

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

**November 20 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn
“Set America Free” – Anne Korin**

Anne Korin is the chair of “Set America Free”, a coalition of people and groups of all political persuasions that focuses on the goal of reducing American dependence on oil. Right now, 97 percent of the fuel used in U.S. transportation is petroleum based. The Set America Free Coalition's mission is to: (1) educate people about the danger of the U.S. dependence on foreign oil and the need for fuel choice; (2) increase public demand for and use of flexible fuel vehicles and plug-in hybrids; and (3) support policy solutions that increase fuel choice. [See website: setamericafree.org]



**November 21 – 2pm - Dictionary Project at
Poolesville Elementary School**

**November 25 – 2pm - Dictionary Project at
Bells Mill Elementary School**

November 27 – No meeting

**December 4 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn
Hilltop Micro-finance Initiative**

December 9 – 7pm Manna Food Center

**December 10 – 6pm Feeding the Homeless
at Sophia House**

December 11 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn

**December 18 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn
Rotary Ambassador Scholar Mariko Yamaguchi**



Nabil Bedewi introduced Trevor Estes, a Navy pilot working at the Pentagon. Welcome to Rotary, Trevor! We look forward to hearing about Trevor's vocation and family. Trevor is married to Nabil's cousin.

November 13 Meeting Report

Alan Grant announced the final two dictionary distribution dates for the year and thanked those who have participated in the program to present dictionaries to third graders (see calendar and Gazette article on page 4 about the dictionary project of the Mount Airy Rotary Club). **Steve Naron** reported that the number of boxes packed at Manna increased this week from 144 to 199, but the Rotary team completed the job in one hour fifteen minutes. Steve thanked **Bob Nelson** and **Don Hiruo** (his first time at Manna) for their help this month. Unfortunately some of the food boxes were not as full as normal and Manna is not receiving as many leftovers from the supermarkets. Potomac-Bethesda Rotary would like to have the Manna Food truck come to Hunters Inn in December and in cooperation with the restaurant get the word out to all the businesses and newspapers in Potomac Village. Happy dollars will also be donated to Manna.



President Todd Nitkin introduced guest speaker Zoltán Fehér, JD, Press and Media Attaché, Chief Creative Officer, Embassy of Hungary whose topic was “U.S. – Hungarian Relations and the

Changing Face of Transatlantic Diplomacy.” Zoltán said that things have not been better with US-Hungarian relations as both strategic allies and friends. After the transition to democracy in 1989-1990, relations have been picking up and flourishing. Hungary has been part of international military missions for the past 20 years including Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Fighting side-by-side with the US has gotten the two countries closer together and has been one of the tests



www.pb-rotary.org www.rotary7620.org www.rotary.org

November 20, 2008 - Page 1

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

of the relationship. Hungary looks forward to continuing to expand peace and prosperity throughout the world with the US.

Hungary annually exports \$2.5B to \$3B of products to the US and receives imports from the US totaling \$1.5B to \$1.8B. The US is one of the major countries investing in Hungary in the past 20 years since the fall of communism. They have received \$9B to \$10B in investments from the US including major companies such as IBM, GE and Alcoa. Zoltán was very proud of Hungarian diplomacy's major achievement of the inclusion of Hungary in the US visa waiver program in November 2008.



[Right - Ambassador of Hungary, Ferenc Somogyi, wife Andrea and family]

The Hungarian embassy has taken an unusual approach to public relations, external communication, culture, press, media and the new media. Their goal was to create visibility for Hungary and the embassy beyond the capabilities, and beyond the size and importance of Hungary. The Hungarian embassy competes with 200 other countries in DC for the attention of the exact same people: members of the cabinet, administration officials, congressmen, senators, staffers, national and local media, think tanks, non profits and the Washington-based business community. It is a tough job to get the attention of some of the government, congressional, business and media leaders in the city especially if you are not a country of strategic importance. Hungary is a small country in comparison to the US, although it is classified as a mid-sized country in the EU.

They decided to take an unusual approach to their presence in Washington and to their communications doing three things differently: (1) take a new approach to popular culture; (2) take a new more open approach to popular media; and (3) take a new approach to the



new media. Zoltán has named this "creative diplomacy."

