

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

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

- Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars •
 - Vera Wedekind, Havixbeck, Germany

American University, School of International Service, Master of Arts in International Development

- Signe Fosgaard, Hillerold, Denmark
- Johns Hopkins University

China and International Economics
Vera has studied at the Dresden University of Technology School of International Studies and has been an intern both at the German and European Parliaments. She served at the German Embassy in Honduras and taught English and Geography classes at a school in Jocotenango, Guatemala.

Signe studied at Copenhagen University, Denmark; Exeter University, United Kingdom; and Yunan Normal University, China.

September 16 - 8pm Board of Directors Meeting

September 23 - 6:30pm - Meeting- Normandie Farm
Rotaract Club at Georgetown University

September 30 - 6:30pm - Social - Normandie Farm
October 7 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

Neil Cohen's U.S. Senate Campaign Comes In "Show"

First the good news: on primary election day Neil Cohen beat eight other candidates



for the U.S. Senate. The bad news: there were eleven candidates running. The two front-runners ahead of Neil amassed over 70% of the votes and Neil came in third place. For the first-time political campaigner and our beloved Rotarian, this was an outstanding accomplishment. And for all his patients who worried that they would need to find a new dentist, there was a great sigh of relief. Let's warmly welcome back Neil to the club after he successfully completed a major item on his "bucket list."

September 9 Meeting Report

President Jason Hamel introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Dr. Terrence Sheehan, Chief Medical Officer, Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital. He is a doctor of rehabilitation medicine trained to take care of people after trauma, limb-loss and stroke. As a result of the earthquake last January, there have been over 3000 amputees in Haiti, most of which were women. Dr. Sheehan was on a medical mission for ten days last March



bringing a team of eight from our area. His purpose was to help people get moving again. Previously Dr. Sheehan had been in Haiti working with Physicians for Peace and knew the poverty, but this was poverty with rubble.

Medishare joined with Healing Hands to open a makeshift hospital at the airport with three tents. He showed a



number of photos of his work. In the tents were patients with numerous injuries including 17 paraplegics. Unfortunately some injured children were abandoned by their families. Several guests came out for his presentation including Marilyn Nelson and Montgomery Village Rotarians Edco Bailey (with his



wife Cecilia) and Linda Smythe, founder of the Basra Prosthetics Project. The donations totaled \$78 happy dollars and \$33 for polioplus. Dr. Sheehan along with his son Gavin joined our Rotarians for the monthly Manna Food Center box packing on September 14.

(see the Manna Food Center photo collage on p. 2)

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The Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club has packed food boxes at 7pm on the second Tuesday of each month for nearly 25 years. Join us!



Photos by Elaine McDermott

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New Generations Gives Rotary A New Avenue To Serve

By Ryan Hyland RI News – 9 September 2010

RYLArians participate in a leadership exercise during a conference for District 5190 (California and Nevada, USA). Photo courtesy of Vicki Puliz

This September's New Generations Month takes on a different meaning than in the past.

The commitment to getting youth and young adults actively involved in Rotary was strengthened in April when representatives at the Council on Legislation approved New Generations as the fifth Avenue of Service.

RI President Ray Klinginsmith says the new Avenue of Service improves the value of youth programs and their impact on Rotary's future.

"The Council wanted to be sure New Generations programs were given adequate attention by clubs," says Klinginsmith. "Rotarians just want to be up front and recognize the importance of these programs. New Generations isn't just important to the future of Rotary but also our communities and the world."

New Generations Service acknowledges the positive change implemented by youth and young adults involved in leadership development activities, community and international service, and exchange programs that enrich and foster world peace and cultural understanding. Programs include RYLA, Rotaract, Interact, and Rotary Youth Exchange.

"We truly have the finest youth programs in the world," says Klinginsmith. "Their intrinsic value continues to escalate. We do a great job with these programs, we just need to give them more visibility."

