

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

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

Alex Siegel - Georgetown University

Hilltop Microfinance Project



Alex Siegel will report on the microfinance project that was set up by students at Georgetown University with the strong support of Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club. Hilltop Microfinance is a nonprofit 501C3 organization in Washington DC that is independent of the university and run by students. Their

mission is to alleviate poverty through microfinance by making small loans to poor individuals who don't have access to other funding sources.

February 4 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

February 9 – 7pm Manna Food Center

February 11 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

Sheila McDonald - Health Care Bill

February 18 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

February 23 – 105th Anniversary of Rotary

February 25 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

March 4 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

March 9 – 7pm Manna Food Center

March 11 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

March 18 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

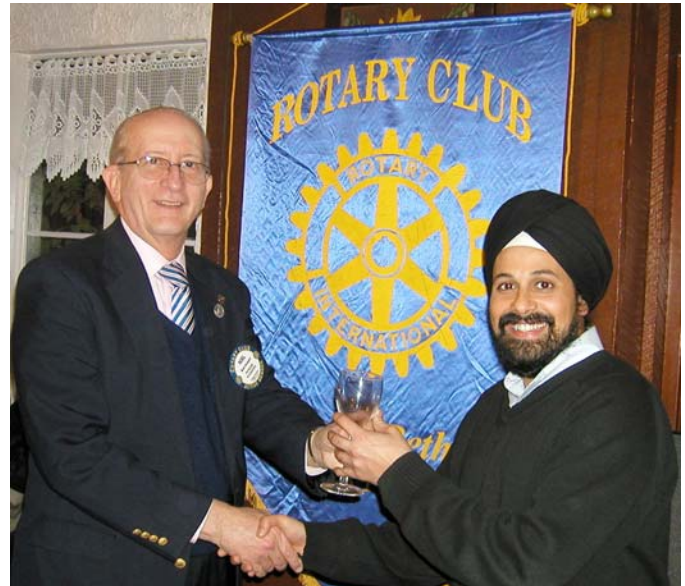
March 27 – International Night – University Club

\$3,439 Donated for Haiti Relief

At the club meeting on January 21, President Noel Howard announced that donations to the Haiti project in honor of Jane Gordon have now reached \$3,439 with more than half the funds being donated by non-Rotarians.

The 2010 International Night Program will be held on March 27 at the University Club, 1135 Sixteenth Street, N.W. Washington, D.C.

Bob Nelson spoke about a district-wide teleconference that has set a goal of \$100,000 for Haiti relief. The district is working through two districts in nearby countries. Todd Nitkin reported that Medical Teams has been screening volunteers for the high-risk Haiti efforts.



Our guest speaker was Romi Bhatia, professor at George Washington University, who is co-founder of the DC chapter of "Kids Against Hunger". The mission of Kids Against Hunger is to significantly reduce the number of hungry children in the USA and to feed starving children throughout the world. Kids Against Hunger is not affiliated with or restricted to a particular religious group and does not discriminate on any basis when distributing its meals. The organization's approach includes the packaging of a highly nutritious, vitamin-fortified soy-rice casserole by volunteers at numerous locations within the USA and Canada, and the distribution of those meals to starving children and their families in over 60 countries through partnerships with humanitarian organizations worldwide. In 2008 alone, volunteers at Kids Against Hunger's food packaging centers across the USA packaged over 40 million meals for children and their families around the world and around the corner.

The Kids Against Hunger food packaging network consists of the organization's International Headquarters office located in New Hope, MN (a suburb of Minneapolis), a Division in Mankato, MN, and close to 70 independent non-profit food packaging "satellites" across the U.S. and Canada.

Last Monday Romi Bhatia coordinated 120 volunteers in DC preparing three pallets of food to ship to Haiti. They take the pallets to Norfolk where the US Navy transports them to Haiti for distribution by US troops.

www.pb-rotary.org www.rotary7620.org www.rotary.org

January 28, 2010 - Page 1

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotarians Witness Chaos In Haiti

By Ryan Hyland RI News – 20 January 2010

Top: Haitians in Port-au-Prince minutes after the earthquake struck. Bottom: The Rotarian team arrives home in Houston, Texas, USA, four days later. Photo courtesy of Michelle Bohreer

As president of the Rotary Club of Houston, it had been Michelle Bohreer's dream to travel to Haiti and conduct a service project to improve the lives of children there.

