

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

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

February 20 – 9am - Rotary Foundation Global Grants Certification Meeting, Comfort Inn, Bowie

February 23 – Rotary International's 105th Anniversary



(See article on the 105th Rotary Birthday on page 4)

February 25 – 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.

February 27 – 1pm - Ellicott City Rotary Club

Fundraiser for Haiti - Centennial Lake, Howard County

On February 27th, rain or snow, cold or warm, 4,000 people will gather around Centennial Lake in Howard County. They will form a human chain, to show their support for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. Each person, each link in the chain, will represent 40 people who died that day, 50 children rendered orphans and 400 who are now homeless. *(See flyer on page 2).*

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

April 22-25 – DisCon 2010 Gettysburg *(see page 3)*

Please send news articles and photos to

Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov

for inclusion in the newsletter

Rotarians Brighten Valentines Day for Homeless Women at Sophia House

After enduring the record snowstorms, the beleaguered homeless women at Sophia House were finishing their dinner provided by the volunteers from the First Baptist Church of Ken-Gar when Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club President Noel Howard along with Bob Nelson gave them Valentines Day presents. As each woman came up to receive the colorful bag filled with a fine Pashmina scarf, a smile came upon their countenances and their Valentines Day was brightened. Thanks to Gladys Howard for furnishing the scarves and packing the bags, and the club for providing the resources.



There are restrictions on taking photos of the homeless women, so the photo above is of the church volunteers who also received the scarves for their service. Left to right in the photo are President Noel Howard, Sheila, Celine, a second Sheila, Bettina, and Bob Nelson. Potomac-Bethesda Rotary usually provides dinner at Sophia House several times a year, so you are invited to join the team and serve at the next opportunity.



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District Haiti Relief Update

By Rotary District Governor Paul Frey

Approximately 15 clubs were represented during the Thursday, February 11, 2010 District 7620 Haiti Relief Effort conference call. The purpose of the call was to give an update on our district's fundraising efforts, and to determine next steps.

To date, we have raised \$27,503 in cash which is being utilized for the purchase of water, food, shelter, medicine, medical equipment and supplies, as well as for fuel for the planes to fly the supplies into the affected areas. Some of the medical equipment that this money has purchased includes a portable X-Ray machine and two ultrasound machines. In addition, some of the money has been used to send an advance team of three to begin the coordination of sustained relief efforts.

A number of the clubs in our district have raised money to be used for Shelter Boxes, and approximately 1200 Shelter Boxes, in total, are in Haiti.

Our goal, as a district, is to raise \$100,000. Accounting for the money sent to our District 7620 Trust Fund, money sent to Shelter Box USA, and money sent to Haiti by our clubs via other avenues, we have raised in excess of \$50,000.

The Rotary Club of Ellicott City has created a large fundraising activity, Hand to Hand for Haiti, to be held from 1 pm to 5 pm on Saturday, February 27, at Centennial Park in Howard County. The goal of this fundraiser is to have at least 4000 people attend, and to raise \$80,000, all of which will go to the district Haiti relief effort. Go to www.happydollars.org for more details. The immediate needs of the relief effort continue to be water, food, shelter, medicine, medical equipment and supplies, and fuel for the planes to fly the supplies into the affected areas. While Shelter Boxes can be utilized, the immediate goal is to purchase large tents to be used for shelter.

It was determined that our district would not meet in person, yet, to discuss the longer term relief efforts in which we want to participate. Instead, we will give an update at the District Conference in Gettysburg in April, and then discuss how to move forward. We will consider what Rotary International is doing, as well as other NGO's in the area, as we look at our options to continue assisting the longer-term relief efforts.

Please direct questions, concerns, or suggestions about what we are doing as a district to support the Haiti disaster relief effort to Paul Frey or Wick Caldwell.



Join us as we join hands to help those in need.

On February 27th, make history as Rotarians, schools, non-profits and religious groups from all corners join hands to surround Centennial Lake and raise funds for Haitian earthquake relief and rebuilding.

To accomplish this we will need 4000 participants. To put this into perspective, each participant will represent 650 meals needed daily to feed the displaced.

100% of the event's proceeds will go to Haiti.

Funds will be used for immediate food, water medicine and shelter and for projects providing long-term support and re-development in Haiti.

How it will work.

The path around the lake will be divided into 160 blocks of 25 participants. Participating groups will be issued a numbered fund-raising bucket containing instructions, 25 red wristbands, a map of their groups assigned section around the lake and directions on where to park to catch a shuttle bus to the lake. If your group has more than 25 entrants, contact us to get another bucket.

Goals.

The goal is to raise only \$20 per participant. All funds will be collected by the Ellicott City Rotary Club's Friends in Need Foundation, and then forwarded to the Haitian Rotary Clubs. The Friends in Need Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charity.

To register your group, get additional information or to make a donation go to:

www.happydollars.org

Contact us at info@happydollars.org or call (410) 418-4195.

