

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

- February 22 - 6:30pm Rotary Club Meeting
Nabil Bedewi Classification Talk
- February 23 - Rotary's 102nd Birthday
- March 1 - 6:30pm Rotary Club Meeting
Shana Newman, Communications Manager, Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County
- March 8 - 6:30pm Rotary Meeting
Alan Cookson Classification Talk; Liz Cookson Smithsonian American Art Museum
- 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 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

February 15 Club Meeting Report

Our speaker was Carol Jordan, Director of Communicable Disease, Epidemiology and Public Health Emergency Planning for the Department of Health and Human Services in Montgomery County, Maryland. Carol is a nurse by training and has a Master's Degree in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University. She has worked for over 25 years in local public health and in international health programs in Pakistan, Thailand, and Haiti.



Montgomery County is taking steps to prepare for a possible outbreak of H5N1 Avian Flu, more popularly known as the Bird Flu.

Question: The general

consensus is that U.S. state and local authorities are not prepared to deal with an outbreak of bird flu in their jurisdictions. Is that true? **Carol:** No one is totally prepared, but we have made significant strides in readiness with the "all hazards" planning done to date. We are working with state, local and regional entities for issues such as

communication to the public, isolation and quarantine, dispensing clinics, school issues and issues dealing with economic and social order. **Question:** Since an infected person can essentially board a trans-Atlantic flight to

Maryland tomorrow, are you currently prepared to handle the report of such a case? **Carol:** Yes. Public health has an excellent reputation and skills in infection control, and disease investigation and surveillance, and has good working relationships with the local hospitals and our local Homeland Security Department. In addition, in our county, we have a hospital



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collaborative committee that works together on issues related to surge capacity, mass isolation and communication strategies. We have actually had real time scenarios with businessmen returning from China with a flu-like illness. This required us to go through all the steps of dealing with the hospitals, federal agencies, military hospital, the state, the Centers for Disease Control and others to drill down to a diagnosis, and determine a plan of action. Luckily, it was not Avian flu or SARS. **Question:** *With the apparent shortage of vaccines, who would be on the shortlist of recipients should an epidemic occur in your county?* **Carol:** We are waiting for clear guidance on this from the Centers for Disease Control and there are always many unknowns with an emerging disease, but more than likely the short list would be those likely to suffer serious consequences—the elderly and the very young, and of course, the health care workers dealing directly with the infected patients, public health and other first responders and those necessary to maintain social order and the continuity of government. One of the difficult aspects will be to get critical workers to report to work even though we cannot offer them prophylactic treatment or a vaccination. It's possible that antivirals, such as Tamiflu may be available, but this also is uncertain. **Question:** *Is there anything that people should be doing ahead of time?* **Carol:** We are working diligently to encourage citizens to make a family plan, to understand the concept of sheltering in place, to get an emergency kit together, etc. A lot of community education needs to take place as citizens are confused about the



Welcome Chris Good, the new manager of Chevy Chase Bank in Potomac. Chris was wearing his Rotary badge from the Princeton Corridor Club in New Jersey. He would like to continue to be a Rotarian here in Potomac.

normal flu versus the Avian flu and don't understand why a vaccine can't be manufactured quickly. We are targeting special needs populations and working with the gatekeepers of service organizations who deal with vulnerable populations. Our message is self-sufficiency and following the directions given by the government in order to contain the spread of disease. **Question:** *The Bush administration is prepared to use the military to enforce a mass quarantine if an outbreak does occur. Will this measure effectively contain the outbreak? Why or Why not?* **Carol:** Pandemic flu defies all the odds that people will voluntarily quarantine or isolate themselves for such an extended period of time. It is clear that we may need some degree of military presence to enforce mass quarantine for long periods of time. There is no way to guarantee 100% compliance and I believe that people are more likely to comply with quarantine if their daily needs are met and if they feel their civil liberties have not been violated. The military command and control method will probably not sit well with most people, but we will be dealing with such masses of people that the local law enforcement would never be able to enforce on their own.

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U.S. News Program Spotlights Rotarian's Commitment To Afghan Children

Rotary International News 12 February 2007

On 9 February, the U.S. news program *NBC Nightly News* featured the efforts of Rotarian Fary Moini as part of the show's "Making a Difference" series.

