

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Upcoming Rotary Events

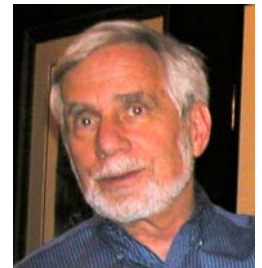
- March 22 - 6:30pm Rotary Club Meeting
Nabil Bedewi Classification Talk
- March 29 - 6:30pm Special Club Meeting
District Governor Pat Kasuda
- April 5 - 6:30pm Rotary Club Meeting
- April 10 - Community Service Night-Rockville
6pm Sophia House, 12250B Wilkins Avenue
7pm Manna Center, 614 Lofstrand Lane
- April 12 - No meeting
- April 14 - International Night at the Japanese Embassy
- April 19 - 6:30pm Rotary Club Meeting
Ned Leonard, "Future Coal and Energy Under Carbon Sequestration"
- April 26 - 6:30pm Kenwood Country Club
Group Study Exchange Team from Russia
- May 3 - 6:30pm Rotary Club Meeting
Capt. Michael Rojas: "Salvation Army Services in Montgomery County."
- May 4-6 District Conference
For room reservations contact the Solomons Holiday Inn Select, 410-326-6311. Register under the block of rooms provided for the Rotary District 7620 Conference
[See page 2 for More Information]



May 5 - District Assembly (See Page 2)

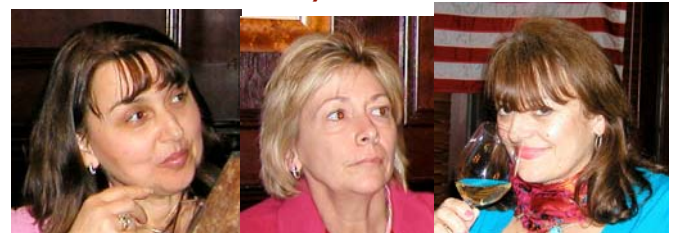
March 15 Meeting Report:

Thanks again to our expert speaker on wines, **Howard Friedman**, from the Calvert Woodley store. Howard said the best wine values are from Europe, South America and Australia.



Some of the cost of wines is related to the value of the land on which the grapes are grown and the size of the crop produced. There is no effect on the wine if screw tops are used and they are usually more reliable than corks. He described his special interest in Spanish wines. The evening was topped off with the tasting of two wines.

Thanks so much to **Kathy Tassis** for bringing guests **Elizabeth Glines** and **Pamela Glass**. Elizabeth is a Vice President at Sandy Spring Bank and Pamela is Washington correspondent for WorkBoat. We welcome you all and look forward to your return very soon. (From left: Kathy, Elizabeth and Pamela)



Best wishes to **Hugo Souza** for a speedy recovery! We give a warm welcome to **Ted Asfaw's** family who are visiting from Kansas City. We also send our sympathy to Ted on the death of his father in Zimbabwe. **Noel Howard** reported that Gladys is doing better. On April 10 we serve dinner for 35 homeless people at the Sophia House. Please contact **Noel Howard** to sign up. (continued on p.2)

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We missed [Anna and Peter DelAquila](#) last week – come back soon.

It's time to start practicing your painting and drywall skills as our annual Jewish Group Homes project is coming up in early May.

If you haven't had a chance to pay your club dues, please mail or give to Don Smith.

Potomac-Bethesda International Rotary Club

Don't Miss the District Conference Being Held This Year in Solomons, Maryland, May 4 to 6

Our annual District Conference will take place May 4-6, 2007 at Solomon's Island, Maryland. This promises to be an outstanding and exciting Rotary Event. This will also be the first time our District Conference has been led by our First Lady District Governor of District 7620.

The District Assembly is being held in conjunction with the District Conference on Saturday morning, May 5. The purpose of the District Assembly is to prepare incoming Rotary Club leaders for their roles, but everyone is invited to participate. The morning begins with a sumptuous breakfast buffet followed at 8:45 am by presentations on the 2007-2008 Rotary International theme, district strategic planning, and program goals for the upcoming Rotary year. Keynote speaker, Past District Governor Sandra Duckworth from Virginia, will give a very motivating message to close the morning plenary session. Beginning at 10:30 am there will be breakout sessions for each club officer,

lane director, and club leaders. Whether you are interested in building club membership, having the best club programs, planning excellent fundraisers, increasing Rotary Foundation participation, improving your club bulletin, being a better Sergeant at Arms, learning about Interact, Rotaract, Youth Exchange, RYLA and other programs, this time is for you! Don't miss this great opportunity to gear up for the new Rotary year!

