

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

July 2 - 6:30pm Meeting -Normandie Farm

President Elect Jason Hamel:
Big City Mountaineers (BCM)
and Climbing Mount Rainier



President Elect Jason will give an illustrated presentation of his adventure climbing Mount Rainier. He'll also describe some of BCM's programs including an extended wilderness summer trip for under-resourced teens. While similar to other outdoor education programs, BCM conducts its outings in a 5:5 ratio of adult volunteers to teens, a unique format that transforms their program into an intense and meaningful mentoring experience. Although BCM uses an unconventional setting for its program, its goals are similar to those of traditional youth development

agencies. Specifically, the BCM program positively impacts teens' beliefs with regard to age/ethnic diversity, self-esteem, environmental awareness, and interpersonal relationships. As a result of the exposure and relationships formed with adult volunteer role models, these teens become better equipped to make critical career, educational and healthy lifestyle decisions.

July 6 - 6pm Chartering of new Urbana Rotary Club

July 9 - 6:30pm Meeting -Normandie Farm

July 14 - 7pm Manna Food Center

July 16 - 6:30pm Meeting -Normandie Farm

July 23 - 6:30pm Meeting -Normandie Farm

July 30 - 6:30pm Meeting -Normandie Farm

Paul Frey Installed as District Governor

On June 29 over 200 people came to Frederick to honor 2009-10 District Governor Paul Frey at his installation dinner. Governor Paul said that he took on the demanding job as governor because he dreamed of doing something big and wants to have a legacy of making a difference. He quoted Paulo Coelho, "When you really want something to happen, the whole universe conspires so that your wish comes true."

Governor Paul thanked the members of his Installation Committee, the most important Assistant

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Happy New Rotary Year!

The annual installation of Rotary Club officers was held on Saturday evening, June 27, at the home of Noel



and Gladys Howard. President Todd Nitkin presented the Rotarian of the Year trophy to Nabil Bedewi for his leadership of the very successful International Night program. Todd also recognized Treasurer Alan

Cookson for performing his duties well with joy and kindness. He thanked Bob Nelson for the great newsletter, Secretary Tom Leuchtenburg for his work and incoming President Noel Howard for his support. He noted that one of the accomplishments of the year was the change of venue to Normandie Farm Restaurant. The 2009-10 officers were installed: President Noel Howard, President Elect Jason Hamel*, Vice President Nabil Bedewi, Secretary Tom



Leuchtenburg and Treasurer Alan Cookson. President Noel was very honored and humbled to become President of the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club for 2009-10. A sumptuous Haitian meal was prepared and served by our hostess. Many spouses and Steve

Naron's brother Paul attended. The Narons had been on a family bicycle trip cycling all the way from Pittsburgh, PA, to Cumberland, MD.



See photo collage on page 2

*unable to attend the installation

Photos by Marilyn Nelson

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District Governor's Installation (from page 1)

Governors, PDG Andy Baum for his mentoring, Mary Nagle for chairing the District Assembly, and PDG Bob Nelson for newsletter editing. Governor Paul thanked 2008-09 Governor Bette Lewis for her service.

It was truly a family of Rotary evening and Governor Paul had four generations of his own family present including wife Laurie, his mother Jean, two daughters Becky and Maggie, siblings and grandson John.

Governor Paul wore one of his father's WW2 ribbons in memory of his passing on May 13.



Master of Ceremonies Mike McGowan quoted RI President John Kenny: "If Rotary is to be relevant in the 21st century, it must tackle real problems of water, health and hunger, and literacy. In Scotland, we have a saying that I'm fond of quoting: 'We must look beyond our own parish pump.' It means that we must look beyond our own home and our own community. We must look beyond our own needs, and we must be aware that ours is only one community, of one country, of the many communities and countries in this world. In every one of those communities, there is work to be done. As Rotarians, we will not stand idly by. As Rotarians, we will accept our responsibility. We can, and we must."

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

Farrow Speaks Out On Polio, Darfur

By Arnold R. Grahl RI News – 23 June 2009



Actress Mia Farrow, UNICEF goodwill ambassador, gives the keynote address 23 June during the third plenary session at the 2009 RI Convention in Birmingham, England. Rotary Images/Monika Lozinska-Lee

Actress and UNICEF goodwill ambassador Mia Farrow said she understands the devastation of polio and the importance of eradicating the virus. Farrow survived polio as a child and adopted a son from India who had contracted the disease.

"Polio is a terrible, terrible disease. We are right to be pushing for the end of it," Farrow said during the third plenary session of the 2009 RI Convention on 23 June. "We are almost there, we just have to push a little further."

She focused the second half of her address on promoting the health and safety of children – a message that dovetails with RI President Dong Kurn Lee's emphasis on reducing child mortality – and the need to protect the people of Darfur, Sudan.

She recounted how in 2004 a woman in Darfur gave her a protective amulet to wear around her neck and asked her to tell the world about what was happening there. The woman said, "Please go out and tell the world. Tell them we will all be slaughtered." Farrow said meeting that woman changed her life. "That's the whole of what I do now. I try to fulfill my promise."

Toward that promise, Farrow showed Rotarians slide after slide of victims of the atrocities in Darfur – men who had had their eyes cut out by marauders; a woman who had been shot through the back, which killed the child she was carrying; an infant dying of malnutrition; and entire villages burned to the ground.

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"After six years, what message have we sent to Darfur?" Farrow asked. "Only that they are dispensable. If we look back and realize we failed the people of Darfur, we will not only have failed them, but we will have failed ourselves."

In a press conference after the plenary session, Farrow said it will take the will of the people to move governments to act. "There is undeniably genocide that has occurred and will occur," she said. "The defining moment for all of us is what are we going to do about it?"

