were collected by Noel Howard, his first time as Sergeant at Arms.

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Notes from the Meeting on July 27(continued):



Our speaker was the President of the County Council, **George Leventhal**. He talked about a number of county initiatives including purchase of clean renewable energy; "Montgomery Cares" clinics to help those with no health insurance; leveraging county funds with the state to improve traffic bottlenecks; plans to eliminate most of the temporary trailers at Potomac Elementary; building affordable housing; working with the Montgomery Coalition for the Homeless; mobile medical care; and adding 60 officers to help fight crime. He was very positive about Montgomery County and noted that there are a higher percentage of foreign-born people here than in New York City. The residents are highly educated with more people with advanced graduate level degrees than undergraduate.

The club nominated **Bob Nelson** to be a candidate for Director of Rotary International.

We welcomed **Alex Meade**, daughter of Assistant Governor **Phil Meade**, George Leventhal's son Daniel and David Bornstein who is a recent high school graduate working for George. Thanks very much to **Caesar Kavadoy** for bringing a guest.

Please.....Pay Your 2nd Quarter Dues for April, May and June

Jeffrey Sachs Lauds Rotary In Op-Ed Essay

Renowned economist Jeffrey Sachs recently praised Rotary's PolioPlus program in a published opinion piece focusing on the United Nations' eight Millennium Development Goals. The author of the groundbreaking book, *The End of Poverty*, Sachs is special advisor to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, head of the UN Millennium Project and director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University. He was a keynote speaker at Rotary's 97th International Convention and frequently cites Rotary's humanitarian work – especially its leadership in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative – as a successful example of private-sector contributions to worldwide economic progress. Click on the link below to read the Op-ed piece "Changing the world through citizen action", in the Taipei Times by Jeffrey Sachs.

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/editorials/archives/2006/06/27/2003315947>

[Share what has been happening with you this summer. Just send information and photos to Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov]

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Russian State Honors Trustee Jones For Humanitarian Efforts

By Vukoni Lupa-Lasaga Rotary International News
28 July 2006

Two state legislatures, one in Russia and the other in the United States, have independently of each other honored Rotary Foundation Trustee Carolyn Jones for her work as a Rotary Volunteer.

In Russia, the president of the Duma of the Tomsk Oblast presented Jones on 28 June with the Mercy and Charity Award in recognition of her leadership in helping improve the lives of thousands of children in the state.

On 22 July, Jones received the Alaska Legislature's Honorarium Certificate for her accomplishments and service within Alaska and for her appointment as the first female trustee of The Rotary Foundation. Jones is from Anchorage.

The award from the Tomsk Oblast recognizes individuals who have participated in outstanding humanitarian initiatives in the state. Of the 16 recipients to date, only two are non-Russian, and both are Rotarians. Kimberley Day, of the Rotary Club of Eureka, California, USA, is a past recipient.

"This is a great honor for me today to stand before you as a recipient of the Mercy and Charity Award," Jones said in her acceptance speech. "It is always a surprise to return here and to see how much the children have grown up. I have known and loved some of these children for eight years. They have grown from little toddlers to teenagers."

Jones told attendees that she discovered a special purpose to her life when she visited the children's cancer ward of the Siberian State Medical Hospital during a 1997 trip to Tomsk.

Eastern Russia is part of Rotary International District 5010, and Jones was in the country as a member of a team of Rotary leaders from the Alaskan portion of the district.

"The children had various forms of leukemia and cancers of the blood," she explained. "They needed chemotherapy medicine in order to live, but the hospital lacked the money to buy the medicine."

Moved by what she saw, Jones helped rally international Rotary club support for the Children of Russia Program, initiated by the Rotary Club of Tomsk to improve the lives of children, including the hospitalized ones.

"In one year, Rotarians from around the world raised over US\$600,000 – about 17 million rubles – to benefit needy children," Jones said.

The money, which included Rotary Foundation Matching Grant funds, supported 30 educational, health, and humanitarian relief efforts. Jones oversaw the successful implementation of all 30 projects through the most difficult stretch of Russia's economic meltdown in the 1990s. She participated hands-on during her regular site visits.

Jones led four other Anchorage-area Rotarians during the most recent trip to Tomsk. The group volunteered at an orphanage and delivered five laptop computers for the children.

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Dream Home Lottery Fulfills Promise In Canada

By Tonya Weger Rotary International News
27 July 2006

The Rotary Club of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, fulfilled a five-year, C\$500,000 (US\$440,917) commitment to two community hospitals by dreaming big.

Club member James Wadleigh explains that the Rotary Club of Guelph took "a big leap into the unknown" by initiating its [Dream Home Lottery](#). "We were committing to the largest fundraiser in our history," he says. "Other long-standing projects were seeing declining or static revenues, so we figured 'Go big or go home.'"