Registration forms will be mailed as part of the District Conference package within the next ten days, to each Rotarian. Please encourage your fellow 2007-08 club leaders to attend. It is particularly important that the incoming president-elect and incoming secretary both attend. As you can see from the agenda of breakout sessions (see page 9), there will be programs for most other club offices and committees as well. Attendees are expected to register for breakfast, and are encouraged to stay for the Four-Way Test Speech Contest luncheon which follows the Assembly.

General questions regarding the District Conference may be addressed to Ed Underriner. Specific queries relating to the Assembly program should be directed to PDG Bob Nelson.

**Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club
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!***

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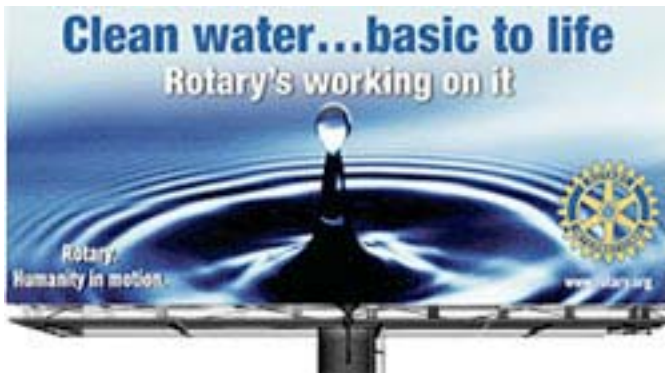
Today is World Water Day

By Joseph Derr and Bettina Kozlowski RI News

The world marks World Water Day on 22 March. Rotary clubs and districts are encouraged to celebrate World Water Day by initiating discussions, taking part in community events, and kicking off their own water-related service projects.

Rotarians in District 6900 (Georgia, USA) will participate in two community walks in Atlanta and Columbus to help raise awareness of water issues.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the UN agency that is coordinating World Water Day 2007 activities, is hosting a ceremony on 22 March at its headquarters in Rome.



Why water?

Nearly 20 percent of the world population doesn't have access to safe and clean drinking water, while 2.6 billion live without basic sanitation facilities. These problems exacerbate the spread of preventable waterborne illnesses that result in the death of about 6,000 people every day, the majority of whom are children. Water issues are said to be leading contributors to worldwide poverty and social instability.

According to the FAO, water use has grown twice as fast as the population has increased in the last century. This means that more regions are chronically short of potable water. This year's World Water Day theme of "Coping With Water Scarcity" helps highlight this issue.

What Are Rotary Clubs Doing?

Water projects have been a major focus of Rotary club and district projects for years. Rotary International presidents, including current RI President William B. Boyd, have emphasized tackling water issues.

A Rotary project is helping a small community near San Pablo, Ecuador, get potable water as part of a series of ongoing service projects. With support of other clubs in their districts, the Rotary Club of Flemington, New Jersey, USA, (District 7150) and its host partner, the Rotary Club of Guayaquil Centenario, Ecuador, (District 7510), have just embarked on a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant project to extend a public water line from a neighboring community to benefit some 156 villagers. Previous Rotary projects in the community included the construction of 39 new homes with electricity and setting up a medical clinic.

Just five years ago, the village of Sayod, Tajikistan, sat on miles of barren ground and its residents were among thousands living in high-altitude valleys without access to clean water for their families, livestock, or land. After helping former interns start the country's first Rotary club in Dushanbe, John Capece of the Rotary Club of LaBelle, Florida, a hydrologic engineer, spearheaded a Rotary

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project that uses gravity to deliver fresh water from the mountains without the need for electricity. The project, now under expansion, will provide water to 15,000 Tajiks.

Last Chance To Enjoy Discounted Registration For The 2007 RI Convention

Rotary International News 14
March 2007

Time is running out to enjoy discounted registration fees for the 2007 RI Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, 17-20 June. Although, you can register on-site, you'll save 10 percent if you sign up online by 31 March. After that date, you can still register online through 31 May, but at on-site prices.

In addition, registration for all RI-ticketed events closes on 31 March. Please note, many of the RI luncheons have sold out, including the RI President's Recognition, President-elect Leadership, Paul Harris Fellows, and Rendez-vous in the Rockies luncheons. Any tickets that become available through cancellations or refunds will be sold on-site at the convention on a first-come, first-served basis.



