

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

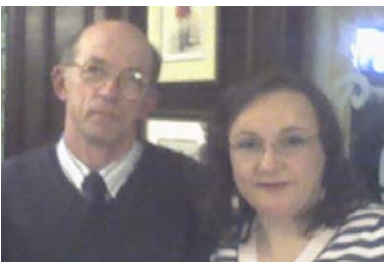
## March 1 Club Meeting Report

Welcome back home to **Todd Nitkin** and **Hugo Souza**.

**International Night is April 14.** Please let **Steve Naron** know the number of people in your party. Cost for this very special evening at the **Japanese Embassy** is only \$60 for great food, wine, and program. **Please make your reservation A.S.A.P.: Limited To Only 80 People.** All members will be charged for one person at the international night.

**We send special get-well wishes** to **Karen Bedewi** and **Gladys Howard**.

**Welcome Guests: Klaus Osbourne** (second visit) and **Anna and Peter Dell'Aquila**



We'd love to see other guests again including Chris, Kathy, Vivek, Maria, Vray  
**Community Service Ministry - April 10**

We will be providing dinner meals: entrees/vegetables/starch/salad/rolls/dessert /drinks to 35 homeless men and women. We need around 7-10 volunteers to help prepare, serve and participate in the project. Let's give back to those less fortunate..

**\$170.00 Happy Dollars:** collected by Sgt at Arms-**Art Blitz**.

**Dues:** Our Treasurer **Hugo** is back - please remember to pay your dues for the first quarter ending March 31, 2007.

## Tonight's Program

**Elizabeth Cookson** will make a presentation on the Smithsonian Portrait Museum and her husband **Alan**, our newest Rotarian, will give his classification talk. Both **Elizabeth** and **Alan** are originally



from England. **Alan** is Deputy Director of the Electronics and Electrical Research Laboratory at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. **Elizabeth** is a very active volunteer. Let's all give a warm Potomac-Bethesda Rotary welcome to this wonderful couple.



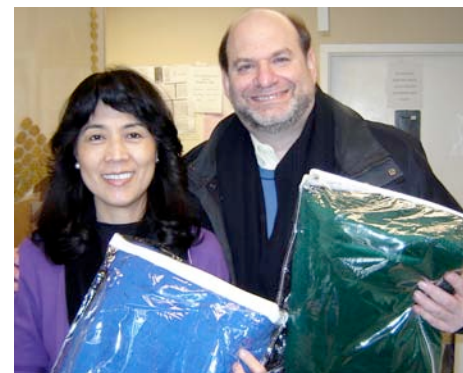
**Dear Potomac-Bethesda Rotarians,**

**The ladies of Sophia House were so very happy to receive the 30 BRAND NEW AND BEAUTIFUL BLANKETS you donated last month.**

**Your generosity, along with the knowledge that you were thinking of them, meant the world to them.**

**We all thank you for this most recent Kindness.**

**Cindy Hall,  
Volunteer  
Coordinator**



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## Calendar for March and April

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 Club Meeting  
Nabil Bedewi Classification Talk

March 29 – 6:30pm Rotary Meeting  
District Governor Pat Kasuda

April 5 – 6:30pm Rotary Club Meeting

April 10 – Community Service Night  
6pm Sophia House  
7pm Manna Center

April 12 – No meeting

April 14 – International Night  
at the Japanese Embassy

### From District Governor Pat Kasuda:

*I want to share with all of you a letter that was sent to Neil Young, from the current President of the Dushanbe Rotary Club in Tajikistan. Alisher was in the United States several years and visited Neil Young of the Towsontowne Rotary. Neil took him to a Rotary meeting and Alisher was so impressed with Rotary that he returned to his country and started the first Rotary Club there. The club has become very active in water management projects, mental health clinics and most recently in the care of HIV babies. Alisher visited the Baltimore Rotary club about a year ago and remains in contact with our District. I was so proud of a young man, so dedicated to the welfare of so many others. Several clubs from our District have been working with him on the HIV babies project. We have also supported water*

