

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Calendar

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

May 1 - No meeting

May 2-4 DisCon 08 Gaithersburg Hilton

Register Now Online at 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

DisCon 08 Registrations Approach 500

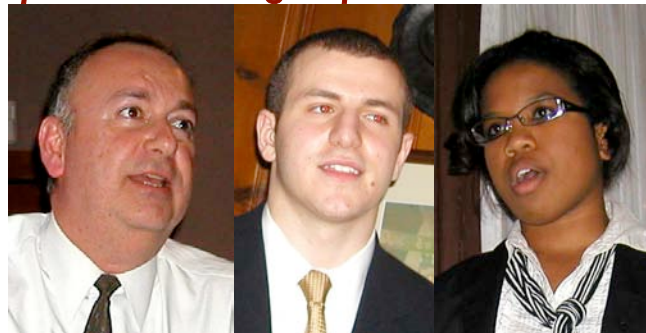
With registrations approaching a record for district conferences, many Rotarians from our club have already signed up to enjoy the fine program planned at the Gaithersburg Hilton on May 2, 3 and 4. **Dick Gordon, George Mattamal, Nabil Bedwei, Steve Naron, Bob Nelson** and **Scott Janco** are already on the registration list and there is still time to add your name. One of the programs that we support, the Manna Food Center, will have their truck parked at the hotel for food donations from Rotarians expected to attend from 72 Rotary Clubs. This is the first time that the district conference has been held in Montgomery County in 13 years and the next two conferences won't even be held in Maryland. So please plan to attend and enjoy DisCon 08!

Club Rotarians Feed the Homeless at Sophia House



Homeless people were very grateful for the fine food that our club had prepared for the dinner on Monday, April 21. The serving table included chicken, vegetables, potatoes, pasta, salad, and a delicious chocolate cake. Photos here and on page 2 show the Rotarians and spouses that came out to support the program. It's a great feeling to help those who are less fortunate and Sophia House is where we can meet the homeless. Thanks, **Noel**, for arranging this event!

April 17 Meeting Report



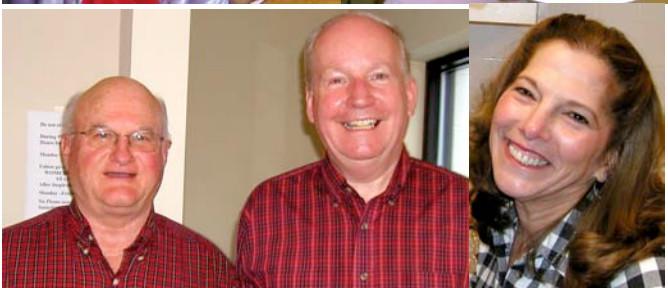
Nabil Bedwei invited two of his bright students
(continued on page 2)

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Photos of Club Rotarians Feeding the Homeless at Sophia House



April 17 Meeting Report (continued)

from Georgetown University, Bachar Mahmoud and Alex Lee, to speak on "The Street Bank," a non-profit poverty alleviation project. 3B people in the world live on \$2 a day, 1B on less than a dollar a day. The Street Bank is working on a pilot microcredit project in Pakistan where capital funding of miroenterprises will produce craft goods that will be sold on the Georgetown campus. Currently Kashmir shawls are being sold from an existing craft network.



Tom Leuchtenburg had read a report from Lehman that delved into the question of what is the extent of the housing crisis. Their estimates were that this is a \$900B problem with 2.6M housing foreclosures forecast for 2008-2009. The peak of the foreclosures will not occur until the first quarter of 2009 and continue into 2010 when a total of 7.3M homes will have been foreclosed, 10% of the total number of homes with mortgages. Two-thirds of the damage has not yet occurred. Home values in California are forecast to plummet 40% to 55% while nationally a decline of 10% to 12% is estimated. Thanks, Tom, for keeping us up-to-date on the looming financial problems facing the country.

Noel Howard had attended the Papal mass at the new Nationals stadium and is traveling to the Vatican on April 21.

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The meeting was held at Normandie Farms Restaurant, noted for popovers.



