

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

March 11 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
Lang Luu: "My Journey To Seek Freedom In America".



Lang's dream is to bring his knowledge and financial resources back to Viet Nam one day to help the needy people there. He's a Registered Representative with World Group Securities, Inc., bringing financial knowledge to empower people on a daily basis. In January 2005, after a company trip and an opportunity to expand, he relocated the family to the

Atlanta area. Since he still has family members, friends, and clients in Virginia and Maryland, he travels back often. He's married with two children - Patrick 13 and Vivian 10.

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

March 27 - International Night - University Club DC

(See Invitation on Pages 5 and 6)

April 1 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

April 8 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

April 15 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

April 22 - 25 - DisCon 2010 Gettysburg



(Left to Right) At the club meeting on March 4, guest speaker **Ellen Greenberg** from the Jewish Council for the Aging talked about options and resources that are available for those caring for an older adult. **Caesar Kavadoy** introduced his guest **David Bahrs**. **Neil Cohen** is planning to schedule some outstanding speakers for upcoming meetings. Thanks so much for the photos from Nabil Bedewi.



Rotary International President Elect Ray Klingensmith Speaks at Dinner in Virginia

The first Chesapeake Presidents Elect Training Seminar (PETS) at the Westfields Marriott Conference Center in Chantilly, Virginia, was held last weekend. Marilyn and Bob Nelson attended the March 4 dinner preceding the event with RI President Elect Ray Klingensmith as the keynote speaker. RIPE Ray is from Missouri and opened with the playing of a country song, "Cowboy Logic." He emphasized keeping solutions simple by quoting some of the lyrics:

"If it's a job, do it, put your back in to it; 'Cause a little bit of dirt's gonna wash off in the rain;" "That's cowboy logic, every cowboy's got it; It's in the way he lives his life and the songs he sings; That's cowboy logic, every cowboy's got it; He's got a simple solution to just about anything."

He said being a club president elect is a once in a lifetime opportunity to make the community better. It is also a challenge to meet the expectations of your club members. He raised the question, "What do you think your club needs to be better?"

He also reflected on the stature of Rotary in the world. "What are we the best in the world at doing? Clearly, it is utilizing the Rotary network of more than 33,000 clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas to advance international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a wide variety of programs. PolioPlus has placed us on the world stage, and we are the premier service club organization in the world.

But to heed my own

advice to keep Rotary simple, and to adhere to "cowboy logic," the shortest and simplest way to state what we are the best in the world at doing is through four simple words:

**Building Communities
- Bridging Continents."**



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Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

How Rotarians Can Best Help Haiti

By Arnold R. Grahl, RI News – 5 March 2010

A church in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, damaged by the earthquake. RI President John Kenny, who visited Haiti on 23 February, said the magnitude of the devastation was more than he had anticipated and cannot be captured in pictures. Photo courtesy of District 4060.



Almost two months after a powerful earthquake shook Haiti, signs of devastation are everywhere, underscoring the long road to recovery that lies ahead. RI President John Kenny, who visited Haiti in late February, urged Rotarians to work with District 7020 's Haiti earthquake relief team coordinating aid to the nation.

"What they are basically saying is, 'What we need is money,' so they can buy locally the implements that are needed to help the reconstruction," Kenny said.

More than 250,000 people are estimated to have died in the 12 January earthquake and aftershocks in Port-au-Prince, with another million homeless.

Kenny said he felt it was important to visit Haiti "to show that Rotarians worldwide care about the plight of their fellow human beings, many of whom have lost everything."

He found that the destruction was even greater than he had expected.

"When you see it on television, it's one thing," he said.

"But to actually be there and see some of these buildings the way they are and to know that there are people underneath that rubble – the sheer magnitude you can't quite capture in film."

Accompanying Kenny on his 23 February trip were Past RI Vice President Roberto Valentín; Rotarian Charles Adams, who is coordinating a disaster relief committee in the neighboring Dominican Republic; and Ramiro Sánchez Melo, governor of District 4060 (Dominican Republic).

Past RI Director Barry Rassin and Past District Governor Richard McCombe also made a trip to Port-au-Prince

earlier in the month to meet with Rotary leaders involved in relief work. Both are involved with organizing the aid effort in District 7020, which covers

Haiti along with 10 other Caribbean nations and areas.

In addition to money, the district is asking for large tents that can serve as classrooms, recreation areas, community centers, or therapy shelters. Nearly all of the schools in the capital were destroyed by the earthquake.

Medical supplies and equipment, classroom materials, and agricultural tools are also needed.

While food, water, and temporary shelter remain important, a report by District 7020 leaders notes that work needs to begin on sustainable housing to provide jobs, shelter, and an infrastructure to support residents. Relief workers are also being cautious about handing out free food and water because a substantial part of the economy is based on small farms and businesses, and street vendors who sell produce and other staples. Too many free items can put single-family businesses in trouble and trigger a downward economic spiral.

"The best form of aid that Rotarians can now give is cash to the Rotarians in District 7020 so that it can be used to purchase supplies of food and materials locally, protecting the local economy," Kenny said.

The RI president added that Rotarians must now help in the medium- and long-term recovery, which Rotary is set up to do well.

Rotarian Claude Surena, head of the Haiti Task Force and president of the Haitian Medical Association, is representing District 7020 on the government's Post Disaster National Assistance Committee, focused on long-term recovery.

