

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## Rotary Club Calendar

May 27 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm  
Neil Cohen Runs For Senate in Maryland



Our own Past Rotary Club President Neil Cohen is tonight's speaker. He's been a practicing dentist for almost 30 years in Maryland. He lives in Rockville with wife Arleen and dog Mia. They have one grown up son, Sander, who is a Maryland Deputy State Fire Marshall. Neil says, "When my

family came to America two generations ago from Eastern Europe we believed in hard work and the pursuit of opportunity. I still do. Throughout my life I've worked hard to succeed. I've worked as a janitor, short order cook and U.A.W. assembly-line worker. I graduated from Howard University in 1977 as a Doctor of Dental Surgery. As a dentist and small business owner in Chevy Chase and Deale, Maryland for three decades, I have experienced the painful impact of greater government intrusion into the private sector. As an activist I've watched as the political divisiveness in Washington, D.C. has led to bad government and wasteful tax spending under both Republicans and Democrats." His campaign website is [cohenforsenate.com](http://cohenforsenate.com).

June 3 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm  
Larry Chloupek: "Special Love"

Larry is a cancer survivor and volunteer for Special Love for Kids with Cancer, a regional non-profit working closely with NIH. Their website is <http://www.speciallove.org>.

June 8 - 7pm – Manna Food Center (Need volunteers)

June 10 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

June 12 - 9am – Jewish Group Homes Project  
Art Blitz, Coordinator

June 17 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

June 24 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

June 28 - 6pm – District Governor Installation

Please send news articles and photos to  
[Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov](mailto:Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov)  
for inclusion in the newsletter

## May 20 Meeting Report



President Elect Jason Hamel exchanges club banners with Felix S. Kasamatsu, Rotary Club of Asuncion Este, Paraguay, District 4845

## In Memoriam: Frank Jestrab, Past Governor

I am sorry to pass the sad news of Frank's passing away. He was very dear to us, as he was a classmate of Bilal's father as District 5580 Governor in 1958-59. Frank was in Burma during the Second World War and he looked for the incoming DG from there when he attended the International Assembly at Lake Placid in 1958. The Raschids and the Jestrabs became good friends until PDG MA Raschid was detained by the Burmese military in 1962 (for 6 years). They lost touch with each other and when Frank moved to DC and Bilal joined the Washington DC Club in 1980, Jestrabs and Raschids were reunited again. Elvira, my mother-in-law Fatima and I were very active at the Inner Wheel of Washington DC for many years until the club was

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May 27, 2010 - Page 1

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

dissolved. Jestrabs were like parents to us. He was at my installation as the President of McLean club and on many occasions and had also taken us to many of your District conferences and the Zone Institute. We will miss him dearly. His daughter said he will be interned at the Arlington National cemetery in the middle or late June. Donations in his memory may be made to The Rotary Foundation.

Sincerely,

Tin Tin Nu Raschid, DG 1996-97

Yours in Rotary Service

## Message from the RI President



My fellow Rotarians, In February, I attended the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Rotary Club of St. Paul,

Minn., USA. After dinner that evening, a young lady came up to me and asked, "Of everything you have seen this year in Rotary, what has touched your heart the most?"

For such a simple question, it was nearly impossible to answer - only because I have seen so much that has touched my heart so deeply and made me so proud to be a Rotarian. These past 12 months have given me the opportunity and the privilege of observing firsthand how our service touches the lives of others, and how great are the needs we address.

It is one thing to see photographs of the devastation in Haiti caused by January's earthquake. It was another thing entirely for me to walk among the rubble, to see the collapsed buildings, to understand that the true scope of the tragedy will never be known.

In Banda Aceh, Indonesia, where Rotary has done so much to rebuild the city shattered by the 2004 tsunami, I thought I understood the scale of the disaster before my visit. But I was not prepared for the sight of a large

freighter in a field 2 miles inland, swept there by the tsunami.

In China, at a Rotary-supported orphanage, I held a two-month-old girl who had been abandoned on a train. With that baby in my arms, I realized that what Rotary provided to the orphanage - food, warm clothing, a clean and safe home - was only one part of what was needed. What that child wanted most of all, in that moment, was simply to be held and to feel loved, and that touched me very much.

There is so much we can do as Rotarians that will mean so much to others. And as important as it is to give material assistance - to help in the areas of water, health and hunger, and literacy - it is equally vital that we give that help freely, with true caring for others. Because often, simply caring is what helps others most

of all.

As this Rotary year and my term as RI president draw to a close, I thank you all for your service to Rotary and your support. I have been honored to serve as your president, and remind you that The Future of Rotary Is in Your Hands.

John Kenny



President, Rotary International

## Message from the Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair: Through the Foundation, Rotary's Reach Grows



In Rotary, we are guided by the three simple words of our motto Service Above Self. That motto forms an important part of our identity as Rotarians. It reminds us why we are here, why our every action matters, and why we take

**Montgomery Village Rotary  
&  
Gaithersburg Volunteer Fire Dept.**  
Present  
**Firehouse Classic  
Chili Cook Off**  
2010 MARYLAND STATE CASI CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT



**Saturday June 26, 2010 11am to 5pm**  
**801 Russell Ave. Gaithersburg, MD**  
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May 27, 2010 - Page 2

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

the time and the initiative to help others wherever and however we can.

