

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Tonight's Program

May 31 - 6:30pm - Meeting at Hunter's Inn
Our Rotary Club Project in Ethiopia:
Joshua Youth Academy for AIDS Orphans -
Todd Nitkin, Elizabeth Fry, Jim Maronucci
New Member Installation: Anna Dell'Aquila...



Todd Nitkin



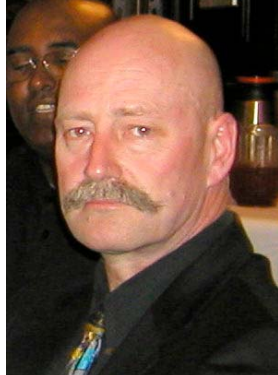
Anna Dell'Aquila

May 24 Meeting Report:

Please keep **Hugo Souza** in your prayers along with **Steve Naron's** father. President Elect **Don Smith** changed his email address to donnancy@verizon.net. Rotarians talked with **Hugo Souza** by telephone and wished him all to best in his fight with pancreatic cancer. We welcomed back guests **Pamela Glass**, Washington correspondent for WorkBoat and sister of a Rotarian in Connecticut. **Bernard Henry** told of his travels



Pamela Glass



Bernard Henry

over the past six weeks including visiting his family in France, working in South Africa as a personal chef, visiting his son and girlfriend in Romania and spending two hours in the Ukraine. **Todd Nitkin** asked for assistance from anyone with experience addressing immigration problems. We warmly welcomed back **Neil Cohen**. →



Our speaker was **France Pruitt** who will be President of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rotary Club beginning July 2008. Her father was an analytical chemistry professor in Brussels and had a double wedding with his brother in 1933 in Antwerp. As a child she enjoyed



France Pruitt



Dean Pruitt

vacations in the Swiss Alps. They had heard on British radio that Hitler had removed the citizenship of Jews and Britain would take only women and children refugees in the late 1930's. They decided to store their furniture

Continued on page 3...

Page 2: Photo collage from the Jewish Group Homes renovation projects



Alan Cookson



President Elect Don Smith



Phil Meade

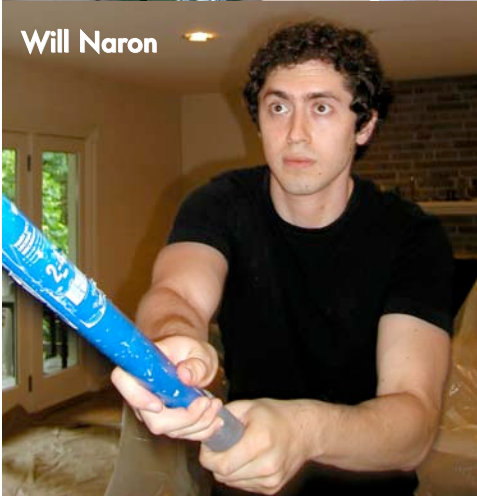


Jewish Foundation Group Homes Project
Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club
May 26, 2007

912 Devere: Yard Work
10709 Meadowhill: Painting



Lucy and Nabil Bedewi



Will Naron



Art Blitz



Bob Nelson



President Jerry Gross



Jerry Gross, Peter Chambers, Alan Grant,
Tom Leuchtenberg, Nabil and Lucy Bedewi



Before Trimming & Landscaping



After

Many thanks to Fernando Solis who this year again volunteered his time. If you need professional painting, give Fernando a call at 301-641-0949.

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in Brussels and move to the coast where they thought it might be easier to escape later. When Hitler invaded Belgium borders were closed and the Belgian army surrendered. They were able to move to Cevennes in the southern part of France and settled on a remote farm in the hills. They had diamonds that they could cash in from time to time but all worked hard on the farm for survival. By the end of 1942 her father and uncle went to a location three hours away and she went into hiding with a family so helpful to Jews that they later received an award from Israel. The woman had lost her husband in World War 1 and the Uncle had diet restrictions because of being gassed in the same war. The police were known to make arrests so they put their luggage under hay on a truck and were placed in different homes. The room where four people hid for many months was only 10 by 15 feet. Food was rationed. In 1944 Paris and Brussels were liberated and her father was called back to the university in Brussels. They eventually emigrated to the United States in 1950. In cooperation with Judy Priven, France produced a book titled "Faith and Courage in a Time of Trouble" that describes her experiences. She autographed copies of the book for our club members. Thanks, France, for a very moving talk!

