

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

November 5 – 2pm Dictionary Project at



Beverly Farms Elementary School

8501 Post Oak Road, Potomac

November 5 – 6:30pm – Normandie Farm

Alan Grant: African Safari

Club Assembly

8pm Board of Directors Meeting

November 7 – 8am District Rotary Foundation Seminar

Holiday Inn Laurel-West, 15101 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel

We encourage you to send club members to the Rotary Foundation Seminar on November 7 to be held at the Holiday Inn, West Laurel. You must pre-register at rotary@district7620.org. The cost of \$25 includes breakfast at 7:15am and lunch. We suggest carpooling with the President Elects who will be attending Pre-PETS in the morning, prior to joining us for a look into The Rotary Foundation's Future Vision Plan. – Rob Brown, PDG, DRFC

November 10 – 10:30am Dictionary Project at

Wayside Elementary School

10011 Glen Road, Potomac

November 10 – 7pm Manna Food Center

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

November 19 – 11am Dictionary Project at

Seven Locks Elementary, 9500 Seven Locks Road

November 19 – 1pm Dictionary Project at

Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy

13300 Arctic Avenue, Rockville

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

Chuck Cenkner, PDG, ARFC

"Fighting Polio – Taking It Personally"

November 20– 9:45am Dictionary Project at

Potomac Elementary, 10311 River Road

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

October 29 Meeting Report

By President Noel Howard

1. **Jack is back!** What a nice surprise to have been able to welcome **Jack Call** back and looking so good after his recent extensive



run-in with a series of illnesses.

2. Also, great to have **Treasurer Alan Cookson** in attendance as he makes progress in his valiant fight against the aftermath of recent back surgeries during which, by the way, he's not missed a beat as our much respected Treasurer.



3. **Alan Grant**, recently returned from his African safari, shared a brief insight and updated us on the status of the Dictionary Project with thanks to **Secretary Tom Leuchtenberg** for having assured a timely "kick-off" in Alan's absence.

4. President Noel announced he had, finally, been able to get confirmation of **Chinyere Amaefule's** transfer to our club after a titanic struggle with "administration." He also acknowledged the critical role played by Chinyere's optimism, patience and perseverance.



5. Our guest speaker was Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar **Iwan Davies** (with special thanks to **Program Chairman Jerry Gross** for having so quickly arranged for his visit including having personally provided transportation between the Metro and Normandie Farm). Iwan provided a rousing presentation which was well-received. It was a blend of personal, Welsh, and Italian history laced with interesting insights and good humor. Highlights of the evening included:

a. Banner presentation: Iwan was kind enough to bring with him a banner from his native Rotary Club of Cardiff Bay, Wales (District 1150). Iwan's club is one of seven Rotary Clubs in the Welch capital and is very active in fundraising for local and international causes. The club has sent many scholars to Washington DC (most recently to Georgetown Law School). This year it sent its first Peace Fellow to the University of California at Berkeley.



b. A bit on his status as an Ambassadorial Scholar: Currently, he is a graduate student at Johns Hopkins SAIS in Washington, DC, studying for an MA



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in International Relations and Economics. Prior to that and as an Ambassadorial Scholar, he spent his first year studying at the university's campus in Bologna, Italy. The city has three nicknames: 'Il Rosso' (the red) due to its architecture and left-wing political history; 'Il Rotto' (the learned one) as Bologna is home to Europe's oldest university, established in 1088; and, finally, 'Il Grosso' (the fat one) as Bologna has designated itself as the capital of Italian cuisine—a much deserved appellation according to Iwan.

c. A brief introduction to Welsh history was given ("why we are the way we are") and some myths such as the coronation of the first English Prince of Wales: According to myth, when King Edward I met with the Welsh princes in the 13th century, the Welsh princes were adamant that the Welsh prince must not speak a word of English at which point, Edward held up his infant son and proclaimed him the Prince of Wales!

d. Entertainment of questions, of which there were many.

6. Incidentally, a total of 14 were in attendance and Chef Prokos' cuisine received spontaneous unanimous expressions of praise.

Current meeting photo taken by President Elect Jason Hamel.

Earlier meeting photos were taken by Bob Nelson.

Photo below by Gary Lloyd – more photos at portraitphotographer.com/potomacday



Thank You from the Chamber of Commerce

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your participation this past Saturday in our Potomac Day festivities. While it did rain and put a damper on the entire day, please be assured we made every attempt to make this a successful event for you. We tried to cover the festival area with tents, but the wind during set up created a volatile situation and we had to make a decision to take the tents down. We had been advertising many months prior to the event with local news media as well as the area schools regarding Potomac Day. There is just no substitute for a beautiful fall day for a flawless fall festival.

The Potomac Chamber is all about commerce and building your business. Even though the weather and attendance were out of our control, we want to help you build relationships. Therefore we propose the following:

Each month the Potomac Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our members, purchases a list of new homeowners in the Potomac Area.

We will utilize this list in a separate mailing specifically for our Potomac Day Supporters to promote their businesses. We will provide these services to you for the next 5 months at no charge. To take advantage of this service this is what I will need from you: You need

to produce your materials and provide a stack of those materials to the Chamber.