The report focused on how Moini worked with her club, the Rotary Club of La Jolla Golden Triangle (San Diego), to construct a school equipped with a science lab, library, and computer room for 2,000 children in Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

Moini has led her club in a series of community service projects in the war-torn country. An Iranian-born U.S. citizen, Moini has traveled to the region six times, often as a Rotary Volunteer, with support from Rotary Foundation programs.

The following is the article from the MSNBC website:

Woman Dedicates Herself To Opening A School In War-Torn Jalalabad

By Jim Maceda Correspondent NBC News

Updated: 1:54 p.m. ET Feb 13, 2007

JALALABAD, Afghanistan - Two years ago, there were just a couple of tents here in the Jalalabad desert. Now the La Jolla Golden

Triangle Rotary Club School is a red brick building with 2,000 students, thanks to Fary Moini, a tiny Iranian-American with a big heart whom the kids call "Mama Fairy."

"She's like our mother because she cares so much for us," says one student.

Moini became a U.S. citizen 20 years ago, settling in San Diego.

But it was the war in Afghanistan that changed her life. As a Rotary Club volunteer, she saw illiteracy and neglect, firsthand, inside Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan.

"The whole idea came to my mind that I have to help these people," says Moini.

That idea: Giving Afghan boys and

girls, who were banned from school by the Taliban, a new life — through learning.

Back in San Diego, fellow Rotarians reacted like architect Rick Clark.

"When she said, 'Is there any way we can build a school in Afghanistan?' we just sort of rolled our eyes," says Clark.

But, inspired — some say bruised — by Moini's sheer will, Clark drew up the plans and others helped raise \$250,000.

On opening day in 2004, Moini was overcome with emotion.



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"The lines and lines of boys and girls," recalls Moini. "It's a view I'll cherish the rest of my life."

Opening this mixed school was hard enough, but keeping it open – and safe – is even more daunting. After all, this is a war zone, and the area was once a Taliban stronghold.

U.S. forces needn't warn Moini about insurgents. She's already had two close calls on visits here, but remains defiant.

"If we will stop, we give them the power," says Moini. "And I will not allow that."

Instead, "Mama Fairy" is making a difference in a hostile land, tending to a new generation of Afghans she calls her own.

In New Orleans, Rotarians Chart Ways To Address Calamities

By Vukoni Lupa-Lasaga Rotary International News
9 February 2007

A disaster response workshop in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, attracted more than 200 participants, many of them Rotarians with experience in providing emergency relief and rebuilding communities in distress. Senior Rotary leaders, including RI President William B. Boyd and RI President-elect Wilfrid J. Wilkinson, also attended.

The 11-13 January event was aimed at discussing best practices, strategies, and management skills that Rotarian volunteers can apply to increase their effectiveness in responding to disasters.

"The workshop showed us that we need to coordinate, cooperate, and communicate among ourselves and other organizations

wishing to respond in a disaster," explained RI Director Donald L. Mebus, who convened the workshop with RI Directors Barry Rassin and Robert Stuart Jr.

Donald Chauvin, who chaired the workshop, said the event was a great opportunity to share experiences and create more awareness about the different ways Rotarians can help when disaster strikes. He was governor of District 6200 (Louisiana) when much of the Gulf Coast, including New Orleans, was heavily damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

"We wanted to elicit an opinion on what Rotary's role should be in the event of a disaster and how to measure our response," Chauvin said.

Seven facilitators, including several past district governors with disaster response experience, led discussions during breakout sessions. Topics included defining Rotary's role, planning and preparing, working with other organizations, communicating and publicizing, harnessing the Rotary network, and utilizing district and club foundations.

The facilitators assembled a panel of experts to help answer audience questions and comment on participants' suggestions for addressing disasters. "It was important to hear what our diverse audience had to say about relief aid provided through Rotary," Chauvin said.

Tom Henderson, a member of the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard, England, and founder of the emergency relief organization ShelterBox, said the workshop provided a great

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networking opportunity and was very well organized.

"I know from my conversations that many district governors and other Rotary officers greatly benefited from the conference and were going back to their respective districts and areas to reflect and plan for potential disaster relief," he noted.

One such leader is Richard McCombe, governor-elect of District 7020, which spans 10 countries and geographical areas, including the Bahamas and U.S. Virgin Islands. "Our plan is to have a disaster relief plan in place by the end of Rotary year 2007-08, which takes into account all the learned lessons from the workshop," he explained.

After the event, participants toured New Orleans neighborhoods and other Gulf Coast areas in Louisiana and Mississippi that haven't yet recovered from the hurricanes.

