

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## Rotary Club Calendar

**September 30 - 6:30pm - Social - Normandie Farm**

It's the fifth Thursday of the month and time for a Membership Social. Introduce your friends and associates to the Rotary Club in an informal atmosphere and share what Rotary membership is all about.

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

**October 12 - 7pm - Manna Food Center Packing**  
9311 Gaither Road, Gaithersburg

**Volunteers are Needed - Alex Naron Coordinating**

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

**October 16 - 7:30am-12:30pm Rotary Super Summit**  
Loews Annapolis Hotel

**October 16 - 4pm Picnic at Dick Gordon's home**  
14900 Kelley Farm Drive, Darnestown

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

**October 21 - 7pm Board of Directors Meeting**

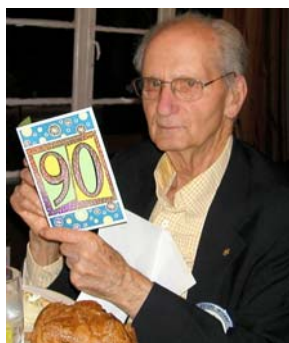
**October 23 - Rotary Leadership Institute**  
First Baptist Church, Frederick

**October 23 - Potomac Day**

**October 28 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm**  
Rotary District Governor Jay Kumar

## September 23 Meeting Report

The club surprised Charter Member Dick Gordon with a large cake and a happy birthday song celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Our guest speakers were four officers from our new Rotaract Club at Georgetown

University. President Marc Patterson is very interested in the values Rotary represents and came to the initial meetings last semester. Marc was born in his father's country of Costa Rica, raised from age 8 in his mother's country of New Zealand and now is in his

third country of residence. Marc is majoring in International Development. Montina Filice is the Rotaract Club treasurer and grew up in the garlic capital in Gilroy, California, where her father belonged to a 100-member Rotary Club. She is in the business school



majoring in marketing. Rotaract Vice President Thaddedus Ewald is from Orlando, Florida, and had experience as the Interact Club in high school the same year as his father was president of the Rotary Club. In Interact he participated in a variety of Rotary service projects including pancake breakfasts, beautification projects, scholarship competitions and "purple pinkie" for polio awareness. He saw a Facebook announcement about



the formation of the new Rotaract Club at Georgetown and felt it was an "awesome" opportunity to be part of the team starting this new club. Chris Yedibalian comes from New Jersey from which he says half of the student body originates. He had spoken with Marc who resides on the same residence floor about joining the Rotaract Club. There has been great interest in the



Rotaract Club from the new freshmen with about 150 expressing interest in being on the email list and about 40 attending the first meeting. They hope to become one of the biggest clubs on campus. There are 22 active members in the club meeting every other week with no dues currently

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assessed except for the board members, but late students can be fined a quarter. They thanked the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club as the sponsor, as they wouldn't have been about to start the club by themselves. Rotary Club President Elect Chinyere Amaefule is the representative to the Rotaract Club and Vice President Nabil Bedewi is the faculty advisor. The Rotaractors are very international with some from Hong Kong, Singapore and Turkey. They recently discussed with some Pakistani students the need for aid for the flooding victims in Pakistan and want their Rotaract Club to be a first responder for international disasters. Marc said that Georgetown students are known to sticking close to campus in their "Georgetown bubble" and he wants to have students visit other parts of the city such as U Street, Dupont Circle and Chinatown. Marc is a tutor with DC Reads assisting third graders in their reading. He gave the disturbing statistic that only 48% of DC high school students are graduating. They also want to do a "build" with Habitat for Humanity. Our own member Dr. Todd Nitkin will be their speaker next week.

## **Rotary Family News from Bernard Henry**

Bob:  
Thank you for keeping me on the emailing list. I read your Newsletter every week.

FYI, I had a large catering job yesterday and I am going to deliver 2-day food supply to Sophia's house this evening. The ladies will have a chance to taste the following items:

- Mediterranean Couscous with Grilled Marinated Vegetables
- Ziti Pasta with Fennel and Italian Turkey Sausage
- Provencal Chicken with Rosemary Orzo
- Seasonal Fruit Salad

Please say hello to everyone for me.

-Bernard Henry

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

## **Rotary Family News from Smiljka Soretic**

Here is some news from Fedja and Smiljka. We have been 3 months in Belgrade where Fedja had big retrospective exhibition. In July we came back to



Venice Fl. My kids and grand kids came to spend 5 weeks with us. Now I have 2 grand kids and 3rd is on



the way. We speak 3 languages in the family: Serbian, French and English. It is so funny. My French grandson speaks Serbo-French. I am speaking with

him Serbian only and he understands all. We baptized him in Belgrade's church.

Am glad to see new faces in our club. I miss you all. All the best to Neil, it would be nice to have a friend senator.

Regards to all.

