

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Meeting Report:

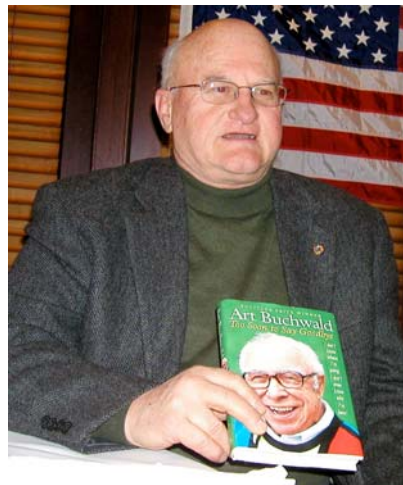
With wintry winds and snow showers swirling outside, the warm Rotary fellowship greeted everyone at Hunter's Inn.

Anil Alpay gave his classification talk. He



was born in Turkey along the coast of the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas and enjoyed windsurfing. His father was a surgeon, but Anil didn't feel called to college. He and some friends created "Alpha Surf School" and made

their hobby into a successful business. He hurt his knee in a surfing accident and his father convinced him to go to school in the United States at the age of 23. He was hoping for Venice Beach, California, but wound up in Washington, DC, where he studied Business Administration at Southeastern University. He graduated in 1994 and returned to Turkey to complete two years of mandatory military service. In 1991 he met his wife to be, Caroline, and they were married in 1997 when he returned to the United States. He had positions at Citibank and Nations Bank prior to coming to the Wachovia Branch in Potomac in 2000. Anil is currently Assistant Vice President of Sales. He and his wife have two sons, Dylan (7) and Jordan (2). Thanks so much, Anil, for a great talk!



Todd Nitkin talked about his plans to travel to Sri Lanka for the next three weeks. Sri Lanka



was known as Ceylon before 1972 and is an island nation located about 20 miles off the southern coast of India. He will drive nine hours from Colombo on the west coast to the Uhana

district on the east coast, an area hit by the 2004 tsunami and search for people not getting help. He will be accompanied by five people who will perform computer data entry to determine the needs of the people. He'll then use the computer to set up an assistance

program there, and manage it from back home. One of the questions for Todd was about the civil war and Tamil Tigers, but he indicated that the area where he was going was not engaged in the conflict. Everyone wished Todd well on his mission of mercy with Northwest Medical Teams.

President-Elect Don Smith eulogized Art Buchwald and reflected on his last book, "Too

Soon to Say Goodbye". Art was an orphan who was underage but enlisted into the U.S. Marines

(continued on Page 2)

Next Meeting

February 1- 6:30pm Rotary Club Meeting
Howard Friedman, wine specialist at Calvert Woodley Wine Store, will speak on "What You Need to Know About Wines."
• Alan Cookson New Member Induction •

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News



in World War II. He launched his career as a columnist in 1949 in Paris, where he wrote about the light side of Paris nightlife in the European edition of the New York Herald Tribune. He returned to the United States in 1962 and moved to Washington, where he began writing columns filled with political satire for *The Washington Post*. He had 40 years of a happy marriage and adopted three children. Art died of kidney failure on January 17, at his son Joel's home.

Noel Howard broke his wrist and ribs when he slipped shoveling snow for a neighbor. Fortunately he is on the mend and we all wish him "Get Well Soon!"

Steve Naron announced that the site of the 2007 International Night would be the Japanese Embassy. He is narrowing down the dates with the Japanese ambassador for early April.

Steve has set up a new website for the club that contains much more information including a newsletter archive. He is still formulating the website, so please give him your ideas.

President Jerry noted that all five new members brought in during his term were present. They continue the international tradition of our Rotary Club - all were born in

different countries. See the photo above of this Rotary year's new members born in Egypt, Turkey, Ethiopia, USA and England.

Phil Meade visited the Potomac Rotary Club's new location, Normandie Farm. After several years in Gaithersburg, the elder Rotary Club is back at their favorite Potomac location. Phil reported that the popovers were great and the restaurant has plans for a 12,000 square foot expansion.

\$80 in happy dollars was collected by **Dick Alsmeyer**.

Upcoming Events

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 Senior Health Care Administrator, Communicable Disease and Epidemiology in the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services.

"Avian Influenza and Pandemic Flu"

Potomac-Bethesda International Rotary Club

www.pb-rotary.org www.rotary7620.org www.rotary.org

February 1, 2007 - Page 2

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Clubs Build Community Centre In Paiyagala, Sri Lanka, For The Use Of Fishermen And Their Families

Ottawa, Canada (PRWeb) January 8, 2007 – The cornerstone was laid on December 19 for a community Rotacentre located in Paiyagala, 45 kilometers south of Colombo, Sri Lanka, for the use of fishermen victims of the 2004 tsunami and their families. On the second anniversary of the Southeast Asian disaster that deprived so many Sri Lankan fishermen of their homes and livelihood, several Rotary Clubs in Ottawa are now financing the construction of the "Ottawa Rotacentre" there.

