

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

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

Mariko Yamaguchi graduated from Waseda University with BA in English in 2007. She is currently pursuing an MA in International Development with the concentration on post-conflict reconstruction and conflict resolution at the George Washington University. She did volunteer work in Cambodia in 2006 working with the Cambodia Village Support Group that empowers land mine victims and their families through education and agriculture. From 2007 to 2008, she interned at the Washington Peace Center assisting the Center's participation in the Global Article 9 Conference held in May 2008 in Chiba, Japan. During the summer 2008, she did an internship at the United Nations University in Tokyo working as a research assistant in the areas of peace building and Right to Protect. Her career goal is to work for international organizations in the area of conflict resolution and mediation in Africa.



December is Rotary's Family Month

By District Governor Elect Paul Frey

December is Rotary Family Month and it is a great time of year to celebrate family and to appreciate the times we have shared, and will share, with our loved ones. After celebrating a very filling Thanksgiving meal with our families, it seems appropriate to reflect on the importance of one's family. *(continued on page 3)*

196 Food Boxes Packed at Manna Food Center on December 9



(Photo by Marilyn Nelson – see more on page 2)

Dinner Provided to the Homeless in Rockville on December 10



(Photo by Irene Grant – see more on page 2.)

Rotary Club Sponsors Food Drive in Potomac Village on December 14



(Photo by Steve Naron – see more on page 2.)



**December 21 – 4pm Holiday Party
at President Todd and Hibst Nitkin's Home
15008 Whitetail Way, North Potomac
301-947-6734**

Dinner served at 6pm

Directions from Potomac:

Head northwest on MD-190/River Road

Turn right at Stoney Creek Road

Turn right at Travilah Road

Turn left at Turkey Foot Road

Continue on Jones Lane

Turn left at Doe Lane

Turn right at Whitetail Way

Look for a group of mailboxes on left

Turn left down driveway to 15008 (at end)

December 25 and January 1 – No Meetings

January 8, 2009 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn

Hilltop Micro-Finance Initiative

Congratulations to Jason and Sarah Hamel!

Jason and Sarah Hamel announce the birth of their first child, Payton Catherine Hamel, on December 10. Payton weighed in at 6 lbs 9 oz and 19.5 inches.

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Dinner Provided to the Homeless in Rockville on December 10



Two of the homeless women are happy to receive fine Indian pashmina scarves as a gift from the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club. Thanks to **President Elect Noel Howard** for leading this very important project.

Rotary Club Sponsors Food Drive in Potomac Village on December 14



"All Schools Completed in 2008 Dictionary Project" – Alan Grant, Coordinator

"Congratulations on an outstanding job by Potomac-Bethesda in getting your schools covered!"

-Barry Thompson, Assistant Governor

196 Boxes Packed at Manna Food Center on December 9

With just five people turning out at the Manna Food Center on December 10, the team packed 196 boxes in two hours. Thanks so much to **Alex Naron, Marilyn and Bob Nelson** and Brian and Mike for their strong support. Photos by Marilyn and Bob Nelson.



Don Smith Gave an Excellent Talk on the State of the Economy at the Rotary Club Meeting on December 11



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December is Family Month

By District Governor Elect Paul Frey

(continued from front page)

I am one of ten children and I can recall with fondness (the memories are much better now!) the many dinners my family spent around our dining room table. After jockeying for my share of the food that was passed around, and then ingesting anything that was not moving, we would often sit around and tell stories. The stories were usually about funny incidents that had occurred to each of my siblings and our parents in the past—sometimes in the recent past and sometimes “a long time” ago. No one escaped the limelight—either by being the emcee or by being the topic of a story.

Fast forward 47 years and my wife, Laurie, and I, celebrate our own family. We have three daughters, Katie, Maggie, and Becky Kidd, a son-in-law, Karl Kidd, Jr., and a soon-to-be grandson, John William Kidd (due date is December 17). My wife and I are truly blessed. And our daughters are blessed because I was smart enough to marry their mom! We have been married for 25 years and my wife is a key reason why I settled down from my rambunctious youth—and why our daughters have turned out so well.

It is sometimes difficult to stop and appreciate our own family. We can take them and our lives together, for granted. So take a moment, today, to reflect on your family. Appreciate what you have and remember to take time to enjoy the company of each other.



Our family wishes your family a very blessed holiday season and a happy and prosperous New Year!

District Governor Elect Paul Frey

[District Governor Elect Paul Frey will be speaking at our Rotary Club meeting on February 18, 2009]

Thanks to Neil and Arlene Cohen Who Sent These Photos From a Recent Trip.



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

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Phil Meade's Survey Results

Memory	# of Rotarians
Hit golf balls with a baseball bat	3
Hit golf balls from a ship	1
Hit golf balls from your front yard	5
Been to the Berlin Wall	5
Been to the Great Wall	2
Had really bad wallpaper	3
Had MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat)	1
Had an MRI	6
Seen MR T	1
Sung Karaoke	4
Seen a psychic	2
Been on TV	7
Gone surfing	1
Used a skateboard	4
Seen a tornado	5
Been in an earthquake	5
Milked a cow	3
Been mugged	4
Stepped on a needle	5
Found a secret hiding place	4
Written a book	1
Run for an elected office	1

Swiss Rotarians stage National Polio Day

Rotary International News – 8 December 2008

Rotarians volunteered at more than 200 booths across Switzerland during the national polio action day. Photos courtesy of Rotary Suisse Liechtenstein.

