

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## Rotary Calendar



**February 14 - 6:30pm**  
**Social-Hunters Inn**  
**Bring Your Sweetheart for**  
**Hors de Oeuvres, Wine &**  
**Cheese on Valentines Day!**

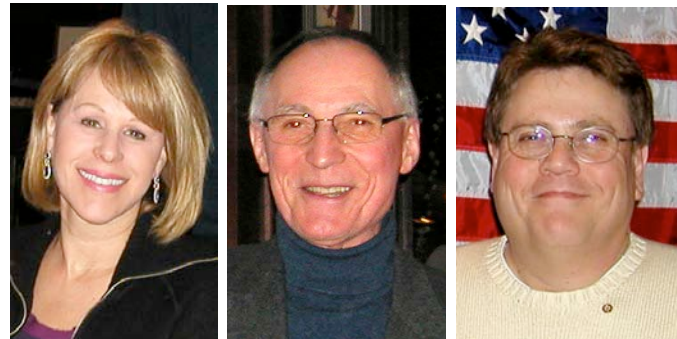
**February 21- 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn**  
**February 28 - 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn**  
**March 6 - 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn**  
**March 11 - 7pm Manna Food Center**  
**Presentation of \$1500 to Manna**  
**March 13 - 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn**  
**March 20 - 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn**  
**March 26 - 11:30am Rotary Day at**  
**Gallaudet University**  
**March 29 - 9am Rotary District Mini-Summit**  
**on Literacy, Rockville Library**  
**March 29 - International Night**  
**at the Hungarian Embassy**

## January 31 Meeting Report



**Ken Watter**, CPA and comedian entertained the club with some great stories that had everyone laughing. Since humor is known to keep one younger, this meeting indeed was beneficial to all concerned.

Visiting the club were **Arlene Cohen**, wife of Neil and two Rotarians from Rockville and Switzerland. **\$86** happy dollars collected.



(Above) Visiting the Rotary Club meeting on January 31 were Arlene Cohen, wife of Neil and visiting Rotarians Helmut Bourzutschky from Winterthur, Switzerland and Scott Janco Secretary of the Rockville Rotary Club.



(Left) President Don hands Steve Naron a check for \$1500 to donate to the Manna Food Center.

## UN Secretary-General Meets with Rotary Leaders

By Susie Ma Rotary International News - 8 February 2008 Photos by Monika Lozinska-Lee/Rotary Images

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon received the Rotary International Award of Honor at a private ceremony in Chicago. From left to right, RI President-elect Dong Kurn Lee, UN Secretary-General Ban, RI President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson, Foundation Trustee Chair Robert S. Scott, and RI General Secretary Edwin H. Futa. RI

President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson (left), greets UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (right). Ban is a friend of RI President-elect Dong Kurn Lee (center).



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## **UN Secretary-General Meets with Rotary Leaders**

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met with Rotary leaders and praised Rotarians for their commitment to polio eradication in a recent visit to Chicago. "Rotary International has led a worldwide campaign to wipe out polio. Sometime soon, their work will be done. Polio will be history, like smallpox," Ban said in an address to the Economic Club of Chicago on 7 February.

At a private ceremony in downtown Chicago earlier in the day, Rotary International President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson presented Ban with the Rotary International Award of Honor in recognition of his support for polio eradication and his dedication to furthering peace and cross-cultural understanding. Past recipients of this high Rotary honor include Kofi Annan, Bill Clinton, Mikhail Gorbachev, and Nelson Mandela.

The secretary-general also met with Foundation Trustee Chair Robert S. Scott, RI General Secretary Edwin H. Futa, and RI President-elect Dong Kurn Lee. Ban and Lee, both South Koreans, are friends.

