

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

December 17 – 6:30pm – Normandie Farm
Winter Solstice Holiday Season Party
Rotarians, Spouses and Guests Invited

December 24 – No Meeting

December 31 – No Meeting

January 7 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

January 12 – 7pm Manna Food Center

January 14 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

January 21 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

January 28 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

End of Year Message from President Noel

Hi & Season's Greetings, Fellow Rotarians & Friends of Rotary,

Yes, it's that time-party time for our last scheduled meeting of the year!

WHEN? This Thursday (the 17th) 6:30-8 p.m. +?

WHERE? Normandie Farm Restaurant

WHO? Come One, Come All

AGENDA:

1. **Have fun** - bring family & friends for another one of Chef Cary's fantastic dinners plus?
2. **Do good** - no pressure intended; but let's consider ending the year with a bang-not a whimper-with tax-deductible checks made out to the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Foundation. If the spirit moves you, you can make a general donation or specify any one or all of the following deserving projects which have been the focus of special club interest this year:
 - a. Sophia House homeless women's shelter.
 - b. Polio plus.
 - c. Haiti-innovative local Haitian Rotary Club's healthy meals/healthy kids school lunch program for indigent malnourished children.
3. **Be prepared for a surprise** or two including the most popular souvenir of this year's Potomac Day Parade for children of all ages-the souvenir that made your own Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club famous! Free to all attendees!

Please let me know if you plan to attend and the number of guests you plan to bring.

Many thanks.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Noel

December 10 Meeting Report

Our speaker was Kathy Stevens, Annual Fund Director at Montgomery College. She raises support for the college for student scholarships, programs, and some equipment from alumni, employees, friends, and community groups. She "had lived in Montgomery County for about 10 years before I started working for



the college - and knew precious little about the institution and the community resource that it is.

Enrollment - over 26,000 credit students, and about the same number in non-credit programs,

bringing total enrollment to about 60,000 students

- 7% increase in Fall 2009 over Fall 2008
- Accompanying that enrollment increase, 20% increase in financial aid applications
- 3 Campuses and variety of WDCE locations around the county
- 130 Majors and Programs
- Over 160 countries represented by our students
- Over 100,000 alumni
- Mean age - 21.2
- Many students transfer - most to in state institutions, but we have had students transfer to Georgia Tech, MIT, Cornell, Georgetown, to name a few that you might be familiar with

So, that's some of the data, but let me tell you some of the stories.

Shadia is a scholarship recipient, living in the U.S. on her own - hopes to receive her degree in International Business

Annette is, as she describes, an older student who never attended college and is the first in her family to attend college. She is working on her AA in business and if accepted hopes to spend her second year in our Macklin Business Institute Scholars Program.

Zulqarnain is a nuclear engineering major who is planning to transfer to George Tech after finishing his

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AA here in Fall 2010. He is a full time student and has a part-time job.

Nicolle is a mother of 4 children who is attending college with her eldest son this fall. She lost her job, and decided to come back to school - she has been persistent in her education, taking time to raise a family and attending MC since 2002.

If you were at our campuses this week you could:

- See that we are hosting the MD Science Bowl and faculty and staff are invited to volunteer

Interest in Maryland's Science Bowl has grown tremendously. This year promises to be our best competition and we anticipate up to 20 teams representing counties from across the state at Montgomery College-Rockville on January 16. We have several high school teams that will compete for the first time for the chance to represent Maryland at the 20th Annual National Science Bowl Competition sponsored by the U. S. Department of Energy on April 29 - May 4, 2010, in Washington, DC.

- Juxtaposition The Annual Faculty and Staff Show will be on display in the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus' King Street Gallery from December 10, 2009 - January 28, 2010.

- Montgomery College's Susan Bontems named Maryland Professor of the Year Chemistry Professor, Honored by International Education Association and Foundation, has formula that inspires her students to excel. Montgomery College Professor Susan Bontems has been named the 2009 Maryland Professor of the Year by the



Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, a national foundation dedicated to supporting teaching, and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), the largest international association of education institutions. The US Professors of the Year program salutes the most outstanding undergraduate instructors in the country-those who excel as teachers and influence the lives and careers of their students. It is recognized as one of the most prestigious awards honoring professors.

- Peggy Seeger performed



- Workshop for students on writing final papers and honing their thesis statements
- Many holiday drives through faculty, staff and students to collect food, clothing, etc for people in our community."

Caesar Kavadoy is a graduate of Montgomery College

Potomac-Bethesda Increases Rotary Membership in Virginia

Dear Robert,

I want to thank you for sending me information on Rotary and your club over the past year. I gave a presentation last year on an international library/literacy project and Don Hiruo had me added to your email list.



Recently, I became a charter member of a new Rotary Chapter in Ashburn, Virginia. I would like to think that the emails and information

I've received from your club helped keep Rotary in front of me and prodded me join the organization here.

