

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

October 29 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

Iwan Davies, Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar

Iwan received his BA in History and American Studies at the University of Wales, Swansea, in 2007. He is currently in an MA program at The Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). He was an Intern at FIPRA International and a Graduate Management Trainee at Nemo Personal Finance. Previously he was a Review Support Officer at the Welsh Assembly Government and a Review Support Officer at Social Services Inspectorate for Wales.

November 3 - 2:40pm

Dictionary Project at Bells Mill Elementary School

November 5 – 2:00pm

Dictionary Project at Beverly Farms Elementary School

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October 15 Meeting Report

By President Elect Jason Hamel

At this past meeting we were given a State of the Union report on the army from the perspective of one of its soldier's, Staff Sergeant Hollis D. Champlain. In typical military style he opened his presentation that he planned to "Be brief, be brilliant, and be gone." Hollis discussed his first tour in Iraq and explained the difficulty he had explaining the things he saw to other people. It was difficult because it became a jumbled mass in his head and he found himself telling people what he thought they wanted to hear and not accurately articulating what really happened.

On his second tour he brought a video camera to try and capture what he saw and prevent the same jumble that happened in the last tour. He felt that the video did that and helped keep his depictions accurate. Most of the video showed every day life that was frankly quite boring, but some of the more interesting moments captured included his unit's stay at one of Saddam's palaces. The most important thing he felt it captured was the values the Army instills into each soldier. He further illustrated this point by describing the video he captured just before they invaded Iraq. It showed soldiers that were very relaxed and professional, despite knowing the fact that they were mere moments from going to war.

He believes all of this was a result of a fairly new lesson taught to each soldier at Basic Training that they

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Potomac Day Report:

Rotarians Toss Beads to Eager Children From Past President Don Smith's Classic Morgan



The 29th Annual Potomac Day Parade was held on a warm, breezy and occasionally showery Saturday morning. Among the parade units were the citizen of the year, scouts, politicians, horses, fife & drum, businesses, witches, karate kids and floats.

Bringing up the rear just

before the fire and emergency vehicles were cars carrying the Presidents from the two Rotary Clubs in Potomac. President Noel Howard was driven by Don Smith in his historic Morgan automobile and accompanied by Chinyere Amaefule and Bob Nelson.



Having been frequently bombarded with candy, the crowds were really eager to catch beads flung by our club's Rotarians. Just as the Rotarians turned the corner in Potomac Village, the rain began in earnest and Don took refuge in the underground parking garage. President Noel graciously hosted everyone at lunch in our former meeting location, Hunter's Inn.



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[Left] Tom Leuchtenburg was manning his Potomac office right on the Potomac Day parade route.

[Right] President Noel tosses beads to the crowd. The Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club banner was waving along River Road as the Potomac Day Parade proceeded through the center of Potomac Village.

October 15 Meeting Report (continued)

are required to keep on their dog tags and on a card of their wallet. On both of those items are 7 words that encompass the values they will learn in the army if they have not already learned in their previous lives: **Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage.** Hollis discussed the obvious relationship each of these has with Rotary and is the main reason why he is proud of the Army and the state that it is in.

Rotary Club Calendar (continued)

November 5 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

November 7 - Rotary Foundation Training Seminar
7:30am to 2:00pm

Holiday Inn Laurel-West 15101 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707

November 10 – 10:30am

Dictionary Project at Wayside Elementary School

November 10 – 7pm Manna Food Center

November 12 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

November 19– 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

November 26 – No Meeting

December 3 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

December 8 – 7pm Manna Food Center

December 10 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

December 17 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

December 24 – No Meeting

December 31 – No Meeting

Surviving Polio

RI News – 23 October

Actress and activist Mia Farrow, who was a speaker at the 2009 RI Convention, survived polio as a child. Monika Lozinska-Lee's photo.

Rotarians around the world celebrated World Polio Day on October



24. Polio is a crippling and potentially fatal disease that still strikes children mainly under the age of five in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Ending polio has been Rotary's top priority since 1988 with the launch of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The number of polio cases has been reduced by more than 99 percent; five million cases of childhood paralysis and 250,000 deaths have been averted.

