

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## Rotary Club Calendar

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

Joe Zakir: Cisco's Technology



Joe is currently Senior Marketing Manager at Cisco Systems focusing on customer marketing in the US Enterprise segment. Joe has been with Cisco for 4 years and prior to that spent 8 years at Sun Microsystems in various roles including direct sales, channels, alliances, and marketing. Joe's current responsibility is market

management for a \$.5 billion area and national marketing responsibility in the burgeoning industries of data center virtualization and cloud computing. Joe has an MBA from The George Washington University and Bachelor of Science Degrees in both Finance and Economics from George Mason University.

July 22 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

Linda Jewell, Vice President,

International Student Exchange Programs

July 22 - 8pm Board of Directors Meeting

July 29 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

August 5 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

James Li: Action Strategy

August 10 - 7pm - Manna Food Center Packing Night

9311 Gaither Road, Gaithersburg

Volunteers are Needed - Alex Naron Coordinating



Manna Volunteers on July 12 included Alex Naron, Kathy and Evan Tassis; friends of the Nitkins, Jackie, Elana, and Samantha; and Bob Nelson.

- Photo by Steve Naron

August 12 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

Lawrence D. Cross

The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy

## Club Honors National Spelling Bee Finalist

President Jason Hamel introduced guests Carolyn Meakum and Joseph Kantakevich from The Meakum



Group of Wells Fargo Advisors and Lanson Tang and his mother. Lanson was the fifth place finalist in the National Spelling Bee. The national contest has been in

existence for 18 years, but it was only last year that the Meakum Group of Wells Fargo Financial Advisors

started a local contest in Montgomery County. The local group signs a contract that requires them to use the words from the national



organization in the order that they are provided. Many of the best spelling bee competitors are home schooled and



Lanson's mother, a scientist at the National Library of Medicine, felt that it was because homeschooling promotes good study habits and inspires learning curiosity. Lanson likes reading and feels he knows words well. His favorite author is

Christopher

Paolini who

wrote Eragon. The contest begins with the contestants spelling words on a computer and hearing the words pronounced on earphones. Then the live contest at Fourth Presbyterian with Cal Thomas announcing the words had about 50 contestants and required about 30



[www.pb-rotary.org](http://www.pb-rotary.org) [www.rotary7620.org](http://www.rotary7620.org) [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

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rounds. Lanson then went on to the National Contest that was held at the Grand Hyatt in Washington DC. There were 273 contestants and Lanson received a \$1750 cash prize. The toughest word for him was the one he missed in the seventh round, "leishmanic." He had prepared for the contest by going over lists of words and roots and studying the dictionary for two weeks. They use the *Merriam Webster Third Edition* with 470,000 words. Several Rotarians had seen Lanson on television and commented on how confident he looked. Lanson said that he really didn't feel a lot of pressure with a large audience at the Hyatt and the television cameras, because he has had experience with competitions. President Jason thanked Lanson with a club banner and encouraged him to become involved in Rotary programs. Lanson will be going to Wooten High School this fall which has had an active Rotary Interact Club.



President Jason presented the Rotary Volunteers Certificate of Recognition to Steve Naron for his work with the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars. The certificate was signed by the President of Rotary International, John Kenny. Congratulations to Steve for his outstanding service! Nabil Bedewi said that the press release about Neil Cohen running for the US Senate from Maryland is out.

There are nine conservative Republicans running and Neil is the only moderate in the race. He said that many small businesses feel disenfranchised with current policies. They are planning some events and need to raise a few thousand dollars for the yard signs and pamphlets. The cost per sign is about a buck or two. They'll be going to print shops in different counties and will place the print shop name or other businesses on the signs. The website for more information and donations is [cohenforsenate.com](http://cohenforsenate.com).

## ***New Polio Eradication Plan Launched***

By Dan Nixon RI News – 12 July 2010

*Sudhir Gupta, a member of the India PolioPlus Committee and past governor of District 3100, immunizes four-year-old Sivi Sen against polio at the Moradabad railway station in Uttar Pradesh. Photo by Allison Kwesell*



The World Health Organization and UNICEF cohosted a meeting with Rotary International and other stakeholders in Geneva on 18 June to launch the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) Strategic Plan 2010-12.

The new plan comes at a critical time for the GPEI. Key endemic countries are witnessing historic gains against the disease. Nowhere is progress more evident than in Nigeria, which has reported just three cases in 2010 as of 6 July compared with 333 cases for the same period in 2009. India has reported 22 cases compared with 107 cases.

