

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Calendar for July

July 17 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

Robbi Cohen: "Solar Cookers for Darfur"

Robbi will make a presentation on solar cookers for Darfur. The solar cooking kits will support thousands of women and children currently living in refugee camps in Darfur. The solar cookers decrease opportunities for the women to become targets of violence, represent an environmentally responsible method of cooking and provide an opportunity for the refugees to create a solar cookers manufacturing business.



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[Photo on the left from the Solar Cookers International website: "Food is easily and conveniently cooked with solar energy as the "fuel" in devices called solar cookers (or solar ovens)."]

Robbi Cohen spent her formative years in Miami, Florida, where she was president of one of the local Young Judaea chapters. She has an Undergraduate degree in Special Education from Florida International University and graduate degrees in Elementary Education and Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Maryland. A retired special educator who served 32 years in the Montgomery County Public Schools, Robbi is working in the family dental business and serving as an adjunct professor in the School of Education at Montgomery College. Robbi, her husband Larry and daughter Melissa have been members of Tikvat Israel synagogue for 14 years. She has been Co-chair of the congregation Social Action Committee for the past 4 years. "Outside of work and synagogue activities," she says, "I enjoy spending time with my family, our dogs Annie and Ari, reading, traveling, and socializing with friends."

July 24 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

Guido Adelfio, Bethesda Travel Center

July 31 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

Bob Mitchell, Mitchell & Best Homes

First Meeting of the New Rotary Year Features District Governor Bette Lewis

Todd Nitkin rang the Rotary bell for the first time as Club President and welcomed District Governor Bette Lewis, Assistant Governor Barry Thompson and special guest from Hamburg,



Germany, **Stefan Rahe**, nephew of our late Rotarian Jurgen Rahe. Governor Bette told everyone that Todd was well trained for serving as Club President. In the Governor's address, she emphasized the "Power of Rotary" with 1.2 million Rotarians in 200 countries united under the motto of "Service Above Self". There are over 33,000 clubs in 529 districts which have impacted the lives of some 20 to 30 million people over the past decade. Two billion children have been immunized against polio protecting one-third of the world's population. Rotary has gained the respect of the United Nations, World Health Organization and the Gates Foundation and is one of only two non-governmental organizations at the UN (the



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other is the Red Cross). Canada just announced a \$60M donation to polio eradication and there may be \$120M coming from the USA. The total amount of funds donated by Rotary toward polio eradication is \$700M. 500 million people are walking today, saved from the polio virus. Last year there were 1,313 new cases of polio worldwide. At the Rotary Convention the suggestions were made to contribute \$1313, donate 1313 minutes of service and use 1313 words to motivate others to become involved. Governor Bette quoted Margaret Meade, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has". The theme of the Rotary year is "Make Dreams Real" and Governor Bette cited several



examples of the dreams of individual Rotarians that have come true. PolioPlus, Basra Prosthetics, Polio Corrective Surgery and River Blindness have all come about from the dreams of District 7620 Rotarians and every club has the potential for a project. This year's district goal for membership net growth is a gain of 270 members (10%). There will be five recruitment events sponsored and funded by the district to identify quality potential members, introduce them to Rotary and get

them connected to a local club that fits their schedule. Governor Bette presented President



Todd with a dreamcatcher straw hat with the suggestion that each week a different person could wear the hat and levy fines on the

members. Maryland is the seventh state in order of affluence in the US. The district goal to raise for PolioPlus is \$70,000. She quoted Robert Frost, "But I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep". As an example she noted the unfinished work of world illiteracy with 64% being women. Governor Bette announced that the District Conference will be held onboard Royal

Caribbean's Explorer of the Seas sailing to Bermuda along with a New York Rotary district. She thanked everyone for all that we have been doing. She quoted John Lennon, "You may say



I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one, I hope some day you'll join us, And the world will be as one." The dreamcatcher hat worked well with \$50 donated to PolioPlus and \$115 collected in happy dollars for the Jurgen Rahe scholarship fund. Several Rotarians were interested in obtaining a copy of Governor Bette's speech, and it will be posted on the District website in September.

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ALISO ACCENTS

Using God-given gifts to serve community

Caesar Kavadoy keeps busy with multiple jobs and volunteering gigs.



Caesar Kavadoy introduced Stefan Rahe, nephew of Jurgen. He also passed along the article to the right about his son Caesar, Jr., who is giving back to his community in California through volunteer efforts. Congratulations, Caesar, on being a great role model for your son.

Nabil Bedewi announced that the grant was approved for the microfinance project in DC.

Manna Food packers this month included **Noel Howard, Nabil and Lucy Bedewi and Bob Nelson.**

Treasurer Alan Cookson distributed quarterly billing statements.

Leftover cake and food from the installation dinner was donated to the Sophia House for homeless women.

Scott Janco announced that the speaker for July 17 is Robbi Cohen who will talk about solar cookers for Darfur (see page 1).

Caesar Kavadoy of Aliso Viejo is one of those residents who enjoys keeping busy and he does in between his day jobs – yes jobs, as well as lots of volunteering. Here's a closer look at Kavadoy who likes to help wherever he can.

