

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

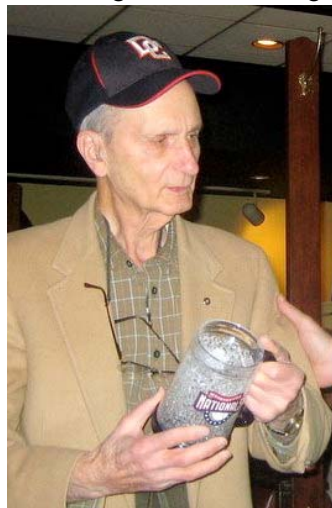
## Welcome New Member Alan Cookson



Our newest Rotarian was installed by **President Jerry Gross** at the meeting on February 8. **Dr. Alan Cookson** is Deputy Director of the Electronics and Electrical Research Laboratory at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Alan, British born and now a US citizen, was educated in physics and electrical engineering. His wife Elizabeth, also from the UK, is a very active volunteer in community activities. Alan has previous experience as a Rotarian from 1987 to 1992 in the Rotary Club of Churchill, a



borough of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Alans's sponsor, **Dick Gordon**, was honored as Rotarian of the month.



The program featured Vocational Service speakers including **Dick Alsmeyer, Alan Grant** and **Dick Gordon**. Thanks so

much to Steve Naron for taking photos at the meeting.



**Nadim Salti** brought a guest, Klaus-Dieter Ordemann, German Industry and Trade. **President Jerry Gross** presented Cindy at the

Sophia House homeless shelter with 30 brand new blankets. They were most appreciated.

## Meeting This Week

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"

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## Upcoming Events

- February 22 - 6:30pm Rotary Club Meeting  
*Nabil Bedewi Classification Talk*
- February 23 - Rotary's 102<sup>nd</sup> Birthday
- March 1 - 6:30pm Rotary Club Meeting  
*Shana Newman, Communications Manager, Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County*
- March 13 - 7pm Manna Center
- March 15 - 6:30pm Rotary Club Meeting  
*Howard Friedman, wine specialist at Calvert Woodley Wine Store, will speak on "What You Need to Know About Wines."*
- March 22 - 6:30pm Rotary Meeting  
*Alan Cookson Classification Talk*
- March 29 - 6:30pm Rotary Meeting  
*District Governor Pat Kasuda*
- April 10 - Community Service Night  
6pm Sophia House  
7pm Manna Center
- April 14 - International Night  
at the Japanese Embassy

## **International Night Set for April 14**

We received the final approval to hold our 27th Annual International Night at a fabulous setting in the Japanese Embassy on the evening of Saturday, April 14th. Please hold that date!

Our Ambassadorial Scholars, as always, will be the guests of honor. Please note that this is a special day, since the Cherry Blossom parade is in the morning. Round out a wonderful Japanese day with all the Ambassadorial Scholars, including the five 2006-7 students from Japan. For more information, contact Steve Naron, Chair, 2007 International Night Committee.

*We send get-well wishes to John Kasuda, husband of Rotary Governor Pat, who was hospitalized last week. John is scheduled to have a cardiac catheterization this week. He is improving daily and hopefully will have a full recovery. Our prayers are with you.*

## **You Are Invited to the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards This Weekend**

Over 160 high school students will join Rotaractors from District 7620 for a leadership and team building experience at Camp Letts in southern Anne Arundel County. Thanks to the generous contributions of the Rotary Clubs of our District, many students will have a life changing opportunity. Feel free to visit the camp and experience first hand the excitement of this fantastic experience. Camp begins on Friday February 16 at 4 pm and ends on Monday February 19 at 2 pm. The camp counselors would welcome your visit. If you have any questions please contact RYLA Chair, Judy Cappuccilli [jdcapp@verizon.net](mailto:jdcapp@verizon.net).

## **Rotary Day at Gallaudet University Wednesday, March 21, 2007**

### **Awards Luncheon - 12:00-2:00 PM**

At this year's event District 7620 Rotarians will award \$2,000 Rotary scholarships to 10 Gallaudet students chosen by the district's Gallaudet Scholarship Committee.

Rotary Day is annual event at Gallaudet, and includes an award luncheon (12-2 PM) at which District 7620 clubs award scholarships to deserving deaf students from Gallaudet.

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Attendees also learn about Gallaudet, the world's premier institution of higher education for deaf and hard of hearing students, tour the campus, meet Gallaudet students, conduct a mock job interview and enjoy a luncheon and possible keynote address by the Gallaudet President.



Since the program began in the mid-1970s District 7620 and its clubs have awarded some 175 scholarships to deserving Gallaudet students. It is now one of the 'signature' programs of our Rotary district and has been featured in the *Rotarian* magazine.

Don't miss this wonderful event! Cost is \$25 per person. Preregistration is required in order to have a head-count for the awards luncheon. Preregister by calling Chandra Dark, 202-651-5410, at Gallaudet not later than March 16.

If you'd like to participate in a tour or volunteer to conduct a mock/"practice" job interview for a Gallaudet student at the Career Center (with the aid of a sign language translator) before or after the awards luncheon, please let Chandra know when you call and she will give you additional details or answer other questions you may have.