"The road to reconstruction will be a long one," Kenny said. "But I know that Rotarians will continue to play an effective part all the way."

For more information visit the District 7020 website.

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

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Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Supplying Central America With Safe, Fuel-Efficient Stoves

By Peter Schmidtke RI News – 4 March 2010

Top: StoveTeam International cofounder Nancy Hughes. Bottom: Factory owner Gustavo Peña (far left) demonstrates use of the Ecocina stove to a group of women in El Salvador. Photos courtesy of Nancy Hughes

Six years ago, Rotarian Nancy Hughes had a career-defining experience as a volunteer with a U.S. medical team in Guatemala.

She met an 18-year-old indigenous woman who had lost the use of her hands at age 2 after falling into a cooking fire. Hughes learned that the common practice of cooking over open, indoor fires led to a high incidence of burns and smoke inhalation, especially in children. The team's doctors restored function to the woman's hands, and her expressions of gratitude spurred Hughes to search for a way to prevent such injuries.

In 2004, Hughes, a member of the Rotary Club of Eugene Southtowne, Oregon, wrote the first of five Matching Grants that provided more than 2,300 safe stoves in Guatemala over a three-year period.

She discovered a less expensive, lighter prototype, however, in a 50-pound portable stove called the Ecocina. The stove resembles a large cement flowerpot and has a partially covered top and a sheltered opening on one side. Designed by Larry Winiarski and Eugene Southtowne Rotarian Ken Goyer, the Ecocina is insulated to prevent burns and requires up to 50 percent less wood than an open fire. It also reduces smoke and carbon monoxide output by at least 70 percent.

In 2008, Hughes and five other Eugene Southtowne Rotarians founded StoveTeam International. Aided by two Volunteer Service Grants, she and others from her club traveled twice to El Salvador and Guatemala to



scout locations for Ecocina factories and educate communities and local organizations about the stoves.

That same year, a group of volunteers, including Hughes, constructed workbenches and storage areas for a factory near Sonsonate, El Salvador, that employs up to 15 workers. Two Matching Grants supplied raw materials and helped subsidize the \$40 cost of the stove to buyers. In its first full year of operation, the factory produced 6,000 Ecocinas and is now self-sufficient.

"We decided we were not about producing stoves; we were about producing factories to produce stoves," Hughes says. "And I really like the idea

that we are providing people with employment."

"We are all very grateful because this has changed our lives," echoes factory owner Gustavo Peña, pointing to the company's positive impact on "all who do the factory work" and "all those families who receive an Ecocina."

Peña coordinates village Ecocina demonstrations with Peace Corps volunteers and solicits outside interest, including a recent order from the Mexican government for 3,000 stoves. He has also helped train owners for three factories in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. These Matching Grant-supported factories started producing Ecocinas in early 2010, and a fourth, independently funded

factory will begin operating in Nicaragua in April. Rotary clubs in El Salvador and the Guatemala Sur club in Guatemala have contributed to the effort by overseeing distribution, assisting in construction, and offsetting the cost of the Ecocinas to buyers.

Since its founding, StoveTeam International has received approximately \$370,000 from 40 Rotary clubs, Foundation grants, and private donations.

"Demands for new factories arrive in my e-mail every week," says Hughes, who is planning operations in Fiji, Mexico, and Paraguay. "New factory owners are learning stove production and business practices and more and more people are receiving fuel-efficient stoves every day."

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Rotary Club of Potomac-Bethesda

www.pb-rotary.org

Meets on Thursdays at 6:30 pm at Normandie Farm (www.popovers.com)

The 30th Annual International Night

Sponsored by the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club

Hosted by

The University Club

1135 Sixteenth Street N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20036

(202) 862-8800

<http://www.universityclubdc.com/>

Saturday, March 27th, 2010

6:30-9:30 PM

Please join us in

Honoring this year's Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars

The Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship Program is the world's largest privately funded international scholarship program. Accomplished scholars have their graduate level studies supported in another country. They are selected by their local Rotary clubs and are provided with local Rotarian counselors in the country where they study. Nearly 800 scholarships were awarded for study in 2005-06, each worth US\$26,000. Through these grants, recipients from some 70 countries studied in more than 70 nations. Since 1947 more than 37,000 men and women from 100 nations have studied abroad under its auspices.

The purpose of the Ambassadorial Scholarship program is to further international understanding and friendly relations among people of different countries. While abroad, scholars serve as ambassadors of goodwill to the people of the host country and give presentations about their homelands to Rotary clubs and other groups. Upon returning home, scholars share with Rotarians and others the experiences that led to greater understanding of their host countries.

RESPONSE FORM

I would like to attend the 30th Annual International Night at the University Club, on Saturday March 27th at a cost of \$60 per adult and \$20 per child (under 12).

\$60 x ___ adults attending = \$ _____

\$20 x ___ children attending = \$ _____

Total Payment = \$ _____

Number of guests requesting:

Oven Roasted Breast of Chicken entrée _____

Grilled Filet of Salmon entrée _____

Vegetarian meal _____

Children's Meal (Fruit, Chicken Fingers & French Fries, Cookies) _____

Please mail this response form along with your check by March 10th - payable to the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Foundation ("International Night" in the memo field) to P.O. Box 59824, Potomac, MD 20859.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ eMail Address: _____

Please email us at rotary.pb@gmail.com if you have additional questions or would like to send your response electronically.

Please note that all reservations are guaranteed only after payment is received by March 10th.