

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Calendar

January 31 - 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn

Comedian Ken Watter



Ken Watter is a CPA, Certified Financial Planner and a stand-up comic. He's appeared at clubs and colleges throughout Maryland, Virginia, DC and West Virginia, including the DC Improv and the Baltimore Comedy Factory. Ken is a

frequent public speaker and the former host of Financial Weekly, which aired on WMET radio from 1997 through 2003. He has two children in college, is a past president of the North Bethesda Kiwanis Club, practices in Bethesda, MD and lives in Gaithersburg.

February 7 - 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn

Stephen Rochkind

Real Estate Appraiser



Stephen Rochkind, SRA is chief appraiser at Area Appraisal Services, Inc. a residential real estate appraiser located in downtown Bethesda servicing Maryland, DC and Northern VA.

February 11 - 6:30pm District Leadership Meeting at the BWI-Ramada

February 12 - 7pm Manna Food Center Presentation of \$1500 to Manna

February 14 - 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn Bring Your Sweetheart for a

Valentines Day Wine and Cheese Social

February 21- 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn

February 28 - 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn

March 6 - 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn

March 11 - 7pm Manna Food Center

March 13 - 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn

March 26 - 11:30am Rotary Day at Gallaudet University

March 29 - International Night at the Hungarian Embassy

Please send news articles and photos to BobNelson20854@yahoo.com for inclusion in the newsletter.

January 24 Meeting Report:



President **Don Smith** welcomed the President of the Potomac Rotary Club, **Vijay Khetarpal**. President Vijay described a water project in Togo that was initiated by Rotarian Andrew Winters. Andrew's father had been a Rotarian and Andrew had joined the Potomac Rotary Club about a year ago. Sadly Andrew was killed a month ago, but the club is continuing to pursue the project in his memory. They plan to construct 18 wells in five villages.

Steve Naron introduced Ambassadorial Scholar Bourgelie Ampion from France. Bourgelie was born in the Congo but moved to France at 4 years old. She is a lawyer in France and plans to continue her studies in DC and be employed locally. Her talk highlighted the Congo, a small country in West Africa formerly a French Colony, which became independent in 1960.



Bob Kalinoski is the Rotary District coordinator for the microfinance program. Pioneered by Muhammed Yunis, the microfinance concept has been highly successful in breaking the

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cycle of poverty and encouraging entrepreneurial initiatives in many countries. Rotarians are actively involved through the Rotarian Action Group on Microfinance. For only a \$100 membership fee, the action group website affords Rotarians much information on pilot projects in Liberia, Costa Rica and the Phillipines and best practices for setting up and running these programs. Locally **Nabil** mentioned that there is a Microfinance Club for DC Residents.

\$130 in Happy Dollars were collected. **Bernard** was welcomed back from his travels. **Klaus** mentioned that his wife is a volunteer at the Anderson House at the Society of Cincinnati and invited Rotarians to special events there. **Jerry** made the appeal for bringing more guests, particularly women interested in Rotary membership.

Trucking Tycoon Helps Fund Peace Program

By Tiffany Woods Rotary International News - 29 January 2008

Rotarian Al Jubitz remembers the time when he was 12 years old and another boy punched him in the face. His ego was bruised, but he learned a lesson: Peace is always better than fighting.



Now he hopes to see that lesson applied on a global scale. A member of the Rotary Club of Portland, Oregon, USA, Jubitz has pledged US\$300,000 to endow five Rotary World

Peace Fellowships, which will fund aspiring peacemakers as they pursue master's degrees.

"Rotary World Peace Fellows deserve a boost financially to follow their passion," says the retired trucking tycoon. "You've got to trust that if we plant seeds in these young people, good things will happen. That's why I support the program."

Jubitz, 63, graduated from Yale University but says he received his "formal education" in peacemaking in the late 1970s, when he was involved with the Creative Initiative Foundation (later called Beyond War). The group organized grassroots meetings in living rooms to educate people about the excesses of the Cold War arms race.

Today, he's particularly interested in fostering peace in Cyprus, where a United Nations-patrolled buffer zone separates Greek and Turkish Cypriots. "If we can create peace in Cyprus, we probably have all the ingredients for doing it in the Middle East," he says. Jubitz, who visited Cyprus in 2005, has helped fund Portland State University's Peace Initiatives Project, which aims to find a solution to the longstanding conflict on the Mediterranean island.

Through the Jubitz Family Foundation, he and his daughters have also awarded grants to Portland State University's conflict resolution graduate program, the Wholistic Peace Institute, and the Oregon Peace Institute, which Jubitz chaired in the 1970s.

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Rotarian To Donate \$2 Million To Help End Polio

By Tiffany Woods Rotary International News - 24 January 2008



Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio have gotten a US\$2 million boost from a Rotarian diamond and jewelry magnate.

Harshad Mehta, a native of India who is a senior partner in the Belgium-based Rosy Blue diamond and jewelry company, has pledged to donate the money to Rotary's polio eradication efforts over the next three years.

Mehta, the largest Indian donor to The Rotary Foundation, was inspired to make the commitment after learning about the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's \$100 million challenge grant for polio eradication. Rotary must match the grant dollar for dollar over a three-year period.

Foundation Trustee Chair Robert S. Scott recalls a conversation with him in December, when Mehta suddenly said, "I will give \$2 million toward the match." It was "a very exciting development and an extremely generous" commitment, says Scott.