*management projects.*

*Recently, Peter Kyle from the Capitol Hill Rotary visited Tajikistan and this club and you can see by the following email that our District has made quite an impression on this individual and many throughout his country.*

*This makes Rotary's global world really a "small world after all."*

*Yours in Service, Pat Kasuda*

*Dear Neil and Nancy,*

*Today I spoke to Sevara from Guli Surh NGO that is working on our HIV project. They have visited all the families by now. On Friday they will send me a full report with health status update and pictures of babies and mothers. I will make sure that over the weekend you will get the English version from me.*

*Next week we are having the Rotary District Governor visit us from Turkey for the first time ever. Both he and us are very excited! Who could know a few years ago that our Rotary Club of Dushanbe dream will become a reality?*

*Last week, at our regular Rotary meeting we had a visiting Rotarian, who was making up his rotary meeting. His name is Peter Kyle and he is from MD-DC district and incoming president of his club. He knows Pat Kasuda and he knows Neil. I emailed him today asking him to pass our greetings and thanks to Pat and also to communicate to his district that our club is very thankful. He was able to witness the daily life of our club, the spirit and the faith that we have.*

*Yours, Alisher*

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## **Second Chance Inspires Lifesaving Project**

By Tonya Weger Rotary International News  
22 February 2007

Four years ago, Randy High was the recipient of a kidney donation, which granted him a second chance at life. Inspired by this life-altering experience, he adopted an organ donation program for his club, the Rotary Club of Eastern Independence, Missouri, USA.

"I can't think of a larger gift of compassion," the club's president says of organ donations. "Now I want to help educate other people through our Rotary project."

According to his wife, Leslie, a member of the same club, a childhood illness damaged her husband's kidneys, causing them to fail almost a half century later. Within a week of physicians informing him of seriousness of his condition, High suffered a cardiac arrest.

"I told Randy, 'I'm going to give you my kidney,' " Leslie High says. "We don't have children – it has always just been us." Fortunately, her kidney was a suitable match.

High says he can't thank his wife enough, so he's making the most of the life she gave him. The Donate Life project he started "is a little payback. Someone did this for me, now I have to give back," he explains.

As a part of the Donate Life project, High tells his story to fellow Rotarians in hope that they will sign up as donors. The Highs and other Eastern Independence Rotarians are currently visiting clubs in District 6040 in Missouri. "We have talked with nearly 1,000 Rotarians

now," Leslie High says.

They also have received requests from other districts and want to expand the program to the community. "We would like to speak with college students and high school students who are old enough to take part in organ donation," explains High.

Additionally, the club has prepared a PowerPoint presentation, a video, and a script so other clubs can take part in the project.

"The Donate Life project is economical," High explains. "It's inexpensive, but has incredible impact."

According to Donate Life America, a U.S. not-for-profit alliance of national organizations and local coalitions, almost 100,000 men, women, and children currently need life-saving organ transplants.

In June, the Eastern Independence club received a Significant Achievement Award from District 6040 for its efforts with the Donate Life project.

"This is something everyone can take part in," High says. "In our club, everyone administers the programs or gives presentations." The club also has a 100 percent sign up rate for organ donation.

According to the Highs, Rotarian response has been so great it has amazed those at partner organization Midwest Transplant Network. "We have about a 40 percent return of the signature forms, and many people take them home and send them in later," Leslie High says. "Our contact at the organization told me there is not a day they don't receive a form from a Rotarian."

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## **Clubs Empower Guatemala's Children With Books, Computers**

By Dean Golemis *Rotary World* 2 March 2007

U.S. Rotarian Glenn Chamberlain has traveled to Guatemala 11 times since 2000. His annual visits are supporting a decade-old literacy project that is helping impoverished school children sharpen their reading and computer skills.

