

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Calendar of Rotary Events

October 25 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn



Installation of New Member
Jason Hamel

Bernard
Henry's
Classification
Talk



Dinner Buffet Tonight

October 27 - 8am

Rotary Leadership Institute - Frederick



October 29 - 2pm Dictionary Project
Seven Locks Elementary School
9500 Seven Locks Road, Bethesda

October 29 - 6:30pm District Leadership
Meeting - BWI Ramada

November 1 - 6:30pm

Wine & Cheese Social at Hunters Inn

November 3 - Rotary Day at the UN



November 6 - 2:30pm Dictionary Project
Potomac Elementary School
10311 River Road, Potomac



November 8 - 2:25pm Dictionary Project
Bells Mill Elementary School
8225 Bells Mill Road, Potomac

November 8 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn
Anne Barnes

Kauai Hawaii Rotary Club

November 10 - Mini-summit on Water

November 13 - Rotary Foundation Dinner
with RI President at the Canadian Embassy

November 15 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn
Cam Crockett

"Getting to Yes and Getting Past No"

Dictionary Distribution to 3rd Graders Continues at Waters Landing School



Dictionary Project Chairman Alan Grant was joined by Nadim Salti, Tom Leuchtenburg, Alan Cookson, Bob Nelson and Meg Weinstein (Alan Grant's assistant) on October 18 to continue the dictionary distributions for

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this school year. Principal William Poole and teachers Terri Miller, Jett Merritt, Terisha Cook, Deidra Burr, and Marisa Hartz looked on in appreciation as the Rotarians fanned out to three different classrooms for simultaneous presentations. More elementary schools are scheduled for the next few weeks, so please check the calendar of Rotary events and join the team. You'll share the Four Way Test with the students and show them how useful their new dictionary/almanac can be.

April's Project brings clean water to Guatemalans

By Dan Nixon RI News - 24 October 2007

April Veness (second from left) cuts the ribbon during a ceremony celebrating San Isidro's new water system.



Water poses a paradox to those living in the western highlands of Guatemala. From May to November, heavy rains wash out the unpaved roads that wind between villages at elevations of 10,000 feet or more. Yet during this wet season, residents can obtain water only by walking miles to fill buckets from sparse wells or by using barrels to collect runoff from rooftops.

On a good day, the 38-mile trip northeast from the city of San Marcos to the village of San Isidro takes five hours, says April Veness, associate professor of geography at the University of Delaware in the United States

and recipient of a Rotary Grant for University Teachers. She's made the commute four times, helping with a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant project to install a clean water system in San Isidro.

"The people are subsistence farmers, and the houses are scattered over a large area," Veness says, explaining that the effort required laying miles of pipeline from springs to the village. It "was a huge and expensive challenge," she says.

Veness got involved with the project after traveling to Guatemala to teach at the Centro Universitario de San Marcos from August 2006 to April 2007. To her, it seemed natural to combine teaching and research with efforts to better the lives of people in her host country.

During her time in Guatemala, Veness and three of her former students at the University of Delaware, including 2002-03 Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar Jennifer Koppenhaver, helped forge a network between District 7630 (Delaware; Maryland, USA) and the Rotary Club of San Marcos, Catholic Diocese of San Marcos, and San Isidro community.

"Nearly all of the hundreds of e-mail, telephone, and face-to-face communications between Rotarians in District 7630 and San Marcos during the Matching Grant application process and water project construction were filtered through me," she says. "It was not that I asked to be the spokesperson, but the communication difficulties posed by differences in language, business practices, and social expectations all demanded that someone keep the channels of

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communication open, flowing, and focused on a common objective."

In July, Veness went back to San Isidro to help inaugurate the new water system.

"The positive impact of that service project is clearly evident in the happy faces of the San Isidro community that, at long last, got clean water and latrines," she says. At the ceremony, Veness was moved to learn that the effort had been named April's Project in her honor.

She's now helping the San Marcos club and Builders Beyond Borders, a nonprofit organization based in Connecticut, USA, form a partnership to construct a school for the deaf in San Marcos in 2008.

