

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

March 12 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn

Gary D. Thorud, Ph.D. President, Hospice Caring, Inc.



Since 1989, Hospice Caring, Inc. has been the only non-medical, volunteer hospice in Montgomery County. Trained and dedicated volunteers provide practical and emotional support to terminally ill adults and children and their families, and to anyone grieving the death of a loved one. Hospice Caring, Inc. holds a Limited License in the state of Maryland and is a 501(c)(3) organization. Hospice Caring is a recipient of the Governor's Volunteer and Service Award, the Governor's Citation, the Montgomery County Outstanding Volunteer Award, the Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award and the Board of Education Award for Distinguished Service to Public Education in recognition of the Good Grief Club.

March 14 – 8am Literacy Mini-Summit

University of Maryland 4H Center

The district will be holding a Literacy Mini-Summit at the UMD 4-H Center on March 14 to explore the many ways clubs and individual Rotarians can become involved in reducing illiteracy amongst the 800,000,000 people who can neither read nor write, the majority of whom are women and girls.

March 19 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn

Haitian Ambassador Raymond Joseph

March 25 – 11:30am - Rotary Day at Gallaudet Univ.

March 26 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn

John DeDakis, CNN Senior Copy Editor

"The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer"

Author, *Fast Track*

March 27-28 – RI President's Conference - Greenbelt

March 30 – 7pm Rotary Foundation Dinner

Martins Crosswinds - Greenbelt

April 2 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn

Ed Meagher, Aleethia Foundation for wounded troops

April 9 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn

Debby Siebert-Marylanders for Sustainable Power

April 14 – 7pm Manna Food Center

April 16 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn

April 18 – 8am District Assembly - Holiday Inn – Laurel

April 23 – No meeting.

April 25 – International Night at the Austrian Embassy

April 30– 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn

Amgad Fayad - Information Security

May 7– 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn

May 9– Fix-Up Day@Jewish Foundation Group Home

Rotary Club Activities Report



Thanks so much to **Nabil Bedewi** for arranging to have **Trevor Estes** speak on March 5 about his occupation, Navy pilot. At the Manna Food Center on March 10, the packing team included two **Naron** brothers, two **Nitkin** daughters (3 and 5 years old), two Rotarians (**President Todd** and **Bob Nelson**) and volunteer **Mike**. It took nearly two hours to pack about 200 boxes.



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Rotary Foundation Dinner March 30, 2009

From Rotary District 7620

There is a sponsored cocktails/hors d'oeuvres reception for District 7620 Paul Harris Society members and Major Donors on Monday, March 30, 2009, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at Martin's Crosswinds, 7400 Greenway Center Drive, Greenbelt (301-474-8500). Business attire. The District 7620 Rotary Foundation Dinner will follow this reception; cash bar until 7. Dinner entree is prime rib/crab cake, and program to follow. Cost of the dinner is \$65 per person. Make check payable to District 7620. Return the information below with your check to cover the dinner.

Name: _____

Guests Name _____

We will attend the Paul Harris Society and Major Donor Reception and Foundation Dinner @\$65 per person. Make check payable to District 7620

The Food Banks Need Rotary More Than Ever Before!

From the Rotary District 7620 Website

During the month of March, the District Anti-Hunger Resource Committee is asking that each Club undertake one or more anti-hunger programs. Each Rotary President has been sent a packet with flyers and suggestions for possible new programs. The need is far greater now than at anytime in most of our life times. The major recession has substantially reduced the contributions to the food banks just as the need for help has dramatically increased. The peanut butter recall has also significantly reduced the stores of protein at many food banks.

Please do something to help these needy people. Rotary has a long tradition of helping people in grave need. The time is now. The majority of the needy people sadly are women and children! An easy way to help is to collect money for your local food bank. The food banks have ways to purchase in bulk and are able to magnify your cash contributions many fold. Your President has been supplied with a list of the major food banks. If you need help or have questions, please contact Chairperson Joe Slert at 1-301-725-2928 or E Mail him at JoeOsFan@verizon.net.

Please Help Fight Hunger!

RYLA Food Drive Rocks

From the Rotary District 7620 Website

Thanks to Judy Cappuccilli and her RYLA Committee a large quantity of food (about 700 pounds) was again collected at this year's RYLA Conference. The RYLA participants, Rotaract counselors and many others worked tirelessly to collect food for the Anne Arundel Food Bank. With the food shelves almost empty at many food banks, RYLA stepped up to the plate. Many thanks to these wonderful young people and to Judy too.