Farrow talked about the good work of Rotarians and how they are an amazing group of people who are capable of doing whatever they set their mind to accomplishing.

She urged Rotarians not to give up fighting against polio. "Yes, it costs money," she said. "But we won't have to do that once we have eradicated polio. Then all that money can go to something else."

"I do think Rotarians are unusual in that they are so galvanized to action," she said. "All of them are committed to helping other people, and they are able to galvanize other people to help."

"I love Rotary," she added. "It is the best thing that has ever happened."

Rotary Can Influence Top Policymakers To Produce Needed Changes

By Joseph Derr & Arnold Grahl, RI News - 21 June

Jean-François Rischard was the highlight of the Rotary Alumni Celebration. Rotary Images/Monika Lozinska-Lee

The world faces several multifaceted and critical problems that cannot be solved by individual nations or existing international systems, says Jean-François Rischard, author of *High Noon: 20 Global Problems, 20 Years to Solve Them*. From climate change and biodiversity loss to water shortages, the challenges may seem daunting. The good news: All the global problems he describes have cost-effective solutions that are technically and



politically feasible – and Rotary has a lot to contribute.

Rischard, a former Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar who studied at Harvard Business School in 1974-75 and recently retired as World Bank vice president for Europe, was a highlight of the daylong Rotary Alumni Celebration on Saturday, 20 June, in Birmingham, England. Attendees included Foundation alumni as well as many Rotarians.

Rischard called for a paradigm shift away from the nation-state approach of solving problems, which is based on territorial concerns and national election cycles, to a more global approach with a view toward the future. "Problems like [swine] flu, global warming, and maritime pollution don't care about national boundaries, and they require long-term solutions," Rischard said.

He explained that while the current economic crisis was unpredictable, absolutely avoidable, and reversible, there are four far more dangerous crises coming that are predictable, harder to avoid, and totally irreversible: a massive aging and pension problem facing rich countries by 2015, a scarcity of petroleum from traditional sources by 2025, a collapse of several major ecosystems by 2035, and climate change worsening intensely by 2045.

Rischard suggested that Rotary is in a great position to influence top policymakers to produce the needed changes.

"You have acquired your credentials through your polio program, which you are so close to achieving," he said. "And you have 1.2 million members in more than 200 countries, plus 105,000 alumni. That is a hell of a mafia – a mafia for good."

He encouraged alumni and Rotarians to keep their global perspective on humanitarian issues, especially by supporting literacy and education projects.

"If you finance schools that are moving toward a new mind-set of global identity that stands above an individual's local and religious identities, it would be a really good buy," he said.

Rischard is already working on his next book, which he said will be a more direct wake-up call.

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Rotary International Marks Progress In Drive To Eradicate Polio

Rotary International News – 23 June 2009

Birmingham, England

In the final push to rid the world of a crippling and potentially fatal disease, Rotary International today announced that it has raised US\$90.7 million toward its US\$200 Million Challenge, a fundraising effort supporting crucial polio eradication activities.

Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Jonathan Majiyagbe announced the new figure to an international audience of 18,000 Rotary members at the organization's annual convention in Birmingham. Also present was actress Mia Farrow, a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and polio survivor.

"I am extremely grateful and proud to be a part of such an impressive alliance," said Farrow. "I perhaps am more motivated than most people because I had polio myself when I was nine, and it was a real struggle to come through it. And what I saw around me will never leave me, in the hospitals and public wards for contagious diseases. I also have a son who's paralyzed from the waist down because of polio. This is a terrible disease and I would love to see the day when no more children have it."

The convention began on 21 June, when United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon praised Rotary for its leadership role in the fight against polio and received the Polio Eradication Champion award, the highest recognition Rotary bestows to heads of state, health agency ministers and directors, and other leaders for their significant contributions to the eradication effort.

The funds announced today will be used to match a US\$350 million challenge grant recently awarded to Rotary by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation – a funding agreement that will provide US\$555 million to the global health initiative within the next three years.

In late 2007, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation originally challenged Rotary members to match a US\$100 million grant, dollar-for-dollar. Yet due to Rotary's extraordinary progress despite a faltering

global economy, Bill Gates announced an additional challenge in January 2009.

Since 1985, when polio paralyzed more than 350,000 children in 125 countries every year, ending polio has been Rotary's top philanthropic goal. Since then, polio cases have been slashed by 99 percent worldwide, with fewer than 2,000 in 2008, and just four countries remain polio-endemic: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

"While most of the world is polio-free, this vaccine-preventable disease still threatens children in parts of Africa, Asia and the Middle East," said Majiyagbe. "And because polio is a virus that moves from child-to-child, it is capable of re-emerging anywhere in the world if we let down our guard.

Rotary is committed to eradicating this disease once and for all."

Polio eradication – which hinges on vaccinating all children under the age of five years – is seen as a model for reaching families worldwide with the necessities needed to improve lives.

"The progress made in some of the most challenging areas of the world proves that with enough commitment

and support, we can end polio worldwide," said Rotary International President Dong-Kurn Lee.

As the volunteer arm and top private sector contributor to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative – a public private partnership spearheaded by the World Health Organization, Rotary International, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and UNICEF – Rotary has contributed more than US\$800 million and countless volunteer hours to the protection of more than two billion children in 122 countries.

Yet the Initiative currently faces a funding gap for 2009-2010 of US\$345 million. "We hope that the commitment from the private sector will challenge other donors to step up and make sure we have the resources needed to eradicate polio," added Lee.

The United Kingdom is the second largest donor to the polio eradication effort, with contributions totaling US\$830.22 million through 2009. Rotary's 59,000 UK members have contributed US\$20 million for polio eradication.



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