

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

April 2 – 6:30pm Meeting - Normandie Farm



Ed Meagher

Aleethia Foundation for Wounded Troops

The mission of the Aleethia Foundation is to support the newly injured troops with short-term therapeutic recreation. The doctors have determined that it is beneficial for the newly injured troops to get out of the hospital environment occasionally. Their mission is to help

them get out for meals, movies, sightseeing, and visits to interesting sites.



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

Early Registration Deadline is April 6

April 23 – No meeting

April 25 – International Night at the Austrian Embassy

April 30– 6:30pm Meeting–Normandie Farm

Amgad Fayad - Information Security

May 7– 6:30pm Meeting–Normandie Farm

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



Ambassadorial Scholar Hosting Opportunities

By Steve Naron

This year we have 10 Scholars attending and presenting at International Night. Seven of them will be visiting from elsewhere -- New York City, Philadelphia, and Hershey. They represent Argentina, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, and Taiwan. This will be your only chance to meet these students.

We have promised them housing and tours on the weekend of April 24-6. If you would like to volunteer for any of this activity or have ideas let me know. This is an extra opportunity you get by being in the club that runs International Night. Please call Steve at 301-346-1505 before all the students are taken.

Visit to Rotary Club of Piura Norte in Peru

By Caesar Kavadoy

The picture below on the left shows some members of the Rotary Club of Piura Norte in Piura-Peru. Piura is Esther's hometown. This is the town where I taught school in the local Jesuit School for about 4.5 years. The Rotarians on the picture are: from the right Lourdes Sarmiento, Monica Zapata de Castagnino who is the Mayor of Piura, Jorge Castagnino, Club Secretary, Miguel Adrianzen, Dr. Carlos Vargas, Club President, Julio Castagnino, Past President and one of my former students and Caesar Kavadoy. This picture was taken during the social hour prior to the meeting on March 25, 2009.

Last week, I spent some time with my dear friend and mentor, Dr. James



H. Steele. Professor Emeritus of the University of Texas. He has visited our club both as a visitor and as a speaker. He remembers many of our members and sends his greetings to all. I visited him in Houston, Texas, on the occasion of his 96th birthday.

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April is Magazine Month



The *Rotarian* magazine you hold in your hands is one of Rotary's oldest traditions. In January of 1911, a 12-page newsletter called *The National Rotarian* was published; it contained an essay by Paul Harris, "Rational Rotarianism," along with club news and editorials. Of the new publication, Harris wrote: "The primary purpose of *The National Rotarian* is to provide a means for the exchange of ideas between Rotarians throughout the world, not to give the national officers an opportunity to express their views. These messages are not written merely to fill space; nevertheless we look forward to the day when they will be literally crowded out by surging mobs of virile Rotarian ideas struggling to be heard."

Today, with Rotary's club membership spanning more than 200 countries and geographical areas, the mandate of its publications is more complex, and more

vital, than ever. The English-language flagship magazine, *The Rotarian*, is edited at RI headquarters in Evanston, Ill., USA, and has a circulation of about 500,000. Around the world, 31 more magazines are published in 24 other languages, for a total of 32 magazines published by the Rotary World Magazine Press, and a total circulation of about 1.25 million.

The RI Board of Directors has designated April of every year as Magazine Month. It is a time to recognize the role that our Rotary publications play in our Rotary lives – and the role that we should play in our publications. For the magazines to live up to Paul Harris' original vision, it takes more than just an editorial staff: It also takes the good work of Rotarians. I always feel that the best part of reading any Rotary publication is the opportunity to find out what other clubs are doing. Each issue, each article, is a chance to be informed and inspired.

In an era when electronic communication seems to be everywhere, the role of the paper-and-ink magazine is still important to our organization. Rotary magazines provide us with an overview of what's happening in different clubs and districts as well as important news and updates from RI headquarters. Even the many Rotarians who regularly visit www.rotary.org will find something new in every issue.

It is a privilege today to be writing this message as Paul Harris once wrote his, and to see his vision of this publication – a magazine filled with the great ideas and great works of Rotarians – brought to life.

Dong Kurn (D.K.) Lee
President, Rotary International



Let's End Polio Now

Dear family of Rotary,

In January, Rotary International received another influx of funds from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, bringing that organization's total contribution to Rotary's polio eradication efforts to \$355 million. In turn, the Gates Foundation has asked Rotarians to match \$200 million of that amount. For many organizations, this might seem an impossible task, especially in today's uncertain economy. But we all know

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that Rotarians are both generous contributors and master fundraisers.