Diverse Clubs Hold Key To The Future

By Marcel Harlaar and Joseph Derr

RI News - 6 March 2009

On the outskirts of Amsterdam, 21 people gather at De Houten Vier restaurant each week.

The group includes members of Dutch, Moroccan, Surinamese, and Turkish descent. The 14 men and seven women range in age from 28 to 69. They come from various professional backgrounds; there are designers, hotel managers, and academics as well as lawyers and accountants.

Despite their differences, everyone has at least one thing in common: Rotary.



Andro Bottse (standing, at center) with members of the Rotary Club of Amsterdam-Arena. Photo courtesy of The Rotary Club of Amsterdam-Arena.

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The newly chartered Rotary Club of Amsterdam-Arena exemplifies the diverse membership that Rotary International leadership has stated is necessary to keep the organization strong.

In November, the Board updated the RI statement on diversity to say, in part, "A club that reflects its community with regard to professional and business classification, gender, age, religion, and ethnicity is a club with the key to its future."

The Amsterdam-Arena club is based in the borough of Amsterdam Zuidoost, a community of about 80,000 situated in the city's southeast corner. Andro Bottse, the club's president, says the area is "multicultural and multiethnic by definition."

Club charter

A group of past district governors in Amsterdam determined through research that few residents of the borough had joined a Rotary club. With support from Jan Koster, past governor of District 1580 and a member of the Rotary Club of Amsterdam West, the new club was chartered in November.

Bottse, of Surinamese descent, says the club's diversity helps it reach out to the community.

"It helps that our networks extend to all levels of the community we serve, including grassroots organizations, businesses, and municipalities," he explains.

The club has focused on helping children, especially those with mental and physical disabilities. "We want to serve our community by making dreams real for the children of Amsterdam-Zuidoost," says Bottse.

Except for Koster, who is an honorary member of the new club, the Amsterdam-Arena Rotarians are all new to Rotary.

"We have an open mind to new developments [such as] the way we raise funds and the way we serve," he says. "To me, it's all about enriching your life by meeting people from different backgrounds."

Bottse says his club would like to help other clubs increase their membership.

"I learned that many clubs in the area of Amsterdam have difficulties attracting new members even though they try very hard," he says. "Perhaps we can support them in their efforts."

Dolly Parton and Rotary Partner to Promote Reading

By Ryan Hyland RINews – 9 March 2009

On 6 March, country music legend Dolly Parton and Rotary International announced a collaborative relationship to begin a new chapter in promoting early childhood reading.

Under the agreement, Rotary clubs in Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States are encouraged to support the Dollywood Foundation's Imagination Library, which provides a book each month to children from birth until age five.

Local Rotary club participation could include promoting the program within the community, helping to identify and register the children, and paying for the books and mailings.

Citing its impressive role in the polio eradication effort, Parton is proud to have Rotary on her foundation's side, she says.

"This partnership is a marriage made in heaven," says Parton. "Rotary does such good work around the world. This is a big deal for us. We feel proud and honored to be working with such a prestigious organization."



Clockwise from bottom left: Rotary Foundation Trustee John Germ, District Governor Ted J. Propes, Dolly Parton, district literacy chair Shauna von Hanstein, District Governor Kenan J. Kern, and District Governor Gary C. Moore. Photo by Holly Sasnett

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In a public ceremony in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, Rotary Foundation Trustee John Germ joined Parton onstage to make the announcement in front of more than 500 people. "Our partnership with Parton's foundation will bring tremendous improvement in children's literacy," says Germ, a member of the Rotary Club of Chattanooga, Tennessee. "Dolly is the perfect spokeswoman for promoting early childhood reading." Parton's impoverished childhood and her father's illiteracy inspired the country singer to create a literacy program in 1996 for preschool children in her native Sevier County, Tennessee.

The Imagination Library spread quickly. Today, it serves 47 states, along with parts of Canada and the United Kingdom, and has provided children with more than 15 million books.

"I love books. Anytime I have spare time, I'm reading a book," says Parton. "My father lived long enough to see this program become a success and was so proud people called me 'the Book Lady.'"

According to the Dollywood Foundation, research shows that preschoolers exposed to reading are more likely to look forward to starting school, do well in class, read at or above grade level, finish high school, and go on to college.

"It's great to start the children when they're little, when they're most impressionable, to teach them how to read, teach them how to learn to love books just as much as I do," says Parton.

The program also helps strengthen families by encouraging positive interaction between parents and children through shared reading.