A member of the Rotary Club of Ephrata, Washington, Chamberlain travels to the country's poor rural areas to identify schools that can benefit from the self-sustaining Guatemala Literacy Project, or GLP. Months later, he returns with a team of Rotarians and other volunteers to deliver the needed textbooks, computers, and other supplies. More than 260 Rotary clubs in North and Central America support the project, in partnership with the U.S.-based nonprofit Cooperative for Education.

"We are targeting the Mayan population, who are the poorest of the poor," says Chamberlain, who is one of the project's coordinators. "The vast number of people living in the country have no electricity and indoor plumbing. Without literacy, they will never be able to have a better life."

Torn by three decades of civil war, Guatemala has been suffering from one of the highest illiteracy rates in the Western Hemisphere. A 2003 study by the World Bank found an illiteracy rate as high as 60 percent in rural Guatemala, compared to the country's overall rate of 30 percent.

But that's changing. The GLP has cut the dropout rate in half at participating schools, according to a 2005 study by Marroquin University in Guatemala City. The yearlong study of 10 schools notes that students "experience increased interest in their schoolwork as a result of having access to books," allowing them to study at home.

Since the GLP started in 1996, Rotarians and their partners have delivered more than 120,000 math, science, language, and social studies textbooks to about 23,500 Spanish-speaking students in 135 schools. The project has also established 17 mini-libraries and 16 computer centers, which are providing 8,700 high school students with the skills they need to secure technology-based jobs that will lift them out of poverty.

Chamberlain says the GLP owes its longevity to strong Rotarian support and the project's self-sustaining system. Each student pays a small annual fee to rent four textbooks and use a computer center. The money is placed in a five-year revolving fund that is used to replace worn-out books and equipment.

The project's success has attracted other donors, including Microsoft, which in April presented a US\$255,000 grant for computers and software.

You may find project information and sign up for delivery tours at [www.guatemalaliteracy.org](http://www.guatemalaliteracy.org).

**Send your photos and articles to  
[Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov](mailto:Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov)  
for inclusion in the  
Rotary Club newsletter.**

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## **From President Jerry...**

A man was flying from Seattle to San Francisco. Unexpectedly, the plane was diverted to Sacramento along the way. The flight attendant explained that there would be a delay, and if the passengers wanted to get off the aircraft the plane would reboard in 50 minutes.

Everybody got off the plane except one lady who was blind. The man had noticed her as he walked by and could tell the lady was blind because her Seeing Eye dog lay quietly underneath the seats in front of her throughout the entire flight.

He could also tell she had flown this very flight before because the pilot approached her, and calling her by name, said, "Kathy, we are in Sacramento for almost an hour. Would you like to get off and stretch your legs?" The blind lady replied, "No thanks, but maybe my dog would like to stretch his legs."

Picture this: All the people in the gate area came to a complete standstill when they looked up and saw the pilot walk off the plane with a Seeing Eye dog! The pilot was even wearing sunglasses. People scattered. They not only tried to change planes, but they were trying to change airlines!

True story.... Have a great day and remember... THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS AS THEY APPEAR..

## **From RI President Bill Boyd:**

A quick note on the Salt Lake City Convention. Some of the events are now close to sellouts, which, does not mean that you should not come but that you should register as soon as possible. We have some great speakers, all related to Rotary, and Mr. **Bill Gates** senior is one of them. **Hiram Smith**, the inspirational partner in Franklin Covey, is another special speaker who will talk on Rotary service, and **Steven R. Covey** has offered a free workshop. Those of you who read business books will know that these two Rotarian gentlemen are recognized as among the top motivational business speakers/coaches in the U.S. You may not recognize the names of some of the other

Rotary speakers, but you will, by the time you leave the convention! We do have top speakers for you. The housing block is booking up, but we still have about 1000 rooms available.

Please pass this message on to your club Presidents and the Rotarians of your district, as we know that they will have a great time at the Salt Lake City Convention of 2007.

Thank you for your support, and all that you are doing for Rotary.

Regards, Bill



**Register for the Rotary International Convention Online at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)**

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