Just so you know, the day was not a total wash, we got the parade off and it was enjoyed by all. We will also be able to make a nice donation to our Charity this year, The Diener School, due to your many efforts. This will be given to them at our Annual Awards Dinner on November 12th at Normandie Farm Restaurant.

I would also encourage you to share with me any feedback or idea's of improvement. I welcome anything you have to offer.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. I certainly hope this does not discourage you from future participation.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Matheson

Potomac Chamber of Commerce

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Message from the RI President

November 2009

My fellow Rotarians:

The playwright George Bernard Shaw once wrote, "Imagination is the beginning of creation. You imagine what you desire; you will what you imagine; and at last you create what you will."

There is no shortage in this world of people able to imagine a better future. But in Rotary, we do not just imagine that future – we will it, and we work to create it. This we do through our two great strengths: our Rotary clubs and our Rotary Foundation.

Over the years, I have been privileged to witness firsthand the fruits of the outstanding work carried out by Rotarians all over the world, supported by the programs of our Foundation. One thing that impresses me is how these programs focus not on short-term satisfaction or reward for the giver. The best Rotary programs and projects focus on building for the future – and making lives better for generations.

Two decades ago, we Rotarians made a promise: to make life better for the entire world, forever, by eliminating polio. It has always been an ambitious goal, but it has always been a realistic one. And now, thanks to our Rotary Foundation, we are closer than ever to reaching it.

It is my hope that with the help of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge, there will soon come a time when we will be able to say that we have made polio a thing of the past. For if we fail now, we will fail all those who have gone before us, and every child to whom we made a promise. If we fail, we risk our own good name, and the good name of all the Rotarians who came before us.

We will not fail. We can and we must succeed.

I know that each one of you recognizes that *The Future of Rotary Is in Your Hands* – and that the future of our Foundation is as well.

John Kenny, President, Rotary International

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

The Rotary Foundation: Our Friend to Help Promote World Peace and Understanding

by Rotary District Governor Paul Frey

Much has been discussed lately about the decreased amount of Matching Grant funding from The Rotary Foundation. The world-wide financial crisis has negatively impacted all of us. Ultimately, that has adversely affected the funding capabilities of The Rotary Foundation.

Many Rotarians around the world are frustrated with this year's lack of Matching Grant funding and are concerned about the oversight and stewardship of the money that they give to The Rotary Foundation. I share your frustrations and concerns.

November is "Foundation Month" and as Rotarians, we need to treat The Rotary Foundation as our friend. A friend who has been very good to us over the life of our friendship, to date, and a friend who now, more than ever, needs our help. In a time of need, just like any other true friend, we should not leave the side of The Rotary Foundation.

A fellow club member gave me an analogy about our current Foundation investments and subsequent decrease in Matching Grants funding. He said, "I don't sail, but it seems to me that when you do sail, 'the wind ain't always blowing.'" How true that is. You can see by the support that our Foundation has given over the past 20 years, with the "wind blowing," that we have had a good run of it. Now, the wind "ain't blowing," and we need to regroup and reassess how we move forward. Now is NOT the time to leave the side of our friend, The Rotary Foundation.

Earlier this year Ed Futa, RI's General Secretary, made the following comments about our Foundation and its investment strategy:

"For more than 20 years, your Foundation has operated on earnings from Annual Programs Fund investments, enabling the Trustees to spend every dollar contributed by Rotarians on humanitarian, educational, and cultural programs and program operations. During this period, the Trustees also spent approximately \$100 million of investment returns on PolioPlus, Children's Opportunities Grants, and other humanitarian programs. However, the current financial

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situation may prevent us from funding the Foundation's operations in this manner for the next several years."

"Therefore, at the request of the Trustees, Trustee Chair Jonathan Majiyagbe appointed a special committee to develop an equitable and effective multiyear plan to restore the Foundation's reserves. Additionally, the Foundation's Investment Advisory Committee is reviewing the Annual Programs Fund investment policy to ensure that the value of your contributions is protected and that the Foundation will have sufficient liquidity to meet program payments and operating expenses."

Now is the perfect time for all of us to continue supporting The Rotary Foundation, and our means to work towards world peace and understanding. Out of every adversity, with proper diligence and hard work, comes opportunity and growth. This is the opportunity to look at ways to better leverage and utilize our Foundation giving and its programs. We will do that best by working together with other clubs, districts, and community and non-profit organizations to continue helping those in need—locally, nationally, and internationally.

The Foundation Seminar on November 7 is important because we do, at the District level, have about \$20,000 available for \$10,000+ projects, and about \$15,000 for District Simplified Grants. The award limit is \$5000 for the larger projects and \$1500 for the smaller projects (DSG). Limit one per club. And there is still, obviously, some paperwork to be done for both grant opportunities. The larger projects, even though there is no more Foundation matching money, still needs to be approved by RI. And then, at 11 am on November 7, all will gather at the Foundation seminar to hear an update on PolioPlus and then begin to learn about Future Vision, and the NEW process for grant monies. I welcome your comments, questions, and concerns about our support of The Rotary Foundation, and look forward to finding ways to working together to get the most out of our contributions. I would like to thank all of you who have contributed to The Rotary Foundation in the past, and thank those of you whom will continue to contribute to The Rotary Foundation in the future. The future of Rotary is, indeed, in OUR hands. I, for one, am excited about the future!