The following is a list of famous people who have had polio: Alan Alda, actor

Arthur C. Clark, science fiction writer

Judy Collins, singer and songwriter

Francis Ford Coppola, director, producer, screenwriter

James Gordon Farrell, author

Mia Farrow, actress and activist

Frida Kahlo, painter

Dorothea Lange, photographer

Paul Edgar Philippe Martin, Canadian prime minister

Joni Mitchell, singer and songwriter

Jack Nicklaus, professional golfer

Grace Padaca, politician in the Philippines

Itzhak Perlman, violinist

Franklin D. Roosevelt, U.S. president

David Sanborn, jazz saxophonist

Sir Walter Scott

Bapsi Sidhwa, author

Margarete Steiff, toymaker/founder of Steiff

Donald Sutherland, actor

Neil Young, singer and songwriter

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Can-Do Spirit Brings Rotary's Challenge Near Halfway Mark

By Dan Nixon RI News – 22 October 2009

Interactors in Kolkata, India, paste End Polio Now stickers on cars in return for donations, raising \$3,200 for Rotary's challenge. Photo courtesy of Rajani Mukerji



Creative Rotary club and district fundraisers, together with the generosity of individual Rotarians, have propelled Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge almost to the midpoint in funding. As of 21 October, \$99 million has been raised for Rotary's challenge through efforts like these:

- * The Concert to End Polio will take place 2 December, featuring world-renowned violinist Itzhak Perlman and the New York Philharmonic. Perlman is a polio survivor.

- * An auction of more than 90 paintings in New Delhi raised \$40,000 for the challenge. District 3010 and India PolioPlus Committee Chair Deepak Kapur organized the event in collaboration with the Swiss Embassy and Dhoomimal Gallery.

- * A concert organized by District 5230 (California) featured eclectic jazz trumpeter and Grammy Award-winner Chris Botti. The event raised \$30,000 for Rotary's challenge, drawing about 1,400 Rotarians and others, including actor and director Clint Eastwood and his wife, Dina.

- * Fourteen Major League Baseball teams provided support during the regular season, many donating portions of ticket sales. A game hosted by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim resulted in a \$20,000 contribution, a Cincinnati Reds game \$10,000, and a Kansas City Royals game \$7,500.

- * The Rotary Club of Ry, Denmark, offered a car as first prize in a community raffle that garnered about \$8,000.

- * District 3400 (Indonesia) organized a family fun day that featured a blood donation drive, aerobics workout, children's games, music, and a food and

fashion bazaar, raising about \$5,800.

- * "Put Polio on Ice", a fundraiser sponsored by the Ontario Reign professional hockey team and District 5300 (parts of California and Nevada, USA), netted more than \$5,000.

- * "Posies to End Polio", sponsored by the Rotary Club of Saratoga Springs, New York, USA, garnered \$4,050 through sales of red roses at \$20 per dozen. The effort was preceded by a community forum featuring the Academy Award-nominated documentary *The Final Inch*; a talk by Ann Lee Hussey, chair of the Rotarian Action Group for Polio Survivors and Associates; and a panel discussion involving local Rotarians who served during National Immunization Days in India and Nigeria, two polio survivors, and a health official.

- * Members of the Rotary Club of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England, raised about \$2,110 by parking cars for visitors attending a vintage railway exhibition that featured the Hogwarts Express steam locomotive of Harry Potter fame.

"In the face of difficult economic times, Rotarians are heartily commended for their steadfast commitment and resourcefulness in reaching this milestone of support for global polio eradication," says Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Glenn E. Estess Sr. "Rotary's challenge ends 30 June 2012. Let's push confidently ahead to reach our goal and help ensure that all the children of the world will be forever safe from this devastating disease."

1 Comment:

At 10:41AM on 23 October 2009, Bob Pfahnl wrote: Interact 5710 announced at its annual Fall Leadership Conference it has established a goal of \$100,000 for END POLIO NOW for this school year. The district's 80+ clubs and 6,000 Interactors raise the funds through car washes, talent shows, charity dinners, and a variety of creative fundraisers that also raise awareness.

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

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How Polio Affected Their Lives

By Antoinette Tuscano
RI News – 23 October 2009

For as little as US\$0.60 worth of vaccine, a child can be protected against polio for life. Rotary Images

Historically, polio has been one of the greatest causes of disability.

Polio survivors and their families know all too well how the disease attacks the motor neurons of the brainstem, causing breathing difficulty and sometimes death. Some know what it's like to spend years, and maybe a lifetime, recovering from the disease.

For as little as US\$0.60 worth of vaccine, a child can be protected against polio for life. Total eradication is vital. If polio isn't eradicated, the world will continue to live under the threat of the disease, with more than 10 million children at risk of becoming paralyzed over the next 40 years.

We asked polio survivors to share their personal reasons for ending polio now. Read what they had to say below.



the hospital; hot, heavy, and itchy plaster of Paris casts; heavy metal braces with leather straps; Buster Brown shoes with soles to accommodate my braces; a special janitor, Mr. Clark, who carried me up the stairs at school; continuing stares as I walked down the street; the inability to walk barefoot or to run; and the struggle of buying shoes.

"No child should have to suffer from the crippling effects of polio when it is totally preventable. If we stop, polio will return with a vengeance to places where today's children do not even know what polio is. Rotary made a promise, and we keep our promises."