Smiljka and Fedja



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## **Youth Exchange Creates Lifelong Bonds**

By Ryan Hyland RI News – 23 September 2010

*Past RI Vice President Jerry Hall; his wife, Tasha; and Antonio Herrera spend time together at the RI Convention in Montréal, Québec, Canada, in June. Photo courtesy of Jerry Hall*



Antonio Herrera gets emotional every time he is reunited with Past RI Vice President Jerry Hall, his host for a Rotary Youth Exchange in 1980.

Herrera, then 16, came from Chile to stay with the Hall family in Reno, Nevada, USA. He says he will never forget how Hall spent a couple of hours every day after school helping him read books that his teacher had assigned.

"He would make me read the books back to him," Herrera says. "I couldn't believe his genuine interest in my learning the language. The values I learned from Jerry and his family were instrumental. They made me a part of their family, which is why it's always emotional when I see them again."

Herrera is now vice principal at a middle school in Syracuse, New York. In 2003, he became a member of the Rotary Club of Syracuse Sunrise. Although work obligations have forced him to take a temporary leave from his club, he says it's important for exchange students to stay involved with Rotary.

"Youth Exchange opened so many doors for me," Herrera says. "Learning another language helped me tremendously in being who I am today."

Hall says the experience is equally rewarding for host families.

"The magic part of Youth Exchange is that you learn from the student, and the student learns from you," says Hall, a member of the Rotary Club of Reno. "Even though we live in other parts of the world and have different cultures, there are so many things we have in common."

"Antonio was a very serious and studious young man," Hall adds. "He always asked the extra question. His curiosity to learn our culture was remarkable."

Hall has gone on to host 13 students since Herrera, and says each has enriched his life in ways that are hard to describe.

"Seeing students mature is always rewarding," he says. "Youth Exchange is an opportunity to make a real difference in a young person's life."

The most difficult part is when the student goes back home, Hall says. "It's like when a family member leaves home. The bond you forge with students is so strong."

Hall believes the most important part of Youth Exchange is communication.

"Host families must be sure to make their student comfortable," he says. "It's such a good program. It changes how people see each other. We have a lot to learn from other cultures if we take the time."

The bond between Hall and Herrera remains strong 30 years later. They see each other every few years, and most recently met up during the RI Convention in Montréal, Québec, Canada.

## **What Is Your Club Known For?**

RI News – 24 September 2010

The Rotary Club of Greater Lake Charles, Louisiana, USA, holds an auction every year, raising money for scholarships to local universities and for The Rotary Foundation. For the past 20 years, the auction has been the activity that defines the club in the community.

The Rotary Club of Malone, New York, USA, has built a reputation out of its spaghetti dinners. "They always have a huge turnout and significant merchant support," notes Martha Weaver, a member of the club. "More than once, we have run out of spaghetti sauce."

For the Rotary Club of Calcutta Uptown, West Bengal, India, Rotary Foundation Matching Grant projects have been its signature in the rural areas of the Bengal region, helping provide eye care, computer centers for youth, and improved sanitation.

Developing signature activities that are visible in the community helps enhance the public image and awareness of Rotary, one of the priorities of the RI Strategic Plan. To encourage clubs to promote their own defining activities and to gather input from

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Rotarians, RI Vice President Thomas M. Thorfinnson recently moderated a discussion on Rotary International's official LinkedIn group.

RI directors will be moderating more discussions in the coming weeks, giving clubs a chance to share how their activities are helping to support the RI Strategic Plan. Join the discussion on LinkedIn.

"Surveys of Rotarians have made it clear to the Board that the vast majority of Rotarians want to be known for the good that we do. Signature activities or projects are a great way to make that happen," Thorfinnson says.

Mark Meyers, of the Rotary Club of Croydon South, Greater London, England, notes on LinkedIn that his club is known for its Christmas charity collection. "We organize a trailer with a sled on it and a public address system playing Christmas carols. Father Christmas encourages people to come out and greet their neighbors while club members circulate, asking for donations."

The Rotary Club of Strongsville, Ohio, USA, is known for its golf outing held in the middle of winter - - ice, snow, and all - - says club member Joseph Dzurilla. The Rotary Club of Delhi Vasant Valley, Delhi, India, creates awareness of Rotary through blood donation camps. The Rotary clubs of Churchland-Portsmouth and Portsmouth, Virginia, USA, hold a barbecue networking event full of food, refreshments, and live entertainment. According to Bill Pollard, a member of the Churchland-Portsmouth club, about 3,000 people attend the event, with each club netting about \$10,000 to support local projects and programs.

How does your club help support the goals of the strategic plan? Join the LinkedIn discussion.