Rotary's close ties with the UN date back to 1945 when 49 Rotarians helped draft the UN charter. Rotary continues to collaborate with the UN through the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, a partnership with the United Nation's Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## **Rotary UN Day Report**

On November 3, 2007, Rotary International's Representatives to the United Nations, headed by Brad Jenkins from the Bernardsville, N.J. Rotary Club welcomed more than 950 Rotarians, 150 Rotaractors and Interactors, and 150 high school students from forty-eight countries and twenty-five states to the Annual Rotary Day at the United Nations in New York. Speakers at the conference included Rotary International's President, Wilfred Wilkinson; President-elect, Dong-Kurn Lee; and Chairman of the Rotary Foundation, Robert J. Scott. Many of RI's Directors and dozens of Rotary's Ambassadorial Scholars, Peace and Conflict Scholars, and Rotary World Peace Fellows also attended. This annual Rotary program over the last 20 years has become so popular that over 300 Rotarian attendance requests had to be turned away from this year's event.



*Nearly 1,300 Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors and high school students spent the day at the United Nation to understand more about the Rotary and U.N. Partnership to Alleviate Global Poverty.*

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The focus of this informative day was to strengthen the increasingly important partnership between Rotary International and the United Nations in achieving the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These goals include halving extreme poverty, halting the spread of HIV/AIDS, ensuring environmental stability, and providing universal primary education by the target date of 2015. The President of Rotary International, Wilfred Wilkinson, gave an inspiring examination of how with the efforts of Rotary, Peace is Possible. President Wilford had been in New York on October 25, 2007 to accept an award on RI's behalf from the United Nations Association of New York in recognition of Rotary's contribution in providing access to clean water around the world and work on the global water crisis.

He emphasized that if we are to teach real peace in the world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we will have to start with the children. Anger and hatred are not inherited, they are learned, and children who see hate learn hate. But people in conflict can achieve peace, and Rotarians can help because "Rotary is a long-standing, non-religious, non-political organization, and we are not beholden to any Prime Minister or government", he noted.

He also wanted his fellow Rotarians to keep in mind that a "person becomes great to the degree for which he works for his fellow man". Each of us has the opportunity to build peace and create bridges by collaborating with the United Nations to achieve the

Millennium Development Goals. Building bridges, even small ones, is something that many Rotarians have done very well, he added. He noted that this year Rotarians and guests from dozens of countries gathered recently for three Rotary Presidential Peace Forums. They were:

- . Boyana, Bulgaria, in August that invited participants to discuss the possibilities of peace with a focus on the Balkans.
- . Istanbul, Turkey on September 1 which coincided with the UN World Peace Day, initiative with a focus on peace in the Middle-East.
- . Nairobi, Kenya, on September 20, that outlined Rotary's role in building peace in Africa.

Kiyotaka Akasaka, the United Nations Undersecretary-General for Communications and Public Information, also welcomed the Rotarians. Mr. Akasaka joined the Japanese Foreign Ministry in 1971 after graduating from Kyoto University. He held senior positions in the World Health Organization and was a member of the Secretariat of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT - the precursor of the World Trade Organization) up until April 2007. He also held the position of Deputy Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) where he was responsible for sustainable development, the environment, and partnership with other international



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organizations. He also chaired the Kyoto Protocol. He recalled his mind-set when in 1996 he participated in one of Rotary's vaccination campaigns in Africa, and he realized that the children he had just dispensed the vaccine to will never get polio! It was a profound and inspiring feeling, and he was grateful to participate in such a noble program. He also invited Rotarians to support the 60th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 2008 in Paris, France where the original document was signed.

## Literacy Panel

Mr. Cream Wright, Chief of the Education Cluster at UNICEF welcomed the Rotarians and clarified that every child deserves an education, and that school is about more than just learning. He pointed out that UNICEF supports education programs serving children from pre-school age through adolescence. Since the majority of children not in school are girls, we make a special effort to give girls a learning which saves and transforms lives, and yields spectacular benefits in social and economic development. However, Mr. Wright also pointed out that the quality of education is very important. It is essential to determine when children stay and complete school that they learning.

