

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Tonight: Celebration of Reaching President Jerry's Membership Goal: Potomac Barber George will shave Jerry's head and beard! Bring your camera for this special moment!

June 24 Installation of Officers:

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon **Don and Nancy Smith**

treated everyone to a sumptuous dinner at their home. **Jerry Gross** was congratulated for his outstanding work as President achieving many goals including bringing in eight new members.



Don gave Jerry a crystal award in recognition of his successful year of service. Neil gave Jerry a photo collage of Rotarians' photographs.

Jerry thanked

everyone for their support during the year and passed the gavel over to 2007-08



President Don Smith. **Alan Grant** received the Rotarian of the year award for his multi-year

efforts in coordinating the Manna Food Center program and the Dictionary Project. The 2007-08 club officers were installed on



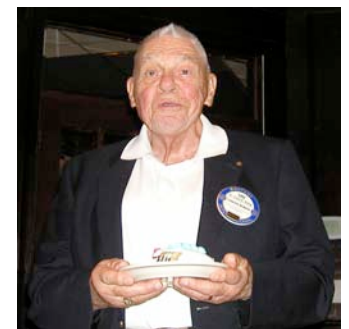
the deck overlooking the Potomac River by **District Governor Rich Carson** accompanied by his wife **Sherry**. Don spoke about his plans for the year and emphasized three main objectives: Good Members, Good Meetings, and Good Projects. Thanks to **Marilyn Nelson** and **Steve Naron** for taking the photographs.

June 14 Meeting Notes:

Bernard Henry was installed as the club's newest member. Bernard was a former vice president and CFO of SAE America, owner of HBC Consultants and is currently owner of



Chef **Bernard**, offering personal catering services. There was a grand birthday celebration for **Lou Fettig** who celebrated his 90th birthday. **Professor**



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Paul D. McDermott, Professor Emeritus, Montgomery College gave an excellent PowerPoint illustrated talk on the C&O Canal. The canal runs 184 miles and canal boats typically carried over 100 tons of coal at two to three mph. The club had contributed to the purchase of the new canal boat at Great Falls Tavern. The salute to the flag received additional emphasis on this flag day first initiated by Woodrow Wilson in 1916. **Dick Alsmeyer** returned from Florida. There were three guest Rotarians including **Carmen and**



Luis Cruz from Sullana, Peru, and **Gerry Hansen** from the Rotary One E-club. Luis shared the same vocation as Lou Fettig and Lou knew some of his family. Happy dollars totaled **\$172**.



Potomac-Bethesda International Rotary Club

Request From William Creighton, President, Crofton Rotary Club:

As a follow up to the District Governor's Inauguration the other night and as the concept of Rotarians "sharing" comes to mind, I wanted to point out to all of the clubs in our District the "signature" project that the Crofton Rotary Club is undertaking and to ask for your help.

We have identified the needs and wishes of

the three grade schools in Crofton that are not being covered by the County budget that we are going to try to satisfy for them.

The stage in the auditorium in one of the grade schools is going to be refinished by an arrangement we have with a local flooring company to pass on his cost from his subcontractors.

Some of the furniture from one school is going to be refinished and placed in another. That second school is in need of show case glass cabinets for their foyer as well as the replacement of their 35 year old lobby furniture.

The third school involves the refurbishing of their teachers' lounge which hasn't been modified since the school was built and has various mismatched appliances as well as a dictionary under one table leg to even the table out. What we are endeavoring to do there is to provide them with a 12 foot conference table with ten or twelve matching chairs, or two six foot tables that match. Any hotel lobby style couches and easy chairs are also being sought.

The Crofton Rotary Club would appreciate it if you would make mention at your regular meetings of what it is we are looking to do in the event that any of your members may have a line on obtaining these items donated, or a lead on very inexpensive liquidation costs on good quality items that we could place in our schools.

