

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## Rotary Club Calendar

**March 19 – 6:30pm Meeting - Hunters Inn**

**Raymond Alcide Joseph**

**Ambassador of Haiti to the United States**

Apart from his diplomatic credentials, Ambassador Joseph is mostly known as a journalist. When he was 19 years old he established the first print shop and



founded *Reyon Limyè*, the first monthly Christian newspaper in Cayes, Haiti. He went on to become a radio personality in the 1960's and founded the first radio broadcast in New York beamed against the Duvalier dictatorship as *Radio Vonvon*, which was nicknamed the "Six O'clock Mass" because it hit the waves at 6a.m. and was 'the broadcast not to miss.' Mr. Joseph authored the first translation of the *New Testament and Psalms* into Haitian Creole in October

1960 under the auspices of the American Bible Society. In the 70's and 80's he served as a financial writer at the *Wall Street Journal* in New York and co-founded, with his brother Leo Joseph, the *Haiti-Observateur*, the first crusading commercial Haitian weekly. The *Observateur* remains the premier organ abroad of the Haitian community. In 1990 Mr. Joseph was called to be Haiti's Chargé d'Affaires in Washington and his country's representative to the Organization of American States (OAS). After helping with the first democratic elections in Haiti in December 1990, he returned to the *Haiti Observateur* where he remained until he was called back to Washington in March 2004, as Ambassador to the United States. Mr. Joseph has a B.A. degree in Anthropology from Wheaton College and a Master's degree in Social Anthropology/Linguistics from the University of Chicago. He is a graduate pastor from the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago and is a talented musician.

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

**March 26 – 6:30pm Meeting - Normandie Farm**

**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 - Normandie Farm**

**Ed Meagher, Aleethia Foundation for Wounded Troops**

**April 9 – 6:30pm Meeting - Normandie Farm**

**Debby Siebert - Marylanders for Sustainable Power**

**April 14 – 7pm Manna Food Center**

**April 16 – 6:30pm Meeting - Normandie Farm**

**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-Normandie Farm**

**Amgad Fayad - Information Security**

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

## March 12 Meeting Report

**President Todd Nitkin** announced that with overwhelming support from the membership, the club would be permanently moving to Normandie Farm Restaurant on March 26. The final meeting at Hunters Inn on March 19 will feature the Ambassador from Haiti, Raymond Joseph. **President Elect Noel Howard** said that homeless women at Sophia House are needing assistance in job seeking skills. **Art Blitz** said that plans for the renovation day at the Jewish Group Home in Silver Spring are set for May 9. Phil Meade noted that there is a golf, tennis and silent auction at Kenwood Country Club on April 27 to benefit wounded veterans.

Our guest speaker was **Gary**

**Thorud**, President of Hospice Caring, Inc. Gary was a Rotarian in Minnesota and had developed nonprofits in other parts of the world including having experience rescuing United Way here in the 1990s. There are a lot of medical hospices such as Montgomery Hospice, but Hospice Caring has been providing non-medical practical and emotional support



to adults and children since 1989. Their facility in Gaithersburg is called "The Cottage" which they lease from the city of Gaithersburg for \$1 per year. With a \$100K grant from the Joshua Freeman Foundation, they constructed an addition for training. Hospice Caring provides about twenty bereavement programs

each year. In earlier years no one dealt with the grief of children, but Hospice Caring does. Gary's wife **Lonnie** has a PhD in Education and works on youth programs. Other services include arranging for funerals. They have 400 trained volunteers, 4 full-time and 6 part-time staff with annual budget of

\$700K. Their handouts included brochures, a short video, and an annual report. Information is available on their website at [hospicecaring.org](http://hospicecaring.org).

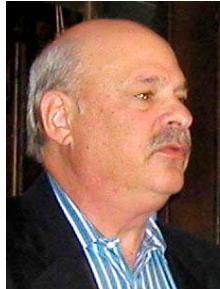


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**Phil Meade** was happy as he just received repayment for a \$4K bad debt. **Art Blitz** told of a story from a book on punctuation: "A panda walks into a café. He orders a sandwich, eats it, then draws a gun and proceeds to fire it at the other patrons. 'Why?' asks the confused,



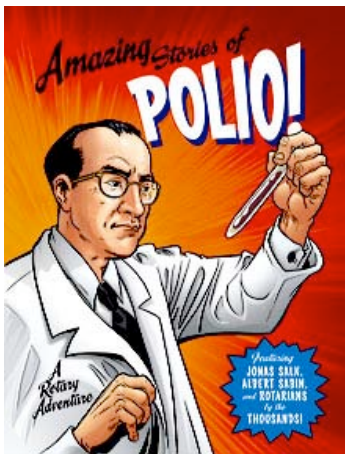
surviving waiter amidst the carnage, as the panda makes towards the exit. The panda produces a badly punctuated wildlife manual and tosses it over his shoulder. 'Well, I'm a panda', he says, at the door. 'Look it up.' The waiter turns to the relevant entry in the manual and, sure enough, finds an explanation. 'Panda. Large black-and-white bear-like mammal, native to China. Eats, shoots and leaves.'"