Rotarian Barbara Walters of the RC of Kalamazoo, Michigan is a reporter and columnist with the Kalamazoo Michigan Gazette and she first became involved in Rotary when she was assigned by her

newspaper to report on a Rotary 11-day Caravan drive to Belize. Barbara arranged for her club to provide a full time certified teacher for Casa Amparo ala Mujer (House of Mercy for Women) that served as a shelter for abandoned girls in Reynosa, Mexico which is across the border from Texas. The shelter is managed by Catholic nuns who provide physical, spiritual, emotional and educational needs of these children who have nowhere to turn. Today, the shelter serves close to one hundred girls from age 6 to 17. Barbara recognized that many of the girls needed additional support to learn to read and write. Poor reading and writing skills made employment opportunities difficult for these girls when they entered adulthood, and could send them back into the cycle of poverty. In response to this, in the mid 1990s, with used desks from Michigan schools, the Rotary Club of Kalamazoo provided funding for a full time, certified teacher for the home. In 1993, there were no children from the orphanage that entered high school, yet now with the hired teacher, there have already been two girls that graduated from college! Recognizing success the club is now funding a second teacher. Barbara also pointed out that 35 years ago she and her husband served as teachers for three years in Malawi. Hearing about her participation at this conference, one of Barbara's former students, Steven Mackenzie, who is now the Ambassador to the United Nations for Malawi, has arranged to meet with Barbara and her husband during her visit to New York. Insightfully, Barbara noted that, at times, teachers may forget some

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of their students, but seldom do students forget their teachers.

## Water Panel

The moderator of the Water Panel, RI Alternate Representative to the UN, Sylvan Barnet pointed out that clean water is a local problem and solutions are at the local level. He also pointed out that 2008 is the United Nations Year of Sanitation, and that about two-percent of the world's water is used for human consumption, and seventy-percent agriculture. Project sustainability and longevity was discussed as one of the most critical variables and Sustainability can best be insured by having those who are the recipients of the effort involved on all levels of development. Dr. Ron Denham, Rotary's General Coordinator of Water, and Sanitation Resources Action Groups (WASRAG) also participated in the panel.

Clarissa Brockelhurst, Chief of UNICEF's Water, Environment and Sanitation Section, spoke about the need for clean water and sanitation, although she remarked that she felt that she is speaking to the converted. UNICEF has a \$245 million budget and is currently working in 90 countries with a staff of 300. Needless to say, with such a colossal task, it needs the support and assistance of organizations like Rotary. In addition, UNICEF works with the World Bank and the African Development Bank for funding major sanitation projects such as pipelines and treatment plants. More and more, NGO's are looking at the linkages of clean water and its

impact on the other millennium development goals. It is now apparent that health and nutrition are related to access to clean water. Clarissa pointed out that in a recent medical journal it was asserted that proper sanitation is the greatest medical milestone since 1948, even more important than most medicines. For example, people with AIDS cannot successfully adhere to their treatments and remain healthy without clean water. Sanitation also affects education. Schools have to be girl-friendly, and separate bathrooms are needed for girls or many parents would not send their girls to school. Also, time saved not carrying water from a distant well allows more time for classroom time and studying. While many wells and pumps are being installed and storage tanks for rain water are being built, thanks to Rotary and other NGO's, promotion of thorough hand-washing is an important step to stop the spread of infection. Social marketing is very effective when executed properly. Therefore, a major campaign is on-going to encourage more hand washing. WASH partnerships with Unilever, Procter and Gamble, the Gates Foundation, and others have promoted thorough hand-washing habit at the community level. When an educational campaign is effective, then the family and villages will build their own sanitation facilities, UNICEF has ascertained. She also announced that while it is still somewhat of a taboo subject in many societies, next year (2008) is the International Year For Sanitation and she proudly promoted UNICEF's "Sanitation is Beautiful" flyer. She also noted that storage of clean water is also important.