Sincerely,

Rotary Club of Crofton
William Creighton, President

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Rotary Calendar

June 28 - 6:30pm

Rotary Club Meeting at Hunter's Inn
Celebration of Reaching the Year's
Membership Goal

Highlights of the Rotary Convention
Grand Closing of the Rotary Year

July 5 - No Rotary Club Meeting

July 10 - 7pm Manna Food Center

July 12 - 6:30pm

Rotary Club Meeting at Hunter's Inn

July 13-14 - Rotary International President's
Conference on Membership, Villanova, PA.
Register by July 2:www.rotaryzones31-32.org

In Salt Lake City, A Convention Of Firsts

By Marla Donato and Ryan Hyland

RI News Photos by Alyce Henson/Rotary Images
20 June 2007

Salt Lake City – The 2007 RI Convention in Salt Lake City drew to a close 20 June, capping off a four-day celebration of the many faces of Rotary service, from peacemaking to grassroots projects to international friendship.



Calling it the “single most important thing you can do to ensure Rotary’s second century,” incoming RI President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson sent RI convention-goers home on Wednesday with a directive to “found new clubs wherever the soil is fertile.”

“Without new members, nothing else matters,” he said during the closing plenary. “It will only take a few decades for Rotary to disappear.”

The largest convention ever to be held in Salt Lake City, the event drew more than 16,500 Rotarians from 147 nations, some from as far away as Katmandu, Nepal .

The first RI convention in Utah since 1919 was also the site of several other Rotary firsts: the Rotary Foundation’s first-ever 100% Major Donor Club and the first Rotary World Peace Symposium, held just before the convention.

Peace was also a theme in the House of Friendship, where a 16x32 foot “ Peace Wall,” inspired by the fallen Berlin Wall, was erected. Attendees of all ages painted a kaleidoscope of colorful messages of peace on the wall and received friendship passports.

Rotary Foundation alumni who now work as diplomats played a prominent role at the event. Former White House Deputy Chief of Staff Philip Lader was awarded the Foundation’s highest alumni honor, the Global Service to Humanity Award. And Francis Moloji, a South African ambassador to India, who also spoke during a convention plenary session, credited his Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship with opening his eyes to a new world of possibilities.

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Inside the Salt Palace Convention Center, the House of Friendship provided a forum for fellowships, action groups, and project booths, while outside, the Rocky Mountains served as a scenic backdrop to the American western-themed convention that featured a rodeo, dances by Native Americans, and lots of homegrown hospitality.

Trustee Chair Luis V. Giay joined RI President William B. Boyd to present the Polio Eradication Champion Award to William Gates Sr., the keynote speaker at the third plenary. Gates co-chairs the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which has been a major ally in fighting polio alongside Rotary and its partners, contributing US\$150 million to the polio eradication effort.



Emine Yüzay, a young woman from Turkey who learned as a teen to read through a Rotary-sponsored Concentrated Language Encounter program, drew applause during the final plenary when she recounted how after she delved into the world of books, she laughed and cried and felt as if “books are like an ocean and I am in a small boat in the middle of it floating in all directions.” Yüzay,

who now teaches others to read and write, was born without arms, and learned to write with her feet, but recently the Rotary Club of Istanbul arranged for Yüzay to be fitted with prosthetic arms, which she is still learning to use.

Yüzay’s story was one of thousands that were on the lips of Rotarians as they left the convention hall to head back to their communities with a new sense of purpose and inspiration for the year ahead.

Convention Opens, Celebrating Rotary’s Power To Realize Dreams

By Antoinette Tuscano RI News 18 June 2007

Photos by Monika Lozinska-Lee/Rotary Images

Salt Lake City – A year of traveling as Rotary International president has given William B. Boyd perspective on what makes projects successful. Both large-scale efforts, like eradicating polio, and smaller initiatives, like microcredit projects, start with a dream, he said at the convention's opening keynote yesterday, but it is dedication and hard work that make dreams reality.



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Quoting Eleanor Roosevelt, Boyd said, "'The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.' But I think she should have gone further and said, 'and work for their dreams.'"