As I am devoting my energies to this new Chapter, I would like to be removed from the mailing list of your club. Would you also please pass this message on to any other persons who maintain your email list?

Thank you again and best wishes in your chapter. I look forward to meeting you at some future Rotary event.

David Smith augustsmith@mac.com

P.S. We have organized to meet on Thursdays at noon at the 1757 Club on Waxpool Road in Ashburn, VA. By early next year, we should be chartered so if you ever need to do a makeup and are in the area, feel free to contact me.

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

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Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club Receives Thank You Letters from Third Grade Students



Here are a few of the many, many letters that we have received in the past few weeks.

Dear Members of the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club,
Thank you so much for my new dictionary! I really like that there is the longest word in the English language, it has information about the states, it has a multiplication

table, it has information about the planets, it has maps of the world, of the United States of America, Asia, Australia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica and Europe, it has information about the presidents, it can help me get better at spelling, it has Braille and it has sign language. Thank you!

Renee Fuller

Dear Rotary Club Members,
Thank you for the dictionary that I was given today. I can find out about all the different countries. I will find the population of the world.
Sincerely, Meshulam Ungar

Dear Rotary Club Members,
Thank you for the dictionary that I was given today. Now that I have my dictionary I can look up new words. I can also look up different dates on different calendars. I can also learn the meanings of new words.
Sincerely, Esther Wasserstein

Dear Rotary Club Members,
Thank you for the dictionary that I was given today. I love to learn new words. There are a lot of new words that I have learned. Is the longest word a real word? Can you guys pronounce it? I like to look up word for Scrabble so I'll get better at the game. I love to look up long words.
Sincerely, Ayelet Brown

Dear Rotary Club Members,
Thank you for the dictionary that I was given today. I like it because it has more than just words and their meanings. It has other cool things like the longest

word in English and other things. I can look up words for school and for fun. I can learn how to spell words for fun. If I read a book with a word I do not know I can know what it means.

Sincerely, Allison Schloss.

Dear Members of the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club,
Thank you so much for my new dictionary! I really like the longest word but my parent is probably not going to be able to say it in proper English. I am so excited to try to learn sign language. I am going to learn about the planets. Thank you!

Rayna Armon



Rotary's Book Day: Gift Dictionaries to Students a Local Part of Global Outreach

**By James B. Morris, Special To The Washington Times,
December 14, 2009**

"Wow! I've never owned my own book before!" That's what Jamal exclaimed when I handed him a brand-new, free dictionary at his third-grade classroom in Wheaton.

"Can I write my name in it?" he asked eagerly. I nodded and smiled, pointing to the very first page, where there was a pre-printed blank line for him to write his name. He quickly picked up his pen and very carefully wrote his name above the black line. Looking up, I saw that all the other third-graders were following his lead. They held pens, pencils or markers and earnestly wrote their names on the front page of each

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dictionary we had just given them. A loud chatter arose in the classroom, and the teacher finally raised her hands, palms toward the class, and asked the youngsters to settle down.

"This is your book," I explained. "Not your Mom's, not your big sister's and not the school's. You can use it for all sorts of things."

The enthusiastic students all looked up at me. "Let's say you need to do a report on George Washington," I began again. "There he is, on Page 353. You can learn all about him." A couple of the children started flipping through the book to find Page 353. "Let's say you have to do a report on the 16th president," I hinted.

"That's Abraham Lincoln!" a little girl named Clara proclaimed. "That's right!" I answered. "You can find him on Page 362." More children started flipping through their dictionaries to find Lincoln's profile.

"You see, you can learn about all the presidents," I explained. "Let's say you get stuck with a really hard one," I said, looking around the room. "What if everybody else in your class gets the easy presidents, like Lincoln and Jefferson and Clinton? What if you have to do your report on Millard Fillmore?"

"Fillmore who?" Erica blurted out.

"You can find him on Page 361," I whispered really loudly, with my hand held up to the side of my mouth, as if nobody else could hear me. "This dictionary can help you with your report on a president or if you want to learn about your own state. Who knows what state you live in?"

"Maryland," came the loud response from the class.

"That's great – now go to Page 417 and look at the map of the United States. Where is Maryland on this map?" I asked, holding up the map so the class could see the correct page and follow along. One girl peered through her glasses and timidly raised her hand halfway up. Pointing to her, I nodded encouragingly for an answer. "Is it over here on the right side?" She showed me where she meant, with her finger covering the mid-Atlantic states.

"That's right - very good!" I agreed, holding up my dictionary and pointing as precisely as I could. All the other children were talking among themselves, looking over the map in their dictionaries, too. Some were leaning over a neighbor's desk, pointing to the correct spot in the book.

