

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Calendar of Events

December 6 - 2:15pm Dictionary Project at Waters Landing Elementary, Germantown

**December 7- Thursday - 6:30pm
Rotary Club Meeting at Hunter's Inn**
Speaker: Alicia C. Shepard, Professor of Journalism at American University and author of the new book, "Woodward and Bernstein: Life In The Shadow of Watergate". She spent the last four years interviewing more than 175 people connected to Woodward and Bernstein and sifting through the new archival materials at the University of Texas bought from Woodward and Bernstein for \$5 million. The book tells about what made them tick before and after they began. Learn how Woodward and Bernstein changed journalism and the history of the country. Don't miss this exceptional speaker! (Biography on page 3)

**December 9 - Saturday - 6:30pm
Holiday Party at Phil and Linda Meades'.
7501 Glendale Road, Chevy Chase**
Come enjoy the family of Rotary and the wonderful hospitality of the Meades.
No gift exchange. Please RSVP to President Jerry Gross, @ 301-770-5431.

December 12 - Tuesday - 7pm Manna Center

**December 14 - Thursday - 6:30pm
Rotary Club Meeting at Umberto's**
Speaker: Doreen S. Rubin, college guidance counselor at Richard Montgomery HS. Our club will be working closely with Doreen to establish a Vocational Service Project at RM.

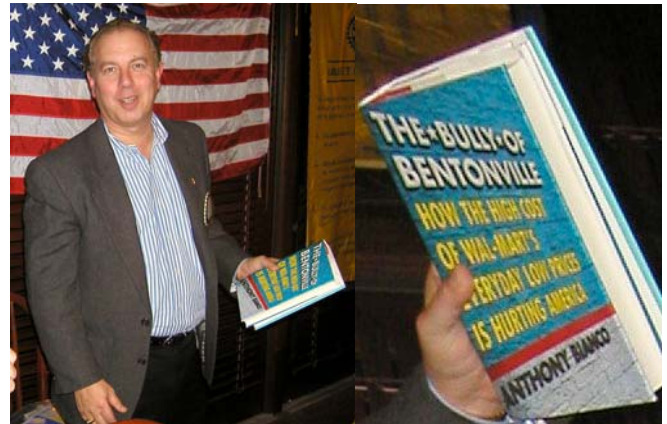
December 21 - no meeting

**December 28 - Thursday - 6:30pm
End of Year Social at Hunter's Inn**

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Rotary Club Meeting Notes:



Alan Grant is the Rotarian of the month for November and he received two books from President Jerry Gross.



Classification Talk: Tom Leuchtenberg

Tom grew up in Dobbs Ferry, NY. His father was an author and professor in American History at Columbia University for thirty years. His father moved to Duke University twenty years ago. His mother worked at home and during the summers spent time at their weekend home in Essex on the Connecticut River. Tom recalled a ten-week trip across the country and back in conjunction with his father spending a year in Palo Alto California at the Center for Behavioral Studies. Tom

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received his undergraduate degree from Ohio Wesleyan in Columbus, Ohio, in Political Science and Journalism. He first came to DC in his junior year and was an intern to Senator Edmund Muskie during the time Sen. Muskie was preparing to run for President. Tom continued his studies in DC and received a Masters in Public Administration from American University. During the summer he worked for Representative Don Edwards who headed the House committee that was working on Civil Rights legislation. He went to graduate school full time and earned income by being a paid softball player on congressional teams seven days a week (they allowed three "ringers" on each team). Through a Rhode Island contact, he obtained a job at the Department of Interior in the office of coal research. Again his timing seemed to be excellent, as the energy crisis hit and the budget for this office rose from \$20M to \$100M in six months. He was made the assistant to run the office and had oversight for the synthetic fuel plants construction budget that skyrocketed from \$30M to \$7B. The energy organizations of the federal government grew from 119 people to over 32,000 civil servants and 118,000 contactors. Tom served in the Ford administration and stayed on when the Democrats took control. He left the government to become the director of the Washington office of the Gas Research Institute where he served for 21 years with a staff of 20 people. He began a career in real estate two years ago in the Weichert office across the street from Hunter's Inn. His focus is on residential real estate in Montgomery

County, with some sales in other parts of Maryland. He and his wife Lucy have been married 31 years and they have two children. Daughter Cindy went to Wittenberg College and is a ski instructor in Beaver Creek, Colorado. Son Brian graduated from George Washington University and works at UBS. He'll be soon transferring to the office in Switzerland. Tom has served as an elder for the past three years at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church where his Rotary sponsor, Mon Dickinson, is also quite active. Tom is an avid fly fisherman and loves to cook. Tom is already actively serving on Rotary projects having been at two dictionary project distributions and cooking and serving the homeless. During the discussion Tom noted that there have been no new refineries and no new nuclear power plants built in this country during the past 30 years. Welcome to Rotary, Tom!



