

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## Rotary Calendar

**April 10 - 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn**  
**Barbara Garlock, Director of Development**  
**and Micro-Enterprise, Interfaith Works**



Community Ministry of Montgomery County (CMMC) is an interfaith coalition of 129 congregations assisting over 30,000 men, women and children per year. Sophia House Women's Assessment Center provides safe shelter and critical case management for 200 chronically mentally ill homeless women. Other programs and activities include: Community Based Shelter, Horizons House, Congregation & Community Emergency Support Program, Microenterprise Program, Hand to Hand Eviction Prevention Program, Friends In Action, Interfaith Clothing Center, Hans Rosenfeld Upcounty Clothing Center, Education & Advocacy Program. CMMC's mission is to pursue social justice with an emphasis on identifying and meeting the needs of the poor, and leading and engaging Montgomery County's faith communities in service, education and advocacy. CMMC has earned a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator.

**April 10 - 8:00pm Rotary Club Board Meeting**

**\*\*\*Note Change in Meeting Location\*\*\***

**April 17 - 6:30pm Meeting–Normandie Farm**  
**Bachar Mahmoud, MicroFinance**

**April 21– 6pm**

**Feed the Homeless at Sophia House**  
**12250-A Wilkins Ave., Rockville**  
Coordinate Food Donations with Noel Howard,  
Email: DoctorHoward@aol.com

**April 24 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn**  
**Wine and Cheese Social**

**May 1 - No meeting**

**May 2-4 DisCon08 Gaithersburg Hilton**

**Register Now Online at [www.rotary7620.org](http://www.rotary7620.org)**

## April 3 Meeting Report

Neither sleet nor showers could deter our faithful financial forecasters from making excellent presentations at the Rotary Club meeting on April 3. President **Don Smith**, economist, reported that although consumer confidence has dropped, consumer spending is holding on. Federal Reserve Chairman Bernanke didn't want to use the "R" word (recession) in his recent testimony to Congress.



Seasoned stockbroker **John Call** noted that the US had a much higher percentage of consumer-oriented economy than other countries in the world (Japan 55%; Europe 62%; England 66%; USA 68%to72%).



Economies in India, China and Dubai are doing very well. He forecast that a US recession might last three to four years. John provided some tips as to where Rotarians could invest during these trying times. Stock recommendations included Proctor and Gamble, Johnson and Johnson, Nike, John Deere

and Caterpillar. John also had three stocks in a special category, pipeline master limited partnerships: Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, Nustar Energy and Inergy. He also recommended municipal bonds (e.g. 4.96% tax-free AAA Municipal bond pays an equivalent of a 6% investment).

Realtor **Tom Leuchtenburg** reported further declines in the financial sector aftermath of Bear Stearns with UBS writing down their non-liquid assets resulting in depreciation of 3% to 20% in customer accounts. There was an important announcement regarding home financing: the conventional loan limits were increased from \$417,000 to



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\$729,000. Montgomery County just announced on April 3 that the Housing Opportunities Commission raised their limits so that people with \$82,600 in adjustable gross income qualify for their program. Conventional loan rates were 6.25% fixed rate with 5% down. The same rate applied to jumbo loans (over \$729,000). In Bethesda sellers are receiving multiple offers on houses under \$1M, but the upcounty real estate market is looking pretty cold. As an example, in Germantown there are currently 222 2-bedroom, 2-Bath condominiums on the market. There currently may be some good investments to be made.

Thanks so much to our three financial gurus, Don, John, and Tom for their timely commentary on the ailing economy.

## Groundbreaking Ushers In New Beginning For Mississippi Seniors

By Ryan Hyland Rotary International News - 8 April 2008



Rotarians from Illinois, USA, join Mississippi dignitaries to break ground on a new 30,000 square-foot senior recreation center in Long Beach Mississippi, on March 12. From left; Rotarian Bob Kranz, Rotarian Brian Andersen, Lou Schorsch, Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour, Long Beach Mayor Billie Skellie. Photo by Kathleen Gott.

After more than two years of being forced to hold activities in crowded make-shift venues, senior residents

of Long Beach, Mississippi, USA, will soon be able to socialize, play games, and exercise in a new 30,000 square-foot recreation center.

