

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## Rotary Calendar

March 13 - 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn  
MicroFinance Club at Georgetown University  
Eugene Goldberg, Cole Magrath  
Mo Narang, Alex Siegel

Four undergraduate Georgetown University students are starting a Microfinance Club to work with needy entrepreneurs in DC. They will present their business plan for microfinancing.



March 20 - 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn  
Ashley Owen, "Services of the  
Montgomery County Humane Society"

March 25 - 6:30pm Rotary Foundation  
Alumni Reception at the Embassy of Bulgaria

March 26 - Rotary Day@Gallaudet University

March 27 - No meeting

March 29 - 9am Rotary District

Mini-Summit on Literacy, Rockville Library

March 29 - International Night  
at the Hungarian Embassy

April 3 - 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn  
Brian Berman, author "Transcending Fear"

April 10 - 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn  
Jeff Miller, President, Manna Food Center

April 17 - 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn

April 24 - 6:30pm Hunters Inn

Wine and Cheese Social

May 1 - No meeting

**May 2 - 4**  
**DisCon08**  
**Gaithersburg**  
**Hilton**  
**Rotary District**  
**7620 Conference**



## March 6 Meeting Report

Rotary District Governor **Rich Carson** was our special guest this evening. Governor Rich described the great District Conference coming up May 1 to 4 at the Gaithersburg Hilton.



Nadim Salti and Governor Rich Carson

More information about the DisCon08 program and a registration form is found on the following pages of this newsletter. You may also go online to the Rotary District website at [Rotary7620.org](http://Rotary7620.org). Congratulations go to Governor Rich on his recent appointment as the RI Representative to the Organization of the American States by Rotary International President Elect D.K. Lee.

The speaker for the evening was **Neil McDonald**, award-winning journalist for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Thanks so much to **Neil Cohen** for arranging this excellent speaker and to **Steve Naron** for taking the great photos.



# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## **DisCon08 – Rotary District Conference, May 2-4 at the Gaithersburg Hilton**

by Bob Nelson

The theme of DisCon08 is about bridging the cultures of the world through Rotary. On Friday morning you'll learn how the most critical needs of the world in health, hunger, literacy and water are being met through the efforts of dedicated Rotarians. In addition to polio eradication, a dozen projects across the globe will be described by those Rotarians who are personally involved. Through the years Rotary has been promoting world understanding and friendship, which is exactly the mission of the Peace Corps. We are very fortunate to have the Director of the Peace Corps, Richard Tschetter, as the Friday luncheon keynote speaker with a welcome from Montgomery County Chief Executive Isiah Leggett. The afternoon features an innovative session on breakthrough health technologies with representatives of leading biotechnology companies located in the area. You'll hear about exciting cutting-edge developments such as a vaccine for malaria. Several recent friendship exchanges with Brazil and Russia and the



Group Study Exchange with the Netherlands will be featured. An informal reception and dinner will be the prelude to our evening keynote speaker, FBI Executive Associate Director, Jay Stephen Tidwell. He'll give a fascinating talk on what is being done to mitigate the cyber and physical threat of terrorism.

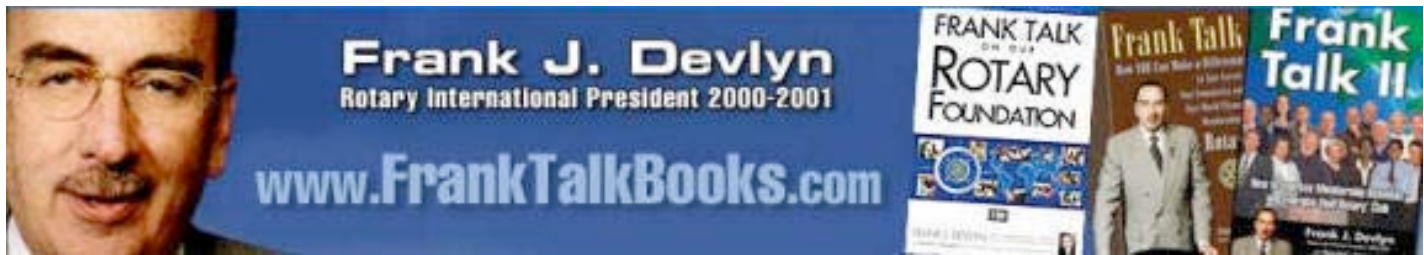
On Saturday morning Rotary club officers will be invited to a Club Leadership Training Seminar, but others will attend sessions focusing on membership development and new club extension. Featured will be leaders from Rotary Clubs that have just been chartered this year as well as existing clubs that have experienced extraordinary growth.

