

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Family of Rotary Continues to Grow



Welcome New Member **Nabil Bedewi**, wife **Kareen** and their daughter. **Nabil** teaches Information Technology at Georgetown University. **Kareen** is a Psychologist. **Edco Bailey** conducted a wonderful installation ceremony. Thanks so much to **Anil Alpay** for proposing **Nabil** for membership!

Rotary Meeting Report:

Todd Nitkin described the work the North West Medical Group does around the world. Todd talked about his experiences in Liberia and what he does when he arrives in a country.



He interviews mostly mothers because they know what they need to survive. Based upon his fieldwork, he prepares a report. The group will then provide the necessary materials/goods to help make the villages self-sufficient. Unfortunately, in many countries tribal warlords are fighting, destroying the villages and forcing boys into the army. Todd will continue to keep our club

informed about his Rotarian work in Africa.

Steve Naron entertained us with a presentation on his E-POD. Our first E-POD broadcast included funny stories about Rotary in the Middle East Countries. Apparently Rotary is considered a very liberal organization

made up of white men. **Steve** has also done a tremendous job working with the Japanese embassy officials in planning for the 2007 International Night. Final plans are being made with the Japanese Ambassador.



Great work by **Dick Alsmeyer**: he lifted **\$75** happy dollars to help our foundation.

Best wishes to **Jon Call** for a speedy recovery.

You never know where you will meet your fellow Rotarians. **Mimi and Art Blitz** meet **Esther and Bill Johncox** at the Strathmore Music Hall in Bethesda.

Tonight's Program

January 25 - 6:30pm

Rotary Club Meeting
Anil Alpay Classification
Talk

New member **Anil Alpay**, just back from Turkey, will give his classification speech on his very interesting background.

Don Smith:

Art Buchwald Tribute



Potomac-Bethesda International Rotary Club

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President's Membership Goal:

3 More Members and the Potomac Village barber at our evening meeting will shave Jerry's head, beard and mustache! Let's meet his challenge!

Upcoming Events

February 1 - 6:30pm

Rotary Club Meeting

Harold Friedman: Wines

Alan Cookson New Member Induction

February 8 - 6:30pm Rotary Club Meeting

Dick Alsmeyer and Vocational Speakers

Nabil Bedewi Classification Talk

February 13 - 10:08am Richard Montgomery High School Vocational Day (Dick Alsmeyer)

February 13 - 7pm Manna Center

February 15 - 6:30pm Rotary Club Meeting
Carol S. Jordan "Avian Influenza and Pandemic Flu" presented by, MPH, RN, Senior Health Care Administrator, Communicable Disease and Epidemiology in the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services.

Thanks so much for the contributions to the Peter McWhite Memorial Scholarship Fund:

Dick Alsmeyer, Nabil Bedewi, Lou Fetting, Dick Gordon, Jerry Gross, Noel Howard, Bill Johncox, Caesar Kavadoy, Steve Naron, Bob Nelson, Don Smith

Please make your contribution payable to the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Foundation and send to President-Elect Don Smith

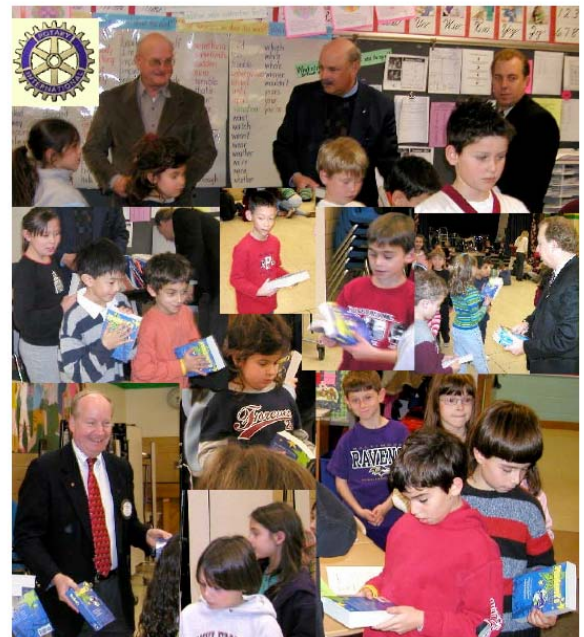
Letter To Our Rotary Club From The Wayside Elementary School Principal Yong-Mi Kim

Dear Rotary Members:

Wayside Elementary School would like to thank you for your very generous donation of dictionaries for every third grader. The dictionaries will be beneficial in the academic growth of our students. Your organization is to be commended for its interest in and concern for our schools. We appreciate your commitment to quality education as well as your service to the entire community. On behalf of the parents and students at Wayside Elementary School, I thank you again.