Our Rotary Foundation has its own motto: Doing Good in the World.

Doing Good in the World is more than a slogan. It is our goal, our mission, and our reminder. It expresses in the clearest terms why we have a Foundation, and it challenges us to reach as far as we can to do the most good possible with everything we have.

Our Foundation exists to support the good that we can do through Rotary. It expands our reach, increases our strength, and makes our service more powerful and more effective. Because of our Foundation we can, very simply, do more of our Rotary work.

In May, I marked a personal milestone: 50 years as a Rotarian. In that time, I have seen so much achieved through Rotary, and seen very clearly how much of Rotary's ability to do good is drawn from our Foundation. Through our Foundation, every one of us has an opportunity to be a part of all the good that Rotary does.

This month marks the end of my service as trustee chair of our Rotary Foundation. I am grateful for the opportunity to know so many of you, and I thank you all for your support and encouragement. Please join me in welcoming our incoming trustee chair, Past RI President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar, and in wishing him great success.

Glenn E. Estess Sr.

Foundation Trustee Chair

## **Australian Rotarians Send Aid To Chile**

By Ryan Hyland RI News – 21 May 2010

*District 9750 (Australia) Rotarians load relief supplies for Chile. Photo courtesy of the Rotary Club of Bondi Junction*

Australian Rotarians have been pitching in to help communities in Chile devastated by the February earthquake that killed hundreds and caused an estimated US\$30 billion in damages.

A 40-foot cargo container arrived in the country last week at a port in San Antonio, filled with medical and school supplies, including 63 hospital beds, two

humidifier cribs for premature infants, dozens of boxes of clothes and school uniforms, and student desks. The Rotary Club of Bondi Junction, New South Wales, loaded and shipped the container.

"We used every inch to pack as many supplies as we could," says Russell Paine, club president-elect and project coordinator. "Good things were going into that container – lifesaving equipment."

The club paid \$5,000 to secure the shipping container from Maersk Line. The supplies were contributed by Australian Rotarians through the Donations in Kind program, a project of Rotary Australia World Community Service Eastern Region. Clubs in District 9750 helped load the container.

Paine reached out to Blas Martino, past governor of District 4320 (Chile), shortly after the earthquake to ask what Australian clubs could do to help.

"They contacted me immediately to offer their assistance," says Martino, whose district has worked with Bondi Junction Rotarians and other Australian clubs on past projects. "The truth is, we need all the help we can get to assist all the people who are now homeless because of the earthquake."

Cristina Gutierrez, a native of Chile and a member of the Rotary Club of Maroubra, New South Wales, worked on projects with Martino in 2006 and says it was important for her to get involved in helping quake victims.

"It has been heart wrenching to see my fellow Chileans enduring such devastation," she says. "As a result of our previous projects in Chile, we have developed a good working relationship between Rotarians in Chile and ourselves."

Martino, who is coordinating the distribution of the supplies, says his district has allocated an initial \$10,000 to recovery efforts. Bondi Junction club members aim to raise another \$10,000 to help in the end-to-end delivery of this shipment.

"I felt very emotional after seeing the magnitude of the devastation," says Paine. "We needed to help them as our brothers and sisters, not as people who are begging for our help."

The Rotary Foundation has established a Chile Disaster Recovery Fund to help those affected by the quake.



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May 27, 2010 - Page 3

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## **Giving Ugandan Children A Second Chance**

Peter Schmidtke RI News – 26 May 2010

*Twelve-year-old Atugonza Bevalin with her mother after surgery made possible by a Matching Grant Gift of Life India project. Also pictured are Dr. A.C. Peter (left), RI President-nominee Kalyan Banerjee (fourth from left) and his wife Binota, District Governor Ashish Ghosh (fourth from right), and Past RI Director Sushil Gupta (third from right). Photo courtesy of A.C. Peter*



Mulambuzi Joshuah is not likely to forget his fifth birthday.

He spent the day recovering from heart surgery that will allow him to attend school again in his village outside of Kampala, Uganda.

Mulambuzi was 1 of 20 Ugandan children who received free heart surgeries through Gift of Life India. The program is among 65 throughout the world supported by Rotary clubs and established to arrange cardiac care for young children whose families cannot afford it.

The surgeries were funded by a US\$105,000 Rotary Foundation Matching Grant sponsored by the Rotary Club of Delhi Midwest and District 3010 (India), and all 17 districts in Korea.

The children, between the ages of 11 months and 12 years, arrived in New Delhi over a three-month period starting in January. Doctors at the Escorts Heart Institute and Research Centre and the National Heart Institute performed surgeries to correct their congenital heart defects. Several of the children needed immediate attention.

"Many of them were overdue," says Dr. A.C. Peter, a member of the Rotary Club of Delhi East End and Gift of Life India national coordinator. "After surgery, all these patients can lead healthy and productive lives like any other child."

