

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Calendar – January 2008

January 3 - 6:30pm – Hunters Inn
 Hors d'oeuvres, Wine and Cheese Social
 January 8 – 7pm Manna Food Center
 January 10 - 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn
 Installation of New Member George Mattamal
 December 14 – 6:30pm Mid-year District
 Leadership Meeting at the BWI-Ramada.
 \$15 per person includes a light supper.
 January 17 - 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn
 January 24 - 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn
 Robert Kalinoski – Microlending
 January 26 – 8am to Noon
 Mini-Summit on Hunger, BWI-Ramada
 \$10 per person includes a continental
 breakfast. Registrations and payments are
 due by no later than January 16th.
 January 31 - 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn
 Neil McDonald

Award-Winning Journalist

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

March 29 – Saturday

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club Annual
 International Night at the Hungarian Embassy

End of Year Activity Report by President Don Smith

Now that 2008 is on us, like it or not, I thought it would be a good time to review some of the accomplishments of the club during the past six months.

MEMBERSHIP

We have added two excellent new members, Don Hiruo and Jason Hamel, with a third now joining, George Mattamal. Unfortunately, Ted Asfaw has left the club. We all need to join in seeking new members.

PROJECTS

Amount	Name	Member Sponsor
\$250	Lombardi Cancer Ctr.	Memory of Hugo Souza
\$750	Peru earthquake relief	Caesar Kavadoy
\$9,000	Ethiopian Orphanage	Todd Nitkin
\$2,100	Rotary Intl. Foundation	Bob Nelson
\$800	JFGH (flooring)	Jerry Gross
\$1,000	Dictionary project	Alan Grant
\$200	Seg4Vets	Noel Howard
\$450	Gifts, Sophia House	Noel Howard
\$1,500	Manna Food Bank	Steve Naron

These projects total \$16,050, excellent contributions to nine different worthwhile causes. We need to keep up this good work, and we need all members to recommend charities to support. Nabil Bedewi is working on micro lending, John Call on scholarships, and Don Hiruo on joint projects with the Goodwill.

MEETINGS

We need all members to suggest or obtain speakers for meetings. Please be on the lookout for speakers; we all know someone who would be interesting. We will continue to mix social and regular meetings. Nabil and others are doing an excellent job planning the International Banquet, scheduled for March 29. We look forward to this very special event.

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FINANCIALS

We have been able to support the projects while maintaining our strong financial status. This obviously depends on the support of all members. Treasurer Alan Cookson will be distributing invoices for the first quarter's dues very soon. Please pay promptly. We are not at this time planning on having a fundraiser. Although it is always possible to improve, the club is operating very well and I thank all the members who contribute to make this happen. I am optimistic that 2008 will be an outstanding year. I look forward to the next six months, and then turning over my responsibilities to Todd Nitkin. I wish a most Happy New Year to all members and their families.

President Don Smith

The Tournament of Roses Parade Rotary Float Viewed by Hundreds of Millions of People Worldwide



The theme of this year's Rotary float is celebrating World Literacy Day. In 2008 the International Convention will be held in Los Angeles and the goal is to collect one million books for students. Sharing in the education of young people all over the world is one of Rotary's main projects.

Email from Former Ambassadorial Scholar Anja Linder in Tunisia

Dear Bob and Marilyn,

Thank you so much for your Christmas letter and for thinking of us. I am happy to learn that you're both doing well and enjoying life. Carlos and I are now living in Tunisia since about 6 months ago. We came here for Carlos' work, he is now a Governance manager at the African Development Bank which is temporarily located here in Tunis, due to war etc in its usual location, Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

Tunisia is a beautiful place and we are both very much enjoying life here. It is a small country, but with a very rich history and I am enjoying the opportunity to brush up on my Arabic! Other than that I continue to do consulting work in the development field. Since February 2006 I have been working for the World Bank in Brazil and continue to do so for the moment.

I wish you both a very happy new year 2008 and I hope we can stay in touch!

All the best Anja

Ambassadorial Scholar Kanae Tsutsumi

Happy New Year!
Thank you very much for having me at the last meeting of your club. May this year be happy and fruitful.
Sincerely

Kanae Tsutsumi

[See Kanae's presentation on page 3]



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**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLAR
KANA E TSUTSUMI**
E-MAIL:
KANAETSUTSUMI1977@HOTMAIL.COM
December 20, 2007
Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club

FIELD OF STUDY

- o Master of Tourism Administration
(Sustainable Destination Management)
School of Business
The George Washington University
- o Simultaneous pursuit of development & conservation
- o Example : Traffic restriction at Kamikochi



MY SPONSOR ROTARY CLUB

- o Handa RC (District 2760)
 - established in 1951
 - 60 members
- o Red: enthusiasm
- o Green: gentleness to the environment
- o Blue: culture & history



FIELD OF STUDY

- o Why is tourism important?
- o How does it relate to Rotary?
- o Tourism can...
 - Promote mutual understanding and peace
 - Improve the quality of life
- o In short, tourism has potential to achieve Rotary's mission.