Zoltán served as the coordinator of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the 1956 revolution. There were a number of commemorative events including a rare celebration at the State Department's Jefferson Room hosted by Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice. It was a solemn commemoration with American religious leaders of churches that are present in Hungary including Catholic, Protestant and Jewish clerics. Congressman Tom Lantos, who was the only holocaust survivor in Congress, participated and also gathered the bi-partisan leadership for a second celebration in the Capitol Rotunda. President Bush was the keynote speaker at the Capitol and he also visited Hungary in June 2006, the first US presidential visit in many years.

In his new approach to media, Zoltán arranged a screening at the Uptown Theater for 700 people of the movie "Freedom's Fury" about the 1956 revolution and the Olympic water polo victory over the Soviets a few weeks later. Lucy Liu went to college with the director of the movie, she was one of the Executive Producers and Zoltán showed one of the perks of his job, receiving a kiss from Lucy.

Popular culture can be part of diplomacy. You don't normally see diplomats on television shows, but the previous ambassador played guitar. So Zoltán organized concerts that honored firefighters and raised funds for musicians in New Orleans. Zoltán showed a photo of Ronnie Spector from the Ronettes who sang the familiar "Be My Baby" song. He arranged for a reception to introduce the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame to the Washington elite. The Embassy's unorthodox ideas attracted people that would not usually attend an embassy function. The previous ambassador appeared twice on the Colbert Report. Under the current Ambassador this past March, they celebrated Oscar-winning Director István Szabó's 70th birthday at

www.pb-rotary.org www.rotary7620.org www.rotary.org

November 20, 2008 - Page 2

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

the National Gallery where they have screened two or three movies per weekend over a period of six weeks. The Embassy hosted the cast party from La Traviata and they enjoyed seeing Ambassador Somogyi and Placido Domingo singing together which also appeared on television.



Zoltán has focused on the new media from websites to blogs. Hungary's was the first embassy to start a diplomatic blog three years ago. The Embassy's website is www.huembwas.org.



This year the Hungarian Embassy took part at the European Union Embassy Open House with 27 embassies which Zoltán co-organized and which attracted 50,000 to 60,000 people altogether.

Zoltán showed several photos of President Bush with Hungarian Ambassador Ferenc Somogyi and speaking in Budapest commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution.



Thanks so much, Zoltán, for your excellent presentation and for hosting the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club International Night last spring.

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!**

Phil Meade's Rotarians Survey Says When You Were A Kid, Did You?

Question	Number of Responses
Build a go cart	9
Build a private fort	10
Play kick the can	9
Have a crush on a girl	12
Have a girl have a crush on you	9
Crashed your bike	11
Ride bike to school	9
Roll your own cigarettes	5
Dig a really big hole	5
Catch your hair on fire	0
Get into trouble at school	9
Get into big trouble at home	6
Break an arm	1
Have a radio in your room	13
Run really fast	6
Sneak into a ball park	4
Drink beer	7
Jump from a tree into a pond	4
Get lost in the woods	3
Lose your bathing suit	1
Share a bedroom	8
Get car sick, a lot	1
Want to be a fireman	5
Play in the sewers	3
Go to the junk yard	7

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Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Doles Out Dictionaries To Students

by Angie Cochrun Gazette Staff Writer 25 September 2008
Mount Airy Elementary School students have a new resource thanks to a donation from the Mount Airy Rotary Club.

"This dictionary is one of the coolest dictionaries," Rotary Club member Carol Blackburn told a class of attentive third-graders last week as she held up a blue paperback book with a picture of a globe on the front. She flipped through the book, pointing out not only the words it spelled and defined, but other perks. Students gasped when she showed them the sign language alphabet, the longest word in the English language, information on U.S. presidents, measurement tables, the solar system and capitals.

"I know what the capitol of Egypt is," volunteered student Daniel Drnec proudly. When asked, he exclaimed "Cairo!" Blackburn asked if he knew the capitol of Maryland, as she displayed the page in the book with information on the state. A chorus of voices answered in response "Annapolis."

As Rotary members fanned out among the desks handing out the books, third-grader Jack Wolff received the gift and instantly flipped it open to the back page, surveying the longest word in the English language – 1,909 letters to describe an enzyme with 267 amino acids – with an impressed look on his face. The reactions during the delivery on Sept. 17 were ones that Rotary members have seen for the five years they have distributed the books as part of the national dictionary project.

"'Awesome' is what they usually have to say," said Ken Lee, the Mount Airy resident and Rotary member who has organized the event for three years.

