

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## Rotary Club Calendar for December

**December 6 - No Meeting**

**December 9 - Sunday at 1pm Holiday Party**  
Hosted by President Don and Nancy Smith  
Food Prepared by Bernard Henry  
*Only Members Are Invited to This Event*  
Please RSVP to President Don Smith

**December 11 - 6pm at Sophia House**  
12250-A Wilkins Ave Rockville 301-770-2413  
Serving Dinner for 30 Homeless Women  
Noel Howard Needs Volunteers to  
Bring: Vegetable Salad, Potatoes/Pastas,  
Meat, Dessert, Cold Beverages, Rolls/Butter,  
Napkins/Plates/Eating Utensils  
Call Noel Howard at 301-983-1977  
or Don Smith at 301-299-0361  
with any Questions/Comments

**December 11 - 7pm Manna Food Center**  
**December 13 - 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn**  
Don Hiruo's Classification Talk  
Ambassadorial Scholar

**December 20 - 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn**  
Neil McDonald  
Award-Winning Journalist  
Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

**December 27 - No Meeting**

## November 28 Meeting Report



As a psychologist dealing with troubled youth, Linda Meade described the balance of privacy for the patient versus the public need to be secure. Journals

written by youth are collected and reviewed for threats, veiled threats and content of drawings. Often youth come from a



background where violence is endorsed such as being involved with a gang. Several of our Rotarians who grew up in Europe commented that crime is accepted on television here in contrast to

that in Europe. There was also concern about violence in video games and in sports such as football. With another mass slaying by a youth in Omaha this week, this discussion was very timely. Thanks, Linda, for your excellent presentation.

We welcomed first-time guest **Stephen M. Heinz Achamou**, owner of the Coverall Cleaning Concepts franchise in Montgomery County. It was the return visit for **George Mattamal** who had traveled to India for the past several weeks.



The happy dollars that are collected in December will go to the Manna Food Center that is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this spring.

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## **Gates Foundation Grant Garner Worldwide Publicity**

Rotary International News - 29 November 2007 Photo by Rotary Images

Monday's announcement that Rotary accepted a US\$100 million challenge grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that will generate \$200 million for polio eradication continues to receive media attention around the globe.

Highlights include stories in the Chicago Tribune, O Globo (Brazil), La Nacion (Argentina), El País (Spain), Los Angeles Times, Boston Globe, the Herald (Scotland), BBC Radio, National Public Radio, Agence France-Presse, Reuters, and Associated Press.

Monday's press conference, moderated by RI's PolioPlus Manager Carol Pandak, included remarks by Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Dr. Robert Scott in Evanston, Illinois, USA; Gates Foundation Cochair William Gates Sr. in Seattle; and WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan in Geneva.

Media coverage continued Tuesday, with a press briefing convened by RI President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson in Kuala Lumpur, which was covered by 15 news organizations.

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

## **RI and Gates Foundation Commit US\$200 Million For Intensified Push To Finish Polio**

By Wayne Hearn & Dan Nixon RI News - 26 November 2007 Photo by AP Images

Rotary International announced a partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on 26 November that will inject a much needed US\$200 million into the global effort to eradicate polio.

The Rotary Foundation received a \$100 million Gates Foundation challenge grant, which Rotary will raise funds to match, dollar for dollar, over three years.

Rotary will spend the initial \$100 million within one year in direct support of immunization activities carried out by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, spearheaded by the World Health Organization

(WHO), Rotary International, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and UNICEF.

"The extraordinary dedication of Rotary members has played a critical role in bringing polio to the brink of eradication," says Bill Gates, cochair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. "Eradicating polio will be one of the most significant public health accomplishments in history, and we are committed to helping reach that goal."

The polio eradication grant is one of the largest challenge grants ever given by the



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Gates Foundation and the largest grant received by Rotary in its 102-year history. Since 1985, Rotary has made polio eradication its top priority and has contributed \$633 million to the effort.

"Rotarians worldwide have worked very hard over the years to reach this point, and it is rewarding to see our approach validated in such a significant way by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation," says Dr. Robert Scott, chair of The Rotary Foundation Trustees. "We hope that this shared commitment of Rotary and the Gates Foundation will challenge other donors, including foundations, governments, and nongovernmental organizations, to step up and make sure we have the resources needed to rid the world of polio once and for all."

"This partnership is a historic milestone - and timely opportunity - for Rotary through the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to help eradicate a disease that once devastated a thousand lives a day," says RI President Wilfrid Wilkinson. "I know that we as Rotarians will accept the challenge and do our part to finish the job."



*Bill Gates, cofounder of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, gives a baby the oral polio vaccine at the Shadnagar*

*community health clinic in Andhra Pradesh, India, in 2002.*

The Gates Foundation grant comes at a critical juncture for the initiative, which urgently needs an infusion of funds to reach the eradication goal. Although the initiative has slashed the number of polio cases by 99 percent over the past two decades, the wild poliovirus still persists in four countries: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan. Polio cases represented by that final 1 percent are the most costly to prevent, due to geographical isolation, poor public infrastructure, armed conflict, cultural barriers, and other factors.