"The tour proved to be a sobering moment for all as they witnessed miles and miles of total devastation," noted Chauvin. "The reality of what had happened on August 29, 2005, began to sink in as a vivid picture of what a disaster in their hometowns might look like."

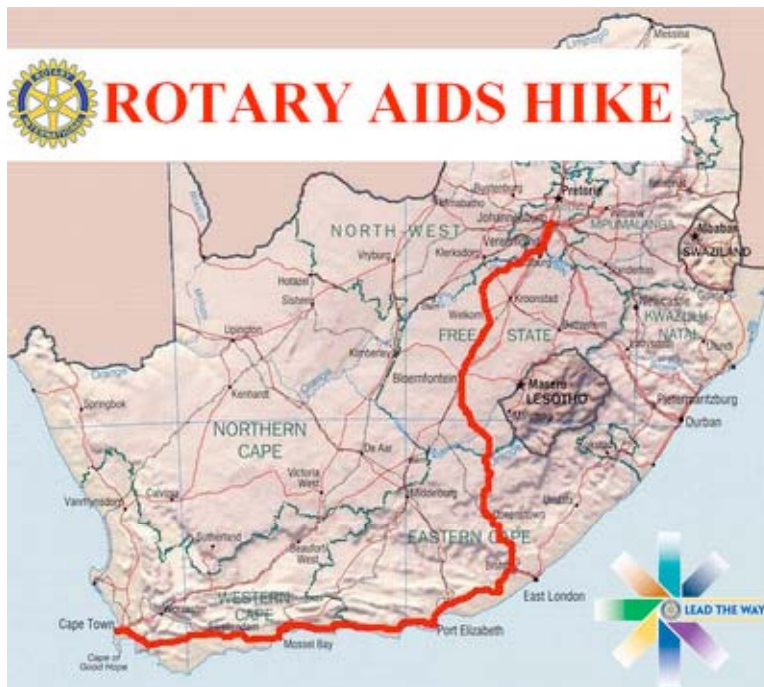


Volunteerism Is Alive And Young During AIDS Hike

By Vukoni Lupa-Lasaga Rotary International News
30 January 2007

An international team of six students at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, hiked for 20 days in December to raise almost

US\$10,000 for AIDS orphans. The group of four Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholars and two other students also raised public awareness of the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS.



Passing through stunningly beautiful landscapes and, in places, hair-raising cliffs and dangerous, jellyfish-infested beaches, the team walked 1,250 miles in relay from Johannesburg to Cape Town.

"[The hike] was an experience of a lifetime, and something we shall all remember for the rest of our lives," says

Kelly Lewis, an Ambassadorial Scholar from Wheeler, New York, USA.

The hikers found the effort more challenging than they had anticipated. They were beset

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with blisters, leg injuries, sunburns, and body rashes. Good fortune, however, helped them. Along the way, they met a pharmacist and a doctor who provided free medical treatment for team members.

“One of the amazing things during the hike was that at the end of the day, we would be all sore and bleeding and ready to drop, but we kept meeting inspiring people,” says Ambassadorial Scholar Keegan Kautzky, from Perry, Iowa, USA.

One example was a 78-year-old woman who works with vulnerable children. Her energy and dedication were a powerful reminder of why the team was walking. Kautzky recalls how moved they were to meet some of the AIDS-affected children in her care.

During such encounters, residents, including toddlers and Rotarians, would join the students for part of the way. Plentiful media coverage and presentations by the hikers generated much interest and awareness. The team’s white support van, decorated with logos and signs, usually also attracted attention as it passed through towns.

“A lot of Rotary clubs made big donations,” says Kautzky. “People stopped us to make contributions.”



Kautzky adds that one man even tracked them down to make a donation, the day after hearing a radio interview with hiker Ryan McDonnell, an Ambassadorial Scholar from Boston.

Although the hike is over, it has inspired further action. For example, Brittany Jungck, a University of Northern Iowa employee who

knows Kautzky from high school, is organizing an event to raise funds and awareness about Africa’s HIV/AIDS crisis. The group hopes to achieve its original fundraising goal of more than \$22,000 for projects sponsored by the Rotarian action group Rotarians for

Fighting AIDS.

“We were all a bit surprised about the response we did get,” Lewis notes.

The team also included Ikumi Maekawa, an Ambassadorial Scholar from Ena-shi, Tokai, Japan, and Ruan Koorts, from Pretoria, South Africa, and Jacob Maboja, from Nairobi, Kenya.

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