

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

August 26 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

Sue Dollins, Executive Director,

The Senior Connection of Montgomery County, Inc.



Sue has been a resident of Silver Spring for the past 40 years. She was the founding director of the Allied Silver Spring Interfaith Services for Seniors Today (ASSISST), which joined forces in 2003 with its sister organization, the Seniors Interfaith Resource Center (SIRC), to become The Senior Connection.

The Senior Connection is a nonprofit organization serving adults 62 years or older, living in lower Montgomery County. The mission of The Senior Connection is to provide mobility by linking older adults to services and resources so they can live as independently as possible and remain integral members of our community. Sue is very proud of the work that The Senior Connection is doing and is very involved in dealing with aging services and concerns throughout the county. In addition, Sue is involved in many other community service areas. She is actively involved in a variety of positions in her congregation, which includes serving as Co-chair of the Minister's Transition Team and as the church's Assistant Financial Secretary. Sue also serves on the boards of the Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad Alumni Association; Ministries United Silver Spring Takoma Park (MUSST); and the Grassroots Organization for the Wellbeing of Seniors (GROWS). Sue enjoys traveling, going to the National Symphony and entertaining friends in her spare time. Website: www.seniorconnectionmc.org

August 28 – 10:30am - Rockville Library

**Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar Orientation,
Steve Naron Coordinating**

September 2 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

Bill Offutt, Montgomery County Historical Society

September 9 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

Dr. Terry Sheehan – Haiti Medical Mission

September 14 – 7pm – Manna Food Center Packing

September 16 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

September 16 – 8pm Board of Directors Meeting

September 23 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

September 30 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

October 7 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

October 12 – 7pm – Manna Food Center Packing

October 14 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

October 21 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

October 21 – 7pm Board of Directors Meeting

October 28 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

Rotary District Governor Jay Kumar



August 19 Meeting Report

President Jason Hamel was welcomed back from his adventure climbing Mount Rainier. Along the way rock slides dissuaded half of the climbers to venture on and the last part of the climb was quite steep and challenging. Jason “hit the wall” with altitude sickness about a half mile from the top of the mountain yet continued on for another half hour. His brother-in-law, also 32 years old, ascended the last 1500 feet and displayed the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club banner at the peak (see photo in last week's newsletter). It took Jason two days at ground level to begin to feel normal. If he attempts the climb again, he'll probably need to be medicated. Jason is preparing a video presentation for a future club meeting.

Several Rotarians celebrated wedding anniversaries this week with Neil Cohen on the 19th, Phil Meade on the 20th and Bob Nelson on the 22nd.



Vice President Nabil Bedewi spun up the *Rotary Video Magazine* DVD and showed two stories, one on landmine-victim assistance in Cambodia and Bosnia-Herzegovina and the other on tsunami relief in Cambodia and Thailand.



The following article from *Rotary International* provides more information on the *Rotary Video Magazine*: “Three simple words say it all: ‘See your stories.’ That’s the motto of RVM: The *Rotarian Video Magazine*, launched in 2005 to showcase footage of Rotarians locally, regionally, and internationally.

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'In many ways, RVM is an extension of what we do every month in *The Rotarian*,' says Vince Aversano, manager of Rotary International's Communications Division. 'It allows viewers to meet many of the people we cover in the magazine, visit their projects, and share their struggles and triumphs.'

RVM is published three times a year on DVD, with each edition featuring several documentary-style reports. RVM DVDs feature three to four short video stories – ranging from 5 to 15 minutes in length – designed to motivate, educate, and inspire. The video magazine has covered Rotary stories around the world, including food banks and student-built housing in the United States, National Immunization Days to fight polio in India and Nepal, programs to help HIV/AIDS orphans in South Africa, an innovative literacy program in Brazil, tsunami relief in Cambodia and Thailand, Landmine-victim assistance in Cambodia and Bosnia-Herzegovina and food aid in Romania. It often tells the stories of average Rotary club members, and every July, it profiles the incoming RI president.

'Our staff of writers, producers, photographers, and editors works closely with *The Rotarian* to showcase the best of Rotary at work,' says Stephen Guenther, manager of RI's Broadcast Media Department. 'And wherever our team goes, Rotary club members provide invaluable support and inspiration.'

In addition to simply enjoying RVM for its own sake, Rotarians can use it as a 'speaker' at their weekly club meetings or as a recruitment and orientation tool, or share its inspiring stories with participants in Interact, Rotaract, and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. They can also make copies available to cable-access stations, libraries, and schools, or give them as gifts.

Each issue of RVM comes in six languages, plus a version with English-language subtitles. Individual copies and full collections are available at shop.rotary.org. RVM is a DVD series that showcases extraordinary Rotary projects and people from around the world."

