

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## Rotary Calendar

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

April 17 - 6:30pm Meeting - **Normandie Farm**  
The Georgetown StreetBank  
at Georgetown University



**Bachar Mahmoud and Alex Lee**

The StreetBank is a holistic and interactive approach to alleviating poverty, serving both financial and social needs of the poor by: 1) providing capital for investment in micro-enterprise, 2) directly trading with the micro-enterprises, and 3) funding social projects with those profits in impoverished communities worldwide.

April 21 - 6pm

Feed the Homeless at Sophia House  
12250-A Wilkins Ave., Rockville

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)

May 8 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

Jeff Miller, President, Manna Food Center



fighting hunger and feeding hope in montgomery county

May 13 - 7pm Manna Food Center

May 15 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

May 22 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

John Derrick, Electricity and Energy Issues

May 29 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

## April 10 Meeting Report

Steve Naron capped off the very successful International Night Program by awarding Chairman **Nabil Bedewi** and Chef **Bernard Henry** with the distinguished Rotary awards that you can see below adorning their heads.



Steve also encouraged everyone to bring food to the District Conference to donate to Manna Food Center who will have a truck onsite. **Noel Howard** announced he needs volunteers and food for the next Feed-the-Homeless night at Sophia House in Rockville on April 21. Our speaker for the evening was **Barbara Garlock**, an expert on Sophia House and all the ministries of



"Interfaith Works". "Community Ministry of Montgomery County" was founded in the late 1960s and "Interfaith Works" is their new name. At Sophia House they provide housing for 300 to 400 women per year. Interfaith Works

also assists the working poor with clothing and shoes. They run a food service program for the homeless out of the old Giant bakery in Silver Spring. **Art Blitz** collected \$105 happy dollars and displayed a new \$5 bill.

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May 2 - 4

DisCon08 Gaithersburg Hilton  
Rotary District 7620 Conference

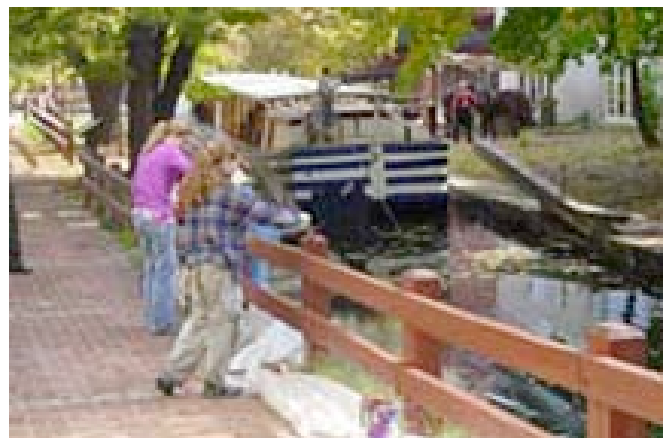
## **DisCon '08 Features Mobile Genomics Laboratory and Breakthrough Technology Sessions**

Expert members of the staff of the J. Craig Venter Institute (JCVI) will bring their mobile genomics laboratory to DisCon '08 on Friday, May 2, for Rotarians and their guests to tour. With more than 400 scientists and staff, JCVI is a world leader in genomic research. After Peace Corps Director Richard Tschetter speaks at the Friday luncheon, Dr. Barry Thompson will chair a special technology breakout session featuring James Bernstein, CEO, Noxilizer, Inc.; Lori Beer, President, Potomac Photonics; and Richard Offner, Vice-President, Danya International, Inc. Breakthrough technology topics will range from public health and education, biotechnology miniaturization and gas sterilization. Don't miss seeing this innovative mobile laboratory and superb technological sessions.