International Night Photos Displayed on Hungarian Embassy Website

Check out the photo collage that has been posted on the Hungarian Embassy website at http://www.huembwas.org/Z_News/RotaryInternational.htm

Rotarians Close JFK Runway For Good Cause

By Aretha Fouch Price RI News - 23 April 2008

The airplane on the tarmac signals the midpoint for runners during the Thomas Carmody Memorial 5K Runway Run. Photos courtesy of the Rotary Club of JFK International Airport



For more than 30 years, the Rotary Club of JFK International Airport, New York, USA, has taken over a major runway to raise thousands of dollars through a 5-kilometer race.

"It is a unique race, as the main runway is actually closed to aircraft landing and taking off," says Emmlynn Taylor, the group/sponsorship chair for this year's Thomas Carmody Memorial JFK Rotary Club 5K Runway Run, held on 13 April at John F. Kennedy International Airport, which serves the New York City area. Planes are routed to a secondary runway during the event.

The club raised close to \$10,000 from registration fees, raffle tickets, and sponsorships. More than 350 individuals, ranging from babies in strollers to seniors in their 80s, participated.

The walkers, runners, and stroller pushers departed from the starting line at 9 a.m. and landed at about 10:30 a.m. The airplanes returned to the tarmac about an hour later.

After the race, everyone was bused to the Chef's Orchid restaurant at the airport, where the top three male and female finishers in various age groups received medals. The club wrapped up the event with raffle prizes, which included airline tickets, New York Mets baseball tickets, a New York Jets autographed football, and gift certificates.

"One of our biggest supporters this year was JFK IAT [International Air Terminal], Terminal 4," says Taylor. "They have been completely phenomenal with helping us get the word out about the fundraiser, gathering prizes, and a multitude of other behind-the-scenes tasks."

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The proceeds from this year's event will benefit the Futures in Education Foundation scholarship program, Gift of Life International, the Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, and other local and international organizations.

"As a club, most of the charities we support are based around children, their health and education," says Taylor.

The JFK club has raised more than \$300,000 since it inherited the race in 1975 from another service organization, which held the first event in 1972. The club named the race in honor of one of its founding members and past presidents, Thomas Carmody.

"It's a fun event," says Taylor. "I always tell people it's the only time you can be on the runway and not get arrested."

Korean Rotarians Keep Mongolian Eco-Project Blossoming

Korean Rotarians are digging in to help Mongolia go green. Photos courtesy of The Rotary Korea regional magazine.



For five years, Korean Rotarians have been working to build a green spot on one of the

driest places on earth. Concerned about the Gobi Desert sandstorms emanating from Mongolia, Korean Rotarians from 16 districts developed a unique project that has built a natural windbreak forest there. The forest, made up of hippophae trees and black currant bushes, reduces sand particles that can travel for hundreds of miles, causing health and environmental damage.

The Keep Mongolia Green got a recent boost with a US\$350,000 Matching Grant from The Rotary Foundation for the latest phase of the project, in which Korean and Mongolian Rotarians teamed up with local residents to plant 52,000 trees in Choir, in Govisumber Province. Mongolian Rotary clubs, as well as Mongolian government and provincial agencies, also pitched in.

In addition, Korean Rotarians have begun construction of an eco-park in Choir, which will demonstrate the use of clean reusable energy, waste recycling, and the reclamation of land used for mining. Plans for the park include orchards, vegetable farms, and nurseries, and a permanent field station for ecological and biological research that will serve five Mongolian provinces.

Since the project began, Korean Rotarians and Rotaractors have planted some 220,000 trees and have contributed to the US\$1.03 million total cost of the project. The first phase of the Keep Mongolia Green project began in 2005, as a multidistrict Rotary Centennial Community Service Project.

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Toys Bring Hope To Children, Troops Overseas

A soldier from the 82nd Airborne Division serving in Baghdad, Iraq, distributes donated stuffed animals at a girls' school in the city in the late fall of 2007. Photo courtesy of Dallas Eubanks.



Rotarian Jack Ham has collected close to 75 Beanie Babies over the years, and was ready to part with his furry little friends, including his favorite, Wilbur, a plush, pink pig he was attached to because of Ham's last name. He wanted to give the stuffed animals to children who had limited or no access to toys.

