

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

**September 13 – 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn
Dr. Elizabeth Fihe and Dr. James Marinucci
AIDS Orphans in Africa**

Tonight's program features a presentation by Elizabeth Fihe, M.D. and James Marinucci (Noel Howard's son-in-law) on an outreach to the Joshua Academy Orphanage in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (known to you because of our club's significant contribution thanks to Todd Nitkin's efforts) whose primary focus is on those affected by AIDS. This particular outreach to the Academy was initiated by James Marinucci in conjunction with Dr. Fihe. Dr. Fihe is a Board Certified Emergency Medicine physician and the Senior Fellow at the Ronald Reagan Institute of Emergency Medicine working on her MPH. Though young in her career, she has already made a name for her self in the cause of emergency service development in the Third World. James Marinucci is Director of both the Wound Management Program and Medical Education Training Program at the George Washington University Department of Emergency Medicine and an internationally known expert in emergency medical training for disaster management. The University's Ronald Reagan Institute of Emergency Medicine was established in 1991, in recognition of both the undisputed excellence of the Medical Center's Department of Emergency Medicine and its role in saving the life of President Reagan after a 1981 assassination attempt. The Reagan Institute serves to strengthen the health and welfare of our local, national and international communities through research, education, training, and consultative support. The objectives of the Reagan Institute are successfully achieved through initiatives related to Injury Prevention and Control, the medical aspects of disaster planning, preparedness and response, and the enhancement of emergency medical services throughout the world.

**September 17 – 6pm Feed the Homeless
Sophia House, 12250 Wilkins Ave. Rockville**
**September 20 - 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn
Rotary District Governor Rich Carson**
October 4 – No meeting.
**October 6 – Annual Chartering Celebration
Picnic at Dick and Jane Gordon's Home**

September 6 Meeting Report:

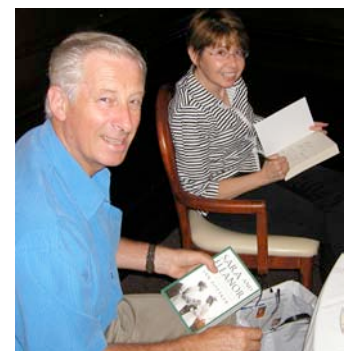
Noel Howard announced that we will be preparing dinner for the homeless at Sophia House at 12250 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville on September 17. Please call **Noel** if you can participate. President **Don** distributed updated bylaws for voting on September 13. **Nabil Bedewi** is forming a committee for international night and will be attending a district meeting on



October 8 with an emphasis on microlending. **Jerry Gross** urged members to donate automobiles to Melwood where half of the proceeds come back to the Rotary Club (see last week's newsletter for details). \$2100 will be forwarded to The Rotary



Foundation that had been collected in a prior Rotary year. In memory of **Hugo Souza**, \$216.15 was raised through happy dollars. The club is also contributing \$250 to the Lombardi Cancer Center. Our speaker, **Jan Pottker**, gave an excellent talk on the Roosevelt family and signed several of her books for interested members including **Alan Cookson**.



www.pb-rotary.org www.rotary7620.org www.rotary.org

September 13, 2007 - Page 1

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Past President Caesar Kavadoy's September 6 Report: Peru Earthquake



Dear Don, This is a belated thank you for your telephone call and for your emails. This morning I left for Baltimore at 6 a.m. and I just got home. It is past midnight. In addition to my regular trips to Peru and Brazil, for the past few weeks,

I'm assisting four families who have been referred to me by local churches for help before the Department of Home Land Security. In all cases, there is no income and there are children involved. Thus, the reason for my trips to Baltimore on Thursdays. Esther is in Peru. Actually, she flew into Lima the eve of the earthquake. Since I have always regarded our Rotary Club as my extended family, I do miss seeing you and everybody at the meetings. Sorry, I missed the picnic. According to Arlene Cohen, whom I saw the other day, it was great in terms of the friendship, the music and the food. The good news is that I have found a Priest to continue working with these families as of next Tuesday. Then, I look forward to be with you all at the next meeting.

I have kept in touch with Hugo up until the end of July when I sent him an email. Maybe first week in August. Recently, I had the chance to be in some churches and while there I have said a prayer for his family and for him. He will be missed as any good soul

always is. Doing something in his memory has my entire commitment and support.