This month is a chance to celebrate the new Avenue of Service, says Vicki Puliz, chair of New Generations Service for District 5190 (parts of California and Nevada, USA).

"News of the Council's decision was welcomed with excitement and enthusiasm by Rotarians in our district," says Puliz. "We are using this as a way to emphasize

how Rotary International views New Generations and its importance. It's a springboard to communicate even more with our clubs about these programs."

Virtually every club in her district is involved with one or more of the four youth programs. A wide range of district programs fall under the New Generations umbrella, says Puliz.

"Focusing more on youth is crucial for Rotary to thrive and survive," she says. "It's one of the reasons why we have programs on literacy, leadership training, and ethics for young people."

She recommends that every club appoint a New Generations Service chair. "We've learned that our

youth programs benefit from communication and coordination," says Puliz.

New Generations joins Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service, and International Service as an Avenue of Service. Before starting a project, Rotarians are asked to think broadly about how their club and its members could contribute within each avenue.

Klinginsmith says the best clubs are the ones that are well balanced.

"Strong clubs are involved in all five of the Avenues of Service," he says. "The ones that don't have New Generations programs are missing a part of the great adventure of Rotary."

Providing Safe Drinking Water

The Rotary Club of Summerland, British Columbia, Canada, has been helping villagers in the Nakuru district of Kenya gain access to safe drinking water for years.

Since 2002, the Summerland club, with help from the Rotary Club of Nakuru and other Kenyan clubs, has funded the construction of more than 2,500 rainwater harvesting tanks, improving the daily lives of women in the area and allowing them to provide cleaner water to their families.

Rotary Community Corps help distribute the tanks, which are produced locally and store 2,600 gallons of



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water, enough for a family of 10. The project also has received support from District 1580 (The Netherlands), along with more than US\$315,000 through a Health, Hunger and Humanity Grant and Matching Grants from The Rotary Foundation.

The tank project is just one example of Rotarians' ongoing commitment to improving access to safe drinking water, one of the themes of this year's World Water Week.

Every year, experts, decision makers, and leaders from around the globe meet as part of World Water Week to exchange ideas and develop solutions to the most urgent water-related issues. Ron Denham, chair of the Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group (WASRAG), is attending this year's event in Stockholm, Sweden, 5-11 September.

"Almost everyone in the water world will be there," says Denham, who served as general coordinator of the 2007-08 Water Resource Group. "I will be talking with organizations about partnering with WASRAG, because we want to help The Rotary Foundation leverage money from other organizations." Denham says Rotary not only provides money through Foundation grants but also represents boots on the ground. "We provide people who work." Since 1978, The Rotary Foundation has awarded nearly 5,000 grants totaling \$52.7 million to support water and sanitation projects.

Rotary's work to ensure access to clean water and sanitation around the world also includes:

* In 2009, Rotary International joined with USAID to form the International H2O Collaboration. Groundbreaking has begun on its initial projects, which aim to bring clean drinking water and basic sanitation to communities in the Dominican Republic, Ghana, and the Philippines. The collaboration in the Dominican Republic will fund improvements including hygiene training and bio-sand water filters. In Ghana, over 85,000 people in more than 110 villages will benefit from mechanized water systems, wells, rainwater collection vessels, and hygiene education. In the

Philippines, a project to improve sewage collection and treatment will help more than 150,000 people.

* The Rotary clubs of Pilar Norte, Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Griffin, Georgia, USA, have been working together on the Better Health through Better Hygiene project, launched in June 2009. A Foundation Matching Grant helped purchase booklets, brochures, and personal hygiene kits for more than 6,000 kindergarten and first-grade students in Pilar, about 35 miles from Buenos Aires. Rotarians also provided teachers with posters and manuals to help them promote better hygiene in their classrooms, and gave them soap, hand sanitizer, and dispensers to encourage regular hand-washing at school.

* Rotarians in District 6440 (Illinois, USA) delivered and assembled water filters for nine families in eastern Guatemala while visiting Ak'Tenamit, a remote river settlement and community development project, in February.



