

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

October 14 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
Bob Nelson, NASA Emeritus: "NASA Spinoffs"



Spinoff is NASA's annual premier publication featuring successfully commercialized NASA technology. For more than 40 years, the NASA Innovative Partnerships Program has facilitated the transfer of NASA technology to the private sector, benefiting global competition and the economy. Since 1976, *Spinoff* has featured between 40 and 50 of these commercial products annually. About 40% of the products in a typical issue of *Spinoff* originated from the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program. Bob was Deputy Program Manager of the NASA SBIR Program for nine years until his retirement in 2005. *Spinoff* maintains a searchable database of every technology published since inception.

October 16 - 7:30am-12:30pm Rotary Super Summit
and Rotary Foundation Seminar, Annapolis

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



For more information, call Dick at 301-330-8938.

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

October 21 - 7pm Board of Directors Meeting



October 23 - 7pm - Rotaract Club Charter Night
Georgetown University

Hariri Building (new Business School building),
Fisher Colloquium (4th floor).

Time: 7-9pm, doors open at 6:30.

7-8 pm is the ceremony and 8-9 pm is a social.

Directions: maps.georgetown.edu
(Building #80 on the "main" map).

Please RSVP by October 16

to Nabil Bedewi neb4@georgetown.edu
and provide your name and number of guests.

October 23 - Rotary Leadership Institute

First Baptist Church, Frederick

Register online at RLINEA.org

October 7 Meeting Report

By President Jason Hamel

Our speaker was Mike Philips, the Republican nominee for the US House of Representatives running against incumbent Representative Chris Van Hollen. He is a



former Marine Captain and a graduate of Texas A and M. His talk consisted mostly of the debacle



surrounding the vote counting for the primary that lead to incorrect ballots being sent to serviceman for the general election and the pending

lawsuit. Thanks so much to Neil Cohen for arranging this speaker at the last second.

Rotary Club Calendar (continued)

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

Jay Kumar, Rotary District Governor

November 4 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

Vera Wedekind, Rotary Scholar

November 11 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

Alexander Honjiyo: Hilltop Microfinance Project

November 14 - 4:45pm Past RI President Richard King

Frederick Community College

Register online at rotary7620.org.

November 18 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

David Shaman: World Bank

November 25 - No Meeting - Thanksgiving

December 2 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

December 9 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

Annita Seckinger: Haiti Project

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

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Rotarians Are Distributing Dictionaries To Third Graders Throughout Maryland and Washington, DC

By Nancy M. Szlasa, Program Coordinator

The Goal of The District Dictionary Project is to distribute a free dictionary to each third grade student in the public schools of Rotary District 7620 in the fall of 2010 (An estimated 70,000 dictionaries).

The District Dictionary Project is a collaborative effort among the District 7620 member clubs, public school systems of Maryland (twelve counties on the western shore) and Washington, DC, and, the business community where applicable.

In order to implement a successful program, you are asked to follow the District Guidelines with the understanding that each club may tailor its program according to its abilities, priorities, and knowledge from past experience. Small clubs are not to be discouraged by lack of funds or manpower—the larger clubs are encouraged to lend a helping hand! This collaborative effort will ensure that each school's needs will be met.

Keeping the goal in mind, it is in the spirit of generosity as well as of service that Rotary implements this worthwhile Dictionary Project.

District Support

The Assistant Governors or their appointees will serve as coordinators for each county and will communicate with each club.

The District through the Planning Committee and the AGs will:

- Contact the superintendent of each county
- Obtain list of elementary schools in each county and third grade class enrollments
- Assist in coordinating the selection of schools for clubs
- Provide the quantity of books needed for each school
- Provide the template for dictionary labels/bookplates
- Provide clubs with The Dictionary Project brochures, bookmarks, and fact sheet
- Identify business/education partnership programs in each county

- Provide suggestions for presentations by members to the students in the schools

- Research large corporate funding resources

Club Support

The individual clubs will provide the resources to implement the ordering and distribution process, which will include:

- Funding the purchase of the dictionaries required for distribution
- Ordering dictionaries for students, teachers, and aides directly from

The Dictionary Project in Charleston, SC

Mary French-contact

The Dictionary Project

PO Box 1845

Charleston, SC 29402

1 843-856-2706

www.dictionaryproject.org

- Personalizing labels/bookplates using a generic design provided by the district
- Arranging for dictionaries to be mailed directly to each club according to the order, in boxes of 24
- Organizing the insertion of labels/bookplates into the dictionaries
- Distributing the dictionaries to the selected schools as agreed upon with the AG by October 29, 2010.
- Arranging with each school a day and time to present the books to the students by club members
- Inviting media to the presentations and submitting press releases.