The Ottawa Rotary Clubs are co-operating with the Rotary Club of Colombo Metropolitan which is overseeing the construction and operation of this first Rotacentre in Sri Lanka. It will complement the gift of some 27 Rotaboats given to 54 Tamil and Sinhalese fisher families in the summer of 2005 by these same Ottawa-area Rotary Clubs. Before the tsunami struck on Boxing Day 2004, fishing was the basis of the local economy and a chief source of food for Sri Lankans. West Ottawa Rotarian George Grande, Canada's former High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, commented, "This Rotacentre project carries on the vital work already done by Ottawa Rotary in Sri Lanka. It fills a continuing need in the efforts of fishermen to return to normal life. We must never forget them and their disaster."

The new Rotacentre will be used for repairing nets and engines and also for recreation and meetings of the fishermen's families. An

adjoining playground is planned to be built later. The cornerstone was laid by George and Charmaine Neufeld of Ottawa, charter members of the Ottawa Rotary Tsunami Support Group, and co-ordinated by Kathryn Williams of the Rotary Club of Ottawa.

The Rotary Clubs co-operating in this venture are the Rotary Club of Ottawa, Rotary Club of West Ottawa, Rotary Club of Ottawa South, Rotary Club of South Nepean, Rotary Club of Nepean-Kanata, Rotary Club of Ottawa Bytown, Rotary Club of Kanata Sunrise, and the Rotaract Club of Ottawa (university students' club).

Membership Classifications Needed

Home-Based Business Owner

Pharmacist

Hotel Manager

Restaurant Manager

Insurance Agent

School Principal

Builder-Developer

Automobile Dealer

Newspaper Editor

Electric Company Manager

Grocery Store Manager

Ambassador

Telephone Company Manager

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

www.pb-rotary.org www.rotary7620.org www.rotary.org

February 1, 2007 - Page 3

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

New Rotary Clubs Fueling Membership Growth

By Janis Young *Rotary World* 26 January 2007

According to a 2006 study of RI membership data, membership continues to decline in existing Rotary clubs, while new clubs are providing the foundation for growth. Today, the average club has 40 members, down from 45 members, as reported on a 2002 demographic study.

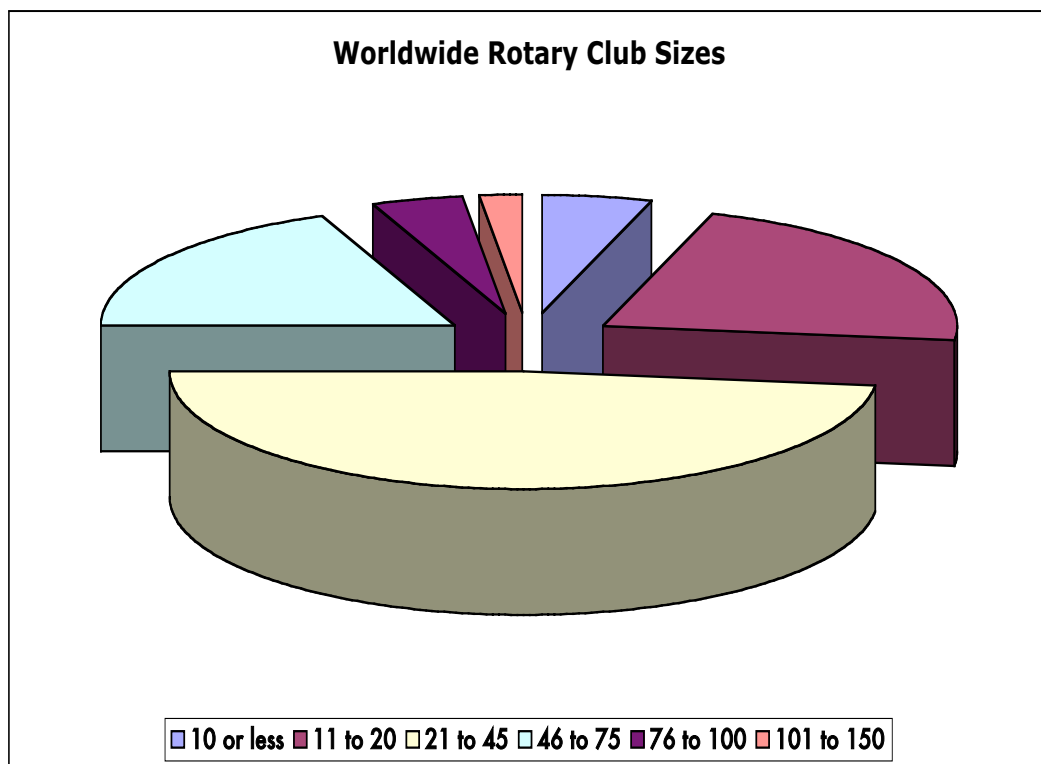
The 2006 study, conducted by RI's Membership Development Division, found that the most common club size is 20 members, the minimum requirement for chartering a new club. About 22 percent of clubs have fewer than 20 members, and 4 percent have fewer than 11.