On 12 January, 45 minutes into a weeklong trip to Port-au-Prince to do just that, the dream quickly spiraled into a nightmare.

Bohreer and a team of five Rotarians from Houston were heading into Haiti's capital city to implement a water project for an orphanage when a powerful earthquake rocked the area, causing widespread devastation.

"Minutes after the quake happened, thousands of people poured out into the street running and screaming. Hundreds were walking around bleeding," says Bohreer. "It was moments like that when the absolute catastrophe hit you."

The quake, the worst in the region in more than 200 years, flattened much of the capital, killing as many as 200,000 and leaving millions more injured. A massive international relief operation is underway to bring food, water, and medicine to those who need it.

"I was overwhelmed by sights, sounds, and smells that I will never forget," says team member Vicki Brentin, past president of the Houston club. "I held tight to the hands of frightened, injured children and looked deep into the eyes of their mothers or fathers begging for help. That left a compelling and lasting impression on me."

Unable to leave the country, the team members spent four days in Port-au-Prince trying to help in any way they could. They found a collapsed hospital, sifted through the wreckage, and found Tylenol and antibiotic ointment to distribute to injured people.

"The injuries were too severe for the medicine we had, but receiving care of any kind during that time gave



them hope. It gave us hope," says Bohreer. "I've never been so proud to be a Rotarian."

On 15 January, she and her team were able to board a charter flight to the Dominican Republic and, from there, back to Houston, where they arrived safely the next day.

Brentin said the team drew strength from the Haitian people who they encountered.

"I was so moved by the amazing spirit of the Haitian people who, in the face of their own tragedy, pain and suffering, reached out to us with such kindness and concern for our well being."

Bohreer says her club will be back to help the country rebuild.

"We as Rotary have an obligation to take care of people who are suffering under such difficult conditions," she said.

From safety into catastrophe

A day after the earthquake, Caleb Lucien, a member of the Rotary Club of Pignon, and nine other Haitians traveled 85 miles south from Pignon to Port-au-Prince to assess the damage and help victims.

"The city is completely destroyed," says Lucien, Health and Hunger Resource Group coordinator for District 7020 in the Caribbean. "We drove past hundreds and hundreds of dead bodies. The loss of life is beyond belief."

Lucien spent US\$3,500 of his own money on water and food to distribute to victims. He also searched for Rotarians who he knew lived in affected areas and helped evacuate more than 120 injured people to Pignon.

"It was not a time to feel or think about the devastation. It was a time to act," he says. "I grieve, but I have to move forward and focus on getting Rotarians to help in the recovery."

He is working closely to bring relief supplies to affected areas with District 7020's Haiti Task Force, established two years ago to administer financial aid to the nation.

"The immediate need for the next two to six months is shelter, food, and clean water," says Lucien. "In the long term, I hope to see Rotary help with rebuilding infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, and churches."

www.pb-rotary.org www.rotary7620.org www.rotary.org

January 28, 2010 - Page 2

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

What Is Rotary?

By RI President John Kenny

Each of us has, at one time or another, been asked the question, what is Rotary? There are many ways to answer, depending on the questioner, the context, and the time available. The shortest and simplest answer is that Rotary is the world's oldest service club organization. This is, of course, an accurate but necessarily incomplete response, for any true understanding of Rotary must include an explanation of how we in Rotary strive through our service to achieve more than the goal of each individual project. By working together in our clubs, our districts, and internationally, we strive to establish the simple foundations of a better society: friendship, trust, honesty, and hope. The structure of Rotary, along with our international club projects, helps make friendly connections between Rotarians in different countries. Our emphasis on ethical and honest behavior works to build strong and open relationships between people and nations. Our service projects in water, health and hunger, and literacy help eliminate many of the practical obstacles to peace. And our Rotary Foundation and Rotary Youth Exchange programs go a step beyond by training the leaders of tomorrow to be active builders of a more peaceful world.

These programs help shape responsible citizens of better communities – people who will have a broad and nuanced perspective, enhanced by opened eyes and open minds. They will be indelibly marked by their experiences, and throughout their lives – both now and in their later careers – they will not keep the benefits of these experiences to themselves. These are the people who will help build the kind of future that we as Rotarians strive to create through our every action.

