

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

January 8 – 6:30pm Meeting– Note Location Change
Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road

Hilltop Micro-Finance Initiative

Alex Siegel representing Georgetown University's Hilltop Microfinance Initiative which is partially funded by the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club, will update us on the business plan and progress to date.

January 13 – 7pm Manna Food Center

January 15 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn

January 22 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn

Michael Zhuang, MZ Capital Management

January 22 – 8pm Board of Directors Meeting

January 29 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn

February 5 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn

February 10 – 7pm Manna Food Center

February 12 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn

February 19 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn

District Governor Elect Paul Frey

February 26 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn

April 25 – 6:30 pm Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club

International Night at the Austrian Embassy

December 18 Meeting Report

It was the last Rotary Club meeting of the year, and **President Todd Nitkin** greeted two visiting Rotarians. **Sara Lemanski** from the Ferndale Rotary Club near Detroit has just relocated to the area and is working at USAID. **Ronnie Chantker** lives in Potomac and is a member of the Tysons Corner Rotary Club. Welcome

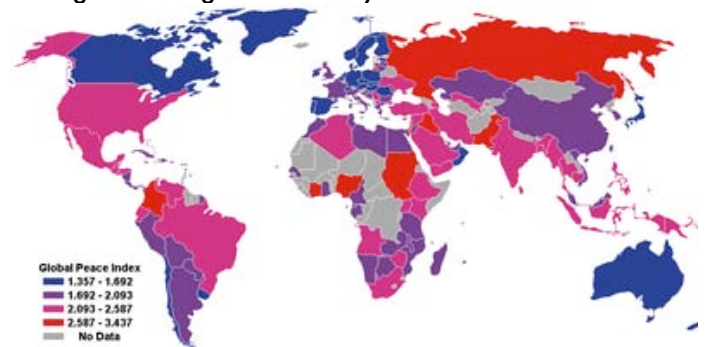


Sara and Ronnie (photos above). **Steve Naron** reported on Sunday's successful food drive for Manna. He said that some of the people donating food expressed interest in our club staffing a Manna truck in their neighborhoods. **Alan Grant** announced the completion of the 2008 Dictionary Project with dictionaries having been distributed to third graders at

the Hebrew Academy. Our guest speaker was **Ambassadorial Scholar Mariko Yamaguchi**. Her career goal is to work for an international organization in conflict resolution. She said that the education was the best in the United States. Mariko stated that 140



nations use the "Global Peace Index", a 24-indicator methodology that evaluates parameters such as the extent of the military, volume of weapons and human rights conditions. According to this measure the top five most peaceful nations were Iceland, Denmark, Norway, New Zealand and Japan. The five least peaceful were Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, Afghanistan and Israel. Mariko is pursuing a Masters degree in International Development with a concentration on post-conflict reconstruction and conflict resolution at George Washington University.



World map of the Global Peace Index. Countries appearing more blue are ranked as more peaceful on the Index, countries appearing more red are ranked as less peaceful.

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Potomac-Bethesda
Rotary Club
Holiday Party 2008

Photos by Marilyn and Bob Nelson

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Remembering Beatrice Shuman Sadowsky, Mother of Shelley Sadowsky

[From the Washington Post]

Beatrice Shuman Sadowsky died in her Rockville, MD home on January 1, 2009. Born in Scotland MD on April 9, 1922 to the late Michael and Anna Shuman. Wife of the late Wallace H. Sadowsky M.D. She is survived by her four daughters, Natalie Cheerman (Leonard), Jocelyn Schaffer (Martin), **Shelley Sadowsky (Jerry Gross)** and Dr. Iris Sadowsky; five grandchildren, Jessica Cheerman Rogers, Andrew Cheerman, Michael Schaffer, Carley Schaffer Truysens, Brian Schaffer and great-grandson Zackary Rogers. Also surviving are her brother Dr. Louis Shuman; sister, Mrs. Reva Kramer, many nieces and nephews and a special "adopted daughter", Graciela Schneier-Madanes, who was a foreign exchange student and a part of her family since 1963. Funeral services were held on Sunday January 4 at Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation, 7727 Persimmon Tree Lane, Bethesda, MD. Interment Mt. Lebanon cemetery, Collingdale, PA. Shiva will be held at the home of Martin and Jocelyn Schaffer, 11840 Beekman Pl., Potomac, MD from Sunday evening until Thursday evening. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, Hadassah, Harford Jewish Center (Havre de Grace, MD), Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation, The Hebrew Home of Greater Washington or the charity of one's choice.