## Success Story:

### **Indonesia Rises To The Challenge, Crushing An Imported Polio Outbreak**

By Anne E. Stein February 2007

In March 2005, a 20-month-old boy was brought to a clinic in West Java, Indonesia, with weakness in his legs. No one could have expected the cause to be polio - after all, the country had gone nearly a decade without a case of the virus. But the boy, Fikri Ramdani, had never received the polio vaccine, and when the National Polio Laboratory in Bandung identified the wild poliovirus, it was the first sign of a polio epidemic that would prove to be the country's largest ever recorded. The outbreak totaled 305 cases.

Low routine vaccination coverage, according to the World Health Organization, left the door open for the virus. Traced to northern Nigeria, it was most likely imported via Sudan by a migrant worker returning to Indonesia. Indonesia's dense population and poor sanitation system then allowed polio to spread quickly among unprotected children. Villages in poorer areas of Indonesia often have a single source of water for cooking, washing, and bathing.

But a swift and massive response by the Indonesian government, working closely with Rotary International, UNICEF, WHO, and other polio eradication partners, brought the outbreak under control in less than a year. In 2006, just two cases were reported, the most recent in February.

After Fikri's infection was confirmed, an immunization campaign was quickly

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launched. Children in four villages near Fikri's immediately received a dose of the oral polio vaccine, followed by a second dose four weeks later, as part of the country's outbreak response immunization plan. In May and June, two rounds of mop-up campaigns targeted 6.4 million children under age five in three surrounding provinces.

The number of polio cases in Indonesia peaked in June, when 116 were confirmed. But the immunization effort was far from over. Four subsequent National Immunization Days (NIDs) reached nearly 24 million children across the country, and three Subnational Immunization Days (SNIDs) were carried out in high-risk districts.

"The geographical and logistical challenge of repeatedly reaching 24 million children across 6,000 inhabited islands with vaccine meant that halting the outbreak of polio in Indonesia was never going to be easy," says Dr. Georg Petersen, country representative for WHO Indonesia. "But the immediate response by the Indonesian government, who quickly realized the gravity of the situation, supported by polio partners like WHO, went a long way in limiting the virus's spread."

Rotary District 3400 has worked closely with the government and other polio partners since 1986 to kick polio out of Indonesia and keep it out. Over the past two decades, The Rotary Foundation's PolioPlus program has provided grants of more than US\$13 million to procure vaccine, set up cold chains, purchase lab equipment, train volunteers, and educate and mobilize citizens to ensure that every child in Indonesia receives the vaccine. During the

most recent outbreak, PolioPlus allocated \$460,227 for training, transportation, and other activities for the five NIDs and the mop-up campaign.

During each of the NIDs, an army of 750,000 vaccinators, health workers, and volunteers spread out across the country. In some of the more remote provinces, such as Aceh and Papua, health teams walked for days to reach mountain villages. To facilitate community support, Indonesian authorities worked with dozens of nongovernmental organizations and established a network of mobile vaccination teams to ensure that children traveling through train stations, bus stations, airports, and harbors weren't skipped.

"We worked very hard with the Ministry of Health and our polio partners to respond quickly to the outbreak," says Dr. Ritje Rihatinah, chair of the Indonesia PolioPlus Committee. With a strong infrastructure in place - 23 area coordinators working with 10 to 12 Rotary clubs each, and a PolioPlus task force for each club - Indonesian Rotarians were ready.

"When the outbreak happened, we did social mobilization," explains Rihatinah, a member of the Rotary Club of Bali Sanur and 2004-05 governor of District 3400. "Every club went to their area's community leaders to disseminate information, to health centers, and house to house to immunize children."

Rotarians spoke on television and radio programs to promote immunization, an especially important step after some media outlets reported rumors that the vaccine had

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paralyzed and even killed children. Rotarians also traveled through high-risk areas on motorbikes, using megaphones to urge parents to get children immunized.



**Indonesia PolioPlus chair Rihatinah, left, helps in the mop-up campaign.**

Rotarians from Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand also participated in the NIDs. Rotary clubs provided leg braces and wheelchairs to paralyzed children and gave meals to those who came to be immunized.

From May 2005 to October 2006, two mop-up rounds, five NIDs, and three SNIDs were conducted. Given the small number of cases recorded in 2006, the outlook is favorable, Rihatinah says. But there's still much left to do. The government's measles immunization program this month will offer children an additional dose of polio vaccine, and if additional funds become available, more NIDs may be conducted this year.

In a report she wrote on Indonesia's polio immunization campaign, Rihatinah offers several recommendations from District 3400

for future NIDs. These include initiating social mobilization efforts, such as distributing posters to immunization locations; holding media briefings on the local level; training health workers, volunteers, vaccinators, and community leaders to effectively promote the NIDs; making polio vaccination, along with other routine vaccinations, mandatory for all newborns; administering the vaccine to children entering the country without proof of prior vaccination; and requiring children starting school to provide evidence of vaccination.

District 3400, Rihatinah reports, will continue its efforts "until all the children are immunized and the spread of the poliovirus curbed."

## **Shoot For The Stars**

### **Stop! Enter the Rotarian Photo Contest!**

*The Rotarian* February 2007

Still haven't entered the *Rotarian* photo contest? It's not too late! Pull out those great shots you took of your fellow Rotarians in action, of people you met or places you went on a Rotary club project, and send them in! But don't delay - the deadline to enter is 1 March 2007.

**Please Pay Your Invoice  
For The First Quarter Of 2007  
To President Elect Don Smith  
10805 Admirals Way  
Potomac, MD 20854**

**Potomac-Bethesda International Rotary Club**

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