

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

**February 11 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm
Sheila Macdonald, Population Strategies Group
(1) How to take action on issues before Congress and
the Administration; (2) World Population
Growth: Facts, Impacts, Action Needed.**

Sheila Macdonald has specialized in federal and state advocacy in Washington, DC, for the past three decades representing two major food and agricultural trade associations, a tax and budget policy group and a health professionals organization. She spent two years as a legislative assistant to a U.S. senator on Capitol Hill. Her knowledge of how government works from inside and out has enabled her to lead large and small coalitions to obtain legislative and regulatory victories. In this role she has specialized in bringing diverse and far flung interests together to identify shared goals and establishing mechanisms for linking grassroots systems for joint action. During these years she became increasingly concerned about the inability of the government to address difficult and contentious issues or to take action to protect future generations. Sheila was raised in an Oregon family involved in farming, agriculture and food processing which led to her early lobbying activity in these subject areas. She is a graduate of Stanford University with a BA in Political Science. She is an accomplished speaker and has a long list of published policy articles on health, tax and budget issues to her credit. Currently, she is a consultant to small businesses for administrative issues and Executive Director of Population Strategies Group.

February 12 - Presentation of Valentines Day gifts to the homeless women at Sophia House

**February 13 – Rotary Foundation
Global Grants Certification Meeting,
Comfort Inn, Bowie**

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

Ellen Greenberg - Jewish Council for the Aging

Options and resources that are available for those caring for an older adult.

March 9 – 7pm Manna Food Center

9311 Gaither Road Gaithersburg

Just 2 blocks off of Shady Grove Road

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

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

March 27 – International Night – University Club DC

February 4 Meeting Report

President Noel Howard announced that there will be a distribution of Valentines Day gifts (scarves) to the homeless women at Sophia House on February 12. Dick Gordon said that the burial for Jane will be held



February 8 at 1pm at Arlington Cemetery. An additional \$1000 was received for Haiti relief. The contract for International Night has been signed. Nabil Bedewi is assisting in the setting up of volleyball courts at the Washington Convention Center in preparation for



400 teams to compete next weekend.

Our guest speaker was Shady Grove Hospital Chaplain and Rotary Assistant Governor at Large Edco



Bailey. He gave an overview of the PolioPlus Program that has reduced the number of cases from 1000 per day to 1000 per year. Encouraging membership growth, he said, "...the larger, the more united, the more focused, the stronger your Rotary Club, the more you can accomplish for the people you serve here in Manna Foods and at Sophia's House, there in Haiti, there in India, there

in Nigeria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and throughout the whole earth." The full text of his speech is found on pages 2 and 3.



In this video clip from a February 3, 2010, news conference in Haiti, former Potomac-Bethesda Rotarian Fritz Cineas (right) is sitting next to Haiti's President Rene Preval. Fritz has been serving as the Haitian Ambassador to the Dominican Republic.

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Increase Rotary for Greater Service

Address to the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club by Guest Speaker Assistant Governor at Large Ed Bailey, D.Min

We are concerned about many items this evening. One that looms large in my mind is the fact that an activity was planned for this time wherein persons from this and other countries would journey to Delhi, India, for a National Immunization Day. It is an experience that I want to embark on, but we had concerns at the office that suggested that I plan to go on another occasion. I am extremely grateful for Rotary's involvement in the reduction of the crippling pain and suffering that Polio visits upon a people. And it is amazing how that from around the world comes a groundswell of support for the effort. I remember reviewing a new video several years ago in Washington called *The Last Child*. I sat up front in a seat next to Ted Turner. We discussed what Rotary was doing about this disease. Rotary plans not to quit until the last child in the world has been vaccinated against polio.

Suddenly, I felt a powerful urge to view our Rotary work as part of the mission work of Jesus Christ. He came to make full atonement for sin in the world. With sin initially came sickness, – spiritual, emotional and physical illness. In the Hospital we raise up a standard against physical sickness. In the psychological and other counseling areas, we raise up a standard against emotional sickness. In the synagogues, churches, mosques, and temples we raise up a standard against spiritual sickness. And in Rotary, we are doing thousands of deeds around the globe to promote health wherever people are challenged with overwhelming threats from sin and disease. Polio eradication is the prime focus of much of our Rotary effort. Though Rotary is not a religion, Rotary does affirm respect for all religions. In the theater that evening, I felt strangely excited sitting there with Ted Turner, the atheist, the philanthropist, and the engaged humanitarian with us in Rotary, as we carry on the work of Polio eradication.

And let us never forget the track record: the incidence of the occurrence of this dreadful disease has been

reduced from a thousand new cases a day, to about and around a thousand new cases per year! We in Rotary are carrying on that significant part of the work of Jesus Christ that was focused on healing. The history of the development of the institution of the Hospital depends largely on the Islamic and Judeo-Christian religions from the earliest of medieval times and before. Many service organizations join in the effort to promote healing. The story of the Shriners support for burn hospitals, the Lions efforts with eye-glasses, and Rotary's goal of eradicating Polio are truly remarkable!