What is Rotary? It is a network of people who care – people who are both realists and optimists. We recognize the challenges before us and our own limitations; we also recognize our abilities and our responsibility to use them to the fullest. If we are ever to realize Paul Harris' vision for Rotary as an



organization that promotes goodwill among nations, then, as he wrote, "the hearts of men must be so touched and molded that mutual understanding and goodwill will take the place of fear and hatred." In this, World Understanding Month, we do well to remember these words – and to remember as well that in all of our service, we reach for the larger goal of fellowship, understanding, and peace.

RI Launches New Electronic Publication

By Jennifer Lee Atkin RI News – 22 January 2010

The preview issue of Rotary Leader debuted at the International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA.

To better meet the needs of Rotary's club and district leaders, RI is replacing the Rotary World newsletter with Rotary Leader, an electronic publication featuring practical information about everyday tasks, specifically for club and district officers.

The preview issue of Rotary Leader was unveiled at the International Assembly on 22 January by General Secretary Ed Futa. The

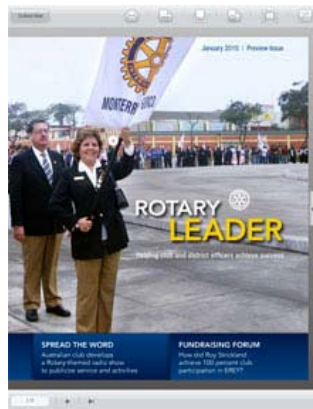
publication will officially launch with its April 2010 edition.

"About a year ago, we surveyed the readers of Rotary World, our quarterly newsletter for club presidents and district governors," explained Futa during the eighth plenary session. "We got a variety of responses, but in general, readers wanted more focus on the issues and challenges they face every day in running a club or district. They also said they wanted less paper coming from RI.

"In response to those two overriding themes, we created Rotary Leader, a digital newsletter for all Rotarians serving in leadership roles," Futa said.

Articles in Rotary Leader will focus on solutions: How do you keep new members? How can you convince everyone in your district to give to The Rotary Foundation? How do you get your club or district featured in the local newspaper?

Subscribers will also be encouraged to submit questions for the Ask the Expert column, and they'll be able to link easily to key Rotary news stories and



Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

announcements to stay up-to-date on the latest information from RI.

Current Rotary club presidents and district governors will automatically receive Rotary Leader, but any Rotarian may subscribe to this free publication. All club and district leaders, including club secretaries, assistant governors, and district committee chairs, are encouraged to read Rotary Leader, as are Rotarians who are considering a leadership position.

"Without the restrictions of printing and international mailing costs, we hope to reach many more Rotarians with Rotary Leader than we could with Rotary World," Futa said.

The electronic interface of Rotary Leader gives readers the choice of flipping through the publication one page at a time or clicking on links to go directly to an article that interests them. Subscribers will be able to share articles via e-mail, crop stories and photos to save digitally, and print pages for future reference. Where relevant and appropriate, articles will be accompanied by videos, audio recordings, and photo slideshows.

Like Rotary World, Rotary Leader will be published in nine languages: English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swedish. Beginning in the 2010-11 Rotary year, Rotary Leader will be published every two months rather than quarterly.

International Assembly Inspires Future Leaders

By Donna Polydoros RI News – 25 January 2010

Incoming district governors link hands during the closing plenary of the International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA. Rotary Images/Alyce Henson

Incoming district governors left the 2010 International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA, inspired to begin building communities and bridging continents.

The 2010-11 RI theme announced by President-elect Ray Klingensmith struck a chord with many of the district



governors-elect who attended the six-day annual training event.

"I really felt inspired. The question becomes how can you possibly bring back to your district the knowledge you got and the feelings and emotions you got?" said Woody Northup, of District 6710 (Kentucky, USA).

"I enjoyed seeing the internationality of Rotary in action," said Maxine Neighbour, of District 9910 (New Caledonia; parts of New Zealand; Norfolk Island; Vanuatu). "It helps to hear that some of us are having the same problems and we're not alone."



The future leaders had several opportunities to network and discuss service projects, which was particularly important to incoming governors from Future Vision pilot districts. Leaders from the 100 pilot districts convened for two days before the assembly to receive special training on the three-year pilot of The Rotary Foundation's new grant structure.

"Future Vision was a clear session, and I feel I know the way forward," commented Richard Alborough, of District 9270 (South Africa). "I find it refreshing that we are able to start questioning and trying to find better ways of doing things."