Urs Herzog

Urs Herzog, past governor of District 1980 and a member of the Rotary Club of Allschwil, Switzerland, contracted polio in 1956, when he was eight years old. Because of the disease's impact



on his body, he was unable to participate in sports. But with medical intervention, he has been able to live a more or less normal life.

"When I learned about the polio initiative when I became a Rotarian, I knew that this will be a chance to share my experience as a polio victim and to do all my best to support this worldwide [effort]."

As district governor, Herzog and some Rotarian friends created the Swiss/Liechtenstein polio day on 13 September 2008 and raised more than 1 million Swiss francs (US\$994,000).



Ann Lee Hussey

Ann Lee Hussey is governor-elect of District 7780 (parts of Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, USA) and a member of the Rotary Club of Casco Bay-Sunrise (Portland Area), Maine. Hussey, chair of

the Rotarian Action Group for Polio Survivors and Associates, contracted the disease when she was 17 months old, in July 1955. Her brother and uncle also had polio. Hussey says the disease temporarily paralyzed her from the waist down.

"My earliest recollections are my surgeries; constant physical therapy; Easter egg hunts from a wheelchair in



Zaheer "Zak" Ahmed

In 2007, as a 22-year-old student from Pakistan studying in Australia, Zaheer Ahmed began to experience a high fever and a pain in his lower back and legs. His symptoms were at first attributed to fever,

but as the pain continued and he developed a limp, he visited a clinic, which referred him to Melbourne's Box Hill Hospital, where a doctor diagnosed him with polio,

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the first case diagnosed in Australia in 21 years. He was isolated at the hospital until he tested negative for the poliovirus.

"I think during my isolation, it was not just polio I was fighting with. I was caught with so many thoughts and scared feelings – and especially loneliness. Allah blessed me with Rotary International. They helped me to overcome my stress and pain I felt during isolation and, most important, they made me feel that I'm not alone – that there are still those who want to help me and want to be friends with me.

"It's a very important cause for which you all are working. I love Rotary. It was very hard to cope with this disease, but with the help of Allah and the Rotarians' care, I made it."



Adrian Cornelius

Adrian Cornelius, past governor of District 1150 and a member of the Rotary Club of Caerphilly, Mid Glamorgan, Wales, was two years old when he contracted polio during World War II. Though

he has little memory of that time, he heard from his parents how he was shuffled around from hospital to hospital for two years as different cities in South Wales were bombed.

"I remember well the aftermath of the disease from the age of five and into my early teens, when I was weak down my left side for many years. During that period, I was encouraged to partake in many physical activities, especially sporting ones." Cornelius said his legs didn't grow properly, stunting his growth by as much as 2 inches.

"It's so important that people realize what a terrible disease polio is and how it impacts the young. I was very, very lucky. It is so important that we finish the job."

2 Comments:

At 11:42AM on 26 October 2009, Ray Taylor wrote: Polio at the age of nine month delayed my ability to walk. I have no idea at what point I became aware that I was "different"; however, I do not remember that

anyone ever pointed it out. I learned to do what I could, however I could, when I could and do it by myself. The major disappointment of boyhood was to always be the last one chosen when teams were being assembled for whatever game was on that day. The ultimate insult was being rejected for military service at the start of WWII. Money saved while working in GM plants helped me through the U. of Missouri and I have had an interesting and bountiful life. Postpolio syndrome caught up with me a few years ago and ruined what was left of my golf game, but I found a new outlet by founding the Rotary Polio Survivors Action Group. We are concentrating on support of the "End Polio Now" campaign and creating awareness of the legacy of disability that goes with having had polio. As the Chairman of the 2011 International Golfing Fellowship of Rotarians www.igfr-pinehurst2011.com we expect to continue this awareness campaign and to raise funds for PolioPlus. As a polio survivor we have all learned that we "can overcome" and we believe this applies to overcoming the polio virus.

At 2:04PM on 23 October 2009, Mary McManus wrote: I am a polio and post polio syndrome survivor who ran the 2009 Boston Marathon to bring awareness and raise money for Spaulding Rehab Hospital where I took the first steps on my healing journey with post polio syndrome. I turned to writing inspirational poetry after being diagnosed with post polio syndrome. I donate 20% of book proceeds to the Spaulding Polio Fund but for Rotarians who purchase my book, I will donate 20% to the End Polio Now campaign. I am passionate about every child being free from the effects of this crippling disease. I am so excited to attend the concert on 12/2 and look forward to continuing to share my journey with Rotary International. I have a 2nd book of inspirational poetry looking for a publishing home and once it is published, I will donate 20% of all book proceeds of my 2nd book to End Polio Now. My website is www.newworldgreetings.com. A documentary about my journey will be released later this fall and I would love to use it for fund raising and to bring awareness to polio and post polio syndrome. Let's make polio a forgotten disease!