## **Read The New Comic Book About Polio**

*The Rotarian* – February 2009

In the pages of *The Rotarian*, you've read of the efforts by Rotarians to end polio, the Gates Foundation grant, and Rotary's challenge. In the February issue, we're trying to cover this topic with a new twist. Take a look at our 16-page illustrated feature, "Amazing Stories of Polio," which explores some of the history and science behind the disease and its eradication.

Graphic nonfiction has received widespread acceptance as a way to tell a serious story in a comic-book format. The 585-page 9/11 Commission Report, for example, was retold by a comic book artist and editor in a graphic adaptation that presents the findings in a more accessible format. Artist Steve Buccellato illustrated February's polio story; his previous work includes co-illustrating a biography of Ronald Reagan.



## **Rotary International Presidential Membership Conference March 27-28, 2009 - Greenbelt Marriott**

### **Friday 27 March**

2-6 PM Registration (Form on page 5)

6-7 PM Reception

7:15 PM Welcome PDG Toni McAndrew

Opening Comments RID Michael Colasurdo

RI President D.K. Lee Make Dreams Real Through Membership

Invited Guest U.S. Vice-President Joseph Biden

Toast, PRID Ron Beaubien

Presentations

Children's Music Academy

### **Saturday 28 March**

8:30 Welcome PDG Toni McAndrew Conference Chair

Comments RID Michael Colasurdo

Remarks PRID Ron Beaubien

Call to Action RIP D.K. Lee

Regional Membership Trends Dan Spencer, RRIMC Zones 31-32, Bevin Wall, RRIMC Zones 33-34

U.S. Demographics, PRID Ken Morgan

Speaker Rtn. Glen Ward

10:15 – 10:30 Break

10:40 Breakout Group Discussions

Using Demographics in Recruitment Efforts

It's a Small World through Diversity

Using Club Assessment Tools

Rotary's Membership Relevance to Urban Areas

11:30 Breakout Group Discussions

Using Change to Retain our Members

Bridging the Generation Gap

The Club Visioning Plan

How We Turned it Around!! Success Stories

12:15 – 1:15 Lunch

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

1:20 Breakout Group Discussions

Are we Over Extended?

Using Change to Retain our Members

It's a Small World Through Diversity

Ask the RRIMC's

2:15 Plenary Open Discussion

Best Practices and Recognitions

Moving Forward RIP D.K. Lee

Closing Comments RID Michael Colasurdo

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## **Bill Gates Made Honorary Member Of Seattle Club**

RI News – 11 March 2009

*William Gates Sr., center, helps fasten a Rotary pin to his son's lapel during the Rotary Club of Seattle's centennial celebration. Also pictured is Seattle club president Nancy Sclater. The club made the younger Gates an honorary member, joining his dad, who is already an honorary member. Photo courtesy of Mike Urban.*



Bill Gates, cochair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, was made an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Seattle during the club's centennial celebration 5 March.

More than 1,000 Rotarians and community leaders attended the event, held at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center, to pay tribute to the club's 100 years of service. Gates, Microsoft cofounder and chair, delivered the keynote address.

"As Rotary spread across the globe, so did the principle of Service Above Self," he said. "Rotary provides the infrastructure for scaling up one of the best ideas that human beings ever had: that helping others is not just a duty – it's fun and rewarding."

William Gates Sr., also an honorary member of the Seattle club and Gates Foundation cochair, attended the event and helped fasten a Rotary pin to his son's lapel.

Earlier this year, Bill Gates attended Rotary's International Assembly in San Diego, California, to announce a new grant of \$255 million from the Gates Foundation to support Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio. That amount came in addition to the \$100 million Gates Foundation challenge grant awarded to Rotary in 2007. The total matching effort in response is called Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge, which must be completed by 30 June 2012. Together, Rotary and

the Gates Foundation have committed \$555 million in the fight to end polio.