According to club president, J. Clare Rennie, they were inspired by a nearby Rotary club that had been running successful home lotteries for years.

"Any club thinking of running a dream home lottery should talk with clubs who have already done it," says club member Colin Ferguson. "You also have to look at whether your local conditions are favorable for it – it really depends on the housing market and if you can make a profit after building the house."

Guelph provides the perfect environment. Each year, the club promotes the lottery in the community, selling tickets for C\$100 (US\$88) each. There is no limit on how many can be purchased per person. Ticket sales fund the construction of a luxury home, cover lottery administration costs during each pledge year, and raise C\$100,000 (US\$88,183) annually

for the charity. The club also increases its profits by working with local contractors to ease construction costs.

Wadleigh recalls being relieved to break even in the project's initial year. Each year proved more successful, with this year's lottery selling out.

"We sold all 7,000 tickets," Wadleigh says. "No sweat. We always knew we would get there."

One of the major reasons for the project's success was support from local businesses. "They offered to purchase the tickets for their employees by a payroll deduction plan spread over several pay periods," says club member Douglas Gamsby, adding that this accounted for 2,000 to 3,000 tickets each year. "Two of our five homes were won by these employees."

This year's home, built in one of Guelph's most desirable neighborhoods, is valued at more than C\$600,000 (US\$529,101). Its high-end touches, such as vaulted ceilings and hardwood floors, helped drive the lottery's popularity.

To thank the Rotary club for its dedication and hard work, one hospital named its family birthing unit in honor of the club, while the other dedicated a garden in its honor.

"A project like this stretches any organization and could go off the rails if not for steady and creative leadership," Wadleigh says. "It was hard work; we were in the dark at various points. There were times when we thought we were headed for disaster, but now that we have exceeded our expectations, it's all

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sweetness and light.”

So much in fact, that the club is planning to continue its Dream Home Lottery at least another three years to help renovate a local hospice and support a program that provides growth and development opportunities for the developmentally challenged.

Donated Miles Help Iraqi Woman's Dreams Soar

By Tonya Weger
Rotary International News
26 July 2006

Rotarians in the United States and Jordan united to make a 27-year-old Iraqi woman's chances for a better future soar.

Hana'a Thigeel lost the use of her legs after being struck by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) while on her honeymoon in Iraq. Unable to receive therapy in Iraq for her injuries, she needed to seek alternatives. That's when the Rotary Club of Greeley (Centennial), Colorado, USA, offered to help. Using the United Airlines Charity Miles Program, the club flew Thigeel from Amman, Jordan, to the United States for therapy.

The club was able to raise 280,000 air miles and purchase two first-class tickets – a retail value of US\$14,000. “We wanted her to be comfortable,” says club member Thomas Miller, “and for cultural reasons, she could not travel alone.”

Thigeel lost everything but her life when the IED detonated two years ago. She was newly married with a promising career as an assistant to the professor of veterinary

medicine at Baghdad University. But that fateful day left her a widow and without means of support.

“Baghdad University is not handicap accessible,” explains Hope Cassidy, a Greeley club member and director of the Greeley Center for Independence where Thigeel receives treatment.

Therapists at the Colorado facility are donating services through November when her visa expires, working to maximize Thigeel's muscle tone in the lower body while healing the emotional wounds she suffered.

She also works with Paula Cowen, a disabled veterinarian employed by the United States Department of Agriculture. “Paula met Hana'a while in Iraq and told us of her story,” Miller says. “She has since mentored Hana'a.”

In addition to raising the air miles, Rotary club members found an apartment neighboring the rehabilitation center for Thigeel, and they donated enough items to furnish the two-bedroom handicap-accessible apartment. “Everyone has made me feel like I am in my home” Thigeel says. “I feel safe here.”

Rotarians have set their sights on doing even more to help Thigeel. Cassidy said the club hopes to do what it can to help Thigeel extend her stay so that she can pursue her interest in furthering her veterinary medicine education in the U.S.

Thigeel is happy for the opportunity Rotary has given her. **“This is my life, my destiny,” she explains. “And I want to face it.”**

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Smithsonian Polio Exhibit Tells Polio's Story

24 July 2006

The Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History has extended the "**Whatever Happened to Polio?**" exhibit to 4 September.



The exhibit, which was originally scheduled to run for 12 months, opened April 2005 to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the first effective polio vaccine, as well as Rotary's centennial celebrations in 2005. The exhibit shows how polio affected the United States and how medical science and popular support triumphed over the disease. Rotary International is one of the leading sponsors of the exhibit.

**August is Rotary Membership Month
Please Refer a Prospective Member**

My Neighbor

My Bank Manager

My Grocery Store Manager

My Auto Dealer

My Optician

My Shopping Center Manager

My Realtor

My ????

Referred by _____

Please Send to Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov