

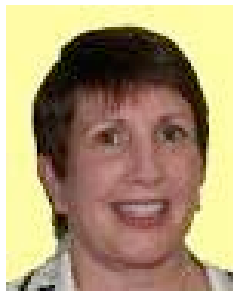
Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

July 31 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

Toastmasters Public Speaking Training Program

Steve Naron recently rejoined Toastmasters after a break of 22 years to see how the public speaking programs could benefit Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars. An e-mail he sent out to some Rotarians in District 7620 ended up with dozens of expressions of interest in having Toastmasters programs for Interact, Rotaract, 4-way test, and club members. Because of this response and interest of the Rotary District Governor Bette Lewis, the original effort has snowballed into seeing how the Toastmaster programs would support a wide range of Rotary programs. **Panelists:** DTM (Distinguished Toastmaster) **Mary**



Ann Guerra, is the Immediate Past District 36 Governor and was responsible for about 200 Toastmaster clubs. She is a native Washingtonian living in the Washington Metropolitan area all her life. She has been a Toastmaster since 1985 and is an active member of 8 clubs. **Gustavo Guerra** was born in Arrequipa, Peru and raised in Lima, Peru. He came to the United

States when he was 21 years of age and is a US Citizen. He is a Toastmaster Advanced Communicator Bronze/Competent Leader who has been a Toastmaster since 2003. He recently chartered the only bilingual Toastmaster club in District 36 called Oradores en Espanol (Spanish Orators). DTM **Nancy Pirt** was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA but has lived in the Washington Metropolitan area for about 20 years. She's a past Division E Governor and a Past Area Governor and has been a Toastmaster for about 14 years. CTM (Competent Toastmaster) **Steve Naron** has been a Rotarian for 7 years and a Toastmaster for (cumulatively) 7 years. He is an active member of 3 Toastmaster clubs. He is Rotary Club past president and Rotary District Chair of the incoming Ambassadorial Scholars program.

August 7- 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

August 7 - 8pm Board of Directors Meeting

August 12 - 6pm Sophia House

Rotarians serve dinner to the homeless at Sophia House,
12250-B Wilkins Avenue, Rockville 20852

August 12 - 7pm Manna Food Center

Rotarians pack 144 food boxes at Manna Food Center,
614 Lofstrand Lane, Rockville 20850

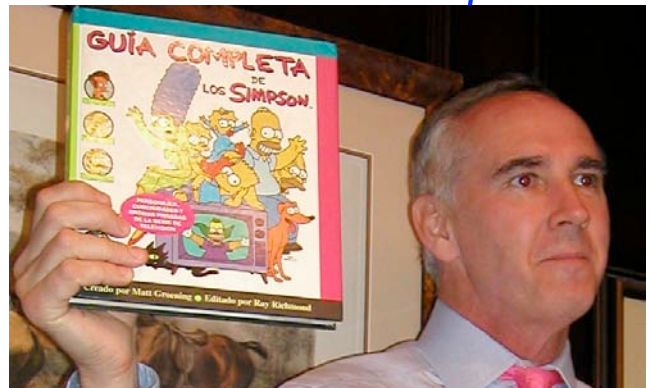
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July 24 Meeting Report: David Smith and the World Library Project

Don Hiruo introduced our speaker, **David Smith**, whom he first met when they were studying at Miami University. (continued on p. 3)



(Above) Speaker David Smith with his wife Marisela. (Below) One of the most popular childrens' books at the Smiths' book stores in Venezuela featured the Simpsons.



We welcomed guest **Naomi Abrams** (right), an ergonomic specialist with **Worksite Health and Safety Consultants**. She was impressed by the service projects listed on our Rotary Club website.



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We Receive Emails...

Dear Bob,

I am reading with interest your bulletin. I miss you all although I am very busy. My daughter and her family are with me for two and half months. My grandson is my greatest joy. He is growing in front of my eyes so fast. He is less than three months old, but he is not afraid of water so we take him to the beach to swim with us. Sometimes he uses the Rotary cap of his grandma. He will be a Rotarian for sure.

Regards to all.

Smiljka

[Former member of Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club now residing in Venice, Florida]



Caesar:

I really liked the article about your son. Congratulations!

Best regards to all.

Karl and Gundel

[Former member of Potomac-Bethesda Rotary]

Hello Dear Rotarian Friends,

Greetings to you all from Turkey...