The earthquake impacted an area of Peru very rich in archeological treasures and very rich in many small town traditions. Most people are descendents of slaves brought by Europeans. During the late 1800's and up until 1967, this area was dotted with huge plantations owned mainly by people of European ancestry. It was and it is still a little bit today, the Napa Valley of Peru. However, when these plantations were dissolved by the Peruvian Government thru a poorly run agrarian reform, the area turned quickly into one of the most impoverished areas of Peru. The plantations became run down little towns with scarce resources. The earthquake has exacerbated this problem. Sending money to the Rotary District in Lima is not a bad idea. I am quite sure they will use it wisely for the victims. However, once you donate money, it is gone. We don't know if this money will be used to rebuild a school, to provide health care or to buy a new cruiser for the police. I think, if we want our help to be more tangible, we should ask the Rotary in Peru to identify for us a list of needs and their costs so that District 7620 can put its efforts behind a particular need and get it taken care of. This would be my advice. Let me know if we need to meet and talk about it in more detail. Since Esther is not home and I spent most of the time working outside the office, the best way to reach me is on my cell phone. The number is 240-876-2773. Thank you for everything. Best to Nancy and you.

Caesar

www.pb-rotary.org www.rotary7620.org www.rotary.org

September 13, 2007 - Page 2

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Hugo Souza's Obituary

Hugo Eladio Souza, 65, a retired head of the Inter-American

Development Bank's offices in the Bahamas and Belize, died August 25 at Georgetown University Hospital. He had pancreatic cancer. Mr Souza worked for the bank from 1975 to 2004.



He spent much of his bank career in Washington as an operations officer focused on Caribbean countries. Starting in 1994 he spent a decade as the bank's country representative in the Bahamas and then in Belize. His work focused on infrastructure needs as well as rebuilding efforts after severe hurricanes. In Belize, he also helped promote ecotourism through preserving its Mayan ruins. In retirement, Mr. Souza started a small accounting practice aimed at the Latino community. Mr. Souza was a native of Montevideo, Uruguay. He received a master's degree in business administration from American University in 1978. He was a financial analyst with IBM in Uruguay before joining the development bank. He was president of the Uruguayan-American Foundation, an organization he co-founded in 1990 to provide medical and educational equipment and supplies to schools and hospitals in Uruguay. He was treasurer of the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club and served on the board of the development bank's retirees association. Survivors include his wife of 39

years, the former Nibia Tato of Bethesda; two sons, Fabian of Boyds and Mauro of Atlanta; and five grandchildren.

- Adam Bernstein, *Washington Post*

A conversation with Robert S. Scott Chair of The Rotary Foundation Trustees and Chair of the International PolioPlus Committee

The Rotarian September 2007

Nothing steels the resolve of physician Robert S. "Bob" Scott more than polio, a disease long banished from industrialized nations but still paralyzing children in some corners of the world.

A member of the Rotary Club of Cobourg, Ont., Canada, since 1971, he's a longtime active supporter of Rotary's battle against polio. Scott became chair of the International PolioPlus Committee on 1 July 2006, replacing William T. Sergeant, who retired after 12 years in the office. He is also serving as chair of The Rotary Foundation Trustees this year.

As his first year in Rotary's top PolioPlus position came to a close, Scott talked with Marla Donato, managing editor of *The Rotarian* about the new strategy to eliminate the disease in the remaining four endemic countries, recent positive news, and the critical need to fulfill Rotary's promise of a polio-free world.

Do you believe eradication is possible?

Oh, absolutely. Otherwise, I wouldn't be continuing to persuade Rotarians and the Rotary world to keep at it.

www.pb-rotary.org www.rotary7620.org www.rotary.org

September 13, 2007 - Page 3

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Where are we right now in terms of polio eradication?

To be frank, the progress in the last few years has been much slower than expected. However, the virus is now only endemic in very discrete, small areas of four countries – namely India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nigeria. It is endemic in two northern states of India, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh; no more than six northern states of Nigeria; and in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the border between the two countries.

What are the challenges in each of these areas?

The challenges are different in each small area in each country. In January, PolioPlus adopted tailored approaches to reach the last children. This is the single biggest development since the program was launched in 1985. In northern Nigeria, for about a year, leaders stopped all polio vaccinations to children. It was undoubtedly a political, cultural, and partly a religious problem. That has now been resolved, and the cases are dropping rapidly. Along with the polio drops, they are also giving other vaccines – add-ons for diphtheria, measles – and malaria nets, and this has proven very successful.