Ham, a member of the Rotary Club of Houghton, Michigan, USA, shared his desire to donate his collection with fellow club member Lieutenant Colonel Dallas L. Eubanks. Together, they came up with an idea of sending small stuffed toys to U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan to distribute to local children.

Eubanks says giving gifts to the youth overseas has a positive impact on the children as well as the soldiers, which he experienced during his tour of duty in Iraq in 2003-04. "It helps us bridge the gap with them, and it

helps the soldiers feel like there is hope for tomorrow," says Eubanks. "These gifts show the children that we are not all bad guys with guns and bullets."

Ham and Eubanks presented the idea to their club and District 6220 (Michigan, USA) in May and within nine months, the club had collected more than 4,200 stuffed animals from around the country.

Eubanks says the gifts bring smiles to the children's faces and hopes the items will help ease tensions between the troops and local families. The project grew well above what the club anticipated. "We thought we would receive about 500 to 600 stuffed animals," Eubanks says.

Hundreds of toys too large to ship overseas were sent to orphanages in Mexico, delivered to nursing homes in Michigan, and given to local children.

Ham says helping the kids was very personal to him. "To give the kids toys they have never had before, it just means so much to them."

Baltimore Examiner Features Rotary's Commitment To Peace

Rafael Alvarez, The Examiner 2008-04-18

BALTIMORE -

Ain't gonna study war no more ..." - Down By the Riverside

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What would you say if one of your kids announced that they wanted to go to college to study peace?

No matter your politics, and mine edge closer to a peace than a dollar sign, I bet it might nettle you.

Peace?

Are you kidding me?

When my friend Michael McDermott declared a major in philosophy at Loyola College – back when a spice factory perfumed the night air above the Inner Harbor – his father said: “What are you going to do with that? Get a job at McCormick’s picking fly [dung] out of pepper?”

At least philosophy is a subject the average American parent knows is worthless.

Peace is a pear more prickly. Ask Jimmy Carter, the laughingstock ex-president who has worked harder to ease conflict and improve quality of life for the world’s poor than anyone in memory. He has little more to show for it than self-respect and a Nobel Prize.

Oh yes, and nearly eliminating Guinea worm disease in Africa and Asia. Thus go the marginalized fools for whom our culture has had little use in the past 30 years.

Not so at Rotary International, the world’s first service club organization – launched in 1905 with the motto “Service Above Self” –

which reports global membership at more than 1.2 million.

In 2002, the Rotary began awarding World Peace Fellowships to complement its 60-year tradition of Ambassadorial Scholarships.

I’ve seen the Rotary emblem – an Art Deco industrial cog – on roadway signs my whole life. There’s one on Belair Road at Fullerton Avenue with meeting times for the Kingsville/Perry Hall club. But I never knew what the group was about until seeing a full-page Rotary ad for peace in, of all places, *The Paris Review*.

What particularly appeals to me about the Rotary commitment – full tuition, room and board and a living stipend for students pursuing graduate degrees – is that they are an old-school, business and professional group solidly in the mainstream.

In my mind, Rotarians resemble the top-hatted, mustachioed Monopoly man. That’s not true – at least not today – but the idea is important in a status-driven culture where it’s easy to dismiss people who bang pots and pans on the street for peace and jobs as kooks.

More difficult to ignore is a call for peace from some of the most successful and conservative members of our community.

“The Rotary is 103 years old,” said Ed Underriner, a member from Reisterstown. “Among our goals has always been the promotion of world peace.”

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The Maryland district, which includes Washington, is now reviewing applicants. Those who make the cut will be forwarded to Rotary headquarters in Evanston, Ill. By year's end, up to 60 scholars will be chosen.

Paola Adrizola, a native of Bolivia and a city of chronic unrest ironically called La Paz, is a candidate from Maryland this year.

"What got my attention was the focus on international cooperation for achieving peace," said Adrizola, 24, who went to high school in Bremen, Germany and earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Kansas.

"The question of world peace is huge," she said. "But having lived all over the world, I've found that educating people about what you've learned about different cultures is a small contribution to peace."

(Adrizola lives and works in Washington. An especially exotic part of the world she has not seen is Baltimore. She plans to remedy that with a visit to a cousin she has never met: Christian Tremblay, a Peabody Institute graduate who plays violin with the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra.)