Our support, however, goes far beyond simply donating money for a good cause. Polio eradication has become a passion for so many Rotarians, a goal that can and must be achieved. And now is the time to achieve it.

Never has Rotary had such strong support in our war on polio. In addition to the funding from the Gates Foundation, World Health Organization Director-General Margaret Chan has put the full operational power of the WHO into the job of finishing polio eradication. And two governments have made impressive commitments: The United Kingdom's Department for International Development has pledged £100 million (\$150.3 million) for polio eradication over the next five years, and the German government has committed €100 million (\$132.3 million). Although this funding is not directed toward meeting Rotary's challenge, it will help us to move more swiftly toward our goal.

Now is our opportunity to capitalize on all these resources and get the job done. We can't wait until the economic conditions improve to continue our fight. We must move ahead now. And that means meeting Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge. It is up to our clubs and districts, to each one of you, to make that happen. I encourage you to set ambitious but achievable goals for your club's contribution to the challenge. Create fundraisers that involve the whole community, letting everyone know that Rotarians are leading the fight to End Polio Now.

Jonathan Majiyagbe
Foundation Trustee Chair



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

Documentary on Polio Debuts on HBO 1 April

RI News – 31 March 2009

The Final Inch, a 38-minute film that chronicles the challenges health organizations and government face during the final stages of polio eradication, will air on HBO on 1 April at 8:00 pm EST. Commissioned by the philanthropic division of Google, the film was nominated for an Academy Award in the documentary short subject category.

Director and producer Irene Taylor Brodsky captured workers immunizing children in the poorest slums of India and Pakistan in 2007. In several scenes Rotarians were filmed working during a National Immunization Day on 22 April. Led by M.S. Jain, past governor of District 3100, NID volunteers administer polio vaccination drops to children in Meerut Samrat, Uttar Pradesh, India.

On 30 March, RI President Dong Kurn Lee spoke at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. He was joined by Tom Grant, a producer on *The Final Inch*.

On April 2, HBO is holding a screening event in New York, USA. Past RI President James L. Lacy will serve as a discussion panelist, which includes Brodsky, Ann Veneman, executive director of UNICEF, and Dr. Larry Brilliant of Google.

Florida Interactors Fight Polio In India

By Ryan Hyland RI News – 26 March 2009

Interactors Sophia Hameed (left) and Anna Holmbraker, of Florida, USA, administer the polio vaccine to a child during National Immunization Days in Chandigarh, India. Photo by Jean-Marc Giboux

Interactor Sophia Hameed, of Miami, recently returned to India, her country of birth, to participate in National Immunization Days.

Hameed, and fellow Interactor Anna Holmbraker, both 17, of Key Largo, joined a group of more than 40 Rotarians to help immunize children in Chandigarh during a 12-day trip in February.

Born in Nagpur, Hameed came to the United States when she was nine. She says she wants to do her part

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to resolve the paradox of India's growing wealth and extreme poverty.

"India is an amazing country with great doctors and hospitals and a strong upper middle class," says Hameed, a member of the Interact Club of Miami High. "But there is still extreme poverty in places where children can't receive the most basic medical care. So, I jumped at the opportunity to join Rotarians and return to India to give something back."

For three days, the Interactors and their group walked through the Bapu Dham Colony, a slum in Chandigarh, vaccinating about 80,000 children. The challenges facing families there were on stark display.

"It was heartbreaking to see the devastating conditions some of these children live in," says Hameed. "The children I interacted with will always be imprinted in my mind as a reminder of my mission of trying to combat the unfairness in the world."

Holmbraker was impressed by the optimism of the children she met. "I fell in love with the kids," she says.

Hameed raised \$3,500 to cover expenses, including a \$1,000 grant from the Rotary Club of Miami, which sponsored her trip, and donations from faculty and staff at her school, where she is a senior.

Holmbraker was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Upper Keys. She collected more than \$2,000 during a spaghetti dinner fundraiser she held for friends, teachers, and church members, and received a \$2,500 grant from the Rotary Club of Key Largo.

"I'm so glad I was able to share this experience with another student," says Holmbraker. "Sophia was a great traveling buddy."

Both agree that although traveling internationally can be educational, it isn't for every Interactor, especially younger club members.

"It takes a level of maturity to go on a trip like the one we went on," says Hameed. "It's important to have a strong support system in place from your parents, local Rotary clubs, and school."

"Rotarians took such good care of us," says Holmbraker. "I was blown away by the hospitality host clubs showed."

Both look forward to being Rotaractors, and maybe someday Rotarians.

"There was so much I learned about what Rotary does," says Hameed. "This is the type of international organization I would like to stay with my whole life."