**Save \$15 by registering online  
at [rotary7620.org](http://rotary7620.org) by April 18!**



C&O Canal Pride Days will officially kick-off on Saturday, April 19th, in the Great Falls area of the Park from 8:30am - 1:00pm. After a brief welcome, including light refreshments and the opportunity to meet a Park mule, volunteers will rake leaves, spread mulch, paint, clear overgrown vegetation, and more. There's still plenty of time to sign up -- volunteer today! All registered C&O Canal Pride Days volunteers will receive a T-shirt, coupon for a free ride on a historic canal boat, and will be eligible for raffle prizes! To get involved simply complete the online application [www.canaltrust.org/canalpridedays.php](http://www.canaltrust.org/canalpridedays.php), or call (301) 714-2233. Individuals, corporations, schools, scouts, religious organizations and other groups are encouraged to participate!



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## **Rotary Club Of Laurel Celebrates 50th Anniversary**

### **Mayor, City Council honor Rotarians**

by Anath Hartmann, Staff Writer, Gazette Newspapers, April 10, 2008

They've donated dictionaries to Laurel third-graders, given savings bonds to high school students and collected donations for the Salvation Army. They've crusaded against polio and given their own money to help graduate students study abroad. And on April 2, the members of the Rotary Club of Laurel, an organization dedicated to humanitarian work, celebrated half a century of service. Mayor Craig Moe, Laurel City Council President Fredrick Smalls and Prince George's County Councilman Thomas E. Dernoga (D-Dist.1) of Laurel all attended the club's 50th anniversary celebration. The program, which included a buffet dinner and the presentation of awards, was held at the Patuxent Greens Country Club in Laurel, where the club holds its weekly meetings. "I wanted to come out on behalf of the entire County Council ... and say thank [you] for all the things the Rotarians have done," Dernoga said to the 50-plus attendees at the event. "You've done a great job of representing Prince George's County." Rotary International Inc. is a volunteer organization with chapters all over the globe. It currently boasts more than one million members worldwide and advocates four "avenues" of service: club, vocational, international and community. "It's just a lot of fun—we have a

marvelous time," said Rotarian Patricia Bentley-Fisher, whose late husband, Elwood Fisher, was a Rotarian for more than three decades. "I don't feel like a 'woman member,' I just feel like a member." Rotary International did not begin admitting women or African-Americans until the 1960s. The club is committed to youth. It gives out five academic scholarships yearly and, through the donations of its members, thousands of dollars to the Laurel-Beltsville Oasis Youth Services Bureau, which counsels troubled teens and their families. "When I think of the Laurel Rotary Club, two words come to mind – dedicated and effective," said City Councilwoman Gayle Snyder (Ward 1), whose mother was a longtime Rotarian. Bob Marton, one of the longest-running members of the Laurel chapter, said there was a secret to his three decades of service with the club. "The only way you can handle [the meetings] properly is to work your schedule around it," he said. Speakers, who talk on a broad range of topics from history to science, come to almost every meeting. The Rotarians also frequently use meeting time to honor local, non-club members who have shown a commitment to service. Smalls presented the club with a Maryland state flag that had been flown at the request of Deputy Secretary of State Brian R. Moe, Mayor Moe's brother, over the Annapolis State House in honor of the Rotarians. Mayor Craig Moe gave the club a set of symbolic keys to the city of Laurel. Event emcee and past Rotary Club of Laurel president Judge Philip Nichols Jr. paid homage to retired Laurel Police Chief Robert Kaiser, calling the former Rotarian who

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passed away in February one of the “pillars of our community” for his service to the city of Laurel as police chief. Kaiser was instrumental in designing police headquarters at Municipal Square during the 1960s. After the event, Joy Kline, a Rotarian since the 1970s, handed out coin purses emblazoned with a gold-colored “50th Anniversary Laurel Rotary Club.” As he left the banquet hall, 36-year member Fred Novak said, “It’s been a long, enjoyable time.”

