

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## Rotary Calendar

September 18–6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn

Amy Jo O'Hearn

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's  
"Light The Night"



Amy Jo O'Hearn is the Campaign manager of the Montgomery County walk for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society National Campaign Area Chapter. The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's mission is to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's disease and myeloma,

and to improve the quality of life of our patients. Joanna Goodwin, whose daughter is a survivor, will also share her story. The 6th annual Light the Night Walk is on Saturday, October 11, 2008 at Rockville Town Center.



September 25–6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn  
Tom Leitzer on Maryland Initiative To Provide  
Health Care For The Uninsured

October 2 - 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn  
Steve Naron on Biking the Entire C&O Canal

October 9 - 6:30pm - No Meeting

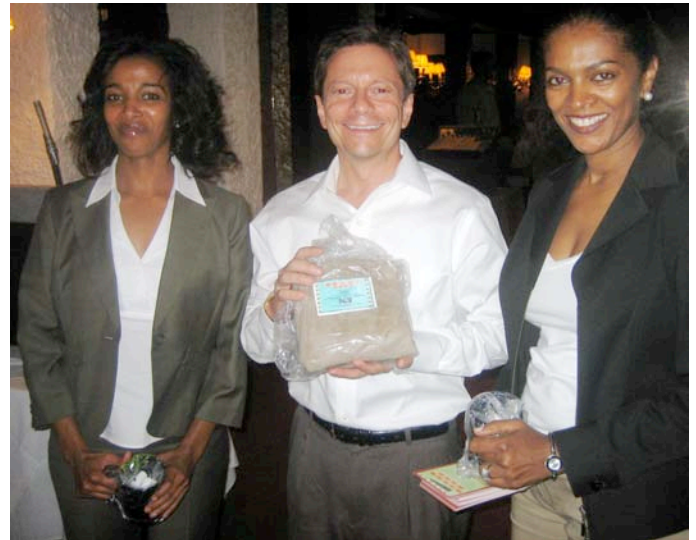
October 16 - 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn  
Olobor Marvis – Manor Care Nursing Home  
Wheelchairs for Nigeria

October 18 - 10:30am Potomac Day

October 23 -- 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn  
Kanae Tsutsumi

Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar

October 25 - Rotary Leadership Institute  
Marriott Courtyard, Frederick



Winy Yirga-Keefe and Rahel M. Beyene of EthioGreen Management spoke at the Rotary Club meeting on September 11. Photo by Steve Naron.



Jason Hamel proudly unfurls the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club banner on his trek up Mount Rainier.

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## **RI President Helps Charter Korean American Club**

By Susie O. Ma RI News – 15 September 2008

*RI President Dong Kurn Lee welcomes Jong Koo Kim, a member of the Rotary Club of Chicagoland Korean-Northbrook, on the club's charter night. Photo courtesy Chris Chung/The Korea Times-Chicago*

District 6440 has a new club, in part due to the recruiting prowess of RI President Dong Kurn Lee.

Lee presented the club charter to Rotary Club of Chicagoland Korean-Northbrook with District 6440 Governor Pamela Kerr on 22 August in Northbrook, Illinois, USA.

Attendees were asked to make a \$50 donation to Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge. About 175 people attended the charter night and the event raised \$6,000.

The club's 54 members are Korean American, and club business will mostly be conducted in Korean. But that is the beauty of Rotary, Lee told the charter night audience.

"What matters in Rotary is not what language we speak, or where we come from, or how much English we remember from high school," Lee said. "What matters in Rotary is fellowship, friendship, and building bridges of goodwill."

### **Getting organized**

District leaders spoke with members of the Rotary Club of Korea Town-Los Angeles to get an idea of how a Korean club would fit into their district.

"We think it will bring people into Rotary who would not have joined Rotary otherwise,"

says Mike Yesner, assistant governor coordinator for District 6440.

Club president Sung Wun Kim says it is an honor to join Rotary during Lee's year as RI president and that Lee is an invaluable asset to the club.

"I cannot really explain how much he has helped us," Kim says. "It's tremendous how much he is supporting us and encouraging us to do service work."

Kim says the new club is getting organized, and members are getting to know each other. Eventually, the club hopes to do service projects in the Korean community, raise funds for polio eradication, and work with other clubs in the district on combined projects.

Lee asked district governors to bring two new clubs into Rotary this year as part of his ambitious membership goals. The Rotary clubs of Northbrook, Skokie Valley, Evanston Lighthouse, and Korea Town-Los Angeles sponsored the new club.