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Rotarian John Boot of the RC of Summerland, British Columbia, Canada outlined the Nakuru (Kenya) Rain Water Harvesting Program, a proven model for gathering rain water into a tank that costs about \$400 and lasts for 30 years. Nakuru is the provincial capital of Kenya's Rift Valley province, with roughly 300,000 inhabitants, and currently the fourth largest urban centre in Kenya.

He emphasized that given Rotary's incredible reach of 32,000 clubs in 172 countries many tanks can be built. There is a need for 3,500 tanks to be built in the Nakuru area of Kenya alone. The tanks are financed by a combination of club-level fund raisers, RI matching grants, and Canadian government matching grants. The families that receive the tank are required to pay fifty dollars, or contribute labor to help build other tanks in the community. The program has built over 1,200 tanks.

John outlined a number of points to remember when building these tanks:

- . Search for new partners with sponsoring with African clubs.
- . Talk to the people involved.
- . Let the recipients of the tanks do most of the work.
- . Appropriate scale is vital - small projects work best.
- . Plant 100 trees around the tank

Rotary President-elect Dong-Kurn Lee, from Seoul, Korea also addressed the Rotarians. D.K. Lee is president of Yonsei Company, Ltd. and Bubang Techron Co. and has been a Rotarian since 1971.

He pointed out that the United Nations and other NGO's had a significant effect on the restoration of Korea when it was devastated by its civil war in the 1950's. The United Nations responded to the bleak situation by providing humanitarian aid. As a result, Korea was able to rise from the ruins of war and is now ranked third in Rotary Foundation contributions and fourth in Rotary membership. That is because Korean Rotarians, as well as all Rotarians, believe that there is a time to help, and a time to act, President-elect Lee noted.

## Rotary at Work Panel

Robert Scott, Chairman of the Rotary Foundation is a member of the Cobourg, Ontario Rotary Club. He was born in Scotland, and is a graduate of the Edinburgh University School of Medicine. Bob reaffirmed that the mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty. It is supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and friends of the Foundation who share its vision of a better world.

The foundation supports thousands of water, health, and hunger programs and they will

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bring about peace, but the world also needs peace makers. He recommends that Rotarians also focus on "Rotary Peace Makers" network of the thousands of Ambassadorial Scholars, Peace and Conflict Scholars, and Rotary World Peace Fellows that our foundation has sponsored and the Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution in partnership with seven leading universities: Duke University and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA (joint Rotary Center); International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan; Universidad del Salvador, Buenos Aires, Argentina; University of Bradford, West Yorkshire, England; University of California, Berkeley, USA; University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia.

Dr. Stephen Nicholas, a Rotarian from the Yonkers, New York Rotary Club is Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Clinical Population and Family Health at Columbia University and has pioneered care for children and families with HIV/AIDS since 1983 and narrated a very encouraging presentation regarding the treatment and spread of pediatric HIV/ AID's. He has also directed clinical research in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, South Africa and St. Petersburg, Russia. While forty million people have HIV/AIDs and four million people still get it every year, and tragically three million will die this year, it is a serious and grave crisis. However, Dr. Nicholas clearly noted that there is progress and hope for the eradication of global pediatrics HIV/AID's (mother-to-child) and he described the major advances in HIV/AIDS treatment. Back in the 1980's the fight against HIV/AIDS

seemed to be hopeless when infected children rarely lived beyond three years old even in the developed countries. However doctors soon learned that mothers only occasionally transmitted HIV/AIDS to their children in utero. Most HIV/AIDs is spread the day of birth and by breast feeding. As such, the first step in fighting global pediatric HIV /AID's was to instruct, and make it possible for HIV infected mothers not to breast feed their babies, and to only have caesarian delivery.