A New Project at Manna Food Center

Manna Food Center Newsletter, January 2009

Providing fresh produce to our clients is a major goal at Manna. Produce is expensive and is often the first food to be removed from a shopping list when funds are tight. People at risk of hunger are more likely to have food-related diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol. Thus it even more essential that they eat healthy food, including, of course, fresh produce.

To help ensure our client's food security, Manna is proud to announce we are developing an organic farm. The many details of the Manna Farm are still being worked out – at a feverish pitch so the first seeds can be planted this spring – but we hope the farm will

enable Manna to provide each of our clients with pounds of produce this summer.

You can grow with Manna and be a part of this innovative solution to hunger. Volunteers of all ages will be needed to work the land, and of course, financial contributions to support the Manna Farm are welcome and greatly appreciated.

45% Increase in Demand at Manna Food

Manna Food Center Newsletter, January 2009

From July 1 through December 31, the first half of Manna's fiscal year, we distributed food to families 16,961 times, a forty-five percent increase over the same period last year. We also provided a record-setting 9,899 backpacks to hungry elementary school children, and we gave 160,692 pounds of food to soup kitchens, emergency shelters, food pantries, and group homes.

We were able to distribute all this food only due to the extraordinary generosity of Montgomery County individuals, faith-based organizations, corporations, civic/youth organizations, and government. All together, over the past six months, Montgomery County donated a phenomenal 1.3 million pounds of food to feed our hungry neighbors. That's a significant achievement, one for which we are truly grateful.

Cruising Along To Bermuda

November 2008 Rotary District 7620 Newsletter

Plans are finalizing for our unique District Conference experience this year aboard Royal Caribbean's "Explorer of the Seas." The District is providing transportation to and from our departure point for the first 160 registrants. On the bus ride to and from, we will experience our usual hospitality suites, without the suite, of course, but with all the goodies each club usually brings – food and drinks. The Governor's Citation Awards will be presented to worthy clubs at the Governor's Gala Luncheon. Also, each participant will receive a special gift from the Governor. GET YOUR REGISTRATIONS IN SO THAT YOU DON'T MISS OUT ON THE TRANSPORTATION AND HOSPITALITY.

Rotary District Governor Bette Lewis

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Serving Up Holiday Cheer At The North Pole

By Arnold R. Grahl RI News – 17 December 2008



Yvonne Hoffman, a member of the Rotary Club of Herndon, Virginia, USA, helps a Fantasy Flight guest make a holiday craft. Below; a guest makes a holiday bracelet at the craft table, sponsored by the club. Photos by Mary Drum/Rotary Club of Herndon

About 150 gravely ill children and their families embarked on a special "flight" to the North Pole on 13 December, aboard a Boeing 777 out of Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C.

For the second year in a row, members of the Rotary Club of Herndon, Virginia, USA, were there to see them off and help the children make holiday crafts as they prepared to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus.

"It's magical for the kids," says Steve Cohen, a member of the Herndon club and one of many United Airlines employees who volunteer for the annual Fantasy Flight. "Everyone forgets what's happening in their lives, and

for a couple of hours, including for the parents, it's a winter wonderland."

Since 1990, United Airlines has partnered with Children's Hospice International to bring the joy of the holidays to children battling terminal illnesses. The children, selected from hospitals and hospices in the region, were shuttled from the main terminal to Gate D7, where they and a few family members boarded United Flight 9908. The plane headed onto the runway and the pilot throttled up, simulating a takeoff.

