

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

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

Jay Kumar, Rotary District Governor



Jayaram Kumar, "Jay", is a retired Mechanical and Automobile engineer. He was born in Bangalore, India, graduated from Bangalore University, and immigrated to the US in 1977. He is now a citizen of the United States. He was a managing partner of Modern Industries, a distribution transformer manufacturing industry in Bangalore. He also managed a 25 acre farm with his Rotarian father, and a sales company representing three foreign concerns. In the US, he

worked for Dupont, W.R. Grace and Niro Atomizers. He was the Director of Plant Operations for Provident Hospital. He worked as Director of Facilities in Howard County and as a mechanical engineer for Arlington County. Before retiring, he worked as a service manager for Toyota. Jay joined the Rotary movement as a founding President of the Rotaract club in Bangalore, India where he met his wife Geetha, who was a Rotaractor. He has been active in Rotary since 1985 when he joined the Rotary Club of Columbia, MD. He has 100% attendance since he joined. Jay has worked on several international projects, including an ongoing project MAANASI with his wife, and has raised thousands of dollars for charity, participated actively in Polio Plus in Bangalore and has held all offices of the club. He is a Paul Harris Fellow and has awarded three Paul Harris Fellows to others. Jay has been married to his wife Geetha for thirty five years and they have two children. Sanchitha is an attorney and married to Tom Wang, PhD in Chemical Engineering from MIT. Nikhil works in the film industry in Los Angeles.

November 4 - 6:30pm – Meeting – Normandie
Dr. Neil Cohen:

Lessons Learned from the Campaign Trail

November 11 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie

Alexander Honjiyo: Hilltop Microfinance Project

November 14 – 4:45pm Past RIP Richard King
Frederick Community College

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

David Shaman: World Bank

November 25 – No Meeting – Thanksgiving

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

Vera Wedekind, Rotary Scholar

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

Annita Seckinger: Haiti Project

December 16 - 6:30pm – Holiday Party

Normandie Farm

December 23 and 30 – No Meetings

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Charters Rotaract Club at Georgetown University



Potomac-Bethesda Rotarians and district leaders celebrated the chartering of the new Rotaract Club at Georgetown University on October 23. Speakers included Governor Jay Kumar, District Rotaract

Representative Navin Vialliappan, President Jason Hamel, Charter Rotarian Dick Gordon and Rotaract Club President Marc Patterson.

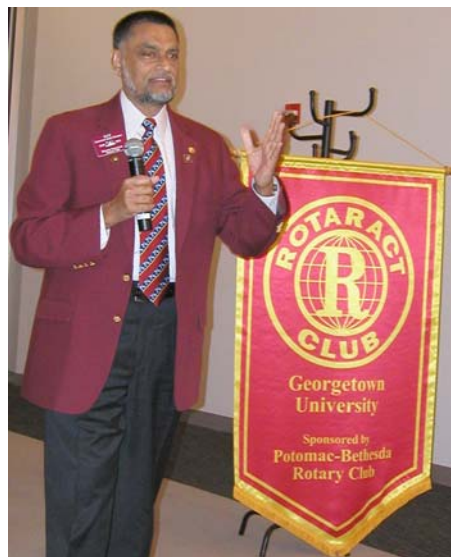
President Marc's speech:

"Good evening Rotarians, Rotaractors, Rotaractarians, and all other members, sorry, cogs of Rotary.

One fateful night in February of this year, the snow still hanging around after shutting down DC the week before, I was trolling

through my emails and notices from the University. One notice took my interest from amongst the dark slog.

"Join a club where members address their communities' physical and social needs while promoting international



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understanding and peace." Contact Professor Nabil Bedewi.

Over the next couple of weeks, a few of you also read this notice and as a result the members (who are now) our board began meeting with Nabil and our local Rotaract powerhouse Navin. From us initial eight who kicked things off, we have grown our interest group to 150 students and a core Charter Membership of 27, and it's great to have you all here tonight.

Before moving on, I want to tell you all a story about why I'm here. Why these two things - my community's needs and an international understanding mean so much to me. The year before coming to Georgetown, I returned to Costa Rica, my country of birth. I was always challenged by the poverty around me growing up and this was my chance to tackle it head on. I worked as an English teacher in La Carpio. Every morning driving to site I would see my student Geral's father vending cheap goods on the highway. Geral's father is cross-eyed, he never learnt to read but he works hard everyday to earn enough for his children to attend school. When school wasn't in, Geral would come to my English classes and probe me with questions. During lunch times I taught him chess and he caught on so quick that he beat a visiting UCLA Medical student in a challenge. Geral is doing amazing at school and wants to go to the University of Costa Rica, but any day, if his father can't come up with the goods, Geral will have to drop out and provide for his family. Seeing Geral's enthusiasm and drive to succeed, I can't help but think of all the amazingly intelligent people our world holds back to the harsh reality of poverty.