Their quickness to follow along and eagerness to learn was energizing. We continued to move through the section on the solar system, then onto sign language and Braille and got to their favorite part of the dictionary: the "list of long words." From *d i s e s t a b l i s h m e n t a r i a n i s m* to *supercalifragilisticexpialidocious*, almost every child wanted to try to say the words out loud. The class shared lots of laughs and saw that a book – even a dictionary – can be fun and bring laughter.

I got to share the same message and give out free dictionaries to four more classrooms full of third-graders that morning: more than 100 on that day alone. My fellow Rotarians visited 13 other elementary schools in lower Montgomery County and found the same joy and thrill from youngsters who also were surprised to learn that they, too, would own their very first book.

Our local Rotary clubs have been giving dictionaries to third-graders for almost a decade. Our goal is to give them out to as many in the Washington area each year as we can afford. It's a rewarding treat and very important to give tools that children can use to enhance their opportunities to learn.

One school principal asked what we do as Rotarians. I explained that we are a community-service organization that gives dictionaries to third-graders every year; we help needy families repair their homes; we raise money to eliminate polio around the world; we give scholarships to needy local teens who otherwise could not afford college; we help clean up Rock Creek; and we ring the bells with the Salvation Army every year.

She was amazed to learn all this. Formed in 1905, Rotary International is the oldest service club in the world. As we have thrived for more than a century, our nonpartisan reputation has earned us a seat in the U.N. General Assembly because of our nonpolitical approach to helping humanity wherever the need arises.

More than 20 years ago, Rotary created the initiative to eradicate polio from the globe. When we started, nearly 1,000 cases of the disease were reported every day, all over the world. After 10 years of progress, the World Health Organization joined our fight. Within the past five years, we have gotten the total number of

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polio cases reported in an entire year down to fewer than 2,000 - and now polio exists in just four countries: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nigeria and India. Seventeen years and \$800 million in small donations into our ardent initiative, Microsoft founder Bill Gates was so impressed with the progress of polio elimination (Polio Plus, as we call it) that he joined our effort and donated \$630 million to help us finish the job.

Rotarians also dig wells in sub-Saharan Africa and in India, collect medical supplies for remote villages in the Andes and the Philippines, bring disaster relief to earthquake and flood victims, build self-sufficient energy units in remote areas, help feed refugees when wars erupt from Bosnia to Palestine to Nigeria and Afghanistan, build bridges and shelters for villagers, offer microloans to people too poor for banks to acknowledge, and invest \$26 million dollars every year to send 1,100 college scholars to study all over the world - more than the Fulbright and Rhodes scholarship programs combined.

Our motto, "Service Above Self," says much and has inspired almost 2 million people in the world to join Rotary to help in their communities and make their part of the world a better place.

At the end of my sessions with the five classes of third-graders, I started to walk out of the school, now close to lunchtime. A boy eyed me suspiciously as we walked toward each other in the hallway. As we got close, he pointed up at me in sudden recognition and said, "You're the man who gave me my dictionary two years ago! Thanks - I still use it!"

• *James B. Morris, a member of the Rock Creek Rotary, is a writer living in Montgomery County.*

Keeping in Contact with the Rotary District

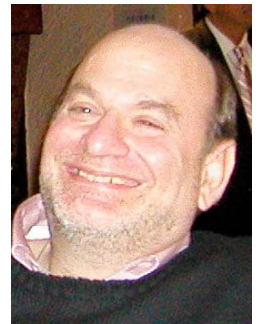
- ⇒ Please register your information on the district's database. See your club president or secretary if you need assistance.
- ⇒ Can you please send a gentle reminder to Rotarians to please up-date their email addresses in the database. I had about 300 returned to me because they were not valid.
- ⇒ Can you ask Rotarians to put Rotary@district7620 on their approved list for email. Some are using spam filters which is fine, but I keep sending the same ones over and over. - Governor Paul Frey

Score A Winning Touchdown

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club and Melwood Vehicle Donation Program

The Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club has an established relationship with Melwood Vehicle Donation program.

Just call Melwood Vehicle Donation program; ask for proceeds of your car sale to be donated to the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club. Melwood will pick up the car from your home or business and YOU HAVE SCORED A TOUCHDOWN!!!!



Our Rotary Foundation will receive a check for 50% of the proceeds from the car sale up to the applicable regulations of the Internal Revenue Service.

Within a few weeks, the foundation will receive the proceeds from the vehicle sale and you get a charitable contribution for the value of your auto.



Please notify Jerry Gross of your vehicle donation so we can make sure our Foundation receives the proper proceeds.

Thank you to the following Rotarians who have scored TOUCHDOWNS through our vehicle donation program

- Bob Nelson
- Steve Naron
- Phil Meade
- Mon Dickinson

Please spread the word; ask your friends, neighbors and business associates to Join the Winning Team!!!!

Jerry F. Gross, CPA, PFS

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