Steve Naron introduced **Kozue Tominaga**, Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar from Japan. She is sponsored by the Tokyo Nihonbashi East Rotary Club with seventy members. She demonstrated Japanese flutes made out of bamboo and played two melodies.

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Thanks to everyone who contributed goodie bags for the homeless women at Sophia House. The women at the shelter loved the cosmetics, toiletries, soaps and shampoos. All extras will be used for any additional women who come to live at the shelter. All happy \$\$\$\$ collected in December will help us buy winter gloves and scarves for the women of Sophia House.

Joe Jennette was released from Shady Grove Hospital and is recuperating at the rehabilitation center at Asbury, the community where he and **Evelyn** reside. Best wishes to Joe for a speedy recovery.

Smiljka Soretic returned from a trip to Belgrade where she had a ceremony in the cemetery where her mother was buried earlier this year. She also worked with a contractor to restore her apartment there that was damaged by fire. **Fedja** will be having an exhibition in March on his new book about paintings and art.

Mon and Anne Dickinson are back from their stay at their Block Island, Rhode Island residence.

Dick and Jane Gordon returned from California where they spent thanksgiving with their family.

Lou and Emma Fettig and **Nadim and Jelena Salti** all reported having been in North Carolina.

President Jerry thanks everyone who has been participating in the Dictionary Project with the last distribution on December 6 at 2:15pm at Waters Landing Elementary School in Germantown. Again, thank you to project

director for the dictionary program, **Alan Grant**. We delivered over 650 dictionaries to 6 elementary schools in the county.



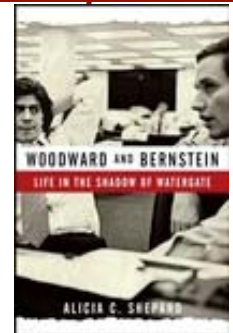
Thanks were given to **Anil Alpay** for bringing a guest and President Jerry gave him a DVD on classic Ford cars.

\$101 happy dollars were raised by Phil Meade.

The Board of Directors held a luncheon meeting on December 2. We will be collecting toys, clothing and additional items needed by families of the Scotland community in Potomac. Thank you **Hugo Souza** for organizing the holiday gift exchange.

On December 7 we welcome back **Todd Nitkin** and returning guest **Nabil Bedew**.

About Thursday Night's Speaker...



Alicia C. Shepard teaches journalism at American University. She was a Times-Mirror Visiting Professor at University of Texas at Austin for the 2005-2006 academic year

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where she taught a class she designed on Watergate and the Press. She spent the last four years interviewing more than 175 people connected to Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein and sifting through the new archival materials that UT bought from Woodward and Bernstein for \$5 million in 2003.

Shepard contributes to Washingtonian and People magazines, and has written for the New York Times, the Washington Post and the Chicago Tribune. For nearly a decade, she wrote for American Journalism Review on such things as ethics, the newspaper industry and how journalism works - or doesn't. For that work, the National Press Club awarded her its top media criticism prize three different years. In 2003 she was a Foster Distinguished Writer at Penn State. From 1982 to 1987, she was a reporter for the San Jose Mercury News in California. She is co-author of Running Toward Danger: Stories Behind the Breaking News of 9/11 (2002), about how journalists covered 9/11 and the role they played as modern-day keepers of calm on America's most terrifying day.

Shepard has traveled extensively in the U.S. and abroad. In 2002, she bicycled 517 miles from Amsterdam to Paris. In 1987, Shepard, her husband and one-year-old son, Cutter, set sail on their 32-foot sailboat, "Yankee Lady," for the South Pacific. They spent three years cruising in the islands and she wrote about their adventures. They sailed to Japan and stayed for two more years writing, editing, teaching English and learning Japanese.

Shepard graduated with honors in English in 1978 from The George Washington

University and received a masters degree in journalism from the University of Maryland in 2002.

She lives with her family in Arlington, Va.

**Give the Gift of
Rotary Club Membership**
*Invite a Guest to a
Rotary Club Meeting*

Hiking scholars to raise funds, AIDS awareness in South Africa

By Vukoni Lupa-Lasaga Rotary International News
30 November 2006

A team of five Rotary club-sponsored international students are participating in a 2,010-kilometer (1,249-mile) hike from Johannesburg to Cape Town, South Africa, to highlight the plight of AIDS orphans.

The 20-day event will start on 2 December. The time and distance of the hike are intended to underscore the prediction that without concerted efforts, Africa will be home to 20 million AIDS orphans by 2010. (Currently, AIDS orphans there number 12 million.) Also, 2010 is the year that South Africa hosts the World Cup.