Seattle club president Nancy Sclater said the club has fully embraced Rotary's efforts to eradicate the disease.

"We absolutely must finish ensuring that polio never affects anyone again," she said.

Sclater also looked ahead to the club's second century of service. Its centennial project will create a support center for homeless families at a cost of \$4.2 million.

The Seattle club is Rotary's fourth oldest and one of its largest, with nearly 700 members. During its 100 years, the club has raised millions of dollars to help support the visual and

performing arts, enhance educational opportunities for youth, improve outdoor and recreational environments, provide food for the underprivileged, and distribute aid to the homeless and people with disabilities.

## **Foundation Awards 30,000th Matching Grant**

By Peter Schmidtke RI News – 3 March 2009



*Children, recipients of a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant to correct heart irregularities, are all smiles at the Padre Francisco Da Motta school in Brazil. In December, the Foundation approved the 30,000th Matching Grant. Rotary Images/Alyce Henson*

More than 20 children in India with congenital heart defects will soon benefit from the 30,000th Matching Grant awarded by The Rotary Foundation.

The Foundation approved a grant of US\$15,000 in December for the project, a collaboration between the Rotary clubs of Cochin Midtown, Kerala, India, and Sandbach, Cheshire, England. The grant will help fund surgeries to correct heart irregularities in children between the ages of three months and 18 years in southern and northern India.

The clubs have each contributed \$5,000 toward the project. Their districts, 3201 (India) and 1050



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(England), have both provided \$5,000 from their District Designated Fund, for a total of \$35,000.

The project is being coordinated through Gift of Life International, an organization supported by Rotary clubs worldwide. It's the latest development in the ongoing efforts of the Cochin Midtown club and District 3201 to provide open-heart surgeries to 105 children from indigent families by 2010, Rotary's 105th year.

During the past two years, clubs in District 3201 have organized four other Matching Grant projects for surgeries, and have independently funded several other surgeries as well.

"A child with heart disease who is born to poor parents puts an entire family of five or six persons in financial disarray," says Cochin Midtown club president V.J. John, explaining his district's decision to make the surgeries a priority.

Through the Matching Grants program, the Foundation provides a dollar-for-dollar match for every District Designated Fund contribution to a project, and a 50-cent match for every dollar of additional contributions.

Since 1965, the Foundation has matched contributions for international service projects in 199 countries at a cost of more than \$335 million. In 2007-08 alone, the Foundation approved \$43.8 million for 2,424 Matching Grant projects in 137 countries.

## **Rotaractors Engage In Service Projects Worldwide**

by Ryan Hyland RI News

More than 100 Rotaractors and Rotarians from London, Ontario, Canada, completed small household tasks for senior citizens, homebound residents, and people with disabilities in February as part of the seventh annual Day of Giving.

Started in 2003 by the Rotaract Club of University of Western Ontario, Day of Giving brings together Rotaractors and members of seven London-area Rotary clubs to lend a helping hand to needy residents.

"Day of Giving is especially great because not only do we help people in the community, but it gives Rotarians and Rotaractors a chance to get to know each other, work hard, and have fun," says Rotaractor Kirk Langford, a member of the Day of Giving committee.



*Rotarian Ken Wilmott and Rotaractors Kirk Langford and Karla Payes install cables during the seventh annual Day of Giving on 7 February in London, Ontario, Canada. Photo by Jim Swan*

"Creating a bond with Rotarians is essential for the continuation of Rotary."

That bond plays a key role in World Rotaract Week, 9-15 March, which commemorates the chartering of the first Rotaract club 41 years ago. Throughout the week, Rotaractors and Rotarians carry out service projects together.

During the Day of Giving, Rotaractors posted fliers in senior centers and churches and contacted several health organizations, including the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada, to promote the event. Community members could also call a hotline to request help with specific tasks. About 94 clients received assistance.

Volunteer teams, each with two Rotaractors and one Rotarian, cleaned stoves and refrigerators, shoveled snow, moved furniture, ran errands, and even stripped wallpaper.

The project provides a way for Rotaractors to make personal connections with Rotarians and community residents they wouldn't normally interact with, says Langford.

"An event like this opens my eyes to the size of the Rotary network," he adds. "I hope Day of Giving can show communities how deeply committed Rotary is to making a difference in society."