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



By Marc Patterson, President

Get excited! This Fall the Rotaract Club of Georgetown University begins its inaugural year on campus. It's going to be an action packed year, with all of you showing just what it means to put service above self in our local community - Washington DC.

Jot down a note to visit us at SAC Fair on Sunday September 5th. Bring some friends, learn about Rotaract and sign up in Red Square from 11am to 3pm. Our first club meeting will be that following week - more details to come. To be the first to see our upcoming events, visit our blog at www.gurotaract.wordpress.com

Community service opportunities are in the works as Petra Holz, our director for community service, has been contacting local organizations that we could work with in DC. In the meantime we encourage everyone, especially freshmen to participate in Georgetown's Community Service Day on Saturday September 4th. We will be discussing areas of need that we can tackle as a club at meetings throughout the semester.

Other events to look out for this semester are the Rotaract Club Charter night; with new member initiation and opportunities to meet lots of our district Rotarians, and our End Polio fundraiser; raising money and awareness for Rotary International's campaign to eliminate the disease through immunization. Then in January we will be a part of running the district RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) conference in Chevy Chase, Maryland. There will no doubt be some exciting opportunities coming up for that event.

Meanwhile our intrepid explorer (and director of international service) Lauren J. Vine is going to be abroad spearheading our first international project. While in France and Egypt, Lauren will be helping us establish the logistics of connecting future Georgetown Rotaractors - you guys - with a local Rotaract Club when you are abroad (and wherever you may be).

Finally, we will be sending out another newsletter like this after SAC fair to all the new students that have signed up for Rotaract. We would like to advertise other community service groups in Georgetown so the freshmen can see all the options. If you are a part of a

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group that thinks they would like to be seen in this newsletter, please let us know!

So welcome to the club and we hope to see you at many of our events this year!

Cheers,

Marc Patterson

President, Rotaract Club of Georgetown University
gurotaract@gmail.com

Alexa Meade on Youtube: 250,000 Views In One Week!

By Phil Meade

My daughter, Alexa, is becoming viral on the internet again. My guess in a couple of days, 250,000 hits within a one week time period. Here is the link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnZks0BCCiw&feature=player_profilepage

"Picture this. You're walking in a gallery, along a wall of oil portraits - all of them impressive works of art. They're so good, they're almost popping off the canvas. Until you realize....they actually are. Al Jazeera reports from Washington DC."



Rotarians Send Help To Pakistan Flood Victims

By Ryan Hyland, RI News, 24 August 2010



Top: Volunteers hand out food and other aid to victims of the flooding in Pakistan.

Bottom: Pakistanis living on the side of the road after heavy flooding. Photos courtesy of Rotary Club of Rawalpindi Rohtas

Rotarians are reaching out to victims of the heavy monsoon rains in Pakistan,

as the country continues to cope with its worst flooding in decades.

Major rivers have flooded valleys in about one-third of the country, claiming as many as 1,600 lives and washing away bridges, roads, and entire villages. The United Nations estimates that more than four million people have been left homeless.

"The people of Pakistan were not prepared for a disaster like this to reach this magnitude. Each day it seemed to get worse," says Shehzad Ahmed, governor of District 3272 (Afghanistan; Pakistan). "It's difficult for me to imagine how we're going to cope with this situation."

Millions of children face diarrhea, cholera, and upper respiratory infections from contaminated water and insects. Eight million people are still in urgent need of humanitarian aid. The UN predicts that the economic cost of the floods could reach billions of dollars.

"While most Rotarians in my district weren't terribly affected, we still have a moral obligation to help those who are suffering," Ahmed says. He adds that clubs in

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his district are collecting food, safe drinking water, and medicine.

Ahmed also formed a district disaster relief committee of past district governors, governors-elect, and governors-nominee, as well as other leaders, to oversee long-term recovery efforts.

"We've received tremendous support so far from clubs and districts all over the world," he says. "Rotarians are motivating each other and their friends to contribute generously toward this noble cause."

Relief efforts

In response to the floods, The Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees is accepting contributions to help fund Rotary projects that will support long-term disaster recovery in the affected areas.

Ahmed's district is also coordinating with ShelterBox, a grassroots disaster relief organization supported by Rotary clubs around the world, to help distribute emergency aid. ShelterBox is sending 5,000 water filtration units and 2,500 water containers to flooded areas. More than 1,900 tents and 600 ShelterBox containers have already been deployed.

The Rotary Club of Sharpstown (Houston), Texas, filled two 40-foot shipping containers with relief supplies, and is coordinating with Ahmed's district and District 3271 to deliver them to Karachi, where local clubs will help distribute the goods.

Meanwhile, the Rotary Club of Multan Metropolitan, Punjab, has established five flood relief camps at local hospitals. Club members are collecting tents, household items, food, and medicine. World Water Works, a Rotary-club sponsored relief organization that provides disaster victims with water purification tools, has sent more than 600 boxes to the southern province of Sindh.