MY SPONSOR ROTARY CLUB

- o Recent event: a concert for physically handicapped children



COURSES TAKEN IN FALL SEMESTER

- o Destination Development through Hospitality, Sports & Events
- o Statistical Applications in Tourism & Hospitality Management
- o Administration of Tourism Services
- o Tourism Development

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RI President's Message: It's Time To Win The War Against Polio

The Rotarian January 2008

Since 1988, when polio eradication efforts began, Rotary International has been a spearheading partner in the fight to end the disease. Longtime Rotarians know the history well. There have been triumphs and setbacks. There have been times of rapid advances and times when progress has seemed slow. There have been times when the end seemed very near. But never has it been nearer than it is right now.

Before the campaign to eliminate polio, about 1,000 children a day – 350,000 a year – were paralyzed by this terrible disease. These children were left to a life of struggle and disability, and often of social stigma. Today, only four countries are still polio-endemic, and annual cases of polio paralysis are down to about 1,000 a year.

We've come so far, yet the nature of the wild poliovirus means that if we slacken our efforts for even a moment, we'll soon see our hard work reversed. We have only two options: to press on with determination and faith until we succeed, or to lose everything we've invested and everything we've gained.

The generosity of Rotarians in responding to the call for help has been astounding. We've raised more than US\$600 million to support polio eradication in 122 countries. We've saved the lives of thousands of children through the polio vaccine and the vitamin supplements distributed with it, and we've

saved countless more from the often desperate realities of postpolio paralysis.

Now we're in the final stretch of this long and difficult, but exhilarating, race. It's literally a question of choice – to win or lose, succeed or fail. Our partners around the world have recognized how critical this juncture is, and many have stepped in with added support, financial and practical. The recently announced grant of \$100 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is a resounding vote of confidence in polio eradication efforts. Their financial support will be invaluable in the months ahead, and their trust in Rotary is an honor to us all.

Many of you have already given so much to the battle against polio. Each of you is forever a part of history – part of Rotary's legacy and its gift to the world's children. Today, we call on all Rotarians – but especially on new Rotarians who have not been a part of campaigns in the past – to do what they can, to help in any way they can, to finish this fight once and for all.

Wilfrid J. (Wilf) Wilkinson
President, Rotary International

Home Makeover Surprises Family Dealing With Cancer

By Harriet Modler RI News - 27 December 2007 Photo by Geoff Maleman

Upon seeing the stucco bungalow with its new coat of paint, neat lawn, and white picket fence, you might think the people who live there spend all their spare time doing yardwork and home improvement projects.

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Westchester Rotarians redo the landscaping. More than 100 Rotarian and community volunteers participated in the project.

Far from it. Scott Odom, a father of three in Westchester, Calif., USA, had been fighting prostate cancer for a long time—a battle he finally lost in November. As he underwent treatment, home maintenance was about the last thing on his mind. It was all that Odom, an English professor at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, could do to keep up with his teaching schedule. His wife, Christine, a school nurse, was busy too. So what's the secret behind this well-kept home? Rotarians.

In 2006, the Rotary Club of Westchester (Los Angeles) started searching for a hands-on service project and decided to paint and landscape the home of someone who could use the extra help. After meeting the Odoms, who have two daughters, ages 10 and 13, and a son, age 16, the club members realized their house needed more extensive repairs, so they requested help from other groups in the community. Between cash and in-kind donations, the club raised nearly

\$80,000 to furnish and renovate the home and cover the back yard with gravel for easy maintenance.

After sending the Odoms on a trip to Disneyland, Rotarians and other volunteers, including Interactors and Rotaractors, got down to work. With some professional guidance, they remodeled the kitchen, refurbished the sunroom, set up a barbecue and fire pit in the back yard, assembled a storage shed, planted flowerbeds, and painted the girls' bedroom light blue. In just four days, the job was finished. (A few weeks later, neighbors laid sod and installed a sprinkler system in the front yard.)

When the Odoms returned, more than 100 people were on hand to welcome them. "I was beyond words, I was so stunned," Scott said. "I couldn't believe it was our house. What they did to the living room, kitchen, and outside was just amazing. The Rotary Club of Westchester is about the nicest collection of people I've ever met."

Club member Geoff Maleman says the Odoms weren't the only ones to benefit: "Initially, we thought, 'What a great gift we're giving them.' But by the end of the weekend, we realized, 'What a great gift we're giving us,' working shoulder to shoulder to help a family really in need. It changed every Rotarian's Thanksgiving dinner that year."

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

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