Sincerely,

Yong-Mi Kim, Principal



Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club

Distributing dictionaries to third graders in our community

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A Potential Rotarian May Be Closer Than You Realize

Rotarian Siri Bergh, the daughter of Rotarian parents, spoke at her zone membership seminar about what makes Rotary attractive to young professional women like herself. Some of her remarks are excerpted below.

"I joined Rotary eight years ago this month, but Rotary was in my life much sooner than that. I visited clubs with my dad as a child, and my mother's club sponsored my Youth Exchange year. When I became a young professional, working for our family business, I was a perfect candidate to be a Rotarian. So which one of my parents' clubs did I join? Neither. Why not? They didn't ask. I was asked to join Rotary by a friend of the family. He saw in me what my parents kept missing. Now he was lucky in that I knew what Rotary was, so I was an easy sell. He asked if I was interested, and less than a month later I was a Rotarian. As we all know, recruitment isn't always so easy. But the real lesson is to ask. My parents believed I was a smart, capable person, or I wouldn't have been running the business. What they failed to see was a Rotarian. Thankfully, someone else saw it – not because my parents would never see it, but because I got to become a Rotarian that much sooner. Rotary has the reputation of being an old man's group. We have to change that to keep Rotary around and to make it stronger. Rotary didn't start with an old man. Paul Harris was 37 years old when Rotary was founded. He created a successful business while laying out the foundation of the Rotary organization. He incorporated Rotary into his life; he didn't add it later. That is how a young Rotarian does it. It's a part of life. I

include it, and as my life gets busier, Rotary is already established. Fellow Rotarians my age see Rotary as a way to round out their community life. They build relationships that will help them and give back to the community that has made them successful. By recruiting young professionals, clubs grow stronger earlier, and members remain committed longer. If someone is a good Rotarian at 40, imagine what they would have been if they had joined at 25. Good Rotarians do not have a race, gender, or age. They have a commitment to community, both local and global. So taking a look at a potential candidate means considering whether they meet the qualifications of Rotary. And that means it could even be your own family member."

Membership Classifications Needed

Do you know someone in the following vocational classifications? Just invite them to a Rotary meeting or let our Membership Committee make the contact for you.

Insurance Agent

School Principal

Builder-Developer

Home-Based Business Owner

Pharmacist

Hotel Manager

Restaurant Manager

Ambassador

Automobile Dealer

Newspaper Editor

Grocery Store Manager

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Rotary Clubs Aid Typhoon-Battered Philippines

By Vukoni Lupa-Lasaga Rotary International News
Photo courtesy of Ursula Lijauco 18 January 2007

Rotarians responded swiftly to appeals to provide emergency relief for more than two million survivors of Typhoon Durian in the Philippines.

The disaster, which struck on 30 November, left at least 2,700 dead and destroyed property and infrastructure across 13 provinces. Many victims were buried alive by a mudslide.

District 3820 Governor Teotimo Reyes Jr. received news of the catastrophic rains while attending a Rotary zone institute in Jakarta, Indonesia. He immediately flew back to the Philippines, set up a disaster account, and sent out an appeal for aid.

Coordinating their activities through e-mail, phone calls, and Internet discussion groups, Rotary clubs and districts all over the country raised funds and collected relief items such as rice, noodles, clothes, medicine, and bottled water.

"The sight of the devastation affected all of us," said Past District Governor Michael Lirio, who accompanied Reyes on a visit to some of the disaster sites in December. "What made it worse in Albay [Province] was the fact that a few months back, Mayon Volcano had been spewing rocks and ashes, which turned into a killer mudflow with the more than 400 centimeters of rains dumped by the typhoon."

ShelterBox, a Rotary club-affiliated emergency relief organization based in

Cornwall, England, quickly assembled and shipped 610 ShelterBoxes to the Philippines. Each consists of a 10-person tent, 10 sleeping bags, water purification tablets, plastic water carriers, plastic bags, cookware, a stove, flashlights, and an assortment of tools packed in a 49-gallon reusable plastic container.