This evening is a commencement for us, the Rotaract club, to make tangible those things that drew us into this club in the first place. The international focus of Georgetown University means we are all very aware of the challenges the world faces; in business, in politics, in health and the environment. The brilliance of Rotary is to harness this international awareness to use as a catalyst for action here where we live. Our challenge now is understanding our community, this city Washington DC, so we can be effective in addressing it's needs. Can we be a part of the solution to the inequality here in the district? I think we can.



We have already seen the amazing endeavors and impact one of our Rotarians has made in our first speaker event. Todd Nitkin, who is here with us, spoke to us about Medical Teams International and his work in Uganda. Last week we raised \$232 over three days with Amanda's Pakistan Flood Relief bakesale. With our new connections tonight with all of our esteemed Rotarians across the district we hope to expand on the impact our club can make." - President Marc Patterson

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October 21 Meeting Report

Beverly A. Sauer is a Professor of the Practice at Georgetown University, in the McDonough School of Business. Her research focuses on the ways that multimodal communication (speech and gesture) affects the outcomes of risk decision-making in large systems. Following the BP oil spill, regulatory agencies faced increasing criticism about their ability to regulate and manage risk. The Minerals Management Service had failed to discover flaws in BP's risk management program. Few agency personnel understood the safety mechanisms in place or the massive risks inherent in BP's Blow-Out Protector. They did not discover flaws in BP's disaster planning or take action to remediate the myriad small failures and omissions that contributed to the disaster—including the last-minute decision to replace the "mud" with seawater in the final hours before the disaster. As the public media argued, the regulatory deck seemed to be stacked in favor of BP because regulatory agencies lacked the technical expertise or experience to evaluate risks that might occur as companies like BP pushed the envelope on technological development. More important, agencies



lacked the funding that would enable them to compete on even footing with BP's massive technical experience and technically-advanced workforce. Her presentation re-visited the BP disaster from the point of view of system safety fundamentals in order to answer the questions: "How can agencies and non-technical personnel evaluate risk in emerging technologies? What key fundamental features of system safety were absent in the critical risk decisions preceding the disaster? How can we learn to understand complex

technologies 'not in our field' without increasing administrative burden or increasing the costs of regulatory compliance?" As she argued, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to discover faults in a system—particularly when risk decision-makers fail to take into account the fundamental material principles that govern good engineering design & implementation. Ultimately, the visible- and audible-gaps in communication at all levels in BP's deepwater drilling project should have provided signs of deeper engineering flaws in the system.

Typhoon Megi Hits the Philippines

Rotary International News – 25 October 2010

Rotary International staff members are working with Districts 3770 and 3790 to acquire information about Rotarian-led disaster relief efforts in response to the typhoon that struck northern Philippines on 16 October. The storm left 19 people dead and 150,000 homeless. Updates will be posted at www.rotary.org as they become available. Please send any questions or concerns regarding this disaster to relief@rotary.org.

Donor Recognition Totals

Rotary International News – 26 October 2010

With the important contributions of these generous donors, The Rotary Foundation is fulfilling its promise of creating a polio-free world, helping children and families live healthier lives through Rotary's Humanitarian Grants Program, and educating young people about cultures worldwide. Rotary World Peace Fellows are engaging in the study of peace building, which may allow them to participate in resolution efforts in some of the world's most challenging situations.

- * Arch C. Klumph Society members – 284
- * Major Donors – 13,105
- * Bequest Society – 7,254
- * Benefactors – 84,102
- * Paul Harris Fellows – 1,251,714

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World Polio Day Inspires Push To End The Disease

By Dan Nixon RI News – 25 October 2010

Rotarians stream across the Bosphorus bridge, which connects Europe and Asia, as part of the Eurasia Marathon in Istanbul 17 October. The event raised about \$8,000 for polio eradication. Photo courtesy of Rotary Club of Istanbul-Yenikoy



Rotarians walked, ran, and sold everything from hot dogs to flower bulbs to celebrate World Polio Day, 24 October, in support of the global effort to eradicate the disease.

Led by RI President Ray Klingensmith, an estimated 3,000 Rotarians and supporters walked along San Francisco's Embarcadero waterfront on World Polio Day. The walk culminated in the illumination of the Ferry Building with the words "End Polio Now."

In the Netherlands, Rotary clubs launched a national polio eradication fundraising and awareness campaign, with the goal of netting US\$2.5 million for PolioPlus.

Rotarians in District 7230 (Bermuda; part of New York, USA) sponsored World Polio Week in Bermuda with Purple Pinkie Day fundraisers and a dinner in recognition of Past District Governor Walter Maddocks, the first director of the PolioPlus fundraising campaign.

In Kentucky, USA, Rotary clubs partnered with the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, held from 25 September to 10 October, in support of Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge and The Rotary Foundation's Annual Programs Fund . Through an

agreement with the concession company for the games, a volunteer force of more than 2,000 Rotarians, family members, and friends sold food and refreshments, with a percentage of the profits going to the two causes.