I congratulate Todd for being the new President of the Rotary Club of Potomac-Bethesda, and wish him and you all a joyful and productive term.

Warm regards,

Ahmet Yucel

Past President 2002-2003

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club

Dear Bob,

Thank you for having Marisela and me as your guests at your Rotary Meeting yesterday. Beyond the experience of presenting the project, it was a very pleasant evening and we both enjoyed the dynamic of your chapter, the "Have you ever.." stories, and the many comments and interactions of chapter members. You have a wonderful chapter.

For us, yesterday was an historic occasion as it was the first time we had presented the ideas in a public forum and were very encouraged by the response. So we will preserve the thoughtful gift of the Rotary Wine Glass and the Newsletter of the Potomac/Bethesda Rotary Club for the history of the project. Yesterday was the first step in a ten thousand mile journey to launch this project. And we really appreciated the opportunity to take it with you and the members.

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We Receive Emails... *(continued from page 3)*

I especially enjoyed your suggestions about ways this might be considered on a district level and will be most interested in your suggestions to some ideas I am working on. By the way, I meant to ask, but never did, what was your area of expertise at NASA? All our children seem to be fascinated with the space program from the oldest, Gracie, who went to Space Camp to our son, Andres, who imagines building hotels in space! I'm a fan of science fiction so have read hundreds of books imagining what it might be like to move, travel, and interact in space. What about you?

I have been thinking carefully about how the World Library Project might be integrated into Rotary's programs and believe I have an idea for how to work this on an individual chapter and as a pilot with this Rotary District. I'm especially conscious of how busy all of you are so am trying to work through all the details. The idea is to structure it so that a chapter can have a very large impact while keeping down the commitment of volunteer time. I think I've a way to spread the costs so that each chapter can make a significant impact on less out-of-pocket funds annually than you collected last night during your "Happy Dollars" pass-around.

I'll be working on it over the weekend and hope to have something to send you on Monday for your consideration and comments.

Thank you again for the opportunity to meet and share ideas and stories with you and the members of the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club.

David and Marisela Smith

July 24 Meeting Report *(continued from p.1)*

David has worked in fifty different countries around the world. In 1976 he met a Dutch leprologist in Gambia, saw the horrible sight of leprosy patients and decided that he would try to help. A year later he was in South Korea and learned some valuable lessons about economic development: people need hope and a sense that things will get better. He returned to the US, studied business, worked in Boston and came to Washington to work in development as a management consultant. He met interesting leaders around the world and learned of many good projects, but the pace of being on travel for 300 days a year was a bit much. He returned to DC, consulted locally, invested and met his future wife, Marisela. Marisela was from Venezuela and together they began a book business there with \$35,000 and some 10,000 used books that they sold from their house. They added book fairs, and it just kept growing. At the peak, they employed 130 persons in 13 locations. They worked with many schools, but were reaching only 1-2% of population. "We donated, but it wasn't enough: people were not reading. Meanwhile, changes in foreign exchange controls ended our use of supplier credits so we wound things down and returned to Washington".

David then described his vision of the World Library Project. "We can spur economic growth in the developing countries and make this world a better place if we can do two things: first, lower the cost to read and access information; and second, increase the number of habitual readers."

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The **World Library Project** is designed to strengthen and build libraries in schools and communities in developing countries.

The project's three objectives are:

- To increase the number of books read per person,
- To create connections from here to there,
- To insure that everyone benefits from their association with the project.

The key measures are:

- The number of books read per person,
- The number of connections created, and
- Retention rates of donors, volunteers, and beneficiaries.

The emphasis is on promoting reading, first within the schools and later in the communities.

Structure

- Small umbrella organization
- Small national organizations - some technical, possibly regional warehouses
- Many local chapters, primarily volunteer

Over there:

- Identify and assess the needs and requirements
- Develop an acquisition plan
- Negotiate the in-kind contributions and agreements.
- Organize and support reading promotion programs
- Collect data on impacts

Over here:

- Publicize the project
- Collect books from individuals, publishers, and other countries
- Raise funds through book fairs and internet sales
- Identify corporate sponsors to pay for the

shipping of books

- Make connections
- Local chapter here linked to local chapter there
 - ✓ Efficient
 - ✓ Creates connections
 - ✓ More interesting, more satisfying project for participants.