## **New Country Added To Rotary Map**

By Ryan Hyland RI News – 11 September 2008  
Members of the first Rotary club in the island nation of Kiribati spent a week in August celebrating its charter.

On 11 August, RI General Secretary Ed Futa, on behalf of the RI Board, approved a charter for the Rotary Club of Kiritimati, Line Islands, Republic of Kiribati, adding another nation to the more than 200 countries and geographical areas on the Rotary map.



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"Rotary will have an important and positive impact on improving the lives of people in Kiritimati (formerly Christmas Island)," says club president Ruta Uatioa. "Rotary represents leadership, something we are excited to adopt here."

The 35-member club, along with guest Rotarians from District 9920 and the United States, held its first official club meeting on 23 August, the kickoff to the weeklong festivities. As part of the week's programming, Kiritimati club members visited schools and hospitals to assess potential projects.

Participating in the activities were members of the Rotary Club of Commerce City, Colorado, USA, who led multiple World Community Service (WCS) projects on Kiritimati and were instrumental in introducing Rotary to the islands.

George Maybee, a member of the Commerce City club, has vacationed with his wife, Sharon, on the island for years. During a trip in 2006, Maybee became convinced his club should get involved with helping people there. A year later, the club launched a multiphase WCS project consisting of improved medical care, water quality, and educational opportunities.

The club then joined efforts with Past District 9220 Governor Warwick Pleass, who was already working with RI to get a club chartered in Kiribati. Maybee and members from the Rotary Club of Suva East, Fiji, made

several trips to Kiritimati to help a provisional club.

## Island nation

Kiribati (pronounced KEER-ah-bhass) consists of 33 islands scattered across 2,400 miles of the Pacific Ocean, with a population of more than 105,000. The three main groupings are the Gilbert Islands, Phoenix Islands, and Line Islands.

In 1995, Kiribati drew international attention when it petitioned to change the International Date Line, which divided the nation into two time zones. The entire nation now lies west of the date line, which zigzags around the easternmost islands.

Kiribati gets a large portion of its income from overseas, including fishing licenses, development assistance, and tourism.

"Our people are used to being on the receiving end of help," says Uatioa. "With the first Rotary club here, our members can now be on the giving end."

Projects in the works for the Kiritimati club include completion of upgrades to the Banana Village Medical Clinic; construction of working toilets for all six schools on the island; distribution of dictionaries provided by the Rotary Club of Brighton Early, Colorado; and distribution of toothbrushes and toothpaste.

"The future is bright; Rotary can surely look forward to a glowing success with the Kiritimati club, as well as an additional club in Kiribati," says Maybee. "I'm very much looking forward to seeing the Kiribati flag at the RI Convention in Birmingham."





# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## Rotary Foundation Fall Alumni Reception

Dear Fellow Rotary Foundation Alumni, It is time once again to reconnect with Rotary and your fellow Rotary Foundation Alumni! Did you know that there are over 350 RF Alumni in the greater Washington area? Alumni include, GSE Team Leaders and Team Members, RF Volunteers, Ambassadorial Scholars, World Peace Fellows and a variety of other recipients of RF Scholarships.

Twice a year for the last three years, the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill - in association with the Embassy of Bulgaria and District 7620 - has hosted an Alumni get together at the beautiful Embassy of Bulgaria. Many Alumni have become regular attendees at these events. Others have yet to appear!

This year's Reception on Thursday, October 2, 2008, promises to be our best event ever so I urge you all to join us for fun, fellowship and mouth-watering Bulgarian canapés!

See you soon!

Peter Kyle Chairman, District 7620 RF Alumni Committee

## Hurricanes Pummel Haiti

By Arnold R. Grahl RI News - 12  
September 2008

*Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Cayes, Haiti, distribute food packets near Cayes. Bottom, Haitians wade through a flooded street after Hurricane Hanna dumped even more rainfall on areas already suffering from extreme flooding.*

*Photos courtesy Rotary District 7020*

Four hurricanes within a span of a month have caused



massive flooding in Haiti, sending local Rotarians scrambling to provide help for thousands displaced by the storms.

Past RI Director Barry Rassin, of Nassau, Bahamas, says the onslaught of hurricanes Fay, Gustav, Hanna, and Ike has left many parts of the island inaccessible, including the port city of Gonaives. The United Nations has estimated that as many as 600,000 people are in need of help because of the storms, which have killed more than 200 people.

"It's just been so devastating," Rassin says.

"We have to wait for the flooding to go down to even be able to access some of the places."

"The last straw was Hanna," Rassin continued.