Hugo Pike, chair of World Water Works and a member of the Rotary Club of Chelwood Bridge, Avon, England, says each box contains a water purification kit that can supply each member of a family of four with about 2 quarts of drinking water every day for a year.

"It is likely that this emergency will continue for some weeks," Pike says. "But Rotary clubs in District 1200 are ready to respond."

Syed Shahab Balkhi, governor of District 3271, says Rotary clubs can do the most good by planning for the rehabilitation of flooded areas.

"This is unprecedented flooding and has been incredibly widespread," Balkhi says. "Long-term recovery will be acute and painful. But help has been promised by every club in my district and District 3272."

"Good Governance" A Key To Polio-Free Africa

By Sandra Pruffer and Dan Nixon RI News – 23 August 2010



Mo Ibrahim, African telecommunications entrepreneur and proponent of global polio eradication. Photo courtesy of Mo Ibrahim

The founder of a major African telecommunications firm has voiced his support for Rotary's promise to kick polio out of the continent, and the world.

Mo Ibrahim, founder of Celtel, called on leaders at the African Union Summit, held 19-27 July in

Kampala, Uganda, to finish the job of polio eradication.

"Polio is no barrier to success ... but it does make success more difficult to achieve. And the real tragedy is that their suffering was entirely preventable," Ibrahim wrote in an editorial appearing in South Africa's *Mail and Guardian* and Kenya's online *Business Daily*.

"The debilitating disease, which has crippled and killed millions throughout history, can be completely eradicated thanks to effective and inexpensive vaccines and immunisation programmes," Ibrahim wrote. "A global campaign to eradicate polio – spearheaded by WHO [the World Health Organization], Rotary

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International, UNICEF and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – has already seen astonishing success in reducing incidences of the disease.”

The Sudanese-born entrepreneur also chairs the London-based Mo Ibrahim Foundation, which he started in 2006. The foundation is committed to supporting African leadership to improve economic and social prospects for people on the continent. Toward that goal, it stimulates debate on governance, provides criteria that citizens can use to hold their governments accountable, recognizes leadership achievements, and funds educational scholarships for aspiring leaders.

Not won yet

In his editorial, titled “Good Governance Is Crucial in the Fight against Polio,” Ibrahim noted that the Kick Polio Out of Africa awareness campaign drew strong support from government leaders in Nigeria and other countries in West and Central Africa.

“While the fight against polio has been overwhelmingly successful, it’s important to remember that it has not been won,” Ibrahim cautioned. “Although numbers of new cases have drastically decreased, outbreaks and epidemics are a constant threat. This is not the time to relax and say ‘job done.’ One final push could see polio eradicated completely, thereby preventing any possibility of a resurgence of the disease, protecting thousands of children across the world, and allowing them to participate fully in the development of their continent.”

Ibrahim also lauded Rotary’s leadership role in a massive immunization campaign held in the months before the World Cup, resulting in 85 million children in 19 countries being vaccinated by 400,000 volunteers. At the same time, a soccer ball signed by African leaders and public figures – including Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate and polio survivor – traveled through 23 polio-affected nations on the continent before arriving in Alexandria, Egypt, in June. In a grand finale celebration, a soccer ball was kicked toward the Mediterranean Sea, symbolizing the poliovirus being kicked out of Africa. (A virtual version of the ball, displayed at www.kickpoliooutofafrica.org, has gathered more than 10,000 online signatures.)

“Only a metaphor, perhaps, but a strong one, reflecting exactly what needs to happen with this deadly but preventable disease,” Ibrahim wrote.

Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler!

The Rotarian – July 2010



Five years after Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans is riding high. Its football team, the Saints, is the current Super Bowl champion, and its residents have worked hard to rebuild homes and businesses.

Rotarians who attend the 2011 RI Convention, 21-25 May, will find that the city has maintained its character and traditions, including a local dialect that employs some words and phrases you won’t find anywhere else. Here are a few to get you talking like a native.

- * *banquette* (ban- ket) What the rest of the country calls a sidewalk.
- * *cher* (pronounced like the singer) A term of affection; dear.
- * *fais do-do* (fay doe-doe) A Cajun dance party held after the kids are asleep. (Fais do-do is Cajun French for “go to sleep.”)
- * *gallery* (gall- ree) The upper-floor loggia-style balconies that are typical of New Orleans architecture.
- * *lagniappe* (lan-yap) A little something extra; something thrown in for free. Like The Four-Way Test, lagniappe builds goodwill and better friendships.
- * *picayune* (pic-ee-yoon) Small; inconsequential. Comes from the name of a Spanish coin worth an eighth of a dollar. The local newspaper is the *Times-Picayune*.
- * *yat* Slang for a local person. (Comes from the greeting “Where y’at!” which translates to “How are you?”)

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