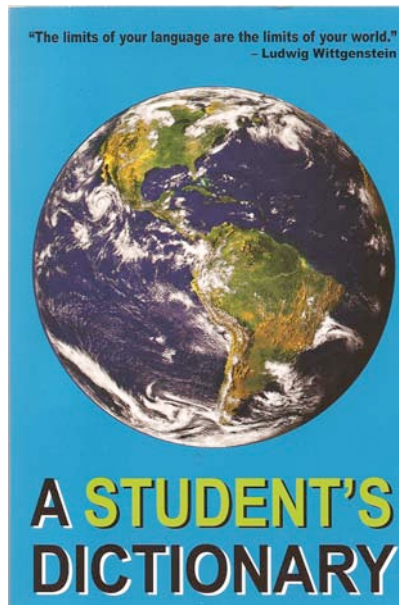
Teacher Jennifer Lynch thanked the Rotary members as they left the classroom; third-graders quickly scrawled their names in the dictionaries to claim their book that they can leave at school or take home.

Principal Debbie Bunker said kids are excited about the books, dismissing the idea that the children, growing

up in a media-saturated world, wouldn't value the books. "They're just thrilled. They still love to have a book in their hand," she said. "It's still something personal."

Lee said the Rotary's involvement with the dictionaries is rooted in the club's mission, which includes an emphasis on education.

"The basis of that is the Rotary's fundamental idea of promoting goodwill through understanding and understanding through education," he said, adding that the club is heavily involved in giving scholarships to students.



Lee said the group will distribute more than 400 books to students at Mount Airy Elementary School, Twin Ridge Elementary School, Lisbon Elementary School and Mount Airy Christian Academy.

"A lot of the time they write thank you notes," Lee said. "It's really a hoot to get." Lee said the dictionary hand-out in Mount Airy is just part of a large scale effort called The Dictionary Project through a nonprofit group based in South Carolina. He said other service groups, including the Grange, and individuals are involved in the project.

The club usually orders the books in August with the intention of passing them out in September. The books cost the club roughly \$1.50 per book.

A small group hauling boxes of the books trooped through Mount Airy Elementary and Twin Ridge Elementary on Sept. 17 and finished up with the remaining two schools on Wednesday.

Lee said that out of the roughly 20 members in the club, usually five or six come out to help distribute the books.

"We break into teams," he said. "We try to not take up too much of the class time."

Blackburn, publisher emeritus of The Gazette in Mount Airy, said the dictionaries are unique in that they are at the kids' level. "A teacher said the kids use them rather than the big ones," she said.

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Hundreds Attend Rotary UN Day

By Jennifer Lee Atkin RI News - 14 November 2008



Brad Jenkins and Salil Shetty, director of the UN's Millennium Campaign, (left) welcome participants to Rotary UN Day. (Right) RI President Dong Kurn Lee meets Jonathan Olunga of Uganda, the 10,000th Gift of Life patient. Rotary Images/Alyce Henson

More than 900 people, including Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors from more than 44 countries, attended Rotary International Day at the United Nations in New York City on 8 November.

The day featured panel discussions on water, literacy, health, and hunger. Speakers came from within Rotary, the UN, and other partner nongovernmental organizations, illustrating how organizations can work together to tackle these challenging issues.

Speaking on one of the panels, Martin Silink, president of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), said that half of the 440,000 children with diabetes worldwide lack access to the insulin they need to live.

Silink encouraged Rotarians to undertake diabetes projects and noted that the UN passed a resolution in 2006 creating World Diabetes Day, observed on 14 November.

C. Wayne Edwards, a past district governor and member of the Rotary Club of Tallahassee, Florida, USA, described how he was inspired by his diabetic wife to raise money for diabetes causes during his year as governor. The result was a \$106,000 project that, with help from IDF, provided a diabetes camp for children and established seven clinics in Bolivia.

Other highlights of the day included an address by Grace Agwaru of Uganda, who in 1975 was the first

heart surgery patient treated under the Gift of Life program, a Rotarian-supported initiative.

"By saving my life, you have enabled me to reach out to so many people in other communities and help them," said Agwaru, who works for the Teso Foundation for Sustainable Development. Agwaru also introduced the 10,000th Gift of Life patient, 11-year-old Jonathan Olunga of Uganda.

Some of the loudest applause of the day went to Anand Balachandran, interagency coordinator of the World Health Organization, who cited the effectiveness of

the Global Polio Eradication Initiative by contrasting today's four remaining polio-endemic countries with the more than 125 that existed when the initiative was launched in 1988.

"This work could not have happened without Rotary," Balachandran said.