Over 2,500 people in rural Uganda are benefiting from a Matching Grant project between the Rotary clubs of Mityana, Uganda, and Franklin, Indiana, USA, for two wells and water purification systems. Photo courtesy of Joseph Matovu

Literacy Project Helps Sudan Refugees Rebuild

By Jessica Anderson and Maureen Vaught RI News – 8 September 2010

A literacy project sponsored by U.S. Rotarians in conjunction with the International Reading Association (IRA) is helping Sudanese refugees rebuild their communities by equipping them to teach future generations.

The Southern Sudan Teacher Training Initiative provides refugees of the country's decades-long civil war, who are known as the Lost Boys and Girls of Sudan, with teacher training materials, guidance, and support to help them teach students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

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"People returning from refugee camps to rebuild their lives in Duk County are hungry for books and school supplies," says John Dau, a Lost Boy, humanitarian, and founder of the John Dau Foundation.

The first phase of the project began in August 2009 when members of the Rotary Club of Ellensburg Morning, Washington, and IRA members met with two lead teachers from Sudan and sponsored their participation in the IRA's Pan-African Reading for All Conference.

"The Sudanese educators benefited from the experience by becoming aware of what is possible and learning what is happening on their continent in the field of literacy," says IRA member and Ellensburg Morning club president Judy Backlund.

The second phase in late 2009 provided literacy assessment tools and basic teaching strategies via Flip Video™ camcorders.

Teacher training will begin in early 2011, when 10 teachers are taught literacy teaching strategies, which they will then share with other teachers. The third phase will include evaluation, follow-up, and support.

The project aims to benefit more than 3,000 students living in Duk County.

Since 2002, Rotary International and the IRA have worked together to promote literacy in communities around the world. Rotary clubs and districts have collaborated with IRA councils at both the community and international levels to create literacy centers in Pakistan, provide books to new parents in the United States, and build schools in Ecuador.

To celebrate International Literacy Day, 8 September, Rotary clubs are encouraged to develop a relationship with their local IRA council.

Clubs can invite IRA members to present at a club meeting, or club members can offer to make a presentation to a local IRA council about Rotary's Avenues of Service. Learn more about the IRA or find a council serving your area.



As part of its celebration of International Literacy Day, the IRA hosted a one-hour webinar focusing on the role of literacy in improving the lives of women and girls. "Building Support for Effective Reading Instruction" featured Backlund; Richard Carson, Rotary representative to the Organization of American States; and Patricia Edwards, IRA president.

School children in Southern Sudan attend a class. Photo courtesy of Duk County Teacher Training Initiative

Historic Moments: Rotary in New Orleans

By Susan Hanf RI News – 14 September 2010

The history of Rotary in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, can be traced back to an early visit by a Chicago Rotarian to one of the city's insurance representatives.

Charles A. Newton, then of the Rotary Club of Chicago, visited William J. Bovard, a New Orleans resident working in the insurance field. Impressed by Newton's account of Rotary in Chicago, Bovard proposed the idea of launching a Rotary club in New Orleans to several friends. On 23 February 1910, the club's 26 charter members met and adopted a constitution and bylaws.

Three days later, Bovard shared the good news with Newton, writing that "it is the desire and sense of this Club to become a member of the National Organization." Newton forwarded the letter to Paul Harris, who responded, "Perhaps it will not surprise you if I inform you that New Orleans has been the one point of all others, which I have wanted to see brought into the fold."

Harris later recounted in *My Road to Rotary* that he had spent time in New Orleans after graduating from the University of Iowa law school in 1891 and before settling in Chicago in 1896. He returned to the city in January 1943 and spoke to the club.

In 1976, 13,935 Rotarians from 92 countries and geographical areas journeyed to New Orleans for the 67th annual RI Convention.

On 21-25 May, New Orleans will again host the convention.

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