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

## **Service Groups Struggle With Membership**

### **Rotary Chapter In Germantown Welcomes New Members; Lions Club Says Transient Community Makes It Difficult To Develop Deep Roots**

by Meghan Tierney, Staff Writer Gazette Newspapers, April 9, 2008

Civic-minded residents are forming a Rotary Club chapter to serve Germantown and its neighbors, though other social volunteering clubs in the community have found it hard to keep the groups afloat. It’s a familiar refrain in Germantown, where community activists struggle with the ebb and flow of participation. Many of the longtime civic groups in Germantown have dwindling membership, while several, including the

Rotary Club and a fledgling Lions Club, seek to rebuild clubs that disbanded in years past.

“Germantown is a very unusual area because it’s so transient,” said J.P. Conley, coordinator of the Germantown Lions Club, noting that the average resident is younger than the group’s typical age range of 40 to 60. Organized service groups like Rotary and Lions have dues and attendance requirements and require a substantial commitment, he said. “Most people are still getting their careers in order, and volunteerism isn’t a high priority.” But a lack of awareness about the clubs and the role they play in the community is a larger issue, Conley said. “We hear a lot of ‘We don’t know what you all do,’” he said. Prospective members of the Germantown Rotary Club have been meeting for about five weeks, said Vijay Khetarpal, 49, president of the Rotary Club of Potomac, which is sponsoring the new group. “We determined there was a need for a club in Germantown and we decided to take the initiative to start the club,” Khetarpal said, noting that a community of Germantown’s size could support the group. “...It’s for people who want to make a difference and aspire to a higher standard.” This won’t be the first Rotary Club in Germantown. There was at least one previous club, chartered in 1985. The group, which hosted a yearly spelling bee and an Oktoberfest 8K run, folded in 2002. The new club will meet in Germantown but be open to all upcounty residents, Khetarpal said. “We’re halfway there and we just started,” said Marilyn Boyd DeReggi of Boyds, membership chairwoman for the

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Germantown group. DeReggi, a first-time Rotarian, said she was attracted to the club because it was an opportunity to serve the community. "The group that's there so far is wonderful and the ambiance when we're meeting is great," she said.

The new chapter comes as the Damascus Rotary Club disbands after more than 50 years. The group had trouble attracting new members, said former president Bob Bokma of Germantown, who plans to become a charter member of the group. "It is a bigger area and it's an area that includes developing areas," he said of Germantown. Some from the Damascus group will join other clubs, though many have reached the point in their lives where they no longer want to be Rotarians, Bokma said. "Of the 10 members, I'm probably the youngest," said Bokma, 58. "I'm not at all surprised that some of the members don't want to be a part of that group, even though they want the fellowship."

The Germantown Lions Club, a branch of the Laytonsville Lions Club that formed about a year ago, has also had trouble attracting new members. Germantown had a Lions Club for about 30 years until it disbanded in the mid-1990s. "Things are going slowly," said Conley. The group currently has 10 members. The Germantown group has had success reaching out to different age groups, Conley said.

A King Farm club that started around the same time as the Germantown Lions is having the same issues, according to Bob Bosley, a

member of the Rockville chapter. However, new Latino and Iranian Lions groups in the county have proven popular, he said, indicating that the club is connecting with new communities. Organizers of the Germantown Rotary Club hope to bring in new and diverse voices, DeReggi said. "We want to get a pool of people who are representative of the community," she said. The Germantown Rotary Club meets 6:30-8pm Tuesdays at Bob Evans Restaurant, Germantown.

## *Thinking about joining Rotary?*

Rotarians are business and professional leaders who take an active role in their communities while greatly enriching their personal and professional lives. A Rotary club contains a diverse group of professional leaders from the community that the club serves.

## *Why Join Your Local Rotary Club?*

1. Professional Networking
2. Service Opportunities
3. International Awareness
4. Good Citizenship
5. Family Foundations
6. Entertainment
7. Leadership Development
8. Diversity in Membership
9. Ethical Environment - Encouraging high ethical standards in one's profession and respect for all worthy vocations has been a hallmark of Rotary from its earliest days.