## Comments:

**Reynaldo Abellada wrote:** I belong to Rotary Club of Baguio Sunrise of D3790. For the past 6 years now, we choose and give recognitions to outstanding public school teachers from the public elementary schools and public high schools. This has inspired our public school

teachers who had to deliver the desired educational instructions to our pupils and students mostly coming from the marginalized sectors of our society using minimal resources. We tag this annual search 'B.E.S.T. 2011' to mean Baguio's Exemplary School Teachers and this has been widely covered by local print and broadcast media to include television. We focus on the innovations introduced by the school teachers to impart teachings to their students. This has motivated the public school teachers and has greatly improved the ratings of public schools in Baguio versus national level ratings.



*Top Photo: The Rotary clubs of Churchland-Portsmouth and Portsmouth, Virginia, USA, hold a barbecue networking event each year as their signature event. Photo courtesy of Bill Pollard Bottom: The Rotary Club of Malone, New York, funds projects through its annual spaghetti dinner. Photo courtesy of Martha Weaver*

**Aldair Franco wrote:** The R.C. of Ituiutaba, Minas Gerais, Brazil made its XXI Feijoada, a typical and delicious dish of Brazilian culinary'. It has been made every year and the profit is for the Rotary Foundation. It is waited anxiously by all the citizens.



**Tony Quinn wrote:** My club Chelwood Bridge in D1200 is known for its production of Water Survival Boxes providing rapid aid and clean water filtration to people in disaster areas of

the world. 800 already in Pakistan following the flood for more information see [www.worldwaterworks.org](http://www.worldwaterworks.org)

**Marvin Scruggs wrote:** Central Queens Rotary is known for its Christmas Gift Giving. Our Santa Claus excites the children and gets them in the spirit of the season. We also hold a Supermarket Sweep just before Thanksgiving. Last year's winner ran straight to the Meat section and loaded up her cart to the point where she could hardly push the cart.

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## **A Road Trip To Remember**

By Arnold R. Grahl RI News -- 27  
September 2010

*Joanne and Brando Pistorius at the outset of their round-trip journey from Tampa, Florida, to the 2010 RI Convention in Montréal, Québec, Canada in their 1930 Packard. Photo courtesy Joanne Pistorius*

Rotarian Joanne Pistorius found a stylish way to travel to the 2010 RI Convention in Montréal, Québec, Canada, in June.

Pistorius, a member of the Rotary Club of Tampa Hyde Park, Florida, USA, and her husband, Brando, drove their vintage 1930 Packard from Tampa to Montréal as part of a three-week, 4,000-mile round-trip journey in late June and early July.

"So many people we met did not know what Rotary International does, and we were able to share that with them," says Pistorius, president of the North American chapter of the Antique, Classic, and Historic Automobile World Fellowship of Rotarians. "It was an exceptional PR opportunity and a chance to stop off at Rotary clubs along the way for a meal and a make-up, and to talk about the fellowship.

"We met some of the friendliest people on earth and saw the most beautiful parts of America," she adds. "The great thing about doing a Rotary make-up is you are treated like royalty wherever you go."

Pistorius's husband has been fixing up antique cars since his youth in South Africa. After the couple met and married in Tampa 10 years ago, they started their own real estate company and traveled extensively to antique car shows as a hobby. When the real estate market went soft, the couple turned Brando's habit of buying, restoring, and selling a "project" car each year into a more substantial income generator.

A couple of years ago, Pistorius discovered the automobile fellowship and was recruited to reorganize the North American chapter. She dreamed up the idea



of driving the Packard to the convention to promote Rotary and the fellowship.

### **Rotary club visits**

"Some of our antique car friends thought the idea was crazy," Pistorius notes. "But cars are meant to be driven. This car drove so fantastically for an older car. There's a reason it was the car of choice for Al Capone."

The summer heat, which exceeded 100 degrees in Florida, proved a major challenge. The couple rigged up frozen water bottles and a small fan blowing across an ice chest for relief. "It looks like a prototype air conditioner from the Flintstones," Pistorius wrote in a blog about the trip.

The couple stopped at seven Rotary clubs in all: the Rotary clubs of Hilton Head Island, Hilton Head Island-Van Landingham, and Georgetown, South Carolina; Princess Anne at Town Center (Virginia Beach), Virginia; Camden-Wyoming and Smyrna-Clayton, Delaware; and Middleburgh, New York. Press releases were sent out to local media, generating publicity for the clubs.

In Montréal, Pistorius helped at the fellowship's booth and attended several events. The car was a showstopper. "It got a lot of attention," she recalls. "Afterward, we would hear from people who said, 'I took this picture of this great car at the convention,' and it would be our Packard."

On their return trip, the couple attended the Antique Automobile Club of America's show in Louisville, Kentucky. A chance encounter with the club's president in Virginia Beach had earned them an invitation. "We did a lot of PR for Rotary at the car show too," Pistorius says.

The North American chapter is planning to have members from all over the United States drive their cars to the 2011 RI Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. Pistorius says there are also tentative plans to have an antique car be part of the fellowship's booth.

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