"We are always ready," said ShelterBox founder Tom Henderson, of the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard. "This time, we immediately contacted the district governor and offered to help even before he asked us to."



Rotarians coordinate the shipment of 120 ShelterBoxes to Legaspi City in the Philippines.

Relief in a box ShelterBox delivers the essentials

By Tom Clynes Special to The Rotarian
Photos by Marc Pearson January 2007

It's just days after a disaster in Ecuador, Lebanon, Pakistan, Somalia. Where survivors once huddled in the open, they now have shelter – rows of tents emblazoned with the Rotary emblem.

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ShelterBox, a Rotarian-led project that specializes in “ready-to-go” response, stockpiles emergency supplies, including tents, for rapid distribution to disaster sites. Based in Cornwall, England, ShelterBox was conceived by Tom Henderson, of the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard, England, as a millennium project.

A former Royal Navy search-and-rescue diver, Henderson observed the need for a self-contained emergency shelter unit for disaster victims. He knew that exposure to the elements – harsh winds, rain, snow, heat, cold – weakens the chance of survival, particularly among the elderly, young, and injured.

After much trial and error, Henderson developed the ShelterBox, which includes bedding, cooking supplies, water-purification tablets and containers, and custom-designed tents, modeled after a typical African bush hut. The club delivered the first tents to victims of the earthquake that struck Gujarat, India, in January 2001.

Working from several countries, Rotarians have distributed 30,000 ShelterBoxes to

about 450,000 people in 30 countries over the last six years.



The ShelterBox Trust, a registered United Kingdom charity, is supported by affiliates set up by Rotarians in Australia, Canada, Southeast Asia, and the United States. Club members in Germany, New Zealand, and Norway are also organizing ShelterBox projects.

ShelterBox aims to get its boxes and a response team to the scene of a disaster anywhere in the world within 48 hours. The boxes are deployed in response to requests for help from Rotary clubs and international aid agencies located in countries hit by disasters.



Most boxes are shipped by truck from Cornwall, then flown using regular commercial flights to the functioning airport nearest to the disaster area. From there, aid is delivered by any means available, ranging from donkey caravans in the mountains of Kashmir to rafts built in Sri Lanka.

The international relief agency Feed the Children has called the program “the best disaster-relief tool we have seen in 20 years of experience.”

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Dear fellow Rotarians,

When we are asked, what is Rotary? it can sometimes be difficult to give a quick and easy answer. Rotary is about so many things: friendship and fellowship, international understanding and cooperation, vocational ethics and community leadership. All these values brought us to Rotary, and all are reasons why we stay.

But first and foremost, Rotary is about service and putting Service Above Self. Rotary was founded for fellowship, but it quickly grew into an organization where people who wanted to serve others came together to do it – better, more effectively, and more enjoyably than they could have alone. We're members of our clubs so we can work through them to help others. That is why we're Rotarians. That is why we're here.

The four Avenues of Service are, and always will be, central to Rotary's work. They help us find balance in our choice of projects and aid us in achieving the Object of Rotary. Through Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service, and International Service, we strive to uphold this ideal. Every project we carry out – every playground we refurbish, every well we help dig, every adult we teach to read, every child we immunize against polio – makes the world we all live in a bit better, a bit healthier, a bit happier. And it demonstrates to others that in the long term, we do not succeed professionally despite our

commitment to doing what is right – we succeed because of it.

Everything we do in Rotary supports the Object of Rotary. When we work to strengthen The Rotary Foundation, we're building greater resources to support our service. When we work to increase membership, we're doing it so we'll have more hands to carry out our projects.



Although some things in Rotary, like the Object of Rotary and the four Avenues of Service, do not change, our organization has evolved over the decades to find better and more efficient ways of meeting our goals. The Club Leadership Plan is one such tool. In it, we have an effective road map for organizing our clubs and allowing each one to work to its full potential, in every one of the

four Avenues of Service.

By simplifying our club leadership structure, we free more of our time, energy, and resources for the real business of Rotary, which is, and always will be, service. By upholding our commitment to our four Avenues of Service, we honor the generations of Rotarians who followed them in the past – and Lead the Way for generations to come.

Bill Boyd, Rotary International President

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