More than 200 Swiss Rotary clubs pooled efforts for Swiss National Polio Day on 13 September, raising US\$643,000.

Some 13,000 Rotarians across districts 1980, 1990, and 2000 supported the event, with help from 16 Rotaract clubs and countless other volunteers, including employees of Rotary International's Europe and Africa Office in Zurich.

Working with local political leaders and regional health officials, Swiss Rotarians set up



Liechtenstein.

bright yellow booths, decorated with a colorful sunflower design, on sidewalks and city squares in 200 cities and villages across the nation.

On the day of the event, booth volunteers donned yellow vests used during polio immunization campaigns to sell small packets of 10 sunflower seeds for 75 rappen (about 64 cents), roughly the cost of a single dose of oral polio vaccine. Each packet bore the Rotary emblem and the words "With only 75 rappen you are in!" to demonstrate how even the smallest contributions toward polio eradication can make a difference in a child's life.

Reaching the goal

The Swiss public's response surprised even organizers. "Clubs brought in revenues that were 30 percent higher than we expected," says Andreas Kleeb, past president of the Rotary Club of Zug-Zugersee in District 1980.

"Our goal was clearly achieved," says District Governor Urs Herzog, a polio survivor. Key to that success was the effective planning and volunteer efforts of Rotarians. "The participation from clubs in our district went beyond expectations."

It was also a public relations coup for Rotary in Switzerland, as the organization and its top goal of eradicating polio was spotlighted throughout the national media.

"I was happy to see that some newspaper publishers in my district provided full-page reports on our activities," says Urs Bolliger, governor of District 2000, which also covers parts of Liechtenstein.

This campaign was the first stage of a strategic effort to promote polio eradication awareness in Switzerland and Liechtenstein and raise US\$830,000. More coordinated activities are being planned for upcoming months.

"We are very happy because this action day was the most important measure of our campaign," says Kleeb.

Adapted from Rotary Suisse Liechtenstein, the certified regional magazine of Switzerland and

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Walking Among The Planets

By Peter Schmidtke RI News – 12 December 2008

The Rotary Club of Anchorage raised \$620,000 for the planet walk, which includes this three-sided digital Sun station. Photo courtesy of Rotary Club of Anchorage

In Anchorage, Alaska, USA, you don't need a telescope to look at the planets – you can walk to them.

The secret is a scale-model planet walk created by the Rotary Club of Anchorage and amateur astronomer Eli Menaker. Interested trekkers start in downtown Anchorage at a 3-ton model of the sun and encounter each of the planets along a 10-mile route ending at a ski chalet.

Every step equals 186,000 miles, and heading to Jupiter from Earth is a little more than a half-hour stroll.

Menaker introduced the idea for a temporary walk to city officials in 2003 while a student at Service High School in Anchorage. Before heading off to Middlebury College in Vermont, he was approached by Anchorage Rotarians with the idea of making permanent planet displays, as part of the club's centennial project.

"We ended up drawing from people in different walks of life. We had fundraisers, we had engineers and people with science backgrounds," says club member Julius Brecht, an attorney and former NASA physicist.

The Anchorage club raised more than \$620,000 to enhance Menaker's plan.

Stepping it up

Menaker says his original Sun was a circular tarp covered with yellow adhesive tape. "I quickly realized we had to step that up," he said.

A local artist used over 2,400 ceramic tiles to craft a 12-foot-by-6-foot hemispherical model of the sun and sculpted sunspots to scale.

Menaker wrote text describing the planets and consulted with an artist and a contractor to configure the planet kiosks. Brecht and others worked to create a digital display for the Sun station at the start of the walk.

"I told our committee that what would really add some zing would be to make it interactive," says Brecht.

Rotarians designed the three-sided, 9-foot-tall Sun station with three screens on which participants can view Native American sun stories and NASA images.



Before the club dedicated the walk to the city in August 2006, members reached out to the city's school district and to the Imaginarium science center to incorporate the project into their curriculums. Additionally, Rotarians have pushed the fitness aspect of the walk through events like the Run/Walk Winter Solstice Challenge on 21 December.

"Early on we resolved to involve other organizations so that this thing will have life not because of individuals, but because of the ties we made with local institutions," Brecht says.

Rotary District #2450 Governor's Citation Awarded to Basra, Iraq Prosthetics Project

In recognition of the wonderful achievements of Co-Chairperson Ted Hamady who assisted in arranging for Rotary brochures to be translated into Arabic, a Governor's Citation from Rotary District #2450 has been awarded to the Basra, Iraq Prosthetics Project. The Basra, Iraq Prosthetics Project also contributed funds to this initiative as proposed by Washington DC Rotarian Ted Hamady who also received a Governor's Citation.

We take this opportunity to thank Rotary Club of Durango, Colorado for their donation and welcome them as a partnering Rotary Club. The Rotary Club of Durango is the home club of Rotarian Deborah Foti, who chairs the State Dept. Grant Reporting Committee. She has been absolutely phenomenal in her determination and professional execution of meeting the reporting requirements of State Dept. and we are truly impressed and grateful!

Linda A. H. Smythe, Chairperson & Founder
Basra, Iraq Prosthetics Project, BasraProject.com.

[Linda is a member of the Montgomery Village Rotary Club]

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