"One of the questions we ask candidates is how they would handle the war in Iraq, how they would handle the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," said Rotary official David Klaus, a former Peace Corps volunteer and retired World Bank employee.

"There may not be a right answer to such questions," said Klaus, 62. "But we want to see how their minds work."

A friend of mine who lives on a sailboat – like Philip Berrigan and Kurt Vonnegut, a soldier transfigured by war into a pacifist – recently expressed an idea about achieving peace so profoundly simple, it was as though I had new ears.

"There is so much to be done to promote the good," he said, "that protesting the negative seems a waste of time."

Rafael Alvarez is an author and screenwriter based in Baltimore and Los Angeles. His books – fiction, journalism and essays – include "The Fountain of Highlandtown" and "Storyteller." He can be reached at ralvarez@baltimoreexaminer.com.

Past Governor Robert Ketron's Response to Baltimore Examiner Article

Your article regarding Rotary's increasing role in supporting world peace is most enthusiastically welcomed! And it is very pleasing that you contacted Ed Underriner in your preparation, as he has been an unwavering part of the Rotary leadership in this area for over a decade. But your article hardly scratches the surface of Rotary global involvement.

My local Rotary Club of Towsontowne will lead or participate in an average of 15 to 20 local projects annually, as well as several

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more international humanitarian service projects. We are only one of nearly 33,000 Rotary clubs operating in a similar manner.

Figure it out. If the average Rotary club around the world perform only half the number of community service projects as Towsontowne each year, then clubs collectively participate in hundreds of thousands of service projects globally. The total number boggles the mind, especially if you multiply that out over many decades of Rotary activities. Can any one person possibly comprehend the totality of all that?

I suggest you contact any of the above copied Rotary leaders, including those in our own Rotary District 7620 in central Maryland and Washington DC, for further information on the impact of Rotary's role in the world today.

These leaders have from 10 to 40+ years experience in the humanitarian service programmes of Rotary that can be passed on to you. Their experiences would vastly enhance the information you already have encountered, and could easily lead to the most rewarding series of articles you have ever produced. You would find that simply by meeting any or all of my colleagues, you would be given news topics and information on the value of volunteer service to those in need, both domestically and abroad, that could last you a several lifetimes.

As a Rotarian of nearly 30 years standing, I am proud to be associated with all of those leaders copied above as well as connected to

the thousands of other Rotary International officers around the world who care enough about the needs of our communities to devote our considerable time, energy and resources to making this world a better place.

By the way, I am copying this as well to my brother, who is the incoming Rotary District Governor for San Francisco, where next year's President of Rotary International, Mr. D.K. Lee of Korea and Governor Russ will preside in November at the 100th anniversary of the beginning of Rotary's global expansion in the real City-By-the-Bay.

Russ will be one of 570 Rotary International officers representing districts and zones throughout the world..... with each a business or professional leader in their home community who represent the very best of what this world needs more of: intelligent, capable, committed men and women who truly believe we can make a difference and improve the world condition, one project at a time in literally scores of different areas of interest. My personal focus is eye care, and the leverage I generate through Rotary affiliation has made it possible for me to initiate projects that have restored sight to thousands of blind men, women and children. Not bad for one ordinary American businessman, eh?

One further point: Your reference to the substantial contribution of the Carter Center in working to eliminate guinea worm disease was worth publicizing more positively. For we Rotarians have been all-but-anonymous to

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the world in raising over US\$ 660 million to eliminate the scourge of polio from the earth over the past two decades..... We have led and participated in scores of National Immunization Days in 130 countries to immunize literally BILLIONS of children...including 165 million in India in a single NID! I know. I was there, and I participated along with 100,000 other Rotary volunteers that Sunday February 9, 2003.

Thus, I hope you see how sponsoring Peace and Conflict Resolution studies at international universities is only one part of Rotary's commitment. We Rotarians know that only a multiple, comprehensive approach to dealing with the real problems of poverty and deprivation, of deficiencies in health care and economic opportunity, of lack of education and literacy all lead to social, political and economic instability which threatens all of us. And we are always on the lookout for others who feel the same way but who haven't encountered the answers that Rotary brings to the community.