During a ceremony hosted by Rotarians from Mississippi and Illinois on 12 March, anticipation prevailed for a new beginning as honored guests Long Beach Mayor William Skellie, Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour, and other state dignitaries broke ground on the multimillion dollar center. The event signified a commitment that Rotarians from Illinois districts 6440 and 6550 made to help Long Beach rebuild after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The storm destroyed the recreation center, fire station, two schools, and thousands of businesses.

"After the storm, Rotary put Long Beach on the front burner and kept us there," says Skellie. "Their work on the senior recreation center just shows that Rotary is a go-to organization."

Past district governors from the Chicago area, Brian Andersen (District 6450) and Jack Blane (District 6440), collaborated with Mississippi Rotary clubs in late 2005, pledging to raise more than \$100,000 for the construction of the new senior center, which will double as an emergency shelter. The Long Beach Senior Recreation and Community Center is slated for completion in December and will house areas for craft making and meetings, as well as a cafeteria, two basketball courts, and a gym for seniors and local residents alike. It will be a gathering place and emergency refuge for the Mississippi communities of Gulfport, Pass Christian, and Pineville.

"It will be a place for first responders and a place of last resort for those who don't evacuate in time," says Long Beach club member Bob Kranz. A venue for first responders was desperately needed when Hurricane Katrina razed the local police station, he adds.

More than \$3.3 million has been allocated to the center through grants and contributions. Chicago-based Mittal Steel Company donated \$500,000 and will provide construction oversight. Other groups also have made contributions, including a \$2 million grant from the South Mississippi Planning and Development District and a \$600,000 grant from the Bush-Clinton Katrina

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Fund. Donations also came from Rotary clubs across the United States.

"Were it not for the Rotary network, this project would not have worked," says Blane. "Our hearts and our money were dedicated to this."

The groundbreaking ceremony signaled an important and symbolic stage of a new beginning to Long Beach, says Skellie. He adds that he expects Rotary will continue to have a long-term impact on the community. "I applaud Rotary's dedication to bringing this community hope for a new day. We're sincerely grateful."

## **Helping A Shantytown Help Itself**

By Mark Mitchell RI News - 03  
April 2008

*Volunteers paint the new schoolhouse, financed by Rotarian Mamdouh Badr el Dein to provide literacy and vocational training classes. Photo courtesy of the Rotary Club of Cairo-Zamalek, Egypt.*



Egyptian Rotarians have joined forces with a local charity to help families in a Cairo shantytown become self-sufficient. The project, partly financed by a US\$9,335 Rotary Foundation Matching Grant, provides residents of the poverty-stricken Establ Antar community with vocational training and other educational opportunities.

The idea for the effort came from a group of young Egyptians who had been working with the Sohbet Kheir Organization to provide free meals to families in the shantytown. Though they realized the importance of short-term nutrition, they determined that Establ Antar's residents needed skills to support themselves. The group presented a plan to the Rotary Club of Cairo-Zamalek, which obtained support from the Rotary Club of Berlin-Nord, Germany, and the project was born.

Establ Antar is a community of tiny, one-room homes made of wooden boards and cloth, clustered around the historic Antar citadel. There is no plumbing; water is delivered by donkey cart. "The conditions are quite desperate," says Sohbet Kheir Organization project leader Yasmina Abou Youssef, whose father, Mohamed Abou Youssef, is a member of the Cairo-Zamalek club. "Rotary provided assistance, and now we are making a big difference."

So far, more than 280 people – mostly women and children – have enrolled in courses offered through the project. Children receive instruction in literacy, English,

art, sports, and moral development, and adults take classes in literacy and handicrafts. Project leaders are looking for wholesalers and shops to regularly sell the students' creations, and someone has already purchased 1,500 bracelets. In the future, the effort may provide computer courses and a Montessori school for children.

Meanwhile, community members are being trained to spread messages door to door about health, hygiene, crime, and environmental issues. They're also involved in implementing the overall project, giving them a sense of ownership. "That is something very unique," says Youssef. "This is a one-of-a-kind project in Egypt."

## ***This Month In Rotary History: Rotary in Cuba***

RI News - 1 April 2008

The first Rotary club to be organized outside an English-speaking country was established in Havana, Cuba, 29 April 1916, with 22 charter members. The club was admitted to Rotary on 1 June 1916.