As existing clubs become smaller, the number of new clubs is increasing – by 20 percent between 1995 and 2005 – which is leaving many districts with more clubs but fewer members. Although new clubs expand the breadth of Rotary service, this trend highlights the challenges of retention in existing clubs.

[Chris Offer](#), chair of RI's Membership Development Committee, attributes changing membership patterns to several factors. One

is action by the Council on Legislation that liberalized restrictions on club territory and lowered the number of members required to charter a new club to 20. Another factor is not making membership a club priority.

"Many clubs simply are not giving membership the attention it requires. It is not easy to recruit new members," Offer says. He points out that new clubs have energy, enthusiasm, and a clear goal to achieve in order to charter. "Membership recruitment cannot be a periodic campaign; rather, clubs must have active committees that work on



membership all the time.

Implementing the [Club Leadership Plan](#) is the best tactic for every club, Offer says. Having a membership committee that reports directly to the board "keeps membership on the top of the club's agenda."

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Students learn a lesson in law from Rotarians in Hong Kong

By Lisa Baker Rotary International News 12 January 2007 Photo courtesy of Hotung Secondary School, Hong Kong

Some Rotary clubs in Hong Kong decided the best way to teach some students a lesson was to take them to court – or at least a mock court.

As part of an adopt-a-school project, clubs in District 3450 (Hong Kong) worked with the Education and Manpower Bureau of Hong Kong to teach secondary school students about crime and punishment.

The clubs teamed up with their local schools to give students hands-on professional expertise. Ten clubs and nine schools participated and planned activities such as career talks, vocational visits, mentorship, and a mock trial, where the Rotary Club of Kingspark turned students at Hotung Secondary School into lawyers.

Alexander Mak, past district governor of District 3450, explained, “The main goal of the mock trial is to enable the students to understand the operation of our legal system, cultivate a critical way of thinking, broaden their exposure, make informed judgments toward civic and legal issues, and understand that many things can be looked at from different angles.”

Seventy students participated in two trials – one involving the case of someone accused of

breaking into a car and stealing money from it, and the other case involved the defendant allegedly possessing illegal drugs. The students were divided into four groups – each group was assigned to either the prosecution or defense of one of the trials.

To train the students, club members took them to a local police department. The policemen explained their duties – what equipment is at their disposal, how to handle suspects, and how to take and prepare witness statements.

Then both Rotarians and law experts helped train the students in honing their legal skills. The teams of prosecutors were trained by lawyers from the Department of Justice in Hong Kong. The two defense teams trained with a criminal barrister. Two police inspectors and one immigration officer also helped out as the prosecution’s witnesses.

The experts taught the students how to examine witnesses without asking leading questions, present evidential materials, argue before the court, and make closing statements.

“Although these students had no prior legal training, we managed to turn them into confident prosecution and defense lawyers,” said Mak.

The students did so well that Magistrate Adrian Ching, who served as the judge in both trials, said their performance was even



Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

better than some of the newly trained lawyers she saw in her court.

The mock trial program was so successful that more Rotary clubs and schools want to participate in the program next year. Mak is working on packaging the project so it can be easily replicated.

Furthermore, the students loved the experience. One student even plans to improve her English so she can attend law school.

Lee Declared Official Nominee For 2008-09 RI President

Rotary International News4 December 2006

RI President William B. Boyd declared Dong Kurn Lee to be the official nominee for president of Rotary International for 2008-09. Lee is a [Rotary Foundation](#) trustee and a



member of the Rotary Club of Seoul Hangang, Seoul, Korea. His formal election will take place at the [2007 Salt Lake City Convention](#).

Lee is chair of the Bubang Co. Ltd. and Bubang Techron Co. Ltd. manufacturing companies in Seoul and formerly served as a trustee of the Bank of Seoul. In 2005, he was appointed an international goodwill ambassador by the president of Korea.

Lee has also served as honorary consul to the Italian consulate in Korea since 1994 and was awarded the Order of Industrial Merit by the Korean government. He and his wife,

Young Ja, have two sons and two daughters.

A Rotarian since 1971, Lee has served RI as a director, treasurer, district governor, training leader, regional Rotary Foundation coordinator, and membership task force coordinator in Asia. He began his tenure on the Foundation's Board of Trustees in 2003-04 and is a recipient of the Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service.

World Understanding Month

Rotary International Statistics

Expenses for 2005-06 \$72.3M

Membership

1,222,788 Rotarians

32,756 Rotary Clubs

532 Rotary regional districts

200+ countries and geographic areas

Women in Rotary

168,000+ women Rotarians

24,373 clubs with woman members

Interact Clubs (14-18 years)

279,343 members Started in 1962

10,841 clubs

120 countries and geographical regions

Rotaract Clubs (18-30 years)

162,679 members Started in 1968

7,073 clubs

162 countries and geographical regions

Rotary Community Corps

6,206 corps members Started in 1986

74 countries and geographical regions

Rotary Youth Exchange

7,000+ youths participate annually

Started in 1929

115+ countries and regions involved in programs

www.pb-rotary.org www.rotary7620.org www.rotary.org

February 1, 2007 - Page 6