Organized by:

Ellicott City Rotary Club
www.ellicottcityrotary.org


Kids for Peace Camp
www.kidsforpeacecamp.com

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DisCon 2010 Halls of Friendship

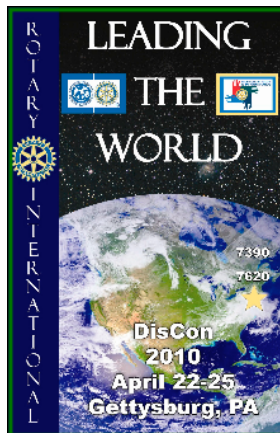
This is a message from District Governors Connie Spark (7390) and Paul Frey (7620) who are designing a great Multi-District Conference to be held in Gettysburg, PA, on April 22 - 25, 2010.

This year's Conference will include a very exciting "Halls of Friendship" component, which will be like no other you have experienced at a District Conference. Beginning your journey on Paul Harris Boulevard, you will move onto the International Highway, where you will enjoy fellowship and networking opportunities with Rotarians from Southern Pennsylvania, Maryland and DC while you view Club displays of outstanding projects, shop at vendors offering Rotary merchandise as well as unique items from artists and crafters in Gettysburg and the surrounding area and place bids for the Bountiful Baskets and other grand offerings at the Silent Auction. Finally, you will relax with friends along Fellowship Lane while you munch on delicious refreshments.

Your District Governor is asking each Club to begin thinking about the excitement of the Halls of Friendship and to consider the following participation:

- First and foremost, we would like you to encourage ALL of your members to attend. Please mark your calendars now!
- Next, we encourage your Club to build and exhibit a display showcasing a project which highlights your Club's accomplishments.
- And, finally, we request that your Club provide a "Bountiful Basket" containing tantalizing items valued at \$200 or more to be a part of the Silent Auction that will fund a contribution to Rotary International projects.

Basket suggestions: Items for your basket could be reflective of one of your projects which will be highlighted in the Halls of Friendship; or a basket representative of a country, say Italy, and filled with "all things Italian." An "eclectic basket" could be filled with all sorts of things coupons for various vendors restaurants, flower shops, department stores, specialty stores, catalogs, rounds of golf, vacation homes for a weekend. Items will be limited only by your imagination! Baskets will also be used as "prizes" at



various functions, in addition to being part of the Silent Auction. Word has it that there may be a Governor's competition for "Best Basket" so let's see which Club comes in with the most unique offering!

Contact the Halls of Friendship Committee Chair below for assistance & information: PDG Pat Kasuda 410-242-2257 pjkasuda@verizon.net.

DisCon 2010 Hospitality Suites

The District Conference 2010 is coming up soon, with an exciting schedule of events, programs, speakers, and entertainment. The Wyndham and the Marriott Hotels are beautiful venues, and Gettysburg offers sites and shopping.

With all of these amenities, Rotary fellowship is still the biggest draw to a Conference. Catching up with old friends, making new acquaintances is the heart of Rotary.

And the heart of fellowship is HOSPITALITY SUITES!

Several clubs have long traditions of hosting great rooms.

- ⇒ Lexington Park's Oysters and Mai Tais celebrate their International Oyster Festival
- ⇒ Upper Marlboro members come together to create a "Chocolate Sweet", full of homemade decadence.
- ⇒ Incoming Governor Will Kirkpatrick will welcome in his term with an Open House Suite
- ⇒ A Conference isn't complete without an array of Martinis from Olney.

Many of you have enjoyed visiting them, but have never taken the opportunity to host.

It is time to reserve YOUR club's suite. Consider a great theme idea, or go together with a club from across the Mason-Dixon line.

We'll make it easy, with menu and décor ideas, as well as a convenient checklist for planning, packing, preparing and hosting. Click here for hospitality suite ideas.

To reserve your suite,
contact your District Hospitality Coordinator:
Robin Henshaw robin@chesapeake.net
Deadline: March 15

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Building Bridges Through Service

Glenn E. Estess Sr., Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair, February 2010



On 23 February, Rotary will celebrate its 105th anniversary. On that day, we also mark World Understanding and Peace Day, for in Rotary, part of our mission is working for peace – not through military might, but through our humanitarian work. Rotarians understand very well that the causes of war and strife are often the same: poverty, inequality, deprivation, and a lack of hope.

Rotary works to restore that hope by bringing health, education, and the promise of a better future. We do this through the locally based club and district projects for which we are known, and through larger projects run internationally and with the support of our Rotary Foundation – projects that support schools, build wells, improve quality of life, and bring us ever closer to our goal of a polio-free world.

The years that we have been working together through PolioPlus have been years of steady determination, of lessons learned, of confidence built. Where government representatives and health organizations have been refused entry, Rotary has been allowed in, because our local service and our international reputation have earned us the trust of others. Through our work, we have helped build bridges of cooperation between governments and communities. With every one of those bridges, and with every drop of polio vaccine, we come closer to the better, healthier, and more peaceful world that we know is possible to build.