We are a resource, one among many, but we represent all that is best in the human experience. And we have a limitless opportunity not only of enjoying the fellowship of like-minded public-spirited citizens, but to being a meaningful part of the solution. Your article aids in that effort, and on behalf of all active Rotarians I thank you for your coverage of this subject.

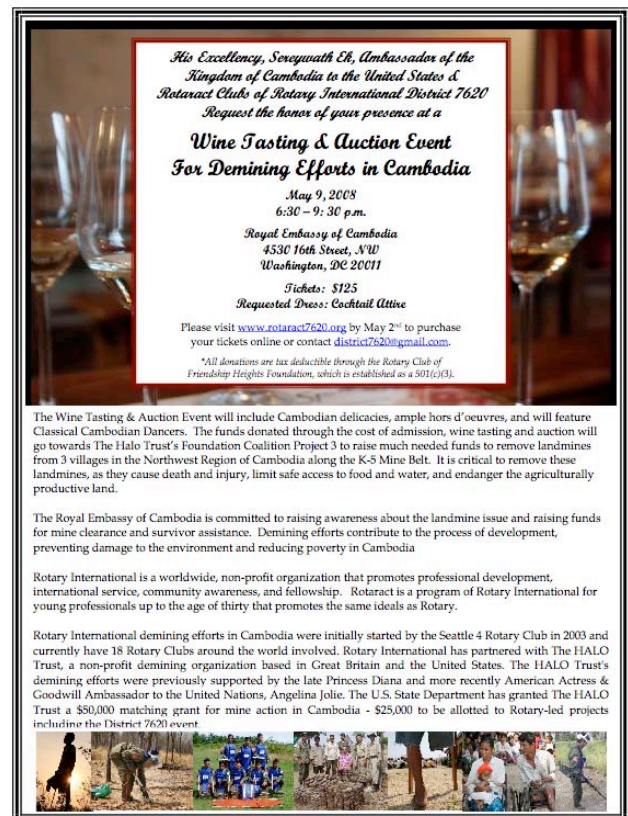
Robert Ketron, CFP, www.ketron.org

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May 2 - 4
DisCon 08 Gaithersburg Hilton
Rotary District 7620 Conference

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



His Excellency, Sreyvath Ek, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United States & Rotaract Clubs of Rotary International District 7620 Request the honor of your presence at a

**Wine Tasting & Auction Event
For Demining Efforts in Cambodia**

May 9, 2008
6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Royal Embassy of Cambodia
4330 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011

Tickets: \$125
Requested Dress: Cocktail Attire

Please visit www.rotary7620.org by May 2nd to purchase your tickets online or contact district7620@gmail.com.

*All donations are tax deductible through the Rotary Club of Friendship Heights Foundation, which is established as a 501(c)(3).

The Wine Tasting & Auction Event will include Cambodian delicacies, ample hors d'oeuvres, and will feature Classical Cambodian Dancers. The funds donated through the cost of admission, wine tasting and auction will go towards The Halo Trust's Foundation Coalition Project 3 to raise much needed funds to remove landmines from 3 villages in the Northwest Region of Cambodia along the K-5 Mine Belt. It is critical to remove these landmines, as they cause death and injury, limit safe access to food and water, and endanger the agriculturally productive land.

The Royal Embassy of Cambodia is committed to raising awareness about the landmine issue and raising funds for mine clearance and survivor assistance. Demining efforts contribute to the process of development, preventing damage to the environment and reducing poverty in Cambodia.

Rotary International is a worldwide, non-profit organization that promotes professional development, international service, community awareness, and fellowship. Rotaract is a program of Rotary International for young professionals up to the age of thirty that promotes the same ideals as Rotary.

Rotary International demining efforts in Cambodia were initially started by the Seattle 4 Rotary Club in 2003 and currently have 18 Rotary Clubs around the world involved. Rotary International has partnered with The HALO Trust, a non-profit demining organization based in Great Britain and the United States. The HALO Trust's demining efforts were previously supported by the late Princess Diana and more recently American Actress & Goodwill Ambassador to the United Nations, Angelina Jolie. The U.S. State Department has granted The HALO Trust a \$50,000 matching grant for mine action in Cambodia - \$25,000 to be allotted to Rotary-led projects including the District 7620 event.