The strength of Rotary is in its ability to unite so many individuals from different parts of the world, giving club members a creative power unmatched in other organizations.

"We talk blindly of 1.2 million Rotarians, but we're all individuals," said Boyd. "The strength of Rotary comes from each of us dreaming our own dreams, and, when you put it all together, you get the greatness and power of Rotary."

Utah Governor Jon M. Huntsman Jr. welcomed more than 15,000 Rotarians from 147 countries to the biggest convention ever to be held in Salt Lake City and the first RI Convention in Utah since 1919.

Marked with international flair, the opening also featured Maori singers and dancers performing a sacred wero ceremony to honor Boyd, a New Zealander whose term as president ends this month. The group also performed a thunderous war dance of stomping feet as well as other traditional songs and dances. In addition, children marched onstage with flags from each Rotary country, and a choir of children wearing national dress from many countries sang.

Other entertainment included singer and native Utahan Donny Osmond, who jumped into the audience, dancing with attendees and signing autographs as he sang.

Two Alumni From Opposite Sides Of Sri Lanka's Conflict Now Friends

By Marla Donato RI News 15 June 2007

Photo by Monika Lozinska-Lee/Rotary Images

Salt Lake City – When the package arrived at Thevananth Thevanayagam's office in Jaffna, it seemed like a miracle. It contained a month's supply of dry milk for his two young children, and a potential lifesaving medicine to help cure them from Chikungunya fever, a disease that causes very high fevers and is especially dangerous for the young.

But the real miracle was that the parcel's special air delivery was arranged by the man with whom he had spent hours, days, and weeks fiercely arguing about the longstanding conflict in their native Sri Lanka.



Thevanayagam and Pathiranage, former participants of the Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies program, reunited at the inaugural Rotary World Peace Symposium.

"We kept contradicting each other," said Raveendra Pathiranage, who cheerfully recalled his first encounters with Thevanayagam at his side smiling and nodding. The two were reunited at the first Rotary World Peace Symposium, held 14-16

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June in Salt Lake City in the days preceding the 2007 Rotary International Convention.

Just one year before, they found themselves unlikely classmates during the inaugural session of the Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand.

Pathiranage, who was sponsored by District 3220 (Sri Lanka), is senior state counsel in the attorney general's office in Sri Lanka and former legal consultant for the Environmental Authority.

Thevanayagam, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Jaffna, Sri Lanka, is program manager for the Refugees Rehabilitation Organization in Sri Lanka, which provides food, shelter, rehabilitation, and other assistance to Tamil refugees displaced by the conflict.

He explained how both sides had "bad opinions" about each other. "But, we talked about our problems and gradually understood each other," said Thevanayagam, adding that the informal discussions especially provided a forum for healing.

"We erased the hard feelings and went on to 'What can we do to solve the problem? What can we contribute?'" said Pathiranage. During one session, Pathiranage recalled being moved to tears when Thevanayagam described the wretched conditions endured by some of the Tamil children on the island nation.

Pathiranage said he was especially affected by the stories of innocent children who had been orphaned or couldn't go to school

because of the longstanding conflict.

So in November, when the conflict forced the main road into the Jaffna peninsula to close, Pathiranage placed a long-distance call and asked: "Theva, can I do anything?"

Thevanayagam explained how the region was barely surviving on twice-monthly dry rations, and many, including his entire family, were suffering from the high fever disease. Pathiranage used some of his personal connections to get the package to his new friend.

The two men now correspond weekly via e-mail and even traveled together to the symposium to see their former classmates from the summer program that Pathiranage described as more useful than a year's worth of graduate study.

"More than what we learned from the professors in the classroom lectures, the knowledge we gathered from the interactions and discussions amongst the participants, who came from various parts of the world with various professional backgrounds, was very important," Thevanayagam said.

Rotary Needs You!

We are looking for men/women in a variety of professions – just a few vocations are listed below:

Banking and Wealth Management

Engineers-All Types

Journalist/writers

Small Business Owners

Physicians

Insurance brokers/agents

Restaurant owners

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