Calgary Olympic Club Makes Wish Come True For Kids

By Ryan Hyland RI News – 11 February 2010

A Rotary club chartered during the last Winter Olympics in Canada has teamed up with a charity to make wishes come true for six children with life-threatening illnesses.

As the Olympic Games return to the country this month, The Rotary Club of Calgary Olympic, Alberta, is working with the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada to provide accommodations for the children, ages 4-14, so they can attend.

"Our club wanted to do something special since the Olympics are back in Canada," says Tamara McCarron, club member and project chair. "We are thrilled to make a difference in these children's lives. It's a dream come true for them and for me."

This year's games will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia. With most of the area's hotels booked, McCarron found Home for the Games, a website that matches visitors with Vancouver hosts for short-term homestays. The club spent US\$30,000 for lodging for the six families. Home for the Games funnels 50 percent of the housing fees to charities that help the homeless in Vancouver.



Ava Caron is one of six children with life-threatening illnesses who will be attending the Olympic Games in Vancouver, British Columbia, through efforts of the Rotary Club of Calgary Olympic and the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada. Photo courtesy Children's Wish Foundation

"I was lucky enough to come across an ad in The Rotarian magazine for Home for the Games. It's a win, win, win for our club, the Children's Wish

Foundation, and local charities of Vancouver," says McCarron, who joined the club last year. "It's a huge effort, but having the resources of Rotary made things a lot smoother."

The six families, who live in different parts of Canada, will attend several events at the games from 12 to 28 February, including the highly anticipated men's gold medal hockey game.

The Children's Wish Foundation worked with Olympic officials to allow one of the girls to pick up flowers thrown into the rink by spectators during a figure skating medal round. "We're creating a legacy for these children and their families," says Tara Johnson,

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the club's community service chair. "This project is very symbolic of what Rotary does for people who live at a disadvantage."

"The assistance and support of Rotarians from across Canada, specifically those from the Rotary Club of Calgary Olympic, have made it possible to send the children to share an unforgettable Olympic experience with their families," says Lyanne Goulin, director of the foundation.

The *Rotarian Video Magazine* will be filming the children's Olympic experience for a future issue. Also look for footage in a video about the 100-year history of Rotary in Canada, to be shown at the 2010 RI Convention in Montréal, Québec.

Read about Rotarian Olympians in the August 2008 *The Rotarian*.

Rotary, Scouts Mark 100 Years of Good Turns

By Susie O. Ma *The Rotarian* – March 2010



Top left: Arch C. Klumph, father of The Rotary Foundation, meets with Boy Scouts in 1930. Rotary Images. Top right: A young John Kenny as a Scout. Photo courtesy of John Kenny.

A longtime friend of Rotary – the Boy Scouts of America – marked its 100th birthday on 8 February.

The two organizations have worked together since their early days. Rotary founder Paul Harris, after meeting with Chief Scout Executive James E. West in 1910, urged Rotarians to assist in the expansion of the Scouts. By 1930, Rotarians had organized more than half of the then 500 Boy Scout councils, and today Rotary clubs sponsor 1,483 Scout units for 45,528 youth.

Rotary clubs have also contributed financially to Scout troops and helped construct Boy Scout camp buildings. Individual Rotarians have led the Scouts at local, district, and national levels.

"It makes good sense that Rotary would be involved in helping make the community a good place by starting out young," says Mike Birkholm, a member of the Rotary Club of Los Angeles and chair of the Inter-American Region of the International Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians, a network of 1,200 Rotarians who are also involved in Scouting. The fellowship counts RI President John Kenny and past presidents Wilf Wilkinson, Bill Boyd, and Cliff Dochterman among its members. "Scouting is a great way for Rotary to grow itself into the future."

Kenny said being a Boy Scout led him toward Rotary. "The Scout organization is a tremendous organization for young people," he said. "I've often been speaking at a Rotary club and have asked, 'Just put your hand up if you were a Scout.' And I found that at least half of the audience put their hands up."

In honor of the Boy Scouts of America centennial, Chief Scout Executive Bob Mazduca will address the 2010 RI Convention in Montréal, Quebec, Canada. The Boy Scouts have taken part in RI conventions before. In 1934, Walter W. Head, president of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, presented Paul Harris with the Scouts' highest honor, the Silver Buffalo Award. At the 1984 convention, the World Organization of the Scout Movement received the Rotary Award for World Understanding and Peace.

"The values of Scout Law, the Scout Oath, and The Four-Way Test are very similar," notes Al Kugler, director of the Office of the Chief Scout Executive. The Scout Oath is a promise that Scouts make to, among other things, "help other people at all times."

The Boy Scouts of America is part of the worldwide Scouting movement that began in Great Britain in 1907. International Scouting has more than 28 million members in 160 countries. In the United States, 1.2 million adults volunteer with the Boy Scouts to serve 4.1 million youth every year.

The Scouts are celebrating their birthday throughout 2010 with programs, service projects, and a 100th anniversary National Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, in July.

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