Always a tremendous highlight is the Four-Way Test Speech Contest luncheon that features high school finalists from across the district. The attendees vote for their favorites and while the ballots are being tallied, the coach for three previous winners will reveal secrets to their success. The afternoon features an unprecedented number of breakout sessions with topics appealing to new Rotarians and guests, Rotaractors, Interactors, Rotary

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Youth Leadership Award participants as well as veteran Rotarians. There will be updates on the success of district-approved projects and the ever-popular panel of current and former Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars.

The evening gala dinner features one of the most sought-after speakers in the Rotary world, Past Rotary International President and Past Rotary Foundation Chair Frank Devlyn. There will also be an inspirational address from our Rotary International President's Representative, John W. Nugent. Hospitality suites open immediately following the Friday and Saturday evening plenary sessions and are conveniently located on the main floor.

Sunday is a special day as it is the anniversary of the Supreme Court ruling that opened the door for women to join Rotary. We are asking for all district women Rotarians to attend the Sunday brunch to be honored for their service. We will be hearing from our first woman District Governor, Pat Kasuda, and our Governor Elect, Bette Lewis. Our very special guest is the Chair of the Chesapeake Multi-District Presidents Elect Training Seminar and Past District 7610 Governor, Sandy Duckworth. Don't miss this exciting conclusion to DisCon08!

## *Why I Am A Rotarian*

by Frank J. Devlyn

"...I knew that Rotarians were distinguished leaders in our community. Being selected to join this prestigious organization was similar to being selected to a prestigious fraternity in school. As I learned more about Rotary, I became all the more impressed, involved, and supportive of its ideals and programs.

... I have learned that Rotary offers so many different possibilities and opportunities to help this world of ours.

... When people ask me, "Why Rotary? Why do you give so much importance to Rotary?"- I sometimes feel that it is almost like explaining why other key aspects in life are important. How can you explain the importance of religion, marriage, or of having a proper education?

Rotary can be explained from different cultural and philosophical backgrounds, and you will always come to the conclusion that thanks to Rotary, this is a better world and Rotarians are better off for being in our ranks. Yes, as I look back, joining Rotary was the turning point of my life... For a better life."

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# DisCon '08 – May 1-4, 2008

## *“Bridging the Americas”*

Preliminary Program RLI

### Friday, May 2, 2008

**8:30 AM Breakfast**

**9:30 AM Opening Plenary Session**

***“Meeting World Challenges in Health, Hunger, Literacy and Water”***

Welcome: DG Rich Carson

Panel Discussion of Mini-Summits on Health, Hunger, Literacy and Water:

Nancy Nuell, Joe Slert, Eolia Sibila, Steve King, John Sever

**Keynote Speaker: Dr. John Sever PDG**

*\$100M Grant to Rotary from the Gates Foundation for Polio Eradication*

**10:30 – 10:45 AM Break**

**10:45 – 12:15 PM Breakout Sessions**

<b>Track 1 Health Projects</b>	<b>Track 2 Water and Literacy Projects</b>
Cambodian Mine Project – Poonam Chhunchha	Marcala Honduras Water Project – Steve King
Basra Prosthetics – Linda Smythe	South Africa Health and Water - John Capoccia
India Maanasi Project – Dr. Geetha Jayaram	AIDS Orphans Ethiopia – Todd Nitkin
India Womens Health and Polio Victims – Dr. Ila Shah	Lubuto Library Project – Jane Meyers