In India, it is the huge population we have to deal with. For example, in Uttar Pradesh, there are more than five million births a year. In northern India, children who are extremely

malnourished have many different viruses and bacteria, and the polio drops don't always produce the desired immunity because of these competing pathogens. So the rounds of Subnational Immunization Days are now every month. There has been some religious objection, but that has virtually melted away. I met twice with the mullahs [Islamic clergy] last year. Great follow-up by the Indian Rotarians has continued to result in very few mothers and fathers denying their children the vaccine.

And in the remaining two countries?

In Afghanistan and Pakistan, the problem is the fighting. Polio has a way of stopping fighting, because we have Days of Tranquility, where we negotiate with the warring factions so that we can vaccinate their children. Especially in places like the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Côte d'Ivoire, Rotarians were very much part of stopping the fighting.

I can't say I'm quite as hopeful about the Taliban in Afghanistan. They seem to have become very warlike again. At one time, the Taliban were very much on our side, and I've got some wonderful photographs of Taliban men helping with vaccinations.

So what happened there?

Well, politics got in the road. However, Hamid Karzai, the president of Afghanistan, formed and chairs the National Polio Action Group. President Karzai receives reports on a

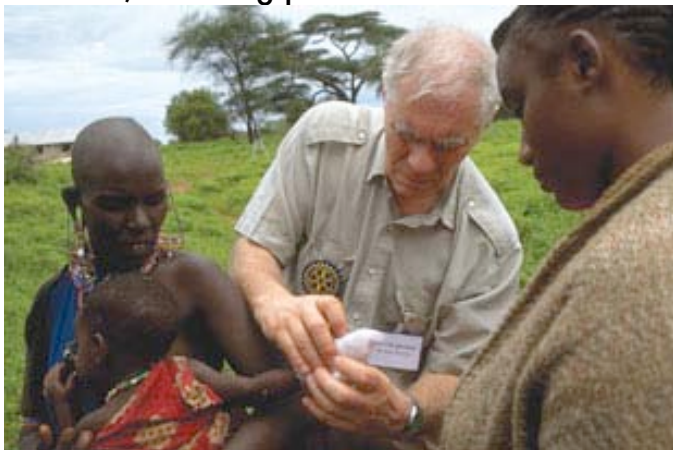


Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

regular basis, which has resulted in only three cases in the first six months of this year.

Should people in countries where polio is no longer a threat still vaccinate their children?

Absolutely. Every time I give a talk in North America or in Europe, I say to the audience that they must ensure that their children and grandchildren are vaccinated against polio. Because look what happened: From Nigeria and India, there have been 64 exports of the virus to other countries over the last several years, resulting in serious outbreaks of polio. Eighty-two percent of the viruses came from Nigeria, and the rest came from India. The cost, to date, is US\$475 million. The same could happen in the U.S. or Canada or Europe if routine immunization is not kept at a high level. It is essential to have your children vaccinated against all the preventable diseases, including polio.



Namibia last experienced an outbreak in 2006 that was unusual because it was among adults. Was that a big surprise?

Well, those of us who are old enough remember that the poliovirus used to affect adults as well. But it really is a disease of the younger age group – five years and under.

And that's why, in the old days, it was called infantile paralysis. We were scared, every July, August, that we were next in line. Swimming pools and cinemas were closed, and every fall there was always a rise in cases. Then, of course, there were the huge epidemics in the late '40s, early '50s.

How are we doing in funding for this final push?

The number-one problem in the eradication of polio is the lack of funds.

How much money have we spent?

To date, the global investment in polio eradication has been more than \$5 billion through 2008. Rotary has provided nearly \$620 million, and we expect to have provided more than \$670 million by the time polio is certified as eradicated. At this moment, the PolioPlus Fund has about \$54 million left for further grants to the World Health Organization and UNICEF.

And that will be enough?

No, not nearly enough. Our major problem is shortfalls, every year. [Editor's note: The current shortfall is \$540 million over the calendar years 2007 and 2008.] Along with WHO, UNICEF, and the United Nations Fund, we've been very successful. The \$5 billion has mostly come from governments. The total from the United States at the moment is over \$1.2 billion. Then Rotary is second, at \$620 million, followed by the United Kingdom, Japan, and Canada.