Unfortunately current programs fail to make an impact because they concentrate on the quantity not the quality of the books. The programs stop after the books have been delivered. We need to be selective about the books. So, the key metric is not literacy and not books shipped but books read.

Reading is the key skill necessary - learn to feed themselves. Reading is a skill - practice makes perfect.

With enough practice we can make the act of reading a pleasurable habit.

And finally, we need to remember the wisdom of Mark Twain: "The man who does not read good books, has nothing on a man who cannot read".

Thanks very much to David and Marisela for coming to the club and sharing the vision of this project.

\$62 happy dollars were contributed and an additional \$44 was donated in the PolioPlus hat. Please pay your invoice for quarterly dues to Treasurer Alan Cookson.

Rotary Club Calendar - Continued

August 14 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

August 21 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

Dr. Roxolana, Development of a Clinical

Network for Rural Physicians in the Ukraine

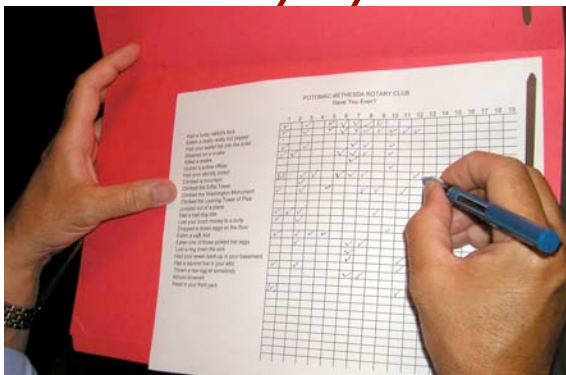
August 28 - 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn

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Phil Meade's Survey Says ...



When **Phil Meade** occasionally circulates a survey form, it's always a lot of fun and we learn more about each other. Sixteen Rotarians took the survey at last week's club meeting and here are the results:

- Had a lucky rabbit's foot - 10
- Eaten a really, really hot pepper - 12
- Had a wallet fall into the toilet - 0
- Stepped on a snake - 6
- Killed a snake - 6
- Outran a police officer - 2
- Had your identity stolen - 3
- Climbed a mountain - 7
- Climbed the Eiffel Tower - 4
- Climbed the Washington Monument - 8
- Climbed the Leaning Tower of Pisa - 1
- Jumped out of a plane - 0
- Had a bad dog bite - 6
- Lost your lunch money to a bully - 2
- Dropped a dozen eggs on the floor - 1
- Eaten a pig's foot - 4
- Eaten one of those pickled bar eggs - 2
- Lost a ring down the sink - 3
- Had your sewer back up in your basement - 3
- Had a squirrel live in your attic - 5
- Thrown a raw egg at somebody - 4
- Almost drowned - 2
- Peed in your front yard - 3

In Response to Mid-West Flooding, Greenbelt Rotary Club Sends Semi-Trailer Truckload of Donations to Cedar Rapids, Iowa

By Ryan Hyland RI News - 23 July 2008

Downtown Cedar Rapids, Iowa, USA, once flourished with small businesses, entertaining residents with its many restaurants, theaters, and museums.

But after a record-breaking flood in June destroyed much of the area, it's now a virtual ghost town, populated mainly by garbage trucks overflowing with debris and large humming vents airing out office buildings and storefronts.

After a month of heavy storms, the Cedar River crested to 31 feet above flood level on 13 June, engulfing more than 9 square miles of Cedar Rapids. The floodwaters left at least 25,000 residents homeless and more than 5,300 houses and 1,000 businesses damaged or destroyed.

As Rotarian Ken Kolek walked through the eerily quiet downtown streets, he said the city hadn't quite come to grips with the vast devastation that reached deep into surrounding neighborhoods.

"While the government is doing the best it can for flood victims, it's up to Rotary to fill in the gaps they miss," said Kolek, a member of the Rotary Club of Cedar Rapids-Daybreak and a past governor of District 5970. "We're not looking for a miracle -- just a little help consistently spread around to give this city the support it needs to rebuild."

Open wallets, hearts

The small **Rotary Club of Greenbelt,**

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Maryland, came up big for the seven clubs in the Cedar Rapids metro area. For two weeks after the river crested, the 20-member Maryland club collected desperately needed money and consumable goods.