Q: Where were you born and raised?

A: Born in Peru, moved to the Washington, D.C. area when I was a toddler and was raised in Potomac, Maryland. I moved to Southern California in 1990 with three boxes –



DEBBIE SKLAR
ALISO ACCENTS

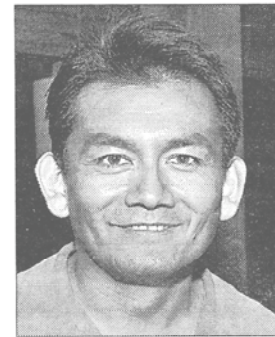
one held my CDs, the other my stereo system, and the last one my speakers.

Q: What is your full-time job?

A: I own, operate and have invested in multiple businesses in Orange County. They range from a marketing/creative design firm located in Aliso Viejo, a product photography studio also in Aliso and gourmet coffee houses in Laguna Hills, South Coast, and Seal Beach.

Q: How many pieces do you volunteer?

A: I devote quite a bit of time to community activism, the top five places that I'm able to not just volunteer in, but also lend some of my leadership skills include Board of Director for Camp Laurel (HIV/AIDS awareness organization); Care Ministry for Compass Bible Church; classroom photographer at Canyon Vista Elementary School; volunteer



SUBMITTED

Caesar Kavadoy

business mentor to local small business owners; and a seasonal volunteer for Boys and Girls Club and other youth-oriented organizations that provide support/educational support programs for disadvantaged children.

Q: Which organization means the most to you and why?

A: I'm an all-in type of person. When I get involved, I get involved and work hard to stay involved. I'm equally satisfied supporting the needs of families in crises through the Compass Care Ministry, or helping a struggling local business owner grow their business while fostering a culture of high-ethics. Ultimately, I feel we are all called to take our God-given gifts and talents to not only serve in your community, but to also demonstrate the change you want to see in other people.

Q: When do you find the time to volunteer?

A: I make the time to volunteer whenever the opportunity to serve comes my way. It helps that I was born with a minimal need for sleep. Most

people are blown away with the balance I'm able to maintain as a devout Christian, devoted father and husband, community activist and owner of multiple businesses. What they don't realize is that I've been blessed with an extra six hours a day. I can either stay busy or get into trouble!

Q: What personal satisfaction do you get out of volunteering?

A: I get to use my resources to hand out ten-fold what I've received through common grace.

Q: Where do you hope to be in five years?

A: My hope is to be right here in Aliso Viejo, raising my children, growing my relationship with my wife, our friends, family and our community.

Q: What do you like about AV?

A: It's a perfectly planned community that allows parents to focus on raising their children and not worrying about the safety, the schools, or poorly managed tax revenue.

Q: What do you wish you could change?

A: I wish we had a community center that allowed parents real transparency with other parents. One that offered opportunities for parents to discuss the issues associated with raising children in a county so focused on materialism.

Debbie L. Sklar is a Laguna Niguel resident, writer and editor. Her columns appear Fridays in the San Clemente Sun Post and on Thursdays in the Laguna Niguel News and the Aliso Viejo News. Please send story ideas to Debbiesklar@cox.net.

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President's Address to the Rotary International Convention

There are certain moments in our lives that are filled with such joy that we wish we could hold on to them forever. Standing here, at this Rotary convention, speaking to all of you, is one of those moments.

In my many years as a Rotarian, I have seen how Rotary changes lives. All over the world, Rotary means hope. It means health and literacy. It means honesty and fellowship. It means the courage to make things better. All over the world, there are people whose lives are different, whose lives have been touched, and transformed, because of Rotary. But as much as Rotary service changes the lives of others, it changes our own lives more.

Rotary changes who we are because it changes how we see ourselves and the world. We do not only see how things are now, but how they might be. We see potential, and we see possibility. Together, our abilities are stronger. Together, we really can make a lasting difference on a global scale. Together, there is no limit to what we can accomplish.

But when we truly understand the power that we have through Rotary, we must also understand that this kind of potential brings a responsibility: the responsibility to do the most good we can and to inspire other Rotarians to do the same.

How can we do the most good that we can? We do it by keeping our clubs strong, by bringing in new members and making sure that all of our members are serving well. We do it by giving to our Foundation, so that we

have the resources to support projects around the world. And in the coming Rotary year, we will do it by coming together to succeed in our \$100 million challenge. This challenge is a promise we have made, as part of our promise to eradicate polio. And I will quote President Wilf when I say, "We Rotarians keep our promises."

Every project we take on in Rotary is a promise we must keep, which is why it is so important to choose our projects carefully. Our choices are not always easy or obvious. They are not simple questions of right or wrong. They are complicated questions of who needs our help the most and whom we can help the best. This is why, every year, it is the job of a Rotary president to choose his emphases, to help guide the service of Rotarians in the coming Rotary year. It is one of the biggest decisions a Rotary president makes. And it was one that I spent many months considering.