The pilot then threw the engines into reverse before taxiing back to Gate D29, decorated as the North Pole. Cartoon characters, musicians, face painters, and other entertainers joined Santa and Mrs. Claus, who distributed gifts selected from the kids' wish lists.

Cohen, a flight attendant, has taken part in the Fantasy Flight for five years. When organizers faced a shortage of volunteers last year, Cohen suggested that members of his Rotary club could help.

Holiday crafts

This year, United welcomed the club back, and a dozen Rotarians, joined by Charles Davidson, governor of Rotary International District 7610 (Virginia), helped the guests make Christmas ornaments, decorate gingerbread cookies, and create Christmas cards.

"The children were really enjoying themselves," says Davidson. "You could see the great expressions of excitement on their faces. At least for part of the day, they could forget about their personal troubles."

Chazz Banks, manager of international operations for United Airlines at Dulles and chair of the event, says his team appreciates the Herndon club's help. "It's a massive undertaking."

"It's a wonderful experience for everyone," Cohen says. "We feel very grateful for United allowing us, as an outside organization, to be involved."

Davidson says the event gave Rotary great exposure, and "shows what you can do partnering with other people."

Cohen hopes to encourage clubs in other cities where United has a hub to get involved in the program. Banks says other Fantasy Flights were planned this year in Denver, Colorado; Phoenix, Arizona; Chicago; and Los Angeles.

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Top Rotary stories of 2008

Rotary International News – 5 January 2009

RI President Dong Kurn Lee welcomes visitors to the opening of the End Polio Now exhibit at Rotary International Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, USA in October. Rotary Images/Alyce Henson

The calendar year 2008 was an eventful one for Rotary International. RI President Dong Kurn Lee challenged Rotarians to *Make Dreams Real* for the world's children, while Past Foundation Trustee Chair Robert S. Scott outlined Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge to bolster the fight to eradicate polio. Meanwhile, Rotarians around the world brought immediate comfort and aid to victims of disasters.

As the new year dawns, we look back over some of the more memorable moments of 2008 for Rotary International with our Top 10 list of news events.

1. Polio

Rotary International's PolioPlus campaign remained a priority, as Past Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Robert Scott outlined Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge in January, calling upon Rotarians to help raise the money during the next three years to match the \$100 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, awarded in November 2007. In other polio news, G8 nations renewed their commitment to polio eradication at a July summit, and RI unveiled the "End Polio Now" exhibit at RI World Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, USA.

2. Make Dreams Real

In January, Lee asked Rotarians to *Make Dreams Real* as he addressed incoming district governors at the 2008 International Assembly in January, urging them to use their resources to help curb child mortality.

3. Future Vision

The Rotary Foundation Trustees continue to work on the Future Vision Plan, which will help move The Rotary Foundation into its second century of service.

4. 2008 RI Convention

About 18,000 attendees – from as far as Afghanistan, Brazil, Germany, and Zambia – converged on Los Angeles for the 2008 RI Convention, 15-18 June. The

drive to end polio received a huge boost from the World Health Organization.

5. Disaster strikes

Rotarians rose to the challenge following several natural disasters, providing comfort and aid to victims:

- * Rotary clubs provided emergency shelter, aid to thousands in Myanmar;
- * Rotarians kept working on China earthquake relief;
- * Cedar Rapids Rotarians filled in the gaps;
- * Rotarian-owned gym took in wildfire evacuees;
- * Hurricanes pummel Haiti; and
- * Massive India flood strands millions.

6. Rotaract Turns 40

In the late 1960s, noting the success of the recently formed Interact program, the RI Board realized the need for a program of service, activity, and fellowship for young adults no longer of Interact age (14-18). The name Rotaract (Rotary in Action) was selected to show the program's close affiliation with both Rotary and Interact clubs. In March, Rotaract celebrated its 40th anniversary.

7. Rotary-UN Day

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 event featured panel discussions on water, literacy, health, and hunger.

