

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## President's Message:

Dear Fellow Potomac-Bethesda Rotarians,

It has been an Honor and Privilege to be your President for the last six months. The past six months have been a very exciting and vibrant time for our club. We have accomplished many wonderful projects during a very short time period. These include the following:

- brunch/canal boat ride along the C & O Canal
- dinner and baseball outing at Shirley Povich stadium with the Jewish Group Homes
- completion of our Rotary International and District Matching grant with the Rotary Club of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia
- successful Dictionary project-over 750 dictionaries were given to third grade students in our community
- dinner served at the Sophia House in Rockville and distribution of goodie bags filled with toiletries, soaps, etc.
- Charter Night-wonderful evening in honor of the our four charter members
- Membership growth - 4 new members have joined our club within the past 6 months
- MANNA monthly food boxing for the needy at the Rockville food bank

We have many great projects planned for the next few months!!!

Unfortunately, we lost a dedicated Rotarian and former past president, Dr. Peter McWhite. Our club is presently raising funds to make a contribution in memory of Peter's commitment and dedication as a Rotarian. We greatly appreciate all contributions that

have been made to our Rotary Foundation on Peter's behalf.

Please help the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary club make a difference in our local community and throughout the world. Let's be PROUD that we are Rotarians; that we have the ability and commitment to make a difference in people's lives.

May the New Year bring much peace, happiness and good Health to one and all!!!!

Yours in Service, Jerry

## *Holiday Party Hosted by Phil & Linda Meade* *(More photos on page 2)*



*Holiday Party Special Guests*  
*Governor Pat Kasuda and her husband John.*

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## Calendar of Events

- December 28 - Thursday - 6:30pm  
End of Year Social at Hunter's Inn
- January 4 - 6:30pm Rotary Club Meeting
- January 9 - 7pm Manna Center
- January 11 - 6:30pm Rotary Club Meeting
- January 18 - 6:30pm Rotary Club Meeting
- January 25 - 6:30pm Rotary Club Meeting

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**Thursday-Dec. 28, 2006**

**LAST MEETING OF THE YEAR!!!!**

*We're having a SOCIAL...  
celebrate and have a good time!!!*

**Bring yourself, spouses, family  
members and friends-**

- hot and cold hors d'oeuvres
- finger foods
- great dessert

*Please help us celebrate a great 2006  
and a Healthy, Happy and Good  
2007!!!!!!*

Dear Potomac-Bethesda Rotarians;

Melinda McWhite has requested donations to be made in memory of Peter to the **Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Foundation**.

With these funds, the board will consult with Melinda and find an appropriate way to honor Peter's memory.

All checks should be made payable to the **Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Foundation**; memo-Peter McWhite. Please mail the check to Don Smith or bring to the next meeting.

Additionally, please visit the Pumphrey Funeral home website at the following address: [www.pumphreyfuneralhome.com](http://www.pumphreyfuneralhome.com) and visit the family guest-book to add your thoughts and prayers for Melinda, Claire and the extended McWhite family.

Yours in Rotary  
Jerry

## **Phonemail from the Homeless Center**

Dear Jerry,

What a very nice offer...the ladies of Sophia House would be so happy to receive gloves, hats and/or scarves. Rarely do they receive something "new" so this will be a real treat. The number of women at Sophia House remains quite constant at 30.

If you care to drop your gifts off sometime before Christmas, feel free. I would just remind you that Sophia House does not open 'till 6pm (during the day another program unrelated to us uses that space). If you would prefer to bring these gifts anytime before 6pm, they could be left at the shelter that is in the same building as Sophia House, Community Based Shelter or CBS. We have staff there around the clock and they would be happy to bring the items down to Sophia at the appropriate hour.

Thank you so very much and Happy Holidays to you and yours!

*Cindy Hall  
Volunteer Coordinator*

*Melinda and Claire,*

*As District Governor for Rotary District 7620, I was keenly aware of the dedication that Peter had for the welfare of others. Despite his illness, he was steadfast in his drive to do for others.*

*While his loss is difficult, I hope you will find comfort in knowing that God welcomed him before his disease took away his independence, which he treasured.*

*Pat Kasuda*

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## ***This Is The Season To Give***

Dear Members;

As Fellow Rotarians; the words "**SERVICE ABOVE SELF**" have a very special meaning to me during the **HOLIDAY SEASON!!!!**

Very shortly, we will be delivering 30 pairs of gloves and warm hats to the 30 homeless women at the Sophia House. The Executive Director was so excited; these homeless women never receive gifts during the holiday season.

Can you see the joy on Melinda and Claire's face when we tell them we have raised over \$1,000 in Peter's name.