District 7250 (New York, USA) established Gift of Life India in 2002. Since its inception, the program has treated more than 500 children from India, Kenya,

Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Sudan, with support from Rotary clubs and Matching Grant funds.

It also receives help – including medical team coordination and prospective patient lists – from Gift of Life International, formed in 2003 to assist Gift of Life programs around the world.

### **Making connections**

January's Matching Grant project arose because of connections from a similar effort a year earlier, when the Indian program agreed to arrange two surgeries as part of Gift of Life International's Our Hearts Are in Uganda campaign.

Sixty Ugandan children were treated in 13 countries.

Bret Halvorson, a member of the Rotary Club of Emerald City (Seattle), Washington, USA, and a native of Korea, escorted one of the children and her mother from the airport in Seoul to a local hospital. Wanting to help more Ugandan youth, Korean Past District Governor Sangkoo Yun and Youngsuk Yoon, then district governor-elect, suggested a follow-up project to Halvorson, a Gift of Life beneficiary himself.

The three met with Peter, Past RI Director Sushil Gupta, and Gift of Life International founder Robert Donno at the 2009 RI Convention in Birmingham, England, where they worked through details of the January Matching Grant project.

"Everything came together nicely," says Halvorson. "I'm just happy that I can be a part of that – to pay it forward to these children who are in the same position that I was."

Korean Rotarians pooled District Designated Fund (DDF) allocations. Grace Agwaru, a member of the Rotary Club of Soroti Central, Uganda, and the first Gift of Life beneficiary, worked with fellow Ugandan Rotarians to identify candidates for the program and help their families understand the surgery and make travel arrangements. Delhi East End club members met the children at the airport and visited them almost daily in the hospital.

"Raising DDF from all 17 districts in Korea was a major task, but we had the pronounced leadership of Yoon from District 3650," says Yun, who stressed the role of

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May 27, 2010 - Page 4

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

the Rotary network in completing international service projects.

Gift of Life India also recently received a pledge of \$110,000 from Rotarians in Taiwan for future surgeries.

## **Financial Picture For RI Continues To Improve** **Rotary International News – 20 May 2010**

Dear Rotarians,

I'm pleased to report that since my last letter on 15 February, the financial picture has continued to improve for both Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation. While the financial markets remain volatile, for the first nine months of this fiscal year, RI's investments earned US\$17.0 million, which more than recovered 2009 losses of \$12.1 million. With investment returns of \$92 million, the Foundation recouped more than half of its 2009 losses; its operating reserve is now positive at \$3 million, up from negative \$41 million at the end of June 2009. Operating expenses across the organization are well controlled and remain below budget.

During the past several months, the Foundation's Investment Advisory Committee, Rotary's investment consultants, and staff have comprehensively reviewed the investment policies for the Annual Programs Fund, the Permanent Fund, and RI's General Fund. New policies will be recommended to the Trustees and the Board of Directors at their June meetings. These recommendations include reducing the equity risk in the portfolios and adding assets that will help protect the portfolios from inflation risk. In April, the Trustees approved a new operating reserve policy. Beginning this fiscal year, they will establish a funded operating reserve that will be 100 percent invested in fixed income securities. Although fully funding the reserve may take some time, this more conservative investment approach should enhance the Foundation's ability to finance its operations when financial markets decline.

The improved financial situation has allowed the Trustees to approve a 2010-11 budget in which the World Fund will support Matching Grants at the previous high 2007-08 district levels and fund Future Vision global grants.

The Foundation's sound financial management and stewardship practices have been recognized in the world of philanthropy. Independent evaluator Charity Navigator ranks The Rotary Foundation as No. 4 on its list "10 Best Charities Everyone's Heard Of," saying: "These 10 charities ... became household names in part because of their exceptional financial management, no easy feat considering the scope and size of their operations. Charitable givers should feel confident that these national institutions put their donations to good use."

Fortunately, a great many Rotarians agree with this assessment. Excluding funds from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grant, overall contributions are up by \$5 million compared with last year. Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge has reached \$124 million, well ahead of schedule toward its goal.

While we are all happy to see positive investment returns, increasing contribution levels, and stable membership figures, the senior leaders and staff remain vigilant in safeguarding Rotary's assets. RI's Finance Committee and the Foundation's Investment Advisory Committee are working with the staff to reduce risk while maximizing investment income, fully restore the Foundation's operating reserve, and keep operating expenses at or under budget.

The recent financial crisis generated a surge of interest in Rotary's investment policies and budgeting process. We have worked to become increasingly responsive to the many questions we've received from you. The financials section on Rotary.org has enhanced our transparency, and I have communicated regularly about the organization's financial status. Given Rotary's improved financial position, I don't anticipate the need to continue these regular communications. We will, however, post updates on the financials section on the RI website when appropriate. We are also planning a finance update to be held on Monday, 21 June, at the RI Convention in Montréal, where Rotary senior leaders and RI staff will present information and answer your questions. I encourage interested convention goers to attend this informative session.

Sincerely,

Ed Futa

General Secretary

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May 27, 2010 - Page 5