8. Rotary Map Expands

On 11 August, with RI's chartering of the Rotary Club of Kiritimati, the Republic of Kiribati joined the more than 200 countries and geographical areas on the Rotary map.

9. Peace Programs Merge

The professional development center at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, joined the Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution program.

10. Rotary Images

Rotary Images launched in February, offering thousands of free, high-quality photographs for Rotarians.



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Rotary International Financial Update

Rotary International News – 30 December 2008

The current investment climate continues to present challenges to our organization. Since 30 September, Rotary International's General Fund declined another 16.1 percent, resulting in a fiscal year-to-date investment loss of 24 percent, or US\$22 million. The Rotary Foundation's investments (except for the PolioPlus Fund) also have experienced declines in line with the markets, resulting in losses of \$165 million from July through November.

As we previously reported, nearly all losses to date are unrealized (i.e., due to declines in the market prices of the securities held and would be realized only if the securities are sold). Because Rotarians have continued to pay their dues on time and make generous contributions to the Foundation, we have not had to sell any of our investment securities to meet operating expenses.

You have likely read about the securities fraud committed by Bernard Madoff. Through one of its hedge fund managers, the Foundation had minor exposure (less than 0.1 percent of the Foundation's total investments) to one of Madoff's investment vehicles. We are working with our independent investment consultants to minimize this loss and reduce Rotary's risk in this area.

Investment earnings, and if necessary, operating reserves, are used to fund a portion of RI's operating expenses, and all of the Foundation's operating expenses. While RI's reserves remain above the Board's targeted level, the Foundation's reserves have declined significantly below the level required by the Trustees. Therefore, we (your Board of Directors and the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation, and your Secretariat staff) have been reducing spending and are taking the following actions: Deferring all nonessential activities, including committee meetings; Canceling all nonessential discretionary spending, including staff and volunteer travel, overtime expenses, temporary help, consultants, and staff development; Reducing staff and volunteer costs while traveling on Rotary International and Foundation business; and Preparing contingency plans and austerity budgets for 2009-10. As noted in my previous communications, Rotary's senior leaders,

the Financial Services staff, Rotary's investment consultants, and I continue to closely monitor the financial markets. We are taking all possible steps to ensure that Rotary remains financially strong in this difficult economic environment.

Sincerely, Ed Futa, General Secretary

Hunger Mini-Summit Report

November 2008 Rotary District 7620 Newsletter

If your club was one of the eleven (Bladensburg, Greenbelt, Severna Park, Glen Burnie, **Potomac/Bethesda**, College Park, South Anne Arundel, Beltsville, Columbia, Washington, Catonsville) who attended the Hunger Mini-Summit on November 15th, you are aware of the dire needs in our own communities this year. In Maryland 516,000 people live below the poverty line. The demand for food from the Maryland Food Bank now exceeds the supply. Seventeen million pounds of food will be given out this year, but the demand is for eighty-nine million pounds of food. Did you know that \$1.00 you give to the food bank will buy \$7.00 worth of food. Our mission this year in Rotary International is to reduce child mortality. In Maryland, 70,000 children are served by the food bank each year. There is now also an increase in the number of senior citizens requiring help from the food bank. The situation in Washington, D. C. is just as critical. Our clubs can help with filling the gap between supply and demand. It is possible to virtual shop on line at www.mdfoodbank.org. The district is looking into finding a way that Rotary Clubs could shop this way as a club. Those in Anne Arundel County should check out www.aafoodbank.org who serve 800 homeless children in Anne Arundel county. Another wonderful program in the area is the "Help By Phone" program operated by College Park Rotarian Lois Jones. This is a short term program for those in crisis need of not only food, but other emergency services as well. This program serves 55,000 – 60,000 people annually by providing emergency food, medications, transportation, shelter and job help. Help By Phone can be reached at 301-441-3769. Give the gift of the human spirit – share with others what you have to give. Much thanks go to Hunger Chairperson, Joe Slert, for organizing this wonderful mini-summit.

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