"My role with Rotary as promoter, translator, facilitator, and mentor has certainly improved my skills as a public speaker, Spanish speaker, project administrator, and teacher," Veness says. "It also embedded in me a rich web of support and fellowship that will be important to me for years to come."

Book-toting Rotarians to promote literacy at L.A. convention

By Harriet Modler RI News - 22 October 2007

Los
Angeles
Convention
Center



Every Rotarian who brings a book to the 2008 RI Convention in Los Angeles will help boost literacy among schoolchildren in

surrounding Rotary districts. The global initiative, called Rotary's Wide World of Books, aims to collect more than 250,000 books in different languages.

The books will be donated to students in grades K-3 attending public elementary schools in the seven hosting Rotary districts, which cover parts of Southern California and Southern Nevada. Students in California rank among the lowest in the nation in reading skills.

The donated books will form a "book mountain" in the atrium of the Los Angeles Convention Center. Seating will be provided around the display so that convention attendees can read to local schoolchildren.

"It is symbolic that the mountain of books will be built atop the world map in the atrium's floor design," says Ingo Werk, chair of the initiative and past governor of District 5280. "[Among students] in Los Angeles Unified School District alone, 97 different languages are spoken."

Werk urges every attendee to join this historic event by bringing one or several books in the language of their choice. Organizers also hope the initiative will set a record for the world's largest book drive. A judge from Guinness World Records in London will be on hand to verify the results.

Since 2000, a number of Southern California clubs have participated in Reading by 9, a multiyear campaign established by the Los Angeles Times that helps students in kindergarten through third grade read at grade level by the age of nine.

Learn more about the Rotary's Wide World of Books at www.rotary2008.com.

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Rotarians travel to Ethiopia to immunize children against polio

RI News - 18 October 2007 Photo by Rotary Images

A Rotarian immunizes a child against polio in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



More than 70 Rotarians from the United States and Canada are working with fellow Rotarians, volunteers, and health workers to administer the oral polio vaccine to children as part of a nationwide immunization campaign in Ethiopia 18-20 October.

Ezra Teshome of the Rotary Club of Seattle, who has led seven other immunization campaigns in Ethiopia, is leading the group. Teshome emigrated to the United States from Ethiopia in 1971.

"This is a historic opportunity to end polio in my former homeland - and worldwide," he says. "We must remain committed until every child is protected against the tragic, fatal consequences of this disease."

Significant progress has been made toward ending polio in Ethiopia, which has not reported a single case of the disease this year. The country recorded 22 cases in 2005 and 17 in 2006 after an outbreak in the Horn of Africa. Vigilant surveillance remains critical, especially during the upcoming season of traditional pilgrimages that bring many travelers to the region.

In addition to protecting children from polio, the group will visit a Rotary club-supported

well project that provides clean drinking water to about 30 villages.

For as little as 60 cents worth of vaccine, a child can be protected against this crippling disease for life. To date, the annual number of polio cases worldwide has been reduced from 350,000 in the mid-1980s to approximately 2,000 cases in 2006. Only four countries - Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan - are still polio endemic.

Rotary's commitment to end polio represents the largest-ever private sector support of a global health initiative. In 1985, Rotary members worldwide vowed to immunize all the world's children against polio. Since then, Rotary has contributed US\$620 million to polio eradication, of which \$7.7 million has supported immunization campaigns in Ethiopia.

In addition to raising and contributing funds, over one million Rotarians have volunteered their time and personal resources to help immunize more than two billion children in 122 countries during national immunization campaigns.

**Please Pay Your Invoice
For The Fourth Quarter Of 2007 To
Treasurer Alan Cookson**

**November 13 - Rotary Foundation Dinner
with RI President at the Canadian Embassy
Reservations limited to the first 180 pre-paid
guests. Send check for \$70 per person to Rotary
District 7620, P.O. Box 985, Reisterstown, MD
21136 Deadline: November 5**

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Rotary to receive UN Association's Humanitarian Award

By Vanessa N. Glavinskas RI News - 19 October 2007 Photo by Rotary Images

The United Nations Association of New York will honor Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation of RI with its 2007 Humanitarian Award on 25 October, in recognition of Rotary's significant efforts to provide safe water and sanitation and its commitment to sustainable development worldwide.

