

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## Rotary Calendar

May 8 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

Jeff Miller, President, Manna Food Center

Manna serves nearly 20,000 families annually based solely on need. Many of Manna's clients come in crisis and require emergency food. Others find themselves consistently unable to put food on the table because of low-income jobs and the high cost of housing and health care.



Club Rotarians at the Manna Food Truck at DisCon 08. Steve and Alex Naron provided the "heavy lifting" to load the donations.



May 13 - 7pm Manna Food Center

May 15 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

President Elect Todd Nitkin presiding

May 22 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

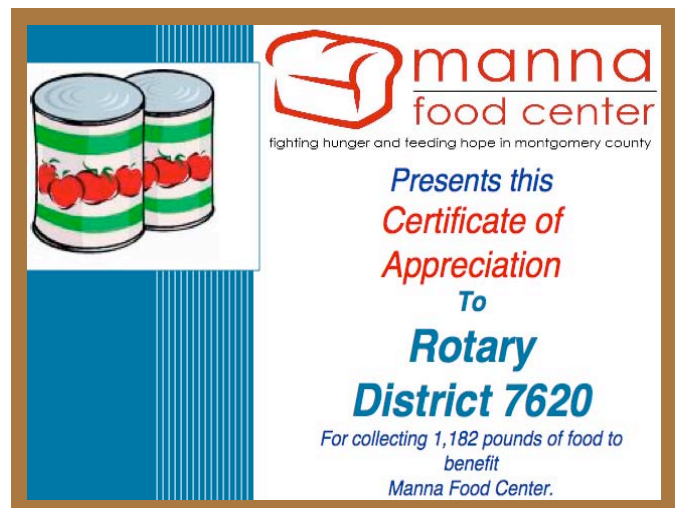
John Derrick, Electricity and Energy Issues

May 29 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

## Rotary District Conference Food Drive Nets 1,182 pounds of Food for Manna



(Above, l-r) Governors Paul Frey, Rich Carson, Bette Lewis, Pat Kasuda and RI President's Representative John Nugent are "buried" in donated food at DisCon 08 held at the Gaithersburg Hilton. (Below) Manna Food Center certificate of appreciation.



President-Elect Todd Nitkin gave a PowerPoint presentation on our club's AIDS orphans project in Ethiopia at DisCon 08.

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Rotarians at DisCon 08 heard from great speakers including County Executive Isiah Leggett and Peace Corps Director Richard Tschetter. President Don Smith, Dr. John Sever and Bob Nelson visited the J. Craig Venter Mobile Genomics Laboratory onsite.

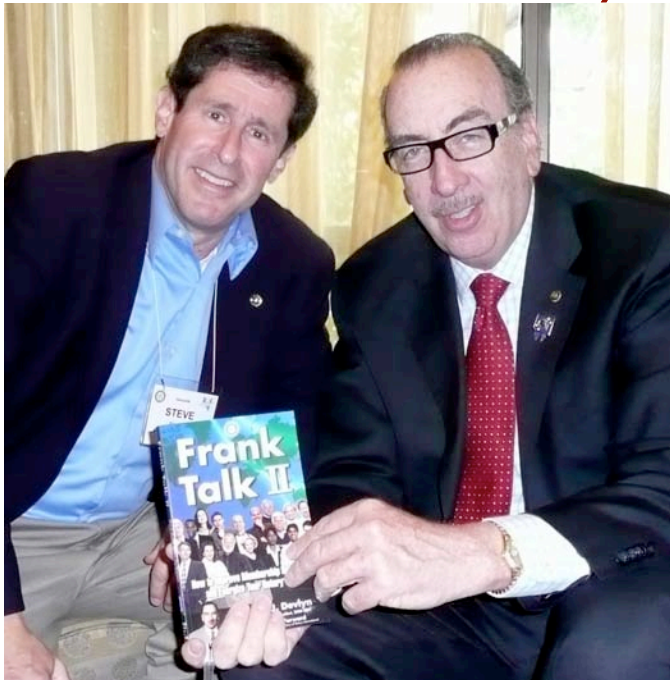


New members Don Hiruo and Nabil Bedewi were treated to a small group discussion with one of the most sought after speakers in the Rotary world, past RI President Frank Devlyn.



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**Steve Naron receives a signed book from Past RI President Frank Devlyn**



**Hazel Rahe is a Grandmother**



"I would like you to be among the first group of people seeing a picture of Mia Isabell Thomasson Rahe. She is the first grand daughter of our dear Hazel and her late beloved husband and dear friend of ours,

Jurgen Rahe. In this picture, Mia appears with her very happy dad Tom and grandma Hazel."

- Caesar Kavadoy

**Let us know what's happening with you!  
Send your article and photos to  
Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov  
for inclusion in the newsletter!**

**Scottish Golfers Aim To Set World Record, Raise Funds For PolioPlus**

By Jennifer Atkin RI News - 29 April 2008

Rotarians in District 1230 (Scotland) are out to break a world record with a golf fundraiser that could bring in more than US\$50,000 to support the global effort to eradicate polio.

At the 22 June event in Ayrshire, organizers hope to beat the record for the most golfers to complete a round of the game on a single course in 24 hours. The current record, set in China in 2007, is 623 players; the previous record of 491 was set at St Andrews Bay, Scotland, in 2003.

"It's time to bring the record back to Scotland," says District Governor Drew Hughes. "We gave the world the game of golf, so where better to hold the world record?"

All 56 clubs in District 1230 are urged to send teams, and members of the public are invited to play. Proceeds will benefit PolioPlus, so participants are encouraged to raise at least £50 (\$100) and solicit sponsorships. If organizers reach their goal of 624 golfers,

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they will generate more than \$50,000 for the polio eradication effort.