**12:30 PM Luncheon and Plenary Session**

***“Promoting World Peace and Understanding”***

**Keynote Speakers:**

*Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett*

*Ronald A. Tschetter, Director, Peace Corps*

**2:30PM – 2:45PM Break**

**2:45 PM – 3:45 PM Breakout Sessions**

<b>Track 1 Health and Hunger Projects</b>	<b>Track 2 Breakthrough Health Technology</b>
Issues Affecting the World Food Supply – Marc Cohen	Convener: Dr. Barry Thompson
District Hunger Initiatives – Joe Slert	Panelists from Local Biotechnology Research Firms
Famine Relief Foundation, Haiti – Mark Dreibilbis	
The Global re-VISION Program - Mexico, U.S. & the World– Bob Martin	

**3:45 – 4:00 PM Break**

**4:00 PM Plenary Session**

***“Promoting World Peace and Understanding through Exchange Programs”***

*Friendship Exchanges to Brazil and Russia*

*Group Study Exchange to the Netherlands*

*Panelists: Debora Fajer-Smith, Neil Young, Stovy Brown, GSE Team Members*

**5:30 PM Reception – Hotel Foyer**

*Featuring Group Study Exchange and Friendship Exchange Participants*

**6:30 PM International Bridges Dinner Buffet**

***“Today’s FBI”***

**Keynote Speaker: J. Stephen Tidwell, Executive Assistant Director of the Criminal, Cyber, Response and Services Branch, Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**9:00 PM Hospitality Suites Open**

## Saturday, May 3, 2008

**7:30 AM District Business Session**

**8:30 AM Breakfast**

**9:30 AM Plenary Session**

**“Strengthening and Extending Rotary Clubs”**

*Keynote Speaker: Frank Devlyn PRIP*

*Panelists from newly formed Rotary Clubs in the District*

**10:45 – 11:00 AM Break**

**11:00 AM Plenary Session**

**“Strengthening and Extending Rotary Clubs” (continued)**

*Panelists from the fastest growing Rotary Clubs in the District*

*John W. Nugent, RI President’s Representative*

**12:30 PM Luncheon and Plenary Session**

**“Developing Future World Leaders Through Rotary Youth Programs”**

*Four-Way Test Speech Contest*

*Keynote Speaker: Mike Boyd, “Eight Tips to A Better Presentation”*

*Panelists: Rotaract, Interact, RYLA, Youth Exchange*

**2:30 PM – 4:00 PM Breakout Sessions**

<b>Track 1 The Rotary Foundation</b>	<b>Track 2 District Projects</b>	<b>Track 3 New Rotarian Orientation</b>	<b>Track 4 Interact Leadership Training</b>	<b>Track 5 Rotaract Leadership Training</b>	<b>Track 6 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)</b>
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**4:00 – 4:15 PM Break**

**4:15 PM Plenary Session**

**“Promoting World Peace and Understanding through Ambassadorial Scholarship Programs”**

*Panelists from the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar Program*

**5:45 PM Reception – Hotel Foyer**

*Featuring Ambassadorial Scholars, Rotary Foundation Alumni, Youth Exchange*

**6:30 PM Governor’s Gala Dinner**

*Governor’s Awards; Special Recognition for District Projects*

*Keynote Speakers:*

*Frank Devlyn, PRIP*

*RI President’s Rep. John W. Nugent*

**9:00 PM Hospitality Suites Open**

**District Assembly**  
(Separate Registration Required)

## Sunday, May 4, 2008

**8:30 AM Plenary Session**

**Memorial Service: Remembering Past Rotarians - Rev. Edco Bailey**

**9:30 AM Brunch and Plenary Session**

**“Celebration of the 21st Anniversary of Women Joining Rotary”**

*Pat Kasuda, PDG*

*Honorees: Sara Torrence, Carol Blackburn*

*Keynote Speaker: Sandra Duckworth, PDG, Chair, Chesapeake Multi-District PETS*

*Remarks: Bette Lewis, DGE*

*Closing Remarks: RI President’s Representative John W. Nugent*