"Let's face it, when a little child gets a book with their name on it, they're going to run to the nearest family member and badger them until they sit down and read it," says Parton.

The Imagination Library is especially valuable for children in underprivileged families, who may find books to be an unaffordable luxury in today's economic slowdown.

For an annual cost of \$28 per child, the Dollywood Foundation sends children registered for the program one book a month, beginning with *The Little Engine That Could*. The books are age appropriate and range from life lessons to bedtime stories.

About 115 Rotary clubs already participate, and that number will triple with the addition of all 203 clubs in Georgia, the first to sign on under the new agreement. The clubs will work through the Georgia-based First Foundation for Childhood Literacy, with the goal of extending the Imagination Library to all 159 counties in the state.

"For decades, Rotary clubs worldwide have supported literacy programs for children and adults," says Germ. "This collaborative relationship with the Dollywood Foundation will help lift our literacy effort to the next level by promoting early childhood reading."

Parton says she's excited to be working with an organization with so much international reach.

"Rotary has always been willing to do their part in about everything," she says. "Like I always say, you can never do enough, but you can always do something. Just knowing they have all those wonderful clubs all over the world, we can try and help everybody." **Wayne Hearn contributed to this article.**

Vets Can Now Salute the Flag

Thanks to Lou Fetting for Contributing This Article

For years, Veterans have wanted to salute the U.S. flag during the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem instead of just placing their hand over their heart. Now they can.

A Congressional Amendment sponsored by Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 specifically states that "members of the Armed Forces and Veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute." Veterans can salute the flag during the National Anthem as well as during "the hoisting, lowering and passing of the flag."

"The salute is a form of honor and respect, representing pride in one's military service," said Inhofe. "Veterans and service members continue representing the military services even when not in uniform. The U.S. Code is now consistent for Veterans and all service members in regards to the symbolic gesture of the military salute."

To find out more about Freedom Team Salute, visit www.FreedomTeamSalute.com.

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Canadian Filmmaker Explores Rotary In Tanzania

By Donna Polydoros RI News – 10 March 2009



Michaud gets ready to shoot footage for her documentary, Friends We Haven't Met Yet. Courtesy of the Tsawwassen-Tanzania Group Study Exchange team

Rotarian Deneka Michaud, 26, is screening her first feature-length documentary about her experience on a Group Study Exchange sponsored by the Rotary Club of Tsawwassen (Delta), British Columbia, Canada.

Along with four other Canadian women, Michaud, a reporter and producer for Canada's Delta Cable, was selected to travel to Tanzania in the fall of 2007. She brought a camera and other equipment to document the experience.

Michaud, who joined the Rotary Club of North Vancouver after she returned from the exchange, says that before the trip, she had a general concept for the film, which features slices of life in Tanzania, images of nature and wildlife, and several Rotary club projects.

"But what I didn't expect was all the incredible people we'd meet. Knowing Canadian Rotarians, I knew that Tanzanian Rotarians would be great people, but when

they are embracing you, you really make a connection," she says.

The team included Erin Robinson, a microfinance program manager; Shannon Thompson, a recruitment manager; Jennifer Wesman, a literacy program coordinator who recently joined the Rotary Club of Vancouver Quadra; and team leader Nancy Nikolai, of the Rotary Club of New Westminster-Royal City. Together, they saw several club projects in action and identified three they felt strongly about supporting: the Ocean Road Cancer Institute and a primary school for deaf and blind children in Dar es Salaam, and the Tusome literacy project in Zanzibar.

The group set a goal of raising C\$15,000 (US\$11,750) for the projects. Already, several Canadian and Tanzanian clubs have contributed more than two-thirds of that amount.

"These women are exceptional," says Bryan Kelly, media relations chair for the Tsawwassen (Delta) club. "When they came and did their presentation to our club, they blew us away."

Michaud says she hopes to raise the rest of the money with help from her documentary, *Friends We Haven't Met Yet*.

"There's something for everyone," she says. "Rotarians will enjoy it: They'll learn more about Rotary. People who know nothing about Rotary will enjoy it: It explains what Rotary is. And people who love history, nature, and travel will love it too."

The 105-minute film premiered 28 February at Vancity Theatre in Vancouver. The documentary will air in the coming months on Delta Cable in Canada.

For more information or to support the projects featured in the film, contact Deneka Michaud at 778-840-5122.

View a trailer for *Friends We Haven't Met Yet* at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fisc-YCmns&eurl>

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

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