Wick Caldwell, 2007-08 Greenbelt club secretary, e-mailed all Rotarians in District 7620 (Maryland; Washington, D.C.) to ask for help and to spread the word about the effort.

"This is just what Rotary does. And we do it well," said Caldwell, whose club organized a similar project for Hurricane Katrina victims in 2005. "This is simply local folks helping local folks."

A semitrailer filled with goods from Maryland arrived 13 July at a Salvation Army relief site in Cedar Rapids. More than 70 Rotarians, their families, and other volunteers were there to receive and organize the contributions. They formed a circular line and quickly unloaded the goods, which included food, water, household items, cleaning supplies, and furniture.

Volunteers worked feverishly to sort the donations, and within an hour of the trailer's arrival, pickup trucks loaded with supplies sped off to food pantries, Goodwill Industries collection centers, and other relief agencies in and around Cedar Rapids.

"This is a phenomenal turnout and great example of volunteerism," said William Jacobson, a Cedar Rapids resident and governor of District 5970. "I'm very pleased with the way Rotarians met the challenge when called upon and rolled up their sleeves to work for their city in a time of need."

One Rotary club member stepped up after the

flood destroyed a Boys and Girls Club location, including everything inside. The children were able to use an alternative site for recreation, but with all the sporting goods unusable, options for activities were slim.



Rotarians and volunteers at a Salvation Army depository in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, USA, unload a semitrailer full of relief aid for flood victims. Bottom, a homeowner of Cedar Rapids uses a power washer to clean flood water stains from his house. Photos by Alyce Henson/Rotary Images

Michele Boyer, of the Cedar Rapids-Daybreak club, called a friend whose business connection to Dick's Sporting Goods, a nationwide sports and fitness retailer, yielded brand new equipment for the Boys and Girls Club. The store donated items for almost

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every sport a child would want to play, including baseball, basketball, and even badminton.

"It's as simple as just asking," said Boyer. "In a critical time like this, it's important Rotarians draw on the relationships we have."

Metro seven

In neighborhoods near downtown along the water, the streets serve as a stark reminder of the devastation caused by the surging Cedar River. As many as 2,000 homes contaminated by polluted floodwaters wait to be razed, their front doors branded with orange spray paint by city officials.

Block after block, dazed families who have lost everything have begun removing debris from their homes. Houses are still tainted with grimy flood lines, some revealing that only the tips of their roofs were spared.

The economic fallout will be crippling. An estimated 50 percent of businesses will not survive the flood damage.

The crisis has been a test for the Cedar Rapids Area Rotary Presidents Committee, a unique alliance formed four years ago to serve the community with cohesive projects rather than separate autonomous ones.

All seven metro Cedar Rapids club presidents, vice presidents, and immediate past presidents serve as members and are charged with working with other agencies to best identify local needs. After the flood, they developed three phases – the three R's – for providing aid: relief, recover, and rebuild.

The committee quickly set up a flood relief fund, administered by the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, to collect donations, which will be distributed to local

charities and relief agencies.

Long-term rebuilding initiatives are hard to fathom while families and businesses are still mired in the immediate fallout of the disaster. But Kolek believes it's up to Iowa Rotarians to show Cedar Rapids their commitment to a better future.

"This will take out-of-the-box thinking and new ideas to rebuild this city," he said. "And it may take 10 years to get back to normal. But in the end, Cedar Rapids will be stronger.

"If ever faced with a major disaster like this one, we want the affected Rotary clubs to look at how Iowa Rotarians handled the situation and reach out to us for advice."

How you can help

The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation opened the Flood 2008 Fund on 15 June. The Flood 2008 Fund is for flood relief and recovery donations. One-hundred percent of financial donations to the fund will support response, recovery and rebuilding efforts throughout the Cedar Rapids-metro and surrounding communities.

Road to Recovery

RI News – 24 July 2008 The Rotary Club of Greenbelt, Maryland, USA, donates a semi-trailer full of relief supplies, as volunteers from the seven Metro Cedar Rapids Rotary clubs roll up their sleeves to unload and distribute donations to victims of the June flood. [See the video of the flood damage and donations from Maryland at http://www.rotary.org/en/MediaAndNews/News/Pages/080724_news_iowa.aspx]

**Please send news articles and photos
to Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov
for inclusion in the newsletter**

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