I am utterly grateful for the privilege of being associated with a movement that will one day have to its credit the fact that after years of campaigning, it succeeded in eradicating a terrible disease from the earth. It has cost much, of many persons, in many ways. Some have given their life, that last full and final measure of their courage, strength and devotion, for the cause. Yes, Rotary has its martyrs for the cause.

We are not a religion, but like the Christ of the religious tradition in which I was brought up, Rotary raised a standard for life and health and peace and joy in the world. This is the character of the organization with which we are engaged. "Service above Self," is our motto. And tonight I want to raise a toast to those who have joined in the train of Rotary volunteers heading off to National Immunization Days in the home places of our friends and neighbors around the world! And I salute you in your Rotary Club here as you continue to exert yourselves for the cause. If you and thirty-some thousands others clusters, Clubs of Rotarians around the world do not take pride in, exercise the power of your united effort for, and keep constantly before you a vision of a better world, – a polio free world for you, your friends, relatives, and neighbors around the world, all that you have helped to accomplish in the last 25 years of this effort will atrophy, and the world will once again find itself in the clutches of the re-occurrence of this horrible disease. I would be extremely saddened, and so would you. And so would God, who would have to look for a better organizing

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of humankind to raise with, and for God the standard against the disease, the debilitation, and devastation that polio visits upon a people.

There is so much in the world that we called upon to do. And in Rotary we are trying to do our part. We are called to be lovers of humankind and lovers of our divine creator God. Not only are we committed to the eradication of polio. The Rotary district has undertaken an effort to provide funding to the earthquake relief effort in Haiti, the tsunami relief effort in the east. Individuals, Clubs and the District as a whole in many creative ways are engaged in this effort. Again, this is the wonderful work we can be grateful to be allowed to participate in as a united and strong entity, – as Rotary together!

We have such opportunity to serve when we confront together in Rotary the ills of society, natural disaster, and outright evil. There will come a day when all of our efforts for good will come up for evaluation and eternal reward. Sacred scripture says that some of us will be greatly and positively surprised by the verdict pronounced upon us. Hear the Gospel record of this coming scene in the book of Matthew:

“When the Son of Man comes as King and all the angels with him, He will sit on his royal throne, and the people of all the nations will be gathered before him. Then he will divide them into two groups, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the righteous at his right and the others at his left.

Then the King will say to the people on his right, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father! Come and possess the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.’ The righteous will then answer him, ‘When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes,

or naked and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick and in prison and visit you?’ The King will reply, ‘I tell you whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me!’”

Try to imagine that: being ushered into the kingdom of heaven, for eternal fellowship with God, and not remembering or knowing whenever you did so honor the Lord and his people, so much so that God would welcome you into perpetual fellowship in the divine kingdom! There is going to be a lot of Rotarians among that number, when the saints go marching in. We will remember all of those light-hearted references to such songs, and all sing from the core of our being with renewed meaning: Amazing Grace!

Then let us build our ability to do the wonderful works that are our privilege to do in the world, in our time, in our life in Rotary together. In numbers, in unity, in focus, there is strength. It is critical that we not forget

that. We must increase numbers in Rotary! We must increase the force factor for doing good in the world! We must multiply our resources if we are to prevail! Your being small does not make you special, does not enhance your standing in any admirable way. Increase! Increase! Increase! Develop a vision for your Club. If you were in combat it would be easy. The bigger the club, the more damage you can do to the enemy. Likewise, the larger, the more united, the more focused, the stronger your Rotary Club, the more you can accomplish for the people you serve here

in Manna Foods and at Sophia’s House, there in Haiti, there in India, there in Nigeria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and throughout the whole earth. And yes, – you guessed it, the more surely you do your work well, you make yourself known on that great scoreboard above, that will factor in that last judgment scene referenced in the Gospel we heard.

Set your goal for increasing your membership and let it ever be a driving factor in the quality of your Club life together!

If you don’t, I tell you tonight, – my mean old Uncle Wolfrat will surely get you! Amen.



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Jane E. Gordon Obituary

By Adam Bernstein, *The Washington Post*, February 4, 2010

Jane E. Gordon, 87, who survived a 1956 airline crash over the Pacific Ocean and did volunteer work for the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club and the Quince Orchard Library in Gaithersburg, died Jan. 12 at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville. She had pneumonia and a pulmonary embolism.

Mrs. Gordon, a Darnestown resident, was a member of the Gaithersburg Area Newcomers Club.

Before settling in the Washington area in 1969, she had accompanied her husband on his overseas assignments for the U.S. Information Agency.

In October 1956, they were on their way back to the United States from the Philippines with their toddler twin daughters when their airplane ditched into the Pacific halfway between Honolulu and San Francisco.

They were among 31 survivors aboard a four-engine Pan American plane, which broke in two after it hit the water. The Coast Guard rescued all of the passengers after having been told hours earlier by the pilots that the airplane's propellers were malfunctioning.

"Our girls are none the worse for it," Mrs. Gordon told a reporter after the accident, "but one of them said after she got on the ship that she doesn't like this hotel."

Jane Ellen Fitzsimmons was born in Albany, N.Y., where she was a 1943 graduate of the College of St. Rose.