During 1923, the Rotary Club of Havana celebrated its seventh anniversary, in what became a very busy year. The club sponsored a carnival attended by more than 1,500 children, won a prohibition against bullfighting in Cuba, worked to get the city's water sanitized and properly purified, and obtained pavement repairs in certain areas.

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By the time the RI Convention was held in Havana, 9-14 June 1940, 42 of the 48 clubs that had been chartered in Cuba were still active. Another 20 clubs would be chartered thereafter, ending with the Rotary Club of San Cristobal, on 16 October 1957.

Rotary clubs in Cuba produced four RI directors - Mario Nuñez Mesa, 1922-23; Felix Silva Fernandez, 1936-37; Manuel Galigarcia Hernández, 1942-43; and Horacio Navarrete, 1953-54. All clubs in Cuba were terminated by 31 January 1979.

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

### *Enjoy DisCon08 at the Gaithersburg Hilton Here are all the details...*

All conference attendees must register. You are encouraged to pre-register and pre-pay by **April 18, 2008**, after which date (and on-site) there will be a \$15.00 per person additional registration fee. Complete the registration form and payment right now... certainly before April 18th...to avoid the late payment fee and to ensure that your participation at Discon08 will be confirmed. We cannot guarantee that any additional meal tickets will be available for on-site purchase, SO DON'T DELAY and DON'T WAIT TO REGISTER ON-SITE.

#### **To register:**

- Go to the District Web site ([www.rotary7620.org](http://www.rotary7620.org)), click on "District Conference," and then click on "Registration form" (either pdf or doc format). Only credit cards will be accepted for online registration.
- Fill out the enclosed registration form and fax it to 410-833-1026. Again, only credit card payment will be accepted.
- Mail the registration form (with check made payable to Rotary District 7620, or credit card information) to District 7620 of Rotary International, P. O. Box 985,

Reisterstown, MD 21136. Registration will be much quicker if you have entered all of your contact information into the District 7620 database.

#### **Sponsored Tables**

Clubs are being asked to sponsor tables at the Friday evening or Saturday evening events. With a sponsored table, the Club President has the opportunity to give a one-minute presentation on a Club service project. Club members who sit at sponsored tables should register individually, and the tables will be identified by Club. This may be accomplished in one of two ways:

- Register individually, as outlined above;
- Fill out your complete registration form and give it to the Club representative who is handling the sponsored tables. Register for each event you will attend, not just the night that is sponsored. For more information, contact Teresa Deneau of the Montgomery Village Rotary Club, [VillageCounselor@aol.com](mailto:VillageCounselor@aol.com), or 301-208-8900

#### **Registration Desk Hours**

The registration desk will be open at the following times:

- Thursday, May 1: 5 - 7 p.m.
- Friday, May 2: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Saturday, May 3: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Sunday, May 4: 8 - 10 a.m.

#### **Networking/Fellowship Events**

A number of networking events will be provided for attendees and their families. These include:

- Continental breakfast on Friday, May 2;
- Luncheon buffets - featuring a choice of hot main courses and salads—both Friday and Saturday;
- An "International Bridges" dinner Friday, featuring themed stations with foods from Mexico, Canada, the United States and Brazil;
- Full hot buffet breakfasts both Saturday and Sunday;
- Hospitality suites (Open 9 p.m. to midnight, Friday and Saturday);
- Formal Governor's Dinner on Saturday evening, featuring Rotary Past President Frank Devlyn;
- A special Sunday brunch honoring the anniversary of Women in Rotary. All women Rotarians attending

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will receive a special pin;

- Special children's dinners both Friday and Saturday evenings – featuring popular foods and entertainment. Vegetarian options will be available at all functions. At the served dinner on Saturday, please ask your server for the vegetarian plate (not just a collection of vegetables!).

## Children's Programs

Activities are planned for children, ages 5 to 13, of registered Rotarians and guests. This includes a pizza-and-movie night, and a pool party with dinner. Oversight will be provided by Interact members who are experienced baby sitters. Professional life guards will be available at the pool party. During the day time, art classes and a climbing wall will be available. To register your children, note their names on the registration form, check the boxes of the evening entertainment to be attended. All parents with children participating in DisCon '08 programs will be asked to sign a waiver form, just as you do for school outings.

## Got Old Eye Glasses?

Just changed your eyeglasses? Don't throw the old ones away! Have some old glasses lying around the house? Bring them to the District Conference to benefit the e-Vision project of the Rockville Rotary Club. A special bin will be provided for collection.