Cost of dictionaries - \$1.75 per book. Labels are an additional cost.

Let us, as committed Rotarians, make a difference in the quality of life of third grade students and help them "To Learn to Read and Read to Learn." It is through this literacy program that students can improve their communication skills as well as their quality of life and that of the community-at-large.

Contact: Nancy M. Szlasa

District Coordinator, The Dictionary Project

Nszlasa@aol.com

410-442-8034

443-803-6547

**Communication, Collaboration, Coordination
Will Make The Dictionary Project Happen!**

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Afghan Students Raise Awareness For Polio Eradication

By Arnold R. Grahl RI News – 8 October 2010

Members of the College of Education Training team share their polio eradication campaign with a business owner in Jalalabad. Photo courtesy of the Global Connections and Exchange Program

Afghan students from several high schools fanned out across Jalalabad in September, raising money and awareness for efforts to eradicate polio from their country.

The students were all participants in the Global Connections and Exchange Program, a project of the Rotary Club of La Jolla Golden Triangle, California, USA, which administers Internet training labs in six high schools as well as a central training facility in Jalalabad. The effort is funded by a grant from the U.S. State Department as part of a larger initiative to promote technology, curriculum development, and international collaboration.

On 21 September, Abdul Qaum Almas, a member of the Rotary Club of Jalalabad and director of the program, and La Jolla Golden Triangle club member Fary Moini organized a workshop on the importance of polio eradication, attended by the students and community members.

Ajmal Pardis, the regional director of public health, made presentations with his staff, while a few of the students put on a play they had prepared about a young person who became crippled because his parents would not allow him to receive the polio vaccine.

The students left the workshop fired up to design their own fundraising drives, and spent two days visiting schools, businesses, homes, and government and political offices. White T-shirts identified them as participants in the Global Connections and Exchange

Program and featured the words "Let's Kick Polio from Afghanistan."



First of its kind

Each team put together a slideshow on their campaigns and returned to the central training facility to share the results. Moini said the team from the College of Education Training lab, led by trainer Sahar Sohrab and team leader Ulfat Kazemi, won top honors for having collected the most.

"All the schools did a great job," she said. "I am extremely proud of them. They are the source of my inspiration and my strength."

Rotary Foundation Trustee Stephen R. Brown, a member of the La Jolla Golden Triangle club, said the students' eagerness in spreading the word about polio was more significant than the AFA25,000 (US\$550) raised. "These kids were armed with information, and they jumped on the opportunity to go out and talk to people about what polio is, and how two drops of vaccine can save lives."

"This activity was the first of its kind in Afghanistan, with students fundraising to save others from polio and tell the Afghan public how to assist in this important cause," Almas added.

Several months earlier, the La Jolla Golden Triangle club gave seed money to the Internet labs to help the students develop service projects in their communities. The students fixed local wells, repaired classroom equipment, and undertook landscaping projects. Brown said natural leaders emerged from the process, which helped the students when it came time to form teams for the polio drive.

He said the program is about much more than just Internet training for the students. "It has become its own unofficial trademark. They are all very proud of being in the program and its community outreach."

Several student leaders have begun taking steps to form an Interact club, Brown said.

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RYLA Pals Put Their Skills To Good Use

By Ryan Hyland RI News – 7 October 2010

Jonas Larsson (left) and Måns Gårdfeldt (right) with a fellow RYLarian at the 2010 International RYLA in Montréal, Québec, Canada. Photo courtesy of Jonas Larsson



Two students who met at a district Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) event used their friendship and talents to help travelers stranded by the volcanic eruption in Iceland in April.

Måns Gårdfeldt and Jonas Larsson became friends at the District 2340 (Sweden) RYLA in 2008. After ash from the volcano grounded more than 100,000 flights and disrupted travel for millions of passengers, the two alumni collaborated to create a website that offered volcano-related news, car shares, and housing.