"This investment is precisely the catalyst we need as we intensify the push to finish polio," says Dr. Margaret Chan, WHO's director-general. "We have the technical tools to do it, and we can achieve a polio-free world if the rest of our financial partners step up to meet the challenge."

Most of the initial \$100 million will be spent in support of mass immunization campaigns in polio-affected countries, poliovirus surveillance activities, and community education and outreach. The grant will also support an expanded research agenda on ways to expedite interruption of the transmission of the wild poliovirus. Rotary will distribute the funds through grants to WHO and UNICEF.

"The funds made possible through the Gates Foundation grant will help the Global Polio Eradication Initiative scale up its efforts to provide oral polio vaccine to children in those isolated locations where it's most needed," says Ann Veneman, executive director of UNICEF. "This important contribution will

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improve the capacity to protect vulnerable children from this debilitating disease."

CDC Director Dr. Julie Gerberding says the collaboration between Rotary and the Gates Foundation underscores the importance of private-sector involvement in major public health efforts. "As a government agency, we think it's wonderful that our private-sector colleagues have taken a leadership role in something as important as polio eradication. Their participation is absolutely critical."

## **Message from the President of Rotary International**

December 2007 The Rotarian

December is family month, a time when we pay special attention to our emphasis on the family of Rotary. When I speak about this, I'm often asked to explain just what the family of Rotary means and why it's included as an emphasis.

When you put the family of Rotary idea next to such enormous needs as nutritious food and clean water, it might seem much less important. After all, as Rotarians, we're here to help everyone and look out for all those who need us. We don't just look after our own – that's not what Rotary is about.

As Rotarians, we do have a great responsibility to make sure Rotary's good work doesn't end with us. Rotary does so much that is so important in so many ways: providing water to the thirsty, food to the hungry, medical care to the poor and sick,

education to the illiterate. It's been doing that for more than 100 years now.

But if we focused all our attention on nothing but that lifesaving and life-altering work, then that work would eventually come to an end. Rotary would die out in a generation if we did not also pay attention to the health of our own organization – our members, our clubs, and those who will join our clubs in the years to come.

One reason I've always felt so at home in Rotary and with the idea of the family of Rotary could be that I come from a large family myself. I'm one of 10 children – six girls and four boys. But as big as my family is, it's nothing compared with Rotary. We're not just 1.2 million Rotarians in 32,000 clubs. We're 250,000 Interactors, 170,000 Rotaractors, 150,000 Rotary Community



Corps members and, in the last year alone, about 8,000 young people in Rotary Youth Exchange. And, of course, we also include the spouses, widows and widowers, and children of Rotarians. Altogether, the family of Rotary is well over two million strong.

Our family is strong because it's close, and because it's always forming new ties. We need to ensure that Rotary keeps growing – in all the branches of our family. We should always be looking for and inviting qualified men and women to join our clubs.

Wilfrid J. (Wilf) Wilkinson  
President, Rotary International

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## **Rotary Foundation Chair's Message: Peace Is Possible**

Dear family of Rotary,

To write or talk of peace when so many of our friends are on the front lines of battle and in harm's way is very difficult. Yet as Rotarians, with our Rotary Foundation working for peace through educational and humanitarian programs, it is our duty. If we don't, who will?



In June, the Foundation sponsored its first Rotary World Peace Symposium, an event that spotlighted the students and graduates of its peace studies programs. About 175 current participants and alumni joined

us in Salt Lake City, clearly demonstrating their enthusiasm. The hundreds of Rotarians who met these dedicated peacemakers were impressed by their commitment, their knowledge, and all they have accomplished during their relatively short careers.

Consider that only four classes – about 230 peace fellows – have graduated from the Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution, and already they are making a difference. Take Miho Kishitani, for example, who is managing reconstruction efforts in Iraq, or Stefano Gnes, one of four graduates with the World Bank, who is helping communities in Indonesia cope with political turmoil and the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami. The list goes on. Name a part of the world facing conflict or strife, and you're likely to find Foundation

alumni there, working to reach a lasting peace that is beneficial for all.

To see such results so quickly is very heartening and indeed inspiring. We can all take great pride in the far-reaching effects of our peace studies programs. That's why our continued support is so crucial. I encourage all Rotarians to consider making a gift that will help us fully endow the Rotary Centers and to nominate promising candidates as future peace fellows. By acting now, we can ensure that every year, a new class of peacemakers is sent out to make our world a little less troubled.

Robert S. Scott

Trustee Chair, The Rotary Foundation, 07-08

## **Natalie Cole To Star At The 2008 RI Convention In Los Angeles**

28 November 2007

Eight-time Grammy Award-winning singer Natalie Cole will perform at the 2008 RI Convention in Los Angeles. The renowned artist, daughter of icon Nat "King" Cole, will appear at the new NOKIA Theatre L.A. LIVE as a part of the "California Experience" event put together by local Rotarians on the Host Organization Committee.

## **Club Directory Update:**

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