Across Africa, 10 of the 15 previously polio-free countries reinfected in 2009 have stopped their outbreaks.

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In May, the World Health Assembly welcomed the new plan while expressing deep concern about the substantial funding gap over the next three years. The shortfall is a serious risk to ending polio and highlights the need for Rotary to reach its goal of raising US\$200 million.

WHO Director-General Margaret Chan called on the international funding community to stand tall for polio eradication. "The next three years, and especially the next 12 months, are critical to the polio eradication initiative and, by extension, the entire international public health agenda."

An essential element of the plan is the bivalent oral polio vaccine, which is being used effectively against wild poliovirus types 1 and 3 in all four endemic countries: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan. (Type 2 poliovirus has been eradicated.)

The plan also focuses on known polio migration routes, which have made outbreaks of the disease largely predictable. Aggressive synchronized immunization campaigns are now being used to help prevent and stop outbreaks.

The partners of the GPEI are exploring every option to secure fresh funding and are managing existing cash flow to limit any threat to the eradication effort. The risk of not stopping polio in endemic countries was made clear when a large outbreak occurred in Tajikistan, caused by poliovirus that had spread from India in early 2010. The outbreak has paralyzed 334 children as of 29 June. Tajikistan had been polio-free since 1997.

"The complete eradication of polio is an absolute goal, and it requires absolute commitment from us all," says UNICEF Executive Director Tony Lake.

"Rotary believes the new strategic plan provides the blueprint to achieving the goal of polio eradication," says Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar.

## Medical Mission Touches The 'Unreachable'

By Ryan Hyland RI News – 6 July 2010



*Top: Volunteer surgeons from District 3080 operate on patients during a massive seven day medical mission in the tribal district Mandla of Madhya Pradesh, India, in March. Photo courtesy of District 3080*

*Bottom: Villagers of the tribal district of Mandla of Madhya Pradesh, India, register for Project RAHAT, a massive medical mission, in March. Photo courtesy of District 3080*



During a massive seven-day medical mission in March, a team of 37 doctors and volunteers from District 3080 provided care to about 50,000 people in the remote tribal district of Mandla, Madhya Pradesh, India.

Organized by Past RI President Rajendra K. Saboo and Vivek Tankha, additional solicitor general of India and past governor of District 3260, several health camps offered medical exams, dental procedures, and surgeries to a

population with limited access to health care.

The team included 24 doctors and surgeons, nine volunteers, and four medical assistants.

"This was an exercise where vocational service was at its best, where doctors made their knowledge and talents totally available to serve humanity," Saboo said. "We were able to reach the unreachable."

Saboo – who has organized a number of medical missions since 1998 to countries including Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, Swaziland, and Uganda – said this effort far exceeded the others in terms of number of patients seen.

Tankha worked with Madhya Pradesh officials to identify the Mandla district as the location for Project RAHAT (Rotary's Active Hands Are Touching). The state government commissioned the support of about 400 medical volunteers.

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The magnitude of the effort exceeded Tankha's expectations.

"The patient turnout, voluntary assistance rendered by Rotary and the state government, and the sight of the entire task force working under the banner of Rotary was something which I neither anticipated nor imagined," he said. "This mission presents a perfect example of people's participation towards a healthy society."

The medical camps were organized by treatment type. Four venues – Mandla District Hospital, Katra Hospital, Yogiraj Hospital, and the local Red Cross – received new equipment and other enhancements to handle an increased patient load.

The doctors and volunteers performed 3,500 dental procedures and 2,000 major surgeries, including reconstructive surgery, orthopedic work, and eye operations.

Subhash Garg, director of the medical mission and past governor of District 3080, said the many remarkable surgeries included the removals of a uterine tumor for one patient and a cataract for another – a 105-year-old man.

"After completing this mission, there was a sense from the team of complete satisfaction," Garg said. "All Rotarians involved had a joyous feeling because we were able to contribute something so big."

## **Illinois Rotarian Confronts Racism With Holocaust Letters**

by Arnold R. Grahl, *The Rotarian*, July 2010

A chance encounter at a stamp-collecting event three years ago put Danny Spungen in possession of one of the world's most extensive collections of postal memorabilia documenting Nazi atrocities during World War II. Spungen, an avid stamp collector, was looking to buy an "Inverted Jenny," a rare U.S. stamp featuring an upside-down airplane, when a fragment of Hebrew scripture covered with Nazi insignias caught his eye.