Remembrance of the devastation caused by the earthquake in Haiti was omnipresent. During the presentation of the flags of the Rotary world, the Haitian flag received a standing ovation. The country's humanitarian needs were widely discussed as an example of the urgent work the governors-elect would execute during their year of leadership.

Outreach to youth, one of Klingensmith's emphases, also received special attention during plenary sessions on the Rotary Centers

for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution and Rotary youth programs. Several

www.pb-rotary.org www.rotary7620.org www.rotary.org

January 28, 2010 - Page 4

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

incoming district governors pledged to reinvigorate their district's commitment to youth.

"I'll probably put one of my younger past presidents as a chair of a New Generations community," pledged Donald Thomas, of District 6960 (Florida, USA).

District governors-elect extolled the event's multiple networking opportunities. Allan Maclaughlan, of District 1020 (Scotland), and Paul Scott, of District 7150 (New York, USA), said they were pleased to track down and talk face-to-face with other district leaders about current and potential service projects.

During the closing plenary session and group discussions, governors-elect reflected on the knowledge and inspiration they had gained.

"I had the knowledge. The difference is that now I know how to use it and I have the motivation to use it," said Syed Shahab Balkhi, of District 3271 (Pakistan).

RI Convention: Don't Miss Cirque du Soleil and Les Misérables

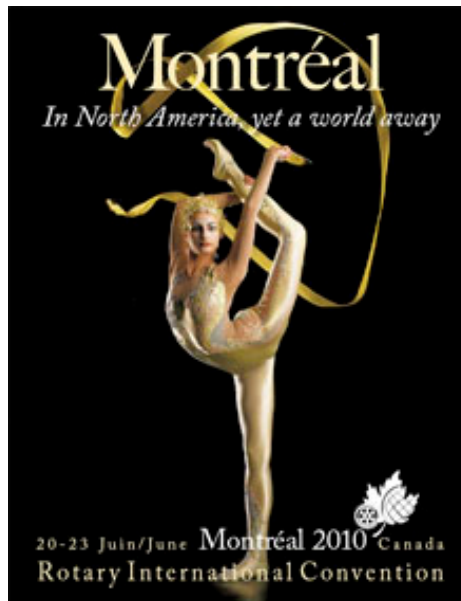
Rotary International News – 27 January 2010

A performance by the world-famous Cirque du Soleil and an award-winning musical adaptation of Les Misérables are just two of the entertainment opportunities you won't want to miss during the 2010 RI Convention in Montréal, Québec, Canada, 20-23 June.

Cirque du Soleil will perform a program designed specifically for Rotary International during the closing plenary session of the convention on Wednesday, 23 June.

From a small band of street performers in 1984, Cirque du Soleil has grown into a major provider of high-quality artistic entertainment, employing more than 1,200 artists. The circus has brought wonder and delight to almost 100 million spectators in 300 cities on five continents.

In addition, through a Host Organization Committee (HOC)



event on Saturday, 19 June, convention goers will have the opportunity to marvel at the remarkable talent of rising young circus artists by attending the graduation performance of the École nationale de cirque (National Circus School).

A pioneer of the circus renaissance, the school has contributed to the emergence of several circus companies, including Cirque du Soleil.

Register for the convention by 31 March to take advantage of special pricing. Register online through Member Access.

A block of tickets has been set aside for Rotarians for a 19 June performance of Les Misérables, Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg's award-winning musical adaptation of the classic Victor Hugo novel. This French-language production of "Les Miz," as it's fondly known around the world, will be the centerpiece of Les

FrancoFolies de Montréal, one of the world's premier French-language music festivals, which will bring nearly a million music lovers to Montréal for over 200 concerts in several indoor and outdoor venues from 9 to 19 June.

Buy your tickets early during an exclusive online presale. Click here to purchase discounted tickets (type ROTARY for your access code).

You can also purchase tickets by phone at 866-842-2112. Bilingual

(French/English) operators will be available to take your calls from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Be sure to mention the code ROTARY to the operator.

The production will take place at 8 p.m. in the Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier concert hall at Montréal's Place des Arts, accessible via public transportation and within walking distance of several hotels.

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

www.pb-rotary.org www.rotary7620.org www.rotary.org

January 28, 2010 - Page 5