What can Rotarians do? Are they experiencing donor fatigue?

www.pb-rotary.org www.rotary7620.org www.rotary.org

September 13, 2007 - Page 5

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

As I travel the world and speak to many Rotary clubs and Rotary gatherings, I find great enthusiasm is still present. I just wonder how much of that enthusiasm carries over to the next day or to the next meeting. What I would like to see in the ideal Rotary world would be for every Rotary club, again, to have a polio committee. Many clubs have long gone without polio committees. I would also like every district to continue having a polio committee. There are districts that do not have polio committees anymore, and this is unfortunate. This Rotary year, I believe every Rotary club should have at least one meeting on PolioPlus, and every district should make a donation to PolioPlus Partners.

When did this trend of clubs and districts eliminating polio committees start becoming noticeable?

The last three or four years. There have been two campaigns that raised a huge amount of money: \$247 million the first campaign, \$135 million the second campaign. Every year, the PolioPlus Fund receives \$1 million to \$2 million, even though there is no official campaign, from generous Rotarians. Many incorrectly believe polio is eradicated, and therefore many clubs and districts no longer have active PolioPlus committees.

Is polio still a main priority for The Rotary Foundation?

When Trustee Chair Bhichai Rattakul announced his goals for this Rotary year, he stated that the number one would be communicating that polio eradication is realistic. Last year, Trustee Chair Luis Giay made polio the number-one emphasis. It

should continue to be so, in my opinion, until eradication is certified.



What kinds of questions come to you from Rotarians in the field?

The number-one question is why don't we get enough publicity? The number-two question is when do you think it's going to finish? I don't give a date anymore. Initially, the eradication effort was going very quickly. We started in 1985 with more than 125 countries, and by the year 2000, we were down to only 20 countries. Then the pace slowed, which was unexpected. Rotarians ask me many times, when do you think we will finish? I have no idea. We will finish when that last virus is eradicated. We have not failed. We have cleared out 99 percent of the virus from the world. Three WHO regions have been certified polio-free, and type 2 poliovirus has not been detected anywhere in the world for about nine years. It is likely eradicated. That is a success in itself. It is not the final goal, but it is very close to it. I'm convinced we can reach that final goal. I mean, I've been at it long enough to be absolutely convinced that we can do this, given enough funding.

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

And that question about publicity?

Rotary gets a tremendous amount of press worldwide, both in written and TV reports. I go to India, and there's press all over the place. In the United States, Canada, and in Europe and the UK, we don't get that same publicity, because polio isn't around. People have forgotten about it. It isn't the bad-news story the press often like to pick up. My answer to the Rotarians who ask that question is when did you last write to your newspaper about polio and Rotary? That's the number-one thing all Rotarians can do: continually increase the advocacy in press, radio, television.

What do you think is the most important message for Rotarians?

In April, the representatives to the Council on Legislation from around the world voted by a huge majority of 93 percent to continue polio as the only corporate focus of Rotary International. Rotarians of the world still believe in the eradication of polio and have voted strongly in support. Now we must get mobilized, in all parts of the Rotary world, yet again, to finally eradicate this disease, by making sure polio committees are active, and support of PolioPlus Partners is present in every district. Generally encourage the public; get PolioPlus known again, especially among new Rotarians.

So what you really want is advocacy?

Advocacy to the governments and their ministers of finance, ministers of health. Of course, Rotary, through the Polio Eradication Advocacy Task Force, does lobby extensively. But if 1.2 million Rotarians phoned their

government and said "This is terrible, it's a disgrace that we haven't eradicated polio," I believe this could have tremendous impact.

So this is a vote of confidence, so you can go to the governments and say: "Look, we're still unanimous. We're in it for the long haul."

Yes. There are many good stories, you know? Very few cases left, very few areas, in four countries. Dr. Margaret Chan, the new leader of WHO, is very, very supportive of the polio eradication initiative and of Rotary's major role. She asked to meet with Rotary only eight days after she was elected. Immediate Past RI President Bill Boyd and I had a very fruitful meeting with her on 8 January. Another positive sign, from Africa, was evident when President Boyd received a letter from the new president of the African Union, who also happens to be president of Ghana, giving us enormous support. In that letter, he supports the polio program in every aspect, and he is willing not only to support it but to advocate it to other leaders, especially those in Africa and the G8 countries. We have had G8 support in the past, and we're hoping that will continue. The results of the last meeting of this body were not encouraging. In truth, we must have their support to finish eradication.

Any other good news?