"Parts of Hanna sat over Haiti for days and the ground had already been saturated. Ike made it worse, but Hanna devastated the place."

Dick McCombe, 2007-08 governor of RI District 7020, and Rassin have been coordinating much of the Rotarian relief effort through the Haiti Task Force, set up a year ago to administer all Rotarian financial aid to Haiti. The task force is composed of past and present assistant governors and Haitian

Rotary officials.

The district is working with Red Cross, local NGOs, and local Rotary clubs to identify the most urgent needs, says Jack Martin, another past district governor. Because of the difficulty in shipping items to Haiti, the first step has been to provide funds to purchase supplies for the most needy.

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## How to help

Martin and McCombe are asking Rotarians to help out by sending donations. Information on how to do so is available at the RI Zones 33 and 34 Web site.

Members of the Rotary Club of Cayes helped distribute food packets to long lines earlier this month. Rassin said the district's relief efforts have raised US\$25,000, not nearly enough to meet all the need.

"We are wire-transferring cash to Rotary contacts in the country, splitting it between regions," he says. "We did get a few containers of food in—and they were gone in a flash. The need is so great."

"You can see a sense of hopelessness and despair like nothing you've ever seen," writes Caleb Lucien, District 7020's health and hunger resource coordinator, on a Zones 33 and 34 online forum. "After a week of flooding, the only two streets in (Gonaives) that people can freely go from one end to the next is over 3 1/2 feet deep and people are walking almost a mile to go find shelter and something (food) on which to survive."

Rassin says district officials are hoping to charter a small plane to get a better look at the devastation.

"This has impacted the entire country," he says. "There is no place that isn't affected."

## Washington Food Bank Project Pays Dividends

By Donna Polydoros RI News – 10 September 2008



When the roof of the Bellingham Food Bank was crumbling in 2005, Executive Director Mike Cohen turned to the Rotary Club of Bellingham, Washington, USA, for help.

But after then President-elect Jim Cunningham approached then presidents-elect Barry Lester of the Rotary Club of Bellingham Sunrise and William Unrein Jr. of the Rotary Club of Bellingham Bay, the presidents-elect decided not to fix the roof. Instead, they proposed building a new, state-of-the-art facility.

"It really was a textbook example of how to galvanize a community to help others," says Michael Smith, current president of the Bellingham Sunrise club. "We came together in the spirit of Rotary to make this project real."

The three clubs committed \$225,000 in seed money for the project and raised over \$1.6 million more from state agencies and organizations such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Club members donated their own professional services and secured in-kind donations from architects, engineers, and contractors.

The clubs celebrated the opening of the new food bank on 31 July of this year. Members of the community and the food bank thanked them for their efforts.

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"Everyone was really impressed with the quality of what was done and the enhancement to the neighborhood," says Bellingham club member Rod Elin, who served on the project steering committee. Improvements included repairing the street, installing new sewage lines and gutters, and even fixing up the front lawn on a neighboring property.

"Before, the [food] recipients would have to wait in line outside. Now there is an overhang they can wait under," says Elin. "It's something that Rotarians can certainly take pride in."



Rotarians from the three Bellingham clubs gather to celebrate the opening of the Bellingham Food Bank. Photo courtesy of Stan Dyer

**Thanks so much for sharing your photos and news! You are invited to submit articles and photos to [BobNelson20854@yahoo.com](mailto:BobNelson20854@yahoo.com).**

## **Hurricanes Cause Massive Damage In Turks And Caicos Islands**

RI News - 15 September 2008

Turks and Caicos Islands suffered massive damage as a result of the recent hurricanes that blew through the low-lying islands. The hurricanes created widespread flooding, destroyed 90 percent of roofs in Grand Turk and South Caicos, downed power lines, and disrupted the water supply. Residents are in need of food, clean water, and shelter.

The Rotary Club of Providenciales, Ontario, Canada, is participating in emergency relief activities and has established a disaster relief fund to collect contributions. The club is providing one burner stoves with butane canisters, basic supplies such as clothing and toiletries, and facilitating transportation of goods to boats and planes for distribution to Grand Turks and South Caicos. The club is working with the Turks & Caicos Islands Red Cross and ShelterBox teams.

To make a contribution to this relief effort contact club president John Lawson.

**Rotary is looking for men/women in a variety of professions – just a few vocations are listed below:**

**Small Business Owners**

**Physicians**

**Insurance brokers/agents**

**Pharmacists**

**Optician**

**Banking and Wealth Management**

**Journalist/writers**

**Rotary Shares by**

**Growing Rotary Membership!**

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