The Rotary Club of Potomac-Bethesda didn't have a fund-raiser during the past year. Previous fund-raising projects have provided our Rotary Foundation with an additional \$5,000 to support various projects. Please continue to support our Rotary Foundation thru your contributions of happy dollars.

Welcome New Rotarians!

This Rotary year there have been seven new members from seven different countries. Thank you to **Ted, Tom, Anil, Nabil, Alan, Klaus and Anna** for helping our club spread goodwill and help in our local community and overseas. We want your input! We want your new thoughts and ideas! We value you as new members of the club.....your future is now.....you can make a difference!

**President's Membership Goal:
One More New Member
and a barber at our evening meeting
will shave Jerry's head, beard and
mustache! Let's meet his challenge!**

Rotary Calendar for June

- June 7 - 6:30pm
Rotary Club Meeting at Hunter's Inn
- June 12 - 7pm Manna Food Center
614 Lofstrand Lane, Rockville
- June 14 - 6:30pm
Rotary Club Meeting at Hunter's Inn
- June 17 - 20
Rotary International Convention
in Salt Lake City, Utah
- June 21 - No Rotary Club Meeting
- June 24 - 1pm
Installation of Club Officers
10805 Admiral's Way, Potomac
- June 25 - District Governor Installation
Gaithersburg Hilton
- June 28 - 6:30pm
Rotary Club Meeting at Hunter's Inn

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Rotarians Help Tornado Victims Rebuild

RI News 22 May 2007

Rotary District 5690, which covers Kansas and parts of Oklahoma, USA, and the local Rotary club are helping the victims of a 4 May tornado that killed nine people and damaged rural towns.

The tornado demolished the town of Greensburg, Kansas. Nearby towns also suffered damage. It's estimated that more than 1,700 people were affected by this disaster, which caused numerous injuries, and destroyed homes, schools, and the local hospital.

Local Rotarians already have been busy helping the community. They made the local high school graduation possible by organizing the event, providing security, and hosting the reception.

District 5690 is collecting funds to help the people of Greensburg and the surrounding communities. It hopes to provide help with immediate needs, including temporary housing, equipment for cleaning up, donations of books and clothing, as well as long-term recovery. The Rotary Club of Greensburg will determine how contributions should be used to best meet the area's most essential needs.

Rotarians Help Beat Back Polio Outbreak In India

By Vukoni Lupa-Lasaga RI News

Photo by Charlene Hall 23 May 2007

Confident that India would soon eradicate polio, Past District 6900 Governor Robert

Hall led several U.S. Rotarians to Subnational Immunization Days in Uttar Pradesh in November. The poverty stricken state in northern India was the epicenter of a 2006 polio outbreak.

Rotary Foundation Major Donors Jim and Donna Philips, whose contribution to the PolioPlus Partners program helped fund the SNIDs, also traveled with the group. The team was encouraged by the collaboration among government officials, religious leaders, Indian Rotarians, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization.



Donna Philips, a Rotary Foundation Major Donor, gives oral polio vaccine to a child in Uttar Pradesh.

"This trip was the experience of a lifetime for all 20 Rotarians who visited Uttar Pradesh," says Hall, who pledged the continued support of District 6900 (Georgia, USA) and Zone 34 Rotarians.

Hall's optimism on polio is shared by India's health minister, Anbumani Ramadoss. The minister told journalists at a mid-December press conference that despite the outbreak, he is confident that India will end polio with stepped-up immunizations.

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"In three years, we will do away with polio," he said. "We are at the end of the problem and will hit the final nail in the coffin."