"In the years since Rotary International has started focusing on water as one of its annual service emphases, we've learned just how much can be accomplished with relatively

little, how a single small water project, perhaps a pump or a filter, can change the life of a community," says RI President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson.



"However, our work has also included participation in many other major water projects."

The award is presented annually in observance of United Nations Day (24 October). This year's award ceremony will focus on the global water crisis. Other honorees include Antony Burgmans, former chair of Unilever, and Cirque du Soleil's One

Drop Foundation.

Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs, director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and special adviser to the UN secretary-general, will serve as honorary chair of the event.

Last October, the association honored Robert L. Corcoran, president of the General Electric Foundation and Ann M. Veneman, executive director of UNICEF, for their significant work in global education.

The proceeds from the black-tie dinner will benefit organizations and enterprises working to alleviate water-related problems around the world.

Visit www.unany.org for more information.

Heathy Tips To Living A Long Life As A Rotarian [Forwarded by Jerry Gross]

October 20 is National Fruit Day. How can you celebrate? Eat an apple. Researchers at the University of California Davis Medical School studied how eating apples every day affects heart disease risk. The 12-week study showed that by simply including apples in the diet (and without making any other dietary changes), study participants were able to reduce their risk of heart disease, Dole's 5 A Day Web site reported.

Why are apples a smart staple in every school cafeteria? Apples contain a variety of antioxidant phytochemicals that decrease LDL oxidation. Oxidized LDL cholesterol is more likely to build up in arteries, a process that can cause heart attacks and stroke.

Researchers from the University of Nottingham, located in the United Kingdom,

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recently reported that people who eat five or more apples a week have better lung function and lower risk of asthma and other respiratory disease compared to people who rarely eat apples. Their findings were based on a 10-year study involving 2,633 people, examining relationships between diet and respiratory health. The researchers suspect that antioxidants in apples lead to these health benefits. In 1997 Finnish researchers reported that the antioxidant flavonoids may reduce the risk of lung cancer. This finding is based on a 25-year study examining relationships between diet and health in nearly 10,000 Finnish men.

Bill and Melinda Gates Call for New Commitment to Eradicate Malaria

October 19, 2007 [Forwarded by Jerry Gross]
Speaking at a gathering of the world's leading malaria scientists and policy makers earlier this week, Bill and Melinda Gates called on global leaders to embrace "an audacious goal – to reach a day when no human being has malaria, and no mosquito on earth is carrying it.

Each year, malaria kills more than one million people, most of them children. A malaria eradication campaign in the 1950s and 1960s collapsed because of declining donor funding and growing resistance to drugs and pesticides. Since then, malaria programs have focused on reducing the burden of the disease. But at the forum convened by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Melinda Gates said advances in science and medicine and the rising concern of people around the world

represent a historic opportunity to not simply treat or control malaria but to eradicate it. For his part, Bill Gates noted that "a rush of new actors" – including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, the World Bank's Malaria Booster Program, and the President's Malaria Initiative – were bringing new energy and resources to the global effort to control malaria. Together, these initiatives have committed \$3.6 billion to malaria control and will reach more than seventy nations. Gates also commended African countries that have undertaken aggressive, comprehensive malaria control programs, and singled out Zambia's malaria program as an "inspiring example of a nationally coordinated effort."

A report from UNICEF released during the forum documents the progress of recent malaria control efforts. The report, Malaria and Children, found that the annual supply of insecticide-treated bed nets to prevent malaria has more than doubled in recent years, from 30 million nets in 2004 to 63 million in 2006. In addition, global procurement of artemisinin combination therapies, the most effective treatment for malaria, grew from 3 million doses in 2003 to 100 million in 2006. To help build on this progress, the Gates' called on U.S. presidential candidates to commit to supporting the President's Malaria Initiative, a \$1.2 billion effort launched by President Bush in 2005. "We have a real chance to build the partnerships, generate the political will, and develop the scientific breakthroughs we need to end this disease," said Bill Gates. "We will not stop working until malaria is eradicated."