Rotarians Help Reignite Nigeria's End-Polio Effort

By Dan Nixon RI News – 17 March 2009



Nigeria PolioPlus Committee Chair Busuyi Onabolu (second from left) and District 9120 PolioPlus Subcommittee Chair Godwin Atiah (far left) join state health officials in Kano for the ceremony officially launching the country's Immunization Plus Days. Rotary Images/Joseph Lorenzo

Rotarians in Nigeria are playing a key role in their country's revitalized battle to become polio-free, including helping to overcome resistance from families who are against having their children immunized.

During Immunization Plus Days (IPDs) held 31 January-3 February, a community in Nasarawa State initially refused vaccination efforts because the government hadn't removed garbage from a local dump.

"In order to get the kids immunized, I promised to clear the site personally, if they allowed us to carry out the immunization, and they agreed," said Chuks Anthony Anyigbo, a member of the Rotary Club of Lafia City. "I partnered with the state urban development board, [and] they gave me a truck with a few staff. I paid for logistics and laborers, then mobilized some Rotarians and youth to clear the site."

When families in a group of settlements in Katsina State opposed immunization, Rotarians immediately helped

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conduct a community dialogue. Residents said they would not allow their children to receive the oral polio vaccine because other pressing needs – health care, clean water, and education – weren't being met. Local officials addressed these issues at a subsequent meeting, resulting in 120 children being immunized with the residents' consent.

In Anambra State, the Rotary Club of Awka aired public service announcements on state radio and sponsored community-based town criers to urge mothers to bring their children to immunization posts. During the IPDs, no cases of noncompliance were reported there.

"Mothers were eager to have their children immunized," said Awka club member Chika Ekwueme. "Large numbers of children were immunized in churches and schools."

Rotarians in Enugu State helped monitor the IPDs and handed out soap, school supplies, and other premiums to children who were immunized. They also hired vehicles to transport the vaccination teams and provided snacks, water, and soft drinks.

One of the keys to ending polio in Nigeria is accountability, according to Nigeria PolioPlus Committee Chair Busuyi Onabolu. Noting that "operational challenges have compromised the quality of vaccination campaigns," he said that renewed state and local government commitment to immunization has led to marked progress in many areas.

The Jigawa State government, for example, has strengthened top-level monitoring of immunization efforts by posting a senior supervisor in each of the state's 288 wards. Each supervisor is being held accountable for any ward irregularities. As a result, ownership of the polio eradication effort is increasing at all levels of government in Jigawa. In addition, special immunization teams have been created to reach children in Quranic schools.

Nigeria is also one of eight West African countries participating in synchronized Subnational Immunization Days aimed at reaching 53 million children. The first round took place 27 February-2 March; the second is scheduled for 27-30 March. More than 162,000 trained health care workers and volunteers in the region are carrying out the massive effort in schools and clinics, as well as going door to door.

"The plan is to reach every child, even in the most rural areas [and] in the most populated urban areas," says UNICEF spokeswoman Miranda Eeles. "The campaign aims at reaching a critical mass of polio immunization coverage in order to stop the spread of the wild poliovirus."

Invoice for 2nd Quarter (April – June) 2009

By Treasurer Alan Cookson

At the Board's directive and in accordance with By-Laws, we are billing for this quarter in advance. Please note that there are two alternatives depending on whether you will have guests at the 29th Annual International Night on April 25th 2009 to be held at the Austrian Embassy. If you also wish to make a separate donation or buy raffle tickets in aid of the Ethiopian Orphanage, use the Response Form Option 2 and include it as a separate check with your dues payment, with "International Night" in the memo field. If you have already sent a check for the International Night, please deduct this from your dues check.

Alternative #1 – Basic Dues

Potomac-Bethesda Club Dues	\$25.00
Rotary District Dues	\$15.00
Rotary International Dues	\$15.00
Rotary Foundation*	\$25.00
Meals: 13 @ \$24.00 each**	\$312.00
International Night (Member)	\$60.00
Total:	\$452.00

Alternative #2 – Guest registration for International Night

___ Guests @ \$60.00 per _____ \$_____

Grand Total: _____ \$_____

Name of Guest: _____

Please check here if you are unable to attend the International Night _____

Please make the payments ASAP, payable at the meeting or mail to address below. Checks should be made payable to Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club.

Alan H. Cookson Treasurer, 15717 Bondy Lane
Darnestown MD 20878-2114

(Tel: 301-869-6326, rjcookson@aol.com)

*Voluntary payment. No member is required to pay as a condition to membership in this club.

** New (lower) price for dinners at Normandie Farms.

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