Mehta, 60, joined the Rotary Club of Bombay Metropolitan in 1986 as a charter member. His previous contributions to The Rotary Foundation have totaled more than \$1 million. Some of the money has been used to endow an Ambassadorial Scholarship that finances recipients' studies at universities.

Mehta serves as chair of the United Arab Emirates operations of Rosy Blue, a family business that employs more than 15,000 people around the world. He's also Armenia's honorary consul in Mumbai and the vice chair of the Dubai Diamond Exchange. He is a past chair of the Gem and Jewelry Export Promotion Council and a past vice president of the Federation of Indian Export Organizations.

In his spare time, he enjoys reading, listening to music, walking, swimming, playing cricket, and spending time with his wife, three children, and five grandchildren.

In the final push to stop polio, Mehta urges Rotarians not to give up. "We must further strengthen our resolve as we are so close to the ultimate goal," he says. "Any slackening at this point will result in a total loss of all the time, effort, and money put in over the past years."

3-H Project Shines The Light Of Literacy In Brazil

By Joseph Derr Rotary International News Photos by Alyce Henson/Rotary Images

A Rotary Foundation 3-H Grant that introduced the concentrated language encounter (CLE) method to Brazil in 2001 continues to boost literacy rates among low-income families throughout the country.

With support from the Foundation, Brazilian host partners in districts 4520, 4560, and 4760 and international partners in districts 6900 (Georgia, USA) and 7080 (Ontario,

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Canada) developed a US\$344,862 project that set up a CLE training center in Contagem, Minas Gerais.

Today, more than 1,900 teachers and other educational experts have learned the method that has taught more than 72,600 beneficiaries how to read and write. Through CLE, students learn from group texts and activities rather than rote memorization and repetition. With low costs and a highly interactive aspect that is popular with students, CLE programs have proven effective in numerous developing countries.



A Rotarian literacy initiative supported by a Rotary Foundation 3-H grant has helped thousands of Brazilian children learn to read and write.

"In this area, we've had a big problem with functional illiteracy," says Gláucia Rosa Alves, a trainer at one of the centers. "We needed a low-cost and effective method, and then Rotary came."

Dozens of local Rotary clubs are now promoting and supporting CLE methodology

in Brazil. The active involvement of local Rotarians has also led to numerous non-grant projects to help schools with materials, meals, and health care.

One school that adopted the method is Sônia Braga Ribeiro, an oasis in a crime-ridden area of Contagem. Many of the students come from destitute families who must collect trash to make a living.

"For many students, the school becomes a second home," says Eduardo Krafetuski, a past District 4760 governor and coordinator of the project. "The CLE method is successful because students work in groups, so if one student is struggling, his classmates will help him out."

Pacemakers Keep Hearts Beating

By Anne E. Stein The Rotarian magazine

Rotarian cardiologist, Rogelio Tanco, examines a patient, Jose Ramie Baltero, whom he implanted with a pacemaker, in Manila, Philippines. *Photo courtesy of Heartbeat International*



In 1977, cardiologist Federico Alfaro returned to Guatemala from the United States after completing his education at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. A year later, a 17-year-old boy under his care died because

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his family couldn't afford a pacemaker, a battery-operated device that helps the heart beat in a regular rhythm.

"It made a big impact on me," said Alfaro, a member of the Rotary Club of Guatemala de la Asunción. "It left a scar on my heart and as time went on, I realized the situation was the same, or worse, throughout the country."

Vowing not to let such a tragedy happen again, he proposed that his club establish a center that would provide pacemakers and free implant surgery to low-income Guatemalans. With the help of a US\$261,200 3-H Grant from The Rotary Foundation, that initiative snowballed and in 1984 resulted in the creation of Heartbeat International, a nonprofit in Tampa Bay, Florida, USA. Over the years, senior Rotary leaders have supported the organization, including Past RI Presidents Herb Brown, Carlos Canseco, Frank Devlyn, and Rajendra Saboo. It has also received Matching Grants from the Foundation.

Today, Heartbeat International has 46 pacemaker distribution centers in 28 developing countries, says its president, Wil Mick, a member of the Rotary Club of Tampa Downtown Daybreak, Florida, USA. The system works like this: Local Rotary clubs, which oversee the centers, assess a person's economic need. Once financial need is established, Heartbeat International ships a free pacemaker to the center, and a doctor implants it. All medical services, which are

frequently provided by Rotarian doctors, and lifetime follow-up are free.

Nearly 9,000 devices have been implanted (80 percent were pacemakers and the rest were defibrillators) in adults and children, Mick says. The youngest patient, he says, was a newborn in Mexico and the oldest was a 102-year-old in Honduras.

"When you give someone back their life and their future, when you give a family back their child or mother or father, you create bonds of international goodwill which lead to peace," Mick says. "These are Rotary ideals, so we believe that our pacemakers are peacemakers."

For more information go to www.heartbeatintl.org or call (813) 243-8769.

Our Rotary Club is looking for men/women in a variety of professions – just a few possible vocations are listed below:

Small Business Owners

Physicians

Insurance brokers/agents

Pharmacists

Optician

Banking and Wealth Management

Journalist/writers

Rotary Shares by

Growing Rotary Membership!

Bring a guest to the next meeting!