A second major development in fighting AIDs was in 1989 a new medication changed HIV/AID's from being lethal, and then in 1996 the "AIDs Cocktail" was developed and this significantly helped in the treatment. As a result, the treatment of AID's infected mothers has been refined and has virtually stopped HIV from being passed to the child and this significantly stopped the pediatric HIV in the US and Europe. However, in the developing countries, "hopelessness, and not funding", is the cause for the lack of political will to eradicate pediatric AIDs transmission. 40 percent of infants will get HIV/AIDs if their mothers do not stop breast feeding. However, if we treat the HIV infected mother and use bottle feeding formula rather than breast feeding, the rate of pediatric AIDs is zero percent! Needless to say, the mother must also be treated or all the babies saved will become orphans. In the mid 1990's it cost about \$10,000 for the drugs to treat this infection. Happily, in 2004, infected parents can be treated for about \$300 year. In addition, drugs are usually available free of charge in many countries from the Global

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Fund for AIDs, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The doctor outlined the Rotary World Community Service Project in La Romana, Dominican Republic to prevent mother-to child HIV transmission and to reduce the number of orphans. The Dominican Republic and Haiti has the highest rate of AID's outside of Sub-Sahara Africa. This Family Aids Center was created by the RI Foundation and is supported by Rotary Clubs in District 7230.

Richelieu Marcel Allison in 2006 completed the RI Peace and Conflict Studies Program at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. He also received a degree in Business Management from Zion University in Liberia and is a founding member and regional program director of the West African Youth Network.

He pointed out that Rotary's Peace and Conflict Studies Program is a unique short-term certificate program which aims to inspire people to work for a "culture of peace and tolerance". It selects candidates who are already working in the area of conflict resolution and concerned with on-going and emergent regional conflicts.

Mr. Allison expressed his gratitude to The Rotary Foundation because it is recognized around the world as a "bringer of hope". He outlined how Liberia, that was founded by freed American slaves, and named its capital Monrovia after President Monroe, was engulfed in a brutal civil war in the early 1990's. As a young boy then, Mr. Allison witnessed firsthand the devastating effects of

civil war and a countless number of dead bodies. Also, he expressed how frightening it was to know that you and your family could be killed by anyone with a gun. Thankfully, Liberia has come a long way since then and is now an exemplary democracy and is actively rebuilding its civil-society infrastructure. In 2006 Richelieu was selected to attend the Rotary International Peace and Conflict Studies program at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. He was initially denied a visa but the Ambassador was an alumnus of Chulalongkorn University and a visa was ultimately granted and Mr. Allison studied in the three-month intensive program. The program reinforced a "culture of peace" to be brought to West Africa including Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. Mr. Allison hopes to start a "Peace Caravan" in West Africa. Together these countries share border areas and local people can discuss peaceful solutions for their differences. "Everywhere there are conflicts, and therefore we need to invest in peace, and to invest in more peace-ambassadors for a better peace." Mr. Allison also said that he wished every individual could inculcate the "Four Way Test" into all their actions to make a better world. He concluded his talk by quoting Martin Luther King that *"we make peace by talking not to our friends, but by talking to our to enemies."*

## Health Panel

Moderator Sylvan Barnet introduced the subject by referencing Jeffery Sach's (Earth Institute) remarks that malaria can be eliminated and is a do-able project. Malaria



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cases have been vastly reduced and Rotary Clubs, through their polio-plus experience, could also help in the monitoring and surveillance of bed-net use.

Melanie Renshaw, the Health Advisor at UNICEF's Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa outlined how malaria kills a child somewhere in the world every 30 seconds. It infects 350-500 million people each year, killing 1 million, mostly children. In addition, ninety percent of malaria deaths occur in Africa, and that malaria accounts for about one fifth of all childhood deaths. Malaria also has serious economic impacts by slowing economic growth and development, and perpetuating the vicious cycle of poverty. The good news is that malaria is both preventable and treatable, and effective preventive practices have been implemented in many parts of the malaria infected regions of the world. She noted that sleeping under insecticide treated nets (ITNs) can reduce overall child mortality by twenty-percent. There are studies that show ITNs, when consistently and correctly used, can save six child lives per year for every one thousand children sleeping under them.

