

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## Rotary Calendar for July

July 3 - No Meeting

July 8 - 7pm Manna Food Center

July 10 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

District Governor Bette Lewis



Bette L. Lewis, currently Adjunct Professor at Goucher College, Baltimore, MD, USA, served as a public school administrator for over thirty years. A native of Phoenix, Arizona, USA, she received a B.A. degree with a major in English Literature from Marymount College in

Los Angeles, California, followed by a M. A. degree from the University of Maryland. Subsequently, she completed a total of sixty post graduate hours at three additional universities.

*[continued on page 2]*

July 17 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

Robbi Cohen, Solar Cookers for Darfur

July 24 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

Guido Adelfio, Bethesda Travel Center

July 31 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

Bob Mitchell, Mitchell & Best Homes



Congratulations to **Todd Nitkin** on becoming President of the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club for 2008-2009. The installation ceremony on June 28 was accompanied by a sumptuous dinner at the Nitkins' home prepared by Hibst. We are very fortunate that our president is also the father of two pre-school children. Rotary International President D. K. Lee's theme is "**Make Dreams Real**" with a focus on reducing infant mortality.



Outgoing President **Don Smith** presented the Rotarian of the Year trophy to Treasurer **Alan Cookson**. Don commented that there was a gain of \$5000 in the bank accounts this year with great projects and good speakers. Todd highlighted some of those achievements including the Joshua Youth Academy AIDS orphanage in Ethiopia, \$1500 donated to Manna plus monthly food packing, \$2500 in scholarships to needy Montgomery College students, \$1700 to the McWhite memorial scholarship fund with the first scholarship of \$750 going to a Wooten student, \$1000 to a malaria project, \$2200 to The Rotary Foundation, several dinners served to the homeless women at Sophia House, Peruvian earthquake relief, Segways for Vets, and other projects proposed by many members.

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## **District Governor Bette Lewis (continued)**

Career highlights included providing executive oversight for two elementary and two junior high schools. Bette is experienced in initiating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating organizational guidelines and established policies and procedures, including the training of employees, managing interactions, stimulating personnel to work together, problem solving, resolving conflicts and evaluation of performance.

During her career she served on many committees including executive councils, a Johns Hopkins School Administrator Award, The Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leadership Award, Prince George's County Public Schools Outstanding Educator Award, and the Gates Alumna Achievement Award for Sigma Sigma Sigma.

She was selected for twenty-four consecutive years as a Fellow with the Institute for the Development of Educational Activities (IDEA), a Dayton, Ohio think tank. She served as Co-Director for the IDEA summer Institute.

Bette was elected to Rotary in 1991 and has served the College Park Rotary Club as Sergeant at Arms, Vice President, President-Elect and President. She also served on and chaired several

committees. Bette served as District Awards Chair for four years and Assistant Governor under three District 7620 Governors. Other Rotary experience includes serving on Sergeant at Arms Committees for District Conferences and for a Russian Conference held in Washington, D. C. A Paul Harris Fellow and a Major Donor, Bette has awarded Paul Harris Fellow designation to four other individuals.

In her personal life, Bette is the widow of Gladstone S. Lewis, Jr., the mother of Clinton H.

Lewis and the grandmother of Andrew H. Lewis and his wife Melissa. She is an avid gardener and serves as President of her garden club. Since graduation from college she has continued to serve her college sorority in several capacities, including alumni advisory boards. A

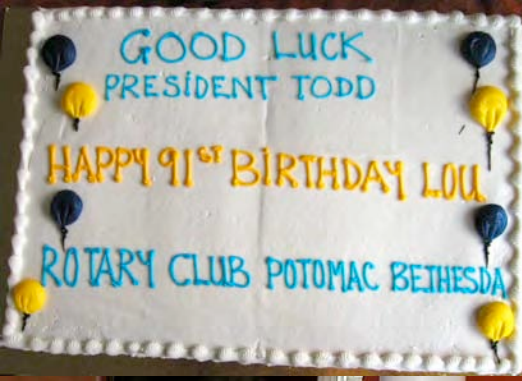
fan of Jaguar cars, Bette belongs to the National Capital Jaguar Owners Club and displays her car at events and competitions. She owns and oversees a corporation that deals in real estate rentals.

Governor Bette was installed as District 7620 Governor at the University of Maryland on June 27 with many past officers attending [as shown in the accompanying photo by Marilyn Nelson].



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**Installation of 2008-2009  
Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club  
Officers at the Nitkins' Home**

*Photos by Marilyn and Bob Nelson  
and Klaus Ordemann*

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News



Dear fellow Rotarians,

The beginning of the Rotary year is always an exciting time, with new club and district officers, a new theme to work with, and a renewed sense of purpose for our service projects. The beginning of this particular Rotary year is, of course, especially exciting for me as I look forward to meeting Rotarians throughout the world and seeing firsthand the many remarkable projects you are carrying out.

In planning how your club, and each one of you, can Make Dreams Real this year, I ask you to consider the millions of children who never even have the chance to dream. Every day, more than 26,000 children under the age of five die from preventable causes. As appalling as that number is, it is a decrease from the figure of 30,000 that first caught my attention and spurred me to bring this matter of grave concern to Rotarians.