Two articles [in the Lancet journal and Science magazine], pointing out that over the long term, eradicating polio is much cheaper than controlling it. Secondly, we've got vaccines that are much more effective. Other research shows the new monovalent oral polio vaccine type 1 is three times as effective as the

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

original trivalent vaccine. So there's a great deal of positive news.

These researchers say it will cost three times as much to control polio than to eradicate it – is that correct?

It could be much more, depending on how you control it. I always say that we haven't gotten it under control until we've eradicated it.

What would you tell the naysayers of the world?

I would say they are believing false or perhaps convenient science. We have shown it is possible to eradicate polio. Every country that has large numbers of children who are susceptible to polio due to poor immunization schedules and has had an import of polio from India or Nigeria has always, for a second time, eradicated polio. We know how to eradicate polio. So, if you want to have up to 250,000 children suffer from polio and a life of disability, carry on with a control policy. But if you do not want that to happen, no matter what the cost, eradicate polio.

What will happen if we go into control mode, in terms of both financial and human suffering?

Be prepared that some children will get polio, some children will die from polio, and most of

the children who will die will be in the poor countries. Not in the United States, not in Canada, because there is good routine immunization. It is in the poorer countries where routine immunization is very poor because they are unable to afford it – they will have more cases of polio. So is it acceptable to have 40,000 cases a year?

Four hundred thousand? What's acceptable?

Consider the cost overall, and the long-term cost of keeping these poor children in crutches, wheelchairs, surgery to correct contractions of muscles – an agonizing life. That's what is

being advocated. Morally, to me, this is totally unacceptable.

What are some concrete actions that Rotarians can take?

Continue to educate and inform themselves on all aspects of the polio eradication initiative. I am delighted to note that every Rotary institute this year is having a presentation on polio. Following these institutes, I ask the leadership to take the polio message home and give it to the clubs, to fellow Rotarians. Keep polio in front of Rotarians until they're mad at you and, by inference, me. We gave a copy of the Case for Finishing Polio Eradication to every district governor-elect at

**Fulfilling Our Promise:
Eradicate
Polio!**



Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

the International Assembly in February. I had it re-sent to every district governor with a letter asking them to please circulate it. Get polio out there again – get it on the front burner of every club and district. I asked district governors to send the case statement out to all the clubs in their district. Well, I know it happened in my own district, because my own governor sent it to me!

What's the power of PolioPlus Partners?

Yes, that's another positive thing Rotarians and districts can do. Let me explain. Money donated to the PolioPlus Fund is funneled through to WHO or UNICEF in grants authorized by The Rotary Foundation Trustees. Money given to PolioPlus Partners is used by Rotarians. It is money applied for by Rotarians in the four polio-endemic and highest-risk countries that are having National Immunization Days or Subnational Immunization Days. The moneys are used for social mobilization, for the very well-known National Immunization Day uniform with its Rotary colors, and other essentials, such as the whistles or hats or crayons they give the children, or the megaphones or bicycles or motorcycles. That money is Rotarians giving money directly to Rotarians. Past RI President Chuck Keller and Trustee Lou Piconi are cochairs of the PolioPlus Partners Task Force. They've done a fantastic job of making the world knowledgeable about PolioPlus Partners and how to donate to it. At this time, on all donated cash or District Designated Fund contributions, there is a 50% match from the PolioPlus Fund.

In your travels around the world, what are some of the most inspiring things you've seen?

Going to a National Immunization Day is a wonderful experience. You see Rotarians really turned on, working with the community. Watching the children line up, for example, in India at a vaccination booth, and seeing all these little kids, being so good. They just stay in a line; they hardly say a word. The bigger sisters bring the little ones. The sad thing about it is, you can look at the back of the crowd, and some of the kids are disabled, wearing braces – those for whom we were too late, who, unfortunately, didn't get the vaccine before they got polio. It is that picture in my mind which makes me, more than anything else, determined not to give up and to ensure as best I can, as chair of the International PolioPlus Committee, to remind all Rotarians of the promise we gave to the children of the world: to eradicate this evil disease forever.

How you can help

Rotary clubs, districts, and individual Rotarians can help reach Rotary's goal of a polio-free world by donating to PolioPlus Partners. This Foundation program supports the immunization activities of Rotary and its worldwide partners, including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, and WHO, in polio-endemic and high-risk areas. Check out the list of projects, and contribute at rotary.org/jump/ppp.

Please send news articles and photos to [Bob Nelson@NASA.gov](mailto:Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov) for inclusion in the newsletter.