## What to Wear

The dress code for all functions except the Governor's Dinner is Business Casual or Smart Casual. The Governor's Dinner is black tie optional.

## District Assembly

The District Assembly – training for all incoming Club officers and directors – will be held in conjunction with the District Conference on Saturday morning, May 3. A separate mailing and registration form will be distributed. Please complete the District Assembly registration form so that we can provide suitable seating for each of the breakout sessions. Attendance at the Assembly of incoming presidents, secretaries and presidents-elect is strongly encouraged since business affecting each of these positions will take place.

## Club Showcases and Exhibits

As is the normal practice at 7620 District Conferences, tables will be provided for Club showcases and/or exhibits – One six-foot table with skirting for each display. Clubs should provide all other materials or equipment needed. Club or display names will be placed on each table in alphabetical order by name of Club or project, beginning Friday at 8:30 a.m. For further information, contact AG Jimmie Gorski, jgorski@queenanne.com, 410-535-3583; or AG Attie Ward, Rotaryclp@aol.com, 301-440-7199.

## Get a signed copy of Frank Devlyn's Book

Attendees to DisCon '08 will have the opportunity to purchase copies of Frank Devlyn's book, *Frank Talk*, and have the author sign the book for them.

## Fun Food Frenzy

Rotarians and guests are asked to bring non-perishable food items to the District Conference. The goal is to bury DG Rich Carson, PDG Pat Kasuda, DGE Bette Lewis and DGN Paul Frey. The "burial" will take place at the brunch on Sunday. A large collection bin will be located near registration. All food collected will be donated to Manna of Montgomery County.



**Please pay your invoice for  
second quarter dues to  
Treasurer Alan Cookson.**

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

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# DisCon '08 Program at a Glance

## Preliminary Program T

### Friday, May 2, 2008

#### 8:30 AM Breakfast

#### 9:30 AM Opening Plenary Session "Meeting World Challenges in Health, Hunger, Literacy and Water"

Summary of Mini-Summits on Health, Hunger,  
Literacy and Water

Keynote Speaker: *Dr. John Sever, PDG:  
Polio Eradication*

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

- (1) Health Projects
- (2) Water and Literacy Projects

#### 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*

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

- (1) Health and Hunger Projects
- (2) Breakthrough Health Technology

#### 4:00 PM Plenary Session "Promoting World Peace and Understanding through Exchange Programs"

Friendship Exchanges to Brazil and Russia and  
Group Study Exchange with the Netherlands

#### 5:30 PM Reception – Hotel Foyer

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

Keynote Speaker: *J. Stephen Tidwell, FBI  
Executive Assistant Director: "Today's FBI"*

#### 9:00 PM Hospitality Suites Open

### Saturday, May 3, 2008

#### 7:30 AM District Business Session

#### 8:30 AM Breakfast

#### 9:15 AM Plenary Session "Building Rotary Membership"

Keynote Speaker: *Frank J. Devlyn, PRIP*

9:45AM – *District Assembly participants move to  
separate morning session*

9:55AM Plenary Session  
"Strengthening and Extending Rotary Clubs"  
*New club extensions; fastest growing clubs  
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"*

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

- (1) The Rotary Foundation
- (2) District Projects
- (3) New Rotarian Orientation
- (4) Rotaract and RYLA

4:15 PM Plenary Session  
"Promoting World Peace and Understanding  
through Ambassadorial Scholarship  
Programs"

#### 5:45 PM Reception – Hotel Foyer

6:30 PM Governor's Gala Dinner  
*Governor's Awards; Special Recognition for  
District Projects*

Keynote Speakers:  
*Frank J. Devlyn, PRIP  
John W. Nugent, RI President's Representative*

#### 9:00 PM Hospitality Suites Open

### Sunday, May 4, 2008

8:30 AM Plenary Session  
*Memorial Service: Remembering Past  
Rotarians*

9:30 AM Brunch and Plenary Session  
"Celebration of the 21st Anniversary of  
Women Joining Rotary"  
*Keynote Speaker: Sandy Duckworth, PDG,  
District 7610: Women in Rotary - "The First  
Twenty Years":  
John W. Nugent, RI President's Representative  
Looking into the Future: Bette Lewis, DGE*