Julie Gerberding, head of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said at the same event that the outbreak "is a warning that we can't be complacent." She also noted that the last few cases of polio are often the most difficult to deal with.

India is countering the challenges of polio eradication through intensified immunizations with the monovalent oral polio vaccine. Because most of the reported cases in 2006 were from poor Muslim communities, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative is working with religious leaders to persuade more families to have their children immunized.

Partly because of the Muslim clerics' support, India reported an overall increase in turnout of children during SNIDs in July, September, and November.

Boosting Investment In People To Help Build Peace

By Dan Nixon RI News 23 May 2007

Former Rotary World Peace Fellow Umar Shavurov is fond of quoting a proverb popular in his native Kyrgyzstan: "The wise invest in people, fools invest in wars."

Shavurov has seen both sides of that proverb in action many times. In 1990, at age 11, he and his family were forced to flee ethnic violence between Kyrgyz and Uzbeks in the city of Osh.



"It started several months before the collapse of the Soviet Union," Shavurov recalls. "In a matter of days, people were being slaughtered and rumors spread about it."

Shavurov's family left Osh by car, but was soon stopped by a group of Uzbeks.

"They had axes, hammers, all sorts of makeshift weapons," Shavurov says. "Good thing they didn't have guns. Everyone in the car was Kyrgyz, but we sort of looked a mix. My father started speaking in Uzbek and they let us go."

At least 12,000 people died during the one-month violence, he says. Many others disappeared. His family stayed with relatives in a Kyrgyz village until peace returned to the region.

"I have always asked why once-close neighbors kill each other and what are the ways to avert such acts," he says.

A [Rotary World Peace Fellowship](#) helped provide some answers. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, Shavurov studied at the Universidad del Salvador in Argentina, graduating with a master's degree in international studies in 2005.

"This fellowship helped me to acquire the tools for putting problems into perspective and dissecting them," he says. "Conflicts are everywhere: at home, at work, in society, in the government. So you become like a doctor, who is needed in many places to heal problems."

During his fellowship, Shavurov also spoke at

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several Rotary meetings in Argentina and Paraguay.

"Umar made a great impression wherever he went," says Juan Pedro Torroba, a Rotary Foundation alumni coordinator and past governor of District 4920 (Argentina). "He spoke at the district conference in Paraguay and represented his country in a way that everybody could understand that people in Kyrgyzstan and Paraguay have the same values."

Now with the World Bank's Doing Business Project in Washington, D.C., Shavurov helps governments around the world make business regulations simpler and more efficient to encourage free enterprise and foreign investment.

"Last year, the Doing Business Project created reforms in 50 countries," Shavurov says. "The project shows governments where to begin sustainable reforms, so millions of people can access basic economic goods and services, improve their lives, send their children to school. We're removing bureaucracy, but we're actually doing far more - we're removing corruption."

Shavurov is thankful for the opportunity to improve people's lives and help build peace.

"The peace fellowship has meaning to people who really want to change the world," Shavurov says. "One of the greatest lessons I learned in the program is that peace is about being patient. Everyone has a different understanding of peace and how to achieve it. It takes a lot of patience to bring together all of these understandings."

Pension Protection Act Of 2006 Can Help You

RI News 23 May 2007

An exciting opportunity may help you make your charitable gifts more effective. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows certain individuals to make tax-free contributions to charity from their individual retirement accounts. If you've ever wished that you could use your IRA for charitable gifts, then now is the time.

Until December 2007, this act allows U.S. donors at least age 70 1/2 to transfer up to \$100,000 from their IRA directly to a qualified charity, such as The Rotary Foundation, without increasing annual gross federal income taxes. This transfer may also satisfy the mandatory minimum withdrawal, which may provide additional tax benefits.

There's limited time to take advantage of this opportunity. Call The Rotary Foundation at 847-866-3380 or e-mail us for more information on how a donation from your IRA can fulfill your charitable objectives with the Foundation earlier than may have been otherwise possible.

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