"The biggest problem seemed to be the lack of organization from airlines, governments, and transportation companies," says Gårdfeldt, explaining that he and Larsson were moved by stories of distraught travelers. "People were paying extremely expensive taxi trips, and some had no way to get home at all."

The website featured discussion threads for people looking to share rides to destinations across Europe, with ride offers at a variety of prices, says Gårdfeldt.

Word spread quickly. Their website drew 1,500 visitors an hour the first day. After five days, the site registered more than 40,000 visitors and received about 170,000 page views, according to Larsson, a computer programming student.

"We knew it could be something very big if we did it right," says Larsson. "We used Facebook and Twitter to market the website. It was an overnight success."

Their site was mentioned in several newspapers and received radio and TV exposure.

"We had reporters call at every hour of the night, which of course was thrilling," says Gårdfeldt. "It felt really good to succeed and see people use our site."

"Knowing that there were thousands of desperate people out there needing help, it was a wonderful feeling to see them come to our website," says Larsson. "Seeing the connections made by visitors fueled Måns and me to work day in and day out that week."

Because site visitors mainly posted their e-mail or telephone numbers to connect, Gårdfeldt and Larsson don't know exactly how many people they helped, Gårdfeldt says. However, they received confirmation from several people that the site helped them get home.

"We had about 1,000 posts, so we know there were a lot of people who came to the site and organized their travels together," Gårdfeldt says.

Rotarians in their district also noticed their success and brought the two RYLarians to Montréal, Québec, Canada, to share their story with participants at the 2010 International RYLA in June.

Team Teaches Disability Care

By Vanessa Glavinskas *The Rotarian* – October 2010

More than a billion people are at risk of lymphatic filariasis, a parasitic disease that affects the lymphatic system and can impair mobility.

Millions more are physically disabled by conditions such as diabetes and leprosy. Rotarians from District 7300 (Pennsylvania) are working to educate health care workers on preventing these illnesses and treating the complications they cause.

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A District Designated Fund allocation of US\$46,340 funded a May meeting in Accra, Ghana. A team of eight health care professionals from around the world visited clinics, met with patients, attended a conference, and outlined a standardized training manual on the proper treatment of limbs - in particular, legs and feet - that are vulnerable because of chronic sores, poor circulation, or swelling.

A member of the Group Study Exchange team from District 7300 (Pennsylvania) meets with a lymphatic filariasis patient in Accra, Ghana. Photo courtesy of Mary Jo Geyer



"The number of people with diabetes is growing exponentially, especially in the developing world," says Mary Jo Geyer, a specialist in wound care and lymphedema treatment at the University of Pittsburgh. She notes that when people migrate to cities to find work, their diet changes, often for the worse, as they're exposed to cheap junk food for the first time.

"Many don't have the money to go for a screening, so diabetes is not caught until very late."

In addition to focusing on prevention, the team worked on the problem of fabricating and distributing therapeutic footwear for those with disabilities, with the aim of setting up a system to manufacture or modify inexpensive sandals according to individual patients' needs.

Georgia Petropoulos Muir, a member of the Rotary Club of Oakland (Pittsburgh) who accompanied the health workers, says it's important to alleviate symptoms for people who are already living with diabetes, leprosy, and other diseases.

The weeklong visit shows what a vocational training team might look like under The Rotary Foundation's Future Vision Plan. Team members adapted the Group Study Exchange model into an experience that allowed them to do hands-on work, and they drafted a manual that will be used to train local health workers.

"It's important to teach people how to take care of themselves," Geyer says.

Motorized Wheelchair Needed for Severely Physically Disabled Resident of Montgomery County

Dear Rotary Club Members,
My name is Cynthia DeSantis and I am a licensed clinical social worker in private practice in College Park, MD. I have a client who is a resident of Montgomery County. She has several severe physical

disabilities and other medical problems that prohibit her from walking on any surface with an incline. I was wondering if you have a donation program that lends or donates used electric wheelchairs? One of her dreams is to go to the National zoo with her grandchildren. If you do not have this resource, perhaps you could recommend an organization that provides this type of donation.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Cynthia S. DeSantis, LCSW-C
Clinical Social Worker
7338 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 207A
College Park, MD 20740
(301) 927-1555

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

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