Each Rotary convention offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make new friends, network with Rotarians from around the world, and enjoy top-notch speakers and entertainment. Here are some of the highlights for the 2007 RI Convention:

Peace Symposium

This year, Rotary introduces a new preconvention feature, the Rotary World Peace Symposium, which offers a unique opportunity to learn about and discuss Rotary's peace programs. Meet some of the fascinating program alumni of the Rotary Centers for International Studies and Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program, and learn how they are contributing to world peace. Furthermore, the symposium provides an opportunity to network with fellow Rotarians on peace-related projects.

Special Guests

William Gates Sr., father of Microsoft founder Bill Gates, is a special guest speaker during the third plenary session on Tuesday, 19 June. Gates, a retired

attorney, is a co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which works to "reduce inequities and improve lives around the world" and is a major private foundation contributor to polio eradication efforts. The honorary member of the Rotary Club of

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Seattle will speak at the convention about the role of charitable foundations.

Other convention speakers include Jenny Horton, a former Australian Youth Exchange student who, inspired by Rotary and its polio eradication efforts, later became a Rotarian and a World Health Organization consultant. You'll also hear from Tom Ristimaki, a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar who has been involved in Rotary as a Youth Exchange student, RYLA winner, and RYLA staffer. His experiences led him to devote two years to community service in Canada. Francis Molo, South African high commissioner to India and former Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar, will speak on the theme for the session: "Rotary In Action." And Hyrum Smith will inspire attendees to get more out of life and work through values-based time and life management.

Special guest Stephen Covey, author of the bestselling book *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, will lead a workshop on the final day of the convention.

Performer Donny Osmond and renowned New Zealand opera singer Dame Malvina Major will open and close the event.

Learn more about the 2007 RI Convention program at www.rotary.org.



Pakistan's President Honors Rotary For Earthquake Relief Efforts

By Abby Breitstein and Howard Chang
Rotary International News 14 March 2007

When a magnitude 7.6 earthquake hit Kashmir in October 2005, local and international Rotarians were among the first to respond. They organized medical teams, set up mobile relief camps, and collected blood and donated goods for the victims. In total, Rotary contributed more than US\$5 million in cash and in-kind donations and brought help to tens of thousands of earthquake survivors.

Now, Rotary's efforts have been publicly recognized by the government of Pakistan. In a widely televised meeting at a Pakistani army base on 20 February, President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan presented RI President-elect Wilfrid J. Wilkinson with the Sitara-e-Eisar Award (the Star Award for Courage and Sacrifices). The honor was created especially for Rotary to recognize its work in the aftermath of the disaster.

After the award was presented, Musharraf discussed the state of earthquake relief with Wilkinson, explaining how the Pakistani army had been mobilized to bring help to remote

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locations. He complimented Rotarians' efficiency in delivering aid where it was needed and their effectiveness in working locally with the army. The two leaders found so much to talk about that the meeting continued long past its scheduled conclusion. "It was supposed to be a 10-minute meeting," said Wilkinson, "and after about 20, his secretary started coming in every few minutes to remind him that it was time to go. But he stayed. In the end, we had talked for almost an hour."

Musharraf and Wilkinson also discussed polio eradication efforts in Pakistan. Pakistan is one of the four remaining polio-endemic countries, and it has received \$39 million from Rotary in the fight to make the country polio-free. Musharraf expressed his commitment to the goal of polio eradication and his appreciation of Rotarians' immunization efforts.

Pakistani television prominently covered the event, and images of the meeting were shown on all stations. That night, at the same time as the local evening news, Wilkinson joined fellow Rotarians for dinner in Islamabad. He arrived inconspicuously but left a celebrity. "We took a taxi afterwards, and when we got in, the driver recognized me instantly and just about exploded with excitement. We were so energized," said Wilkinson.

Pakistan is home to more than 100 Rotary clubs, with a total membership of about 2,900 business and professional leaders. Rotary's long history in Pakistan began with the chartering of the Rotary Club of Lahore in 1927. In addition to the earthquake relief effort, Rotary clubs in Pakistan support many

humanitarian projects, such as building schools for children, conducting vocational training for the poor, and providing access to clean water in impoverished villages.

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

Foundation Alumnus Inspires Rotary Connections Between North Carolina, Taiwan

By Maureen Vaught RI News 9 March 2007

Owen George is an entrepreneur, environmentalist, humanitarian, journalist, world traveler, and Rotarian. And he can trace all of these interests to his year abroad as a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar.

"The scholarship gave me something very special: confidence," says George, who studied at Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia, in 1980-81. "I know I can travel anywhere in the world and meet new people."