Projects in the spotlight

Other Rotary service projects spotlighted during the day included Adopt-a-Village, which addresses health, hunger, and education needs in impoverished communities in Africa; Reach Out and Read, which makes literacy promotion a standard part of pediatric care; Rotary Books for the World, which collects and sends books to impoverished communities in southern Africa; and The Seed Program, which sends vegetable seeds to people in the developing world and teaches them to grow their own food.

First-time Rotary-UN Day attendees Thomas and Rosenia Devine of Emmaus, Pennsylvania, said the day's program had given them many ideas to take back to their club.

"Our club wants to do more international projects, so I was very interested in learning more," said Rosenia, president of the Rotary Club of Emmaus.

Peter Marshall, a member of the Rotary Club of Mineola-Garden City, New York, said he has attended the event for the past 12 years but this year's program "was even better than I expected."

"Every year, I come with an empty briefcase and leave with one that's full of great ideas," Marshall added, showing a portfolio stuffed with notes and brochures.

www.pb-rotary.org www.rotary7620.org www.rotary.org

November 20, 2008 - Page 5

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

A youth program aimed at high school-age students ran concurrently during the morning session.

Summing up the significance of the day, RI President-elect John Kenny said: "If we look sensibly at the problems and work together toward the solutions, our world will be better than it was before. All of us are here today because we want to be the ones to work toward the solutions."

H. Bradley Jenkins, RI's representative to the United Nations in New York, was lead organizer of the event, along with alternate RI representatives Sylvan M. Barnett Jr., Robert A. Coultas, William A. Miller, and Helen B. Reisler.

Rotarians Meet Taliban Supporter Of Afghan Polio Immunization Drive

By Dan Nixon RI News – 7 November 2008

From left, Fary Moini, Past District Governor Stephen Brown, National PolioPlus Committee Chair Dr. Ajmal Pardis, Imam Abdul Wakil, former Rotary Scholar Mohib ullah Israr, and Dr. Qahar Ludien gather after the meeting of Islamic leaders promoting Afghanistan's NIDs. Photo courtesy of Stephen Brown



On the eve of Afghanistan's 19-21 October National Immunization Days, Stephen Brown, past governor of District 5340 (California, USA), had an extraordinary opportunity to witness the country's drive to end polio in action.

Brown and Fary Moini, a fellow member of the Rotary Club of La Jolla Golden Triangle, were in Afghanistan to help develop Rotary humanitarian and educational projects. They were invited by Dr. Ajmal Pardis, chair of the country's National PolioPlus Committee and a member of the Rotary Club of Jalalabad, to attend a 15 October meeting of Islamic leaders, or mullahs, in Jalalabad.

The meeting emphasized the importance of the polio eradication initiative and linked immunization against the disease to the duties of parents to protect their children, as explained in the Quran.

"The most interesting speech, to us, was from a powerful Taliban mullah, Imam Abdul Wakil, who talked very passionately about the importance of this effort," Brown reported in his online journal. "He was clearly very well spoken, and everyone was on the edge of their seats listening to him. There were about 40 mullahs present, about 30 elders, about 10 students from the Taliban madras [Islamic] school, and local and national media."

On 18 October, Brown and Moini attended a kickoff event for the NIDs, attended by Nangarhar provincial officials, immunization supervisors, and the media. Brown gave a short speech and administered oral polio vaccine to a child.

Briefing

Pardis also invited Brown to a 20 October briefing on the status of polio eradication in Afghanistan. The briefing, which included two medical officers from the

World Health Organization, covered the NIDs underway, aimed at reaching 7.5 million children under age five.

"Approximately 50,000 workers [public health staff and volunteers] are involved. It is a massive undertaking," Brown reported.

According to WHO, a major focus of the country's polio eradication effort is the security-compromised southern region.

"There is no evidence of poliovirus transmission in all areas in Afghanistan that have been safely accessed by polio vaccinators," said Dr. Tahir Mir, a WHO medical officer for the polio eradication initiative, at a September press conference in Kabul. "Only areas that are inaccessible to our teams have reported polio cases."

In addition to participating in NIDs, Brown and Moini have led several Rotary efforts in Afghanistan since 2002, including helping to establish and equip schools and to coordinate Rotary Foundation scholarships and Group Study Exchange teams.

During their October visit, they briefed USAID staff in Afghanistan "about efforts of Rotary that tend not to show up on our government's radar," Brown reported. "I think those attending were surprised at how much we have been able to accomplish primarily through a volunteer network."

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