Each year, the event takes place at the end of January or early February because of the extra needs that homebound residents have during the cold winter, says

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Ken Bowlby, of the Rotary Club of London, who helped Rotaractors start the project while he served as assistant governor of District 6330 (Ontario, Canada; Michigan, USA). "Day of Giving is a great example of what Rotary is all about: helping those who are incapable of helping themselves," says Bowlby. "To see how appreciative our clients get at the end of the day always gives me an incredible feeling of satisfaction."

Bowlby says he would like to see Rotary and Rotaract clubs around the world adopt the event.

"It would be great to have all of Rotary, on the same day, participate in Day of Giving. What a difference that one day would make worldwide," he says.

Here are a few other projects carried out by Rotaractors around the globe:

- The Rotaract Club of Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, sponsored a benefit concert in April to provide clean water wells to Cambodia. More than 3,000 people attended the event, which raised \$51,000. Proceeds will help pay for 51 wells in the Phnum Kravanh District, bringing clean drinking water to more than 4,000 people.
- More than 100 Rotaractors and 50 Interactors in Bangkok, Thailand, initiated a reforestation project to help reduce carbon dioxide levels and raise awareness of the dangers of global warming. Club members planted 1,600 mangroves at a forest development center in Samut Songkhram Province.
- To improve literacy in elementary schools, the Rotaract Club of Birmingham, Alabama, USA, raised \$150,000 for the installation of small, high-quality libraries in 130 second-grade classrooms. The club's ongoing Ready 2 Read project has already benefited more than 2,000 Birmingham children.

## Membership Conference Registration Form



### Presidential Membership Conference Baltimore, MD March 27-28, 2009



#### The Purpose

The purpose of these conferences is to explore and introduce: a vision for the future of Rotary International and its membership; how we can best impact membership at the club level; discuss how demographic and generational changes impacts this vision; review pertinent regional changes and the impact on membership; and celebrate best practices at the club level. Additionally, the goal at each of these conferences is for presenters outside of Rotary to discuss volunteering trends and demographic changes within the specific region.

#### Suggested Conference attendees:

- Club presidents and officers
- Club membership committee chairs and members
- District membership committee chairs and members
- District extension committee chairs and members
- Other district leadership and past RI officers
- All Rotarians interested in helping Rotary grow!

#### Agenda

Friday March 27	6:00 PM	Reception & Mixer
	7:30 PM	Remarks by RI President DK Lee & photos
Saturday, March 28	8:30 AM	Opening Remarks
	9:30 - 12:00 PM	Break Out Sessions
	1:30 - 3:00 PM	Break Out Sessions
	3:15 - 4:00 PM	Closing Plenary

**Registration Fee:** \$99.00 before March 12, 2009  
\$110.00 after March 12, 2009  
Includes Reception Friday ( 1 drink included ) / Sat. Breaks / plated Sat. Lunch

Registration Due: March 12, 2009

☐ I am paying by check:  
Make Checks payable to:  
RI Zones 31-32 08-10

☐ I would like to pay by Credit Card  
☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa



Credit Card Number Exp. Date

Name on Credit Card

Credit Card Billing Street Address

City State Zip

Signature

Michael Colasurdo, Sr, RID, Convener  
Toni McAndrew, PDG, General Chair

Mail or fax Registration Forms to: PDG, Ron Smith, Registration Chair c/o Materials Resources International, 811 W. Fifth Street, Lansdale, PA 19446  
Email: [rsmith@materialresources.com](mailto:rsmith@materialresources.com) / Fax: 215-631-7115 / Ph: 215-631-7111 x 102 Zone Website: [www.rotaryzones31-32.org](http://www.rotaryzones31-32.org)  
CANCELLATION POLICY: After March 12<sup>th</sup> there are no refunds.

Name	Title	
Badge Name		
Rotary Club		
District #	Club or District Position	
Street Address		
City	State	Zip code
Home Phone	Work Phone / Cell	
Fax		
Email		
Date Completed		

Make Hotel Reservations Directly  
Hotel--Marriott Greenbelt  
6400 Ivy Lane  
Greenbelt, MD, 20770

Reservation # 1-800-228-9290 or 301-441-3700

Direct hotel website reservation site:  
[www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/wasgb-greenbelt-marriott](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/wasgb-greenbelt-marriott)

Rooms Single ---\$129.00 Doubles---\$129.00  
Suites---\$329.00

Mention "Rotary Membership Conference"

Please Make Hotel reservation by 02/15/09

Complimentary on site parking  
Indoor pool and fitness center

NOTE: 20 minutes from Baltimore-  
Washington (BWI) airport

Please send news articles and photos  
to [Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov](mailto:Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov)  
for inclusion in the newsletter

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