*Top: Spungen at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, where he volunteers. Bottom: The fragment of scripture that a soldier used to wrap a package.*



"I thought, what the heck is going on?" recalls Spungen, a member of the Rotary Club of Lincolnshire (Morning Star), Ill. The segment of scroll belonged to Ken Lawrence, a philatelist and civil rights activist who spent 30 years assembling more than 250 letters, postcards, postal documents, and other materials to counter those who claim the Holocaust never happened.

Lawrence had planned to sell his award-winning collection to a museum, but Spungen convinced him to let his family's charitable

foundation purchase it instead. "It's changed my life," says Spungen, who travels with the items, visiting schools, universities, Rotary clubs, and other community groups. He also volunteers as a docent at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie.

Spungen often invites Holocaust survivors to speak at his presentations, and instead of displaying the collection in glass cases, he sets the materials, protected by plastic sleeves, on tables so people can hold them.

The Spungen Holocaust Postal Collection includes a letter from a man in Prague to his father in the Schwarzheide concentration camp, lamenting the difficulty of finding warm clothes to send. The stamp was removed by Nazi authorities to search for hidden messages and the letter doused in chemicals to check for invisible ink. Another item, a swastika-marked envelope addressed to a Herr Dachwitz, is displayed with its contents: a summons to an interrogation. A postcard from a guard at Dachau to his family was sent in May 1933, shortly after the Nazi government set up the concentration camp; it bears a view of the Würm River canal flowing past the compound.

The fragment of Hebrew scripture, which recounts the story of David and Goliath, is folded and covered with

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stamps and postmarks. An annotation explains that it was plundered from a Jewish synagogue and later used by a Wehrmacht corporal as wrapping paper to send a parcel home to Vienna in 1942.

Adding to the collection, Spungen has acquired samples of money used in concentration camps and ghettos. He also has obtained counterfeit British pound notes, which bear witness to Operation Bernhard, a Nazi scheme to force Jewish inmates at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp to print fake currency. (It was dramatized in the Oscar-winning 2007 movie *The Counterfeiters*.)

Spungen, who has hosted several students through Rotary Youth Exchange, says his conversations with young people have reminded him how important it is to teach kids about the Holocaust, and about tolerance. "Racism is not dead," he observes.

Of his collection, Spungen says: "I really believe that each piece is a witness. It's great to put all these witnesses together in one room to tell a whole story."

## **Historic Moments – Rotary Mottoes**

Rotary International News – 7 July 2010

*Arthur Frederick Sheldon, the Rotarian whose convention speech inspired Rotary's secondary motto, One Profits Most Who Serves Best.*



Rotary's official mottoes, Service Above Self and One Profits Most Who Serves Best, trace back to the early days of the organization.

In 1911, He Profits Most Who Serves Best was approved as the Rotary motto at the second convention of the National Association of Rotary Clubs of America, in Portland, Oregon. It was adapted from a speech made by Rotarian Arthur Frederick Sheldon to the first convention, held in Chicago the previous year. Sheldon declared that "only the science of right conduct toward others pays. Business is the science of human services. He profits most who serves his fellows best."

The Portland convention also inspired the motto Service Above Self. During a convention outing on the Columbia River, Ben Collins, president of the Rotary Club of Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, talked with Seattle Rotarian J.E. Pinkham about the proper way to organize a Rotary club, offering the principle his club had adopted: Service, Not Self. Pinkham invited Paul P. Harris, who also was on the boat trip, to join their conversation. Harris asked Collins to address the convention, and the phrase Service, Not Self was met with great enthusiasm.

At the 1950 RI Convention in Detroit, slightly modified versions of the two slogans were formally approved as the official mottoes of Rotary: He Profits Most Who Serves Best and Service Above Self. The 1989 Council on Legislation established Service Above Self as the principal motto of Rotary, because it best conveys the philosophy of unselfish volunteer service. He Profits Most Who Serves Best was modified by the 2004 Council to They Profit Most Who Serve Best and by the 2010 Council to its current wording, One Profits Most Who Serves Best.

## **District 7620**

### **Membership Training Seminar**

**Monday, July 19th**

**6:00-9:00pm**

**\$15 per Club - 3 requested to attend**

**\$5.00 each additional member**

**Recommended for Club officers**

**Holiday Inn Laurel West**

**15101 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD**

**Training given by**

**Darrell Nevin,**

**District Membership Chair**

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