I thought carefully about the emphases of past presidents and looked at some of the many projects that these emphases had inspired. Water, health and hunger, and literacy – these are the categories of Rotary service that have endured now for several years, and with good reason. These are the areas in which

local Rotary clubs, working individually and in cooperation with other clubs, can do the most good. They are areas in which we now have many years' experience and expertise. They are areas of wise Rotary investment. They are areas that let us do the most good with everything that we have. I knew with my mind



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that these were the emphases we should continue.

And yet, my heart was pulled in another direction. Because, in the midst of my research on possible emphases, I came across a number. That number was 30,000 – the number of children under the age of five who died every day from preventable causes. At first, I thought that it had to be a mistake. Maybe there was an extra zero in that number, if not two. Maybe the number was per month, or per year. It was impossible, unthinkable, in the 21st century that 30,000 of our most precious children could be dying, needlessly, every day. But there was no mistake. I asked, how can it be possible?

The answers were as heartbreaking as the number. Children die needlessly of pneumonia, measles, and malaria – for the lack of basic medicines, vaccines, and mosquito nets. They die of diarrheal illnesses – for the lack of a packet of rehydration salts that costs only 10 cents. They die in the thousands, every day, because they have no clean water to wash in and to drink. They are killed by illnesses that become deadly in combination with poor sanitation and malnutrition. They die because their families are trapped in a cycle of extreme poverty, a cycle that is not interrupted because there is no access to education.

So much can be done to keep children healthy, with so little: mosquito nets, rehydration salts, vitamins, and vaccines. And so much can be done with just a little bit more: a trained birth attendant, a simple clinic, a school feeding program, a visiting nurse. These are simple and direct ways to

save children's lives. In the last few years, the number of deaths per day has already gone down, from 30,000 to 26,000. I believe that part of the improvement has been through Rotary service in the areas of water, health and hunger, and literacy. We are already doing a great deal. But I believe that if we focus our efforts, we can do a great deal more.

This is why in 2008-09, Rotary will keep the service emphases we have had in so many of our past years, the emphases that are grounded in our knowledge and experience: water, health and hunger, and literacy. But this year, I will ask you to direct your work in each of these areas toward children, and toward reducing the terrible rate of child mortality in our world. In 2008-09, I will ask you all to Make Dreams Real for the world's children. This will be our theme, and my challenge to all of you. We will Make Dreams Real by giving children hope and a chance at a future.

We will Make Dreams Real by bringing clean water to their communities, and by this I mean not only providing safe water to drink but creating the sanitation projects that keep children healthy. We will be as proud of building public toilets as we are of supplying drinking water, because by improving sanitation we prevent water from becoming contaminated, and we avoid so many needless deaths.

We will Make Dreams Real by giving children the chance at health through improving their environments and their access to care. We will Make Dreams Real by making sure that more children have a chance to go to school,

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because it will only be through education that the deadly cycle of poverty can be broken.

We will Make Dreams Real by working together on Rotary's \$100 Million Challenge. And in 2008-2009, I ask you all to ensure that we will be able to continue to Make Dreams Real for many years to come by bringing new members in to Rotary. For many years now, worldwide Rotary membership has remained at the same level – just over 1.2 million members. Our membership is not growing. But the needs of the world's children are. In order to keep pace with these needs, we must have more members. And we must have more clubs.

This is why I have set ambitious new goals for membership in this Rotary year. This is why I asked every district to work toward a 10 percent net increase in membership. And I asked each district to establish at least two new clubs. I have asked each of my district governors to announce their own targets for new members and new clubs in their districts. If each district rises to the challenge that they have accepted, then by the time we meet again in Birmingham, we will have over 1.3 million Rotarians, and over 33,000 clubs.

How will we achieve this? We will do it by looking for qualified members where they are and not waiting for them to come to us, because in every community, we overlook candidates for membership simply because they are different from ourselves. They may be of a different age or profession. They may come from a different background or live in a different neighborhood. But this is all the more reason to invite them to a meeting. If you know someone who is qualified for

membership, but you think would not fit in your club, perhaps it is time to reconsider. What might that individual bring to your club? What skills and talents could that person contribute that your club does not now have? How could that person help Make Dreams Real?

In every zone, in every district, more Rotarians are needed to help us reach our goal of saving children, because in every community there are children who need our help. Child mortality is highest in developing countries. But there is not a single Rotary district where local club projects cannot save lives. Every day, in every part of the world, children die for the lack of a seatbelt or a smoke detector. Children die because they have nowhere safe to play. Children die because their parents cannot afford health care. Children die not because nobody can help them but because too often, nobody does. But you and I, here in this room, are Rotarians, and helping is what we do best.

And so it is our job to open our eyes to these needs, in our own communities and in communities far away. Our job is to work together, one club with another, to do what is needed. Our job is to Make Dreams Real. We will turn those dreams of a safe and happy childhood – a childhood that becomes a long and healthy life – into a reality because all of the world's children are our children. And our job is a simple one. It is saving lives with our hearts and our minds and our souls. And if, in 2008-09, every one of us does this job well, at the end of our year we will all have achieved something wonderful.

Dong Kurn Lee, 2008-09 RI President

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