Now, he's helping the next generation experience the program's rewards by serving as a Rotarian sponsor counselor. George was selected by his club – the Rotary Club of Asheboro, North Carolina, USA (RI District 7690) – to assist Ambassadorial Scholar Lily Kuo, an American student who will travel to Taiwan in July to study at Tunghai University.

For George, this role is another link in a chain of events connecting him with Taiwan and his

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Rotary club. Since 1991, George has been a frequent visitor to Taiwan, even spending two years teaching English as a second language in private schools and corporations. So when he joined the Asheboro club in 2004, he was pleased to learn that the district was planning a Group Study Exchange with District 3460 in Taiwan.

"Here is a place that I love like my second home. I speak the language. I thought to myself, Is it possible that I could be chosen as the district team leader?" he says.

Despite being relatively new to Rotary, George was selected to lead the four-member GSE team. They traveled to Taiwan last year on a monthlong trip.

"Owen's ability to communicate with the Taiwanese really enhanced the experience for us," says GSE team member Gayle Taylor. "We were able to learn so much more about the culture."

Midway through the exchange, District 3460 Foundation Committee Chair John Wu contacted George with an unexpected offer. He wanted to donate US\$26,000 to the North Carolina district for an Ambassadorial Scholarship. His only request was that George help make it a success.

Past District Governor Phil Morris believes George's experience as a Rotary Scholar contributed to the scholarship offer. "And his fluency in Mandarin Chinese encouraged his GSE hosts to pursue this idea with him," Morris adds.

The Taiwanese district next proposed a Rotary Friendship Exchange between the two

countries. In October, three Rotarians and two of their spouses from Taichung spent 10 days in Piedmont, North Carolina, as guests of District 7690. George says plans are now underway for a group from North Carolina to visit Taiwan.

"My experience as a scholar helped me gain the confidence of the district governor and Group Study Exchange selection committee, who chose me as a team leader," George says.

It was this confidence, combined with George's own, that sparked a chain of events that has led to a special bond between the two countries. And it all began when a young man boarded a plane to South America as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar.

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

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Rotary District Assembly

May 5, 2007

Holiday Inn Solomons
I-95, Exit 11A, South on Rt 4

Preliminary Draft Agenda G

Full Breakfast - Chesapeake – 7:45 am to 8:45 am

Plenary Session
Chesapeake Ballroom – 8:45 am to 10:15 am

8:45 Pledge, Invocation, Agenda

Welcome - District Governor Elect Rich Carson

A Vision for Rotary's Future – Report of the District 7620
Strategic Planning Committee

Video Address by RI President for 2007-2008, Wilf Wilkerson
"Rotary Shares"- Theme for 2007-2008

District 7620 Goals for 2007-2008 - DGE Rich Carson
Membership and Extension Goals
International Service Projects

Keynote Address: Sandra Duckworth, PDG
Member, Extension of Rotary-Cuba Subcommittee
Major Gift Advisor, The Rotary Foundation
"You Are The Leader – Motivating Your Team"

Breakout Sessions
10:30 am – 12:00 pm
(Session locations listed on reverse)

12:30 Luncheon with Four-Way Test Finalists (Optional)

Breakout Sessions

10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Position	Discussion Leader	Location
Bulletin Editor	Pam Kumar	Point Patience
Club Administration	Ed Underriner	Battle Creek
Club Service Director	Andy Cook	Point Patience
Community Service Director	Paul Frey	Back Creek
Foundation Chair	Dick Angus	Theater
Fundraising	Paul Frey	Back Creek
Interact Chair	Dick Libby	Restaurant
International Service	Neil Young	Theater
Membership Chair	Ray Streib	Point Patience
President (2007-2008)	Rich Carson, Governor 2007-2008, Assistant Governors	St. Leonard Creek
President Elect (2008-2009)	Bette Lewis Governor 2008-2009	Hunting Creek
Program Chair	Andy Cook	Point Patience
Public Relations	J. W. Arnold	Point Patience
Rotaract Chair	Allisa Strawcutter	Restaurant
RYLA	Judy Cappucelli	Restaurant
Secretary	Ed Underriner	Battle Creek
Sergeant at Arms	Lori Beer	Restaurant
Treasurer	Ed Underriner	Battle Creek
Vice President	Andy Cook	Point Patience
Vocational Service Director	Mike Phennicie	Mill Creek
World Community Service Director	Neil Young	Theater
Youth Exchange	Chris Perlick	Restaurant

Note: Breakout sessions and facilitators are tentative.