The fundraiser will take place at the championship-caliber, traditional-style Dundonald Links, cited as one of the best new courses in the world by the *Robb Report* in 2004.

The first tee time is set for 03:30, and the first holes will be illuminated by floodlights to enable early-bird golfers to see their way through. Organizers expect that 160 tee times will occur at six-minute intervals throughout the near-midsummer day, which will offer over 18 hours of sunlight.

Speed of play will be the key to success, Hughes says. Players are encouraged to treat the game as a "five-club challenge," in which golfers limit themselves to four clubs and a putter, and to focus on working together to break the record and have fun rather than on achieving a top individual score.

"This is an excellent way of raising funds to eradicate polio," says Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Robert S. Scott, noting that he learned to play golf in Scotland.

"The world record would be a bonus, but the main reason for the event is to raise funds for PolioPlus," Hughes emphasizes

## Denver Clubs, Open World Host Russian Health Delegation

By Ryan Hyland RI News - 28 April 2008



*Rotary clubs in Denver, Colorado, USA, and Open World Program hosted a delegation of 30 Russian health care professionals on 12-21 April. Delegates observed several health fairs, and spoke to city, state, and national politicians and business leaders on ways to improve health care in Russia. Photo by Hardy Klahold.*

A delegation of 30 ardent Russian doctors and health care professionals were in Denver, Colorado, USA, on 12-21 April participating in the Open World Program to examine health fairs with the expectation of implementing the same type of exhibitions back home.

The Rotary Club of Denver and five other clubs from District 5450 (Colorado, USA) hosted the delegates, in partnership with 9Health Fair, Colorado's largest volunteer-driven nonprofit health fair program, during a weeklong crash course on reviving Russia's fallen health care system. The Denver Rotary clubs used a grant awarded by the Open World Leadership Center to administer the week's program.

Delegates observed several 9Health fairs in and around Denver. The fairs are volunteer-driven and offer free and low-cost health screenings and education. While Russia offers

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high-quality health care, there is little of it to go around. Health fairs can bring a sustainable and effective alternative to bridge the health care gap in struggling communities.

"The strategic and global effort will assist in addressing a major need in Russia to restore their failing health care system," says Irina Bulkley-Hopkins, director of the Denver Rotary club and Open World host coordinator. "Through Open World, Rotary International has always facilitated a better understanding between Russia and the U.S."

Established by the U.S. Congress in 1999, the Open World Leadership Center at the Library of Congress is intended to enhance cooperation between United States and the countries of Eurasia and the Baltic States. To achieve this, Open World develops a network of leaders who travel to the U.S. to experience and learn about democracy, accountable government, and a free-market system.

"More than a hundred successful health fairs were already conducted in Russia over the last few years by Rotarians, and they are determined to continue building on this success," says Grant Wilkins, past RI director and a Denver club member.

The delegates, selected with the help of Rotarians in Russia, met with national, state, and city leaders throughout the week, exchanging information and ideas about the two countries' health care systems.

U.S. Ambassador John O'Keefe, who is the executive director of Open World, toured the health fairs last Thursday and recognized Rotary's effort.

"I want to give all the Rotarians the entire [Open World] organization's appreciation for making this program possible," said O'Keefe during a luncheon at the Denver Athletic Club. "The power of Rotary is showing its positive influence in Russia."

James Goddard, president and CEO of 9Health Fair and a Denver Rotarian, says his organization's health fairs and Rotary's volunteerism provide an excellent model for the Russian delegates to work from and apply. "Hopefully, the delegates have gained a perspective on the variety of types of fairs that could occur and some of the logistics it takes to put on a fair. Rotary can be the catalyst to help get health fairs going in Russia for many, many years to come."

## ***Pursuing A Better Vision Of Eye Health In India***

For Rotary International News - 5 May 2008  
The Rotary Club of Coimbatore Central, Tamil Nadu, India, is at the center of an international effort that has helped prevent avoidable blindness throughout the country for nearly 20 years.

According to the Blind Foundation for India, about 80 percent of the approximately 15 million cases of blindness among Indians are curable or preventable. Cataracts, corneal

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disease, and diabetic retinopathy are among the conditions that account for the scourge.

Concerned about this situation, the Coimbatore Central club partnered in 1990 with the Sankara Eye Foundation, an organization that is dedicated to preventing avoidable blindness and has several facilities throughout India. The club coordinated a US\$167,000 Health, Hunger and Humanity Grant from The Rotary Foundation with support from Indian and U.S. districts that served a population of 1.85 million and funded nearly 10,000 eye surgeries over five years at the Sankara Eye Centre in Coimbatore.



Since then, the work of the Coimbatore Central Rotarians has only gained momentum. The club has headed up six Matching Grant projects, including an effort in 2007 that involved six districts from India and U.S. joining Forces with a group of international charities to support a program that screens rural citizens over age 40 for diabetic retinopathy using state-of-the-art mobile equipment. Through 5,613 screening events, this Gift of Vision outreach program served a five-state area with more than 32 million people and provided over 362,000 free eye surgeries.

Clubs from several other countries have also worked with the Coimbatore Central club through district-level service projects not funded by the Foundation. A collaboration with the Rotary Club of Bremen-Hansa, Germany, for example, led to a multidistrict project that paid for about 1,500 curative eye surgeries. When Rotaractors in the Netherlands heard about the Sankara Eye Centre effort, they collected \$23,000 to help operation rooms.

*The Rotary Club of Coimbatore Central, Tamil Nadu, India, has sponsored numerous projects to prevent blindness among thousands of Indians. Photo courtesy of Rotary News/Rotary Samachar.*

*Adapted from a story by Varsha Makhija in the February 2008 issue of Rotary News/Rotary Samachar, the regional magazine serving districts in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka*