She then did secretarial work for the U.S. Council of Economic Advisers in Washington for several years.

Survivors include her husband of 59 years, Richard J. Gordon of Darnestown; five children, Maureen Gordon of Gaithersburg, Elizabeth Henderson of Darnestown, Peter Gordon of Germantown, Susan Gordon of Atherton, Calif., and James Gordon of Bear, Del.; a brother; a sister; and eight grandchildren.

Why Are We Providing Food to Record-Numbers of People?

By Amy Ginsburg, Executive Director, Manna Food Center, from *Manna Matters*, February 2010

We begin 2010 facing the worst recession in 75 years and the harsh reality that 50 million people in our nation regularly do not have enough to eat.

Montgomery County is not immune from this difficult economic reality. Yet I'm constantly asked, "Why is the food bank in the tenth richest county in the United States distributing food to more + people than ever? Are there really that many hungry people in Montgomery County?"

The answer, sadly, is "yes." There are huge swaths of our county in which the houses and apartments are filled with-people struggling to put food-on the table.

Below are some sobering ... and surprising ... facts about our county.

- 4% of residents and 7% of all children are on food stamps.
- The unemployment rate has doubled to 5.3%. 14,000 residents lost their jobs last year.
- In the construction industry, there is a 20% unemployment rate.
- 37% of all MCPS students qualify for a free or reduced price lunch at some point during their academic career.
- In 37 elementary schools, more than half of the students qualify for a free or reduced price meal.
- There is an 18% vacancy rate in office space and a 17% vacancy rate in the retail sector.
- In 2005, 17,000 homes were sold compared to 9,000 homes sold in 2009.
- From 2001 to 2008, Montgomery County added 7,800 jobs but added 72,000 more residents.

So what does this all mean? Quite simply, there is a growing number of people living in poverty in our county. Job opportunities are few, especially for jobs that don't require higher education. For example, store vacancies translate into fewer clerks and cashiers.

The recession is only part of the story. I believe there are larger ... and more disturbing ... forces at work. Our world once changed from an economy shaped by agriculture to one created by industry. The industrial revolution increased the standard of living, but those caught in the middle of the revolution undoubtedly struggled to survive. The change from an agrarian to industrial economy didn't happen overnight but over decades, and it dramatically changed everyday life for nearly everyone.

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We are going through a similar paradigm shift, except now we are moving from an industrial world to a knowledge-based economy. A significant portion of our clients are county residents attempting to navigate through this shift without sufficient education, language proficiency, or technology skills. They may need Manna's help for the foreseeable future as many of the jobs that have been lost are not coming back. Too many of our poorer will find it difficult to adjust to the economic realities of this information-based society, though hopefully their children will reap the benefits of this new economy and break the cycle of poverty. Change is messy, and those people stuck in quicksand while the tsunami of the knowledge-based economy washes over them will struggle to feed their families. That's why Manna continues to see increasing numbers of people needing food assistance - and why your support is more important than ever.

9311 Gaither Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20877
www.mannafood.org
301-424-1130

Rotary's Involvement In Peace Work Began Early

By Paul Engleman – February 2010

Rotary Peace Fellow Nai-Hua Wu recently spoke to incoming district governors at the 2010 International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA. Rotary Images/Alyce Henson

Although advancing the cause of world peace was not one of the original ideas behind Rotary, the concept took such a strong hold so early on that peace and Rotary have come to be inextricably linked in the minds of anyone familiar with the organization.

In 1914, at the onset of World War I, delegates to Rotary's international convention in Houston adopted a resolution that called for the convening of an international peace conference and urged all Rotarians to support worthy efforts such as the international peace movement. In September of that year, the

Rotary Club of Minneapolis, Minnesota, submitted a proposal to the International Association of Rotary Clubs asking that Rotarians become advocates for peace in their communities.

In 1922, as the organization took the name Rotary International, the fourth object of Rotary was ratified: "The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service."

At the convention in Havana in 1940, delegates approved a resolution that identified "freedom, justice, truth, sanctity of the pledged word, and respect for human rights" as "vital to international peace" and called on each Rotarian to protect these principles. Even as World War II was raging, Rotarians were able to organize a conference in London, attended by representatives of 21 countries that laid out a plan for peace. This led to the formation of an international group that would later evolve into UNESCO, but not before the historic 1945 meeting in San Francisco at which the United Nations was chartered. About 40 Rotarians took part as delegates and observers at that meeting. Rotary played a critical role in the formative days of the UN, with five Rotarians elected to the post of president of the General Assembly during the first 12 years.

Throughout the second half of the century, Rotarians around the world continued to work for peace as individuals and in their local clubs, both through financial contributions and a wide range of projects to improve the quality of peoples' lives through health care and education. In 2002, The Rotary Foundation embarked on a new initiative that will help it imprint its peacemaking mark on the 21st century:

an international studies program in conflict resolution at seven peace centers at prestigious universities on five continents.

With more than 400 alumni of the Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution working in peace-related jobs throughout the world, Rotary is well on the way to achieving its goal of inspiring a new generation of peacemakers.



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