Brian Stoyel is the Past President of Rotary - Britain and Ireland, and received the Service Above Self Award in 1999. In 2003, he started the Rotarians Eliminating Malaria in Tanzania and is chairman of Rotarians Eliminating Malaria Action Group. Brian pointed out that this Rotary action group raises funds to provide ITNs, insecticides and medicines as well as providing HaemaCue

machines to monitor individuals for malaria. Funding is also provided for education and awareness programs by training local workers to go into villages to educate the local people to recognize symptoms, provide treatments, and to take steps for prevention.

The project is based on getting the local clubs to take responsibility for the project and then supplying the technical expertise and equipment required. The two Rotary clubs of Arusha, Tanzania are local partners for this program. Brian pointed out that one insecticide treated net (ITN) cost less than \$5.00, and four people can sleep under it. The recipients are asked to pay 1,000 Tanzanian shillings or about \$1.50. The nets have the Rotary logo and are manufactured locally to save shipping costs and to help the local economy. The nets have to be retreated every twelve months, but even if not treated the bed nets are still effective but the mosquitoes are not destroyed.

## Hunger Panel

Deborah Saidy, the New York Director of the World Food Program, is a graduate of American University in Washington D.C. and earned an Undergraduate degree from Smith College. She joined the UN in 1992 and previously served as the Emergency Coordinator for World Food Program in Johannesburg.

She noted that the WFP strives to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, with the ultimate goal of eliminating the need for food-aid

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itself. Yet in any given day, the WFP has twenty planes in the air and 5,000 trucks on the ground. She emphasized that the development of agriculture in key troublesome regions is the long-term solution to alleviate global hunger. The core strategies behind WFP activities, according to its mission statement, are to provide food aid to:

- . Save lives in refugee and other disaster emergency situations.
- . Improve the nutrition and quality of life of the most vulnerable people at critical times in their lives.
- . Help build assets and promote the self-reliance of poor people and communities, particularly through labor-intensive works programs.
- . 25,000 people die every day and many are susceptible to malaria and tuberculosis. These are the chronic poor.

Gary Parrish, Past President of the RC of Little Rock and a second generation Rotarian since 1989, outlined the Farmers Feed the Children Program. Gary visited farming families in Romania where he noticed that many children had no energy because of lack of nutrients in their diet, and many families were impoverished. To help with this, his Club partnered with Heifer International, a non-profit, charitable organization that is based in Little Rock, Arkansas and dedicated to relieving global hunger and poverty. It donates livestock and plants, as well as

education in sustainable agriculture, to financially-disadvantaged families around the world. The animals are chosen to be large milk producers and appropriate for the Romanian farms. In partnership with Heifer International, Gary sketched out how the Rotary Club of Little Rock delivered two dairy cows to a farming family in the Transylvania area of Romania. In three months, the two heifers became four. Under this program, the first calf is donated to another farmer, and 600 liters of milk per year are given to community centers such as schools and hospitals. The farmer can then sell the remaining milk on the open market. When several months passed, Gary noticed that he saw that once poor farmers were now feeding poor children of other farmers. He also noticed that the children were happier and healthier looking, and repairs were completed around their houses. Previously there was little protein in their diet, but thanks to this program, 20,000 children have benefited from a better diet. A very important aspect of this program, Gary pointed out, is that this program is a hand-up, not a hand-out, and it is sustainable. He emphasized that Rotary also brought credibility, as well as providing a 3H grant, to the project in view of the fact that Heifer International needed outside partners to keep this program going. The end result is that once again we have seen Rotary Change Lives, and we have built better friendships and goodwill, Gary clearly illustrated.

*[Thanks to Steve Naron who attended and provided this report. The next UN Rotary Day will be on November 6.]*