Rotary Helps Fuel Pakistan's Drive To Become Polio-Free

By Dan Nixon RI News – 28 October 2009



Robert S. Scott (left), chair of the International PolioPlus Committee, joins Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari (center) and other government officials on 10 October in Islamabad to launch National Immunization Days. Photo courtesy of Usman Masud Khan.

Rotarians and other members of the family of Rotary joined health workers in carrying out

Pakistan's National Immunization Days (NIDs) 12-14 October, reaching a record 35 million children.

"It is the grassroots volunteer service that led United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to call Rotary the heart and soul of the polio eradication initiative," said International PolioPlus Committee Chair Robert S. Scott at a 10 October ceremony in Islamabad to inaugurate the NIDs. "Rotarians here in Pakistan are proud to be playing an active role in supporting the essential immunization activities that will lead us to victory over polio."

Rotary also helped promote the NIDs on billboards in several cities in a joint effort with Coca-Cola Pakistan.

Rotarians have encouraged the government to give strong support to ending polio. This advocacy effort helped lead to the decision in early 2009 to launch the Prime Minister's Action Plan for Polio Eradication. On behalf of Rotary International in August, Scott recognized President Asif Ali Zardari with the Polio Eradication Champion Award for his outstanding support of a polio-free world. In October, President Zardari became an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Karachi Bay.

On 10 October, the government issued a postage stamp to help promote a polio-free Pakistan. The stamp depicts the late Prime Minister Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto giving polio vaccine to Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, the daughter of Pakistan's president and Bhutto. Now UNICEF's ambassador for polio

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eradication in Pakistan, Aseefa Bhutto Zardari was the first child immunized in the country when it began its campaign against the disease in 1994. That year, 23,000 Pakistani children were paralyzed or killed by polio. In 2009, 62 cases were reported as of 20 October.

"Rotarians in Pakistan and throughout the world stand with the people of Pakistan," said Scott at the 10 October NID kickoff. "We look forward to the day when we will celebrate our shared victory over polio."

Medical Mission To Congo Republic Touches 1,600 Lives

By Arnold R. Grahl RI News – 29 October 2009 *Photo courtesy of District 3080. Chetan Aggarwal, governor of District 3080 (center), arrives with members of the medical mission to Brazzaville, Congo Republic*

The 70-year-old woman, paralyzed from the waist down, looked frail and desperate as she appealed to the visiting doctors from India for help.

Her vision limited by cataracts for more than 20 years, the woman explained how she had been repeatedly passed over for care, and how she had become a burden to her family and others, recalls Rajendra K. Saboo, 1991-92 RI president and 1996-97 Rotary Foundation trustee chair, who helped organize the medical mission to the Republic of the Congo.

The woman's cataracts were removed and an intraocular lens implanted. Saboo, providing some extra help in the operating room, lifted the woman off the table to return her to her wheelchair.

"You could see the gleam in her eyes and on her face. She had a very calm and serene expression," says Saboo. "She turned back and told the doctor thank you."

"There have been moments like that in each of my visits," he continues, recalling previous medical missions. "These are the moments when I feel far more satisfied than when I was sitting in the top office of [RI World Headquarters]."

The mission to Brazzaville, Congo Republic, in August included a team of 15 doctors from District 3080

(India), including three ophthalmic surgeons, three gynecologists, three anesthetists, two dental surgeons, two general surgeons, an orthopedic surgeon, and a public health expert. Saboo, District Governor Chetan Aggarwal, and four other nonmedical volunteers assisted.

The mission was funded in part by a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant. The medical team spent 11 to 12 hours a day for 10 days at two hospitals treating about 1,600 patients, who were prescreened by volunteers from District 9150, which covers 10 countries in Central Africa and served as the host partner. The team also donated two incubators and 500 mosquito nets.

"The experience can never be described in words. The joyful faces, the grateful eyes, and the gratifying gestures are probably the best gift one could ever receive." -Gulshan Thakral

Saboo has organized a number of medical missions to various countries since 1998, including Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi,

Nigeria, Swaziland, and Uganda. He said he has envisioned a mission to central Africa for a longtime, but because of a variety of obstacles, an opening emerged only recently.

Even with much need in his own country, Saboo says these medical missions are vitally important.

"We are not only treating patients, but we carry on the transfer of knowledge," he says. "The doctors work side by side with local doctors, imparting experience and knowledge."

"We do not live in our own needs," he continues. "I am not only looking out for my own country – that I must do. But I must look even beyond that. In the process, we are building bridges of international friendship and understanding."

Gulshan Thakral, a dental surgeon and past governor of District 3080, says the mission has enriched his life.

"The experience can never be described in words," he says. "The joyful faces, the grateful eyes, and the gratifying gestures are probably the best gift one could ever receive. It has added yet another dimension in my approach to the suffering of fellow human beings on this earth."