Equestrian athletes from 58 countries participated in the event, which drew more than 500,000 people. "We were very busy the entire time, but it wasn't a burden," says Sara Callaway, a member of the Rotary Club of Frankfort. "I like to do volunteer work for things I believe in."

An estimated 460 Rotarians and

friends ran and walked the Eurasia Marathon in Istanbul on 17 October, raising about US \$8,000. The race course included the Bosphorus Bridge, which connects Europe and Asia.

On 11 November, Hong Kong Rotarians will hold their annual 10K race for elite and recreational runners and a 3K race for children.

Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland has partnered with the Eden Project in England and the International Flower Bulb Centre in the Netherlands to sell and plant 4.6 million crocus bulbs across the United Kingdom and Ireland. The effort is part of RIBI's Thanks for Life project, which raises funds for polio eradication and awareness about the disease.

"The color purple is a vibrant [element], as purple dye is used to mark children's fingers after immunization against polio," says Alan Wilding, president of the Rotary Club of Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England. "The bulbs we plant in October will flower in time to mark Rotary's birthday on 23 February," which will also coincide with End Polio Now lightings and events around the world.

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Reach Out to Africa

The Rotarian – November 2010

Rotary's Reach Out to Africa initiative seeks to develop partnerships between clubs in Africa and outside of the continent. Rotary Images/Alyce Henson

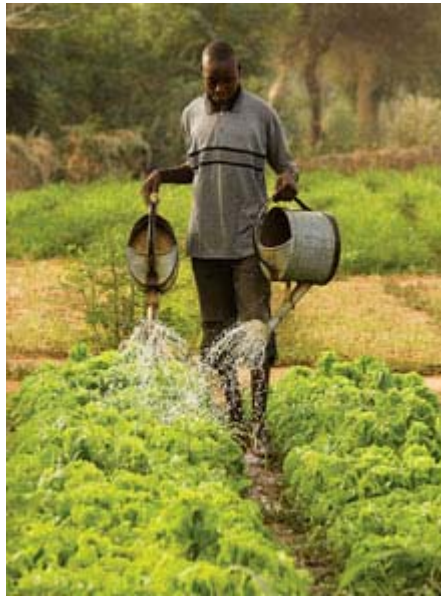
Five years ago, the 85 children attending Ilitha Preschool – located in a shantytown outside Cape Town, South Africa – were crammed into a single-room shack with few supplies. The nearby Rotary Club of Sea Point began providing the school with educational materials. Then, through Rotary's Reach Out to Africa initiative, the club found international partners in Korea and the United States to expand the effort. The result: a literacy project and the dedication of two new classrooms in April.

All over Africa, Rotary clubs have taken on projects that could be enhanced in this way, and the Reach Out to Africa Committee is working to help develop partnerships between clubs on the continent and outside it.

"Reach Out to Africa is a very valuable concept," says Rodney Mazinter, a member of the Sea Point club. "There is enormous need in Africa. There is wealth here as well, but the differences between the wealthy and the destitute are very wide. Education, water, diseases – all these things that need to be tackled are big stumbling blocks to advancement."

The RI Board launched Reach Out to Africa in 2007-08. Representatives from four geographical regions on the continent act as liaisons for Rotarians within Africa who are looking for resources to help implement projects, as well as for Rotarians from outside Africa looking for efforts that need support. The committee publishes a monthly e-newsletter.

Rotary Project Safaris – a new initiative of RI President Ray Klinginsmith, who studied in Cape Town as a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar – will play a part in Reach Out to Africa. Teams of five to eight



Rotarians will travel to a developing country in Africa, or to other parts of the world struggling with poverty, for a week, dividing their time between tourism and visiting Rotary projects. The host club or district will help with arrangements; the team members themselves will pay for travel expenses, including food and lodging.

Several Rotary Project Safaris are being planned in conjunction with Ray's Rotary Reunions, which will be held in Cape Town 3-5 February.

"Anybody who goes to a developing country for any time at all comes back with a whole new view of the world," says Past RI Director Thomas A. Branum Sr., chair of the Reach Out to Africa

Committee. "You cannot go to places like that without it changing your life."

"This Close" resources available

By Wayne Hearn RI News – 22 October [Excerpted]
Rotary is "this close" to achieving its goal of a polio-free world, and a wide array of public figures and celebrities have signed on to help Rotary spread the word.

From Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu and action movie star Jackie Chan to golf legend Jack Nicklaus and conservationist Jane Goodall, more than 20 international and regional luminaries with a social conscience are raising their thumbs and forefingers in the "this close" gesture, to appear on billboards and in print ads soon to be seen worldwide.

Rotary clubs can use the ads within their communities to increase awareness of and support for Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge, the ongoing effort to raise \$200 million for polio eradication to match \$355 million in challenge grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"This Close" ads have run in several publications, including *The Rotarian* magazine, *USA Today*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and the *Wall Street Journal Asia*. Rotarians at the 2010 RI Convention also saw them at Montréal-Trudeau International Airport.

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