Along the way, the hikers, who are students at Johannesburg's University of the Witwatersrand, will raise funds for Rotary club-sponsored projects for AIDS orphans in Africa. Four of the hikers are [Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholars](#).

Ryan McDonnell, a development studies master's student from Boston, notes that it's

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easy to give up in the face of the mind-boggling HIV/AIDS statistics, but that's not something he intends to do. "I want to challenge the notion that ordinary individuals can't make a tangible difference in the lives of others," he says. "Too often, we make excuses that we don't have the ability, the time, the energy, or that the problem is simply too big."

His colleagues have equally powerful reasons for joining the effort, which is cosponsored by South African Rotary clubs, along with Rotary clubs around the world.

"Today, less than 5 percent of orphans and vulnerable children in Africa receive assistance of any kind," explains graduate student Kelly Lewis, from Wheeler, N.Y., USA, who is studying English. "We cannot stand by as these children needlessly suffer without adequate nutrition, shelter, education, or support."

"I hope that our efforts will provide inspiration for others to take action and end the apathy and disregard that has unnecessarily allowed the suffering and death of tens of millions," says Keegan Kautzky, a development studies graduate student from Perry, Iowa, USA.

Political science master's student Ikumi Maekawa, from Ena-shi, Tokai, Japan, explains: "Through this hike, I am hoping to make a tangible difference in the lives of affected and infected South Africans, especially youth, and bring attention to the fight against AIDS in South Africa."

Although not an Ambassadorial Scholar like his fellow hikers, Jacob Maboja, a first-year

law student from Nairobi, Kenya, is participating because the event "is a creative way for us to draw attention to the phenomenal impact that Rotary is having on the lives of these children, while underscoring the massive need that still exists not only in South Africa, but throughout the rest of Africa."

University of Johannesburg optometry student Ruan Koorts, who is from Pretoria, South Africa, has been so impressed with Rotary's humanitarian work and the dedication of the hiking team that he has volunteered full time to drive the students' support car. "I want to be a part of their efforts to show how we, as members of the community, as leaders of business, and as individuals, can find solutions to the devastating problem of AIDS," he says.

South African Rotary clubs, businesses, and Rotarians for Fighting AIDS, a Rotarian Action Group, are the main sponsors of the hike. The action group is implementing community-led responses for AIDS orphans and vulnerable children in Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, and Zambia.

The hikers will describe their experiences during the journey on a blog at <http://rotaryaidshike2006.blogspot.com>.

New Orleans to host disaster workshop in January

By Joseph Derr Rotary International News
30 November 2006

Rotary's role in responding to disasters will be the subject of the North American Rotary Disaster Relief Workshop, to be held 11-13 January 2007 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

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The workshop, convened by RI directors Bob Stuart, Don Mebus, and Barry Rassin, focuses on preparedness, response, and rebuilding. Participants will learn from the experiences of Rotarians who survived and volunteered during Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, including Don Chauvin, past governor of RI District 6200 (Louisiana), one of the hardest hit regions.

"My experience serving as governor during hurricanes Katrina and Rita taught me the importance of having a workable plan in the event of such disasters, and it also taught me the true power of Rotarians," says Chauvin, one of the organizers. "The support that Rotarians around the globe contributed to our relief and recovery efforts touched my heart and has changed me forever."

RI President Bill Boyd, RI President-elect Wilf Wilkinson, and Rotary Foundation Chair Luis Vicente Giay will be among the featured speakers at the event. Bus trips to areas still affected by the hurricane and visits to Rotary disaster recovery projects are also on the agenda.

"Rotary will always be at the forefront providing comfort and relief where ever a disaster may strike. And I want to help other Rotary districts have a workable plan, should the need ever arise, so that they can take immediate and meaningful action," says Chauvin.

Rotarians can pre-register for the event through 29 December. On-site registration also will be available. Room blocks at the Astor Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn Express

(one block from each other) close on 10 December.

For further information and the registration form, visit the District 6200 website at www.rotary6200.org/disaster_workshop.cfm.

The Rotarian Photo Contest

Point. Shoot. Compete.

How do you picture Service Above Self? *The Rotarian* wants to see Rotary's motto through your lens.

Winning entries will be published in the June 2007 issue. Submit your best shot from the 2006-07 calendar year that illustrates your definition of Service Above Self. A favorite Youth Exchange student? A child whose life was changed forever by a club project? A fellow Rotarian in action in a far-off place? Use your creativity and your talent to photograph your entry.

The deadline is 1 March 2007. Submit high-resolution digital photos online (www.rotary.org) or send 8 x 10 prints to: Photo Contest, 1560 Sherman Ave., Evanston, IL 60201 USA. All entries become property of *The Rotarian* and will not be returned.

Enter today and your photo could be featured in *The Rotarian* in June!

**Send your photos and articles to
Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov
for inclusion in the
*Rotary Club newsletter.***

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