That's our goal! Do you know how many malaria nets \$1,000 will buy to save young children's lives in Africa! Let's be true to our creed! Let's be true to ourselves!

Let's be true to our fellow residents who desperately need our help!!!!

And let's make a generous gift in the name of Dr. Peter McWhite.

Let's be Rotarians!

Have a wonderful holiday; but before you get comfortable.....send a check to our Foundation!

Yours in Rotary  
Jerry F. Gross

**It's a Rotarian's Privilege and  
Responsibility to Help Grow Club  
Membership.**



## ***Rotary Foundation Alumni - Making A Difference***

**Young Woo Kang** lost his eyesight in a sports injury at 14. As an adolescent, he suffered the loss of both parents and a sister. Despite the hardships of his early life, Kang worked to change the previous beliefs that had once determined the lives of the handicapped in Korea. Kang became the first blind person to be admitted to the prestigious Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea, and graduated with honors. The late William T. Powell, who was past governor of RI District 7280, (Pennsylvania, USA) and also visually impaired, helped Kang become a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar through an international service project. He studied at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania, in 1972-73. Kang became the first blind Korean to earn both a master's degree (in psychology) and a doctorate (in special education). Kang currently serves as vice chairman of the United Nations World Committee on Disability and as commemorative chair and senior advisor for the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute. He has written 10 books, and his

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autobiography *A Light in My Heart* was translated into 7 languages, with the adaptation becoming an award-winning film in South Korea. Kang currently resides in Arlington, Virginia, and is a member of the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C.



**John Germ, RI Vice President 2004-05**

**Vice Chairman, Rotary Centers Major Gifts Initiative**

On the way to work this morning while listening to the news you heard about wars in the Middle East and a shooting victim in your community and a family who needed assistance with food, clothing and a shelter because of a fire. Your thoughts immediately went to your schedule and how you could help. You remember today is your Rotary meeting. You begin to think of how Rotarians are involved with providing assistance to those in need, especially through The Rotary Foundation. While the help for this family will not be a Foundation program, it will help bring some peace to the family. The help provided this family will certainly change their lives just as it will reconfirm our passions for service, a desire to reach out to those in need, a desire to heal the sick, to comfort the elderly, to educate a child and to create

conditions for good will, understanding and peace for everyone. Peace is not just the absence of war or the end of useless killings. It is healthy children and adults. It is clean water and sufficient food. It is education, human dignity, clothing, housing and concern for mankind. You and I are part of that effort. We can continue supporting Our Foundation Programs, especially the Peace Scholar Program so more individuals will become ambassadors for peace, good will and understanding. Yes, with all of us working together—**Peace is Possible.**

*Chinese Proverb*

*"If there is right in the soul,  
There will be beauty in the person.  
If there is beauty in the person,  
There will be harmony in the home.  
If there is harmony in the home,  
There will be peace in the world."*



**World Peace and Understanding.  
This year may nearly be over but the  
need for peace and understanding  
and humanitarian kindness and  
assistance is not and through Rotary  
and Our Rotary Foundation programs,  
we can help to mend the world. Peace  
is possible**

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## ***A Winning Situation***

### ***In Fact It Is A Major Win***

If you haven't heard yet – there is great news in the USA for charitable giving in 2006 and 2007. Although this message is directed to Rotarians who are 70 1/2 or older, it is important for all of us to be aware of tax “breaks” that offer a winning scenario for all concerned. In August 2006 President Bush signed a law that allows taxpayers who are 70 1/2 or older to give away as much as \$100,000 a year from their IRA directly to qualified charities without triggering federal income taxes.

Here's how it works: In a typical case, a taxpayer can get an exclusion from gross income for otherwise taxable distributions of as much as \$100,000 from an IRA – as long as the money is paid directly to a qualified charity. Our Rotary Foundation certainly qualifies.

This money counts toward taxpayers' required minimum distributions (RMD) for that year, which means you do not have to take the entire RMD\*, which could significantly lower your tax base. This new break is available only for distributions this year (2006) and in 2007.



*This is a miraculous story, which occurred Christmas Day about 90 years ago during World War I. Along the front lines, the trenches, sometimes less than 100 feet apart and strewn with bodies from both sides between them the fighting and killing stopped during a spontaneous “Christmas Truce” while the troops serenaded each other with Christmas Carols throughout the night.*

*A British participant, Murdoch M. Wood, in 1930 in Parliament: stated, "The fact is that we did it, and I then came to the conclusion that I have held very firmly ever since, that if we had been left to ourselves there would never have been another shot fired."*



**Donate online to  
The Rotary Foundation at  
[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)**

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