UNICEF's State of the World's Children 2008 report states that "by 2006, the most recent year for which firm estimates are available, the annual number of child deaths globally fell below 10 million, to 9.7 million, for the first time since records began." I would guess that some of the improvement in child survival rates can be directly attributed to Rotary projects that have been successfully addressing problems related to health, hunger, water, and literacy for a number of years now. So I asked myself: "What would happen if 1.2 million Rotarians focused their service efforts on keeping even more children alive?"

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I think we already know some of the answers. If Rotarians provide insecticide-treated bed nets, fewer children will succumb to malaria. If we dig wells and address sanitation problems, more children will have clean water to drink and more hygienic surroundings. And if Rotary clubs carry out effective nutrition projects, we can save some of the almost five million children who die each year from undernourishment.

UNICEF estimates that fully two-thirds of the 9.7 million deaths in 2006 were preventable. With Rotarians working to provide vaccines, oral rehydration therapies, accessible health care for mothers and newborns, and other relatively simple interventions, I'm confident that many more babies will not only survive but go on to live healthy, productive lives. Let's Make Dreams Real by giving these children the chance to grow up and have dreams of their own.

Dong Kurn (D.K.) Lee  
President, Rotary International

## **Greenbelt Rotary Organizes Effort for Midwest Flood Victims**

The Greenbelt Rotary Club announced this week, they will be spearheading an effort to collect, transport and distribute vitally needed food, water, clothing, linens, kitchen and dinner ware for the victims of the record-breaking floods in the Mississippi River basin. A tractor-trailer will be located at SK Motors, 10805 Lanham Severn Rd in Glenn Dale, MD for collection of donations of any of the badly needed and life-sustaining goods. Contributions may be brought to the SK location, Saturday July 5th or Sunday, July 6th between 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

Rotarians will be on hand to receive the materials. Particularly needed are: canned foods, bottled water, baby formula, disposable diapers, clean bed and bath linens, clean clothing, kitchen utensils, cookware, and dinner ware. Of the flood

victims, many have lost everything but the clothes on their backs and these gifts can help to get them started on the road to recovery.

Once a trailer is filled, volunteers will be trucking the load to the Midwest to a central point where it will be distributed. If there is sufficient interest and local involvement, several loads will be collected, transported and dispersed this way.

Greenbelt Rotary welcomes involvement from other local charities, school organizations or individuals interested in this cause. Contact Steve Kemp at SK Motors (301) 464-0400 to volunteer.



*Iowa RI districts 5970 and 6000 established funds to help relief and recovery efforts for thousands of flood victims. Photo by Brian Ray/The Gazette 16 June 2008*

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## **Funds Established For Residents Affected By Iowa Floods**

By Diana Schoberg RI News - 25 June 2008

Funds have been established to assist Iowa residents who have been battered by this month's record-setting floods, which have caused billions of dollars in damage and forced the evacuation of nearly 40,000 Iowans from their homes.

Iowa RI districts 5970 and 6000, as well as the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, have established funds to help with relief and recovery efforts. Contact information is listed below.

"The flooding, it's been devastating," said Dan Baldwin, president-elect of the Rotary Club of Cedar Rapids and president of the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation. "This has actually gone outside the 500-year flood plain. A hospital 10 blocks from the river had to be evacuated. The entire downtown was underwater, some areas with 9 [to] 10 feet of water right in our central business district. Our community has never faced anything of this magnitude in terms of an emergency and rebuilding effort."

Floods have also ravaged other parts of the Midwest, including Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri. The disaster has disrupted rail service in the Midwest and forced portions of interstate highways in several states to close, according to news reports.

The floods in Iowa coincided with a tornado that killed four Boy Scouts at an Iowa camp and just weeks after another tornado killed six people and nearly leveled much of the community of Parkersburg.

"Rotarians in Iowa responded in a magnificent way to the E5 tornado in Parkersburg, where 288 homes were destroyed," said Ken Kolek, a past governor of District 5970 and its current Rotary Foundation committee chair. "Now we turn around and are faced with 1,300 city blocks

flooded, between 3,000 and 4,000 residences either partially or totally destroyed, close to 1,000 businesses destroyed."

The donor advised fund being set up by District 5970, covers the northern part of Iowa, including Cedar Rapids, Kolek said. He said he's been inundated with "incredible offers of help from all over the world."

District 6000, which serves southern Iowa including Iowa City and Des Moines, is earmarking an account for flood relief within its Humanitarian and Educational Foundation Inc., established after devastating floods hit the region in 1993. District Governor Diana Reed is encouraging Rotarians who want to volunteer to help out with immediate relief efforts to go through channels in their communities, such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army. She asks that those who want to help with future Rotary projects in the recovery process contact the district office, where they will be put in touch with the appropriate point person.

"Iowans are resilient," she said. "We'll come back."

### **District 5970 Fund**

Make checks payable to "Rotary 2008 Flood Relief" and mail to:

Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation,  
200 First St. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

To wire funds, call 319-366-2862 or email Ken Kolek at [ken@proto-consult.com](mailto:ken@proto-consult.com).

### **District 6000 Fund**

Make checks payable to "HEF Inc." and note "Iowa disaster relief" on the memo line.

Mail to: Dick Kennedy, 1811 N. Dubuque Rd., Iowa City, IA 52245

For information about volunteer needs for recovery efforts, e-mail District 6000 administrator Caroline Scharff at [dis6000admin@Lisco.com](mailto:dis6000admin@Lisco.com) or call 877-976-8279.

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