

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

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

Dr. Neil Cohen:

Lessons Learned from the Campaign Trail



Our own Past Rotary Club President Neil Cohen is tonight's speaker. He's been a practicing dentist for almost 30 years in Maryland. He lives in Rockville with wife Arlene and dog Mia. They have one grown up son, Sander, who is a Maryland Deputy State Fire Marshall. Neil says, "When my family came to America two generations ago from Eastern Europe we believed in hard work and the pursuit of opportunity. I still do. Throughout my life I've worked hard to succeed. I've worked as a janitor, short order cook and U.A.W. assembly-line worker. I graduated from Howard University in 1977 as a Doctor of Dental Surgery. As a dentist and small business owner in Chevy Chase and Deale, Maryland for three decades, I have experienced the painful impact of greater government intrusion into the private sector. As an activist I've watched as the political divisiveness in Washington, D.C. has led to bad government and wasteful tax spending under both Republicans and Democrats."

November 5 - 9:30am Dictionary Project - Bells Mill

November 9 - 1pm Dictionary Project - Poolesville

November 9 - 7pm - Manna Food Center Packing

9311 Gaither Road, Gaithersburg **Volunteers Needed**

Alex Naron Coordinating - AlexNaron@gmail.com

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

Alexander Honjiyo: Hilltop Microfinance Project

November 12 - 10am Dictionary Project - Wayside

November 14 - 6:30pm Past RIP Richard King

Hood College. Free registration 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

Vera Wedekind, Rotary Scholar

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

Annita Sekinger: Haiti Project

December 16 - 6:30pm - Holiday Party

Normandie Farm

December 23 and 30 - No Meetings

October 28 Meeting Report

By Tom Leuchtenburg; Photos by Nabil Bedewi

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club members enjoyed a wide-ranging talk by the new Governor Jay Kumar.



Jay's enthusiasm and commitment to Rotary and helping others was very obvious. Jay and his wife Geetha have been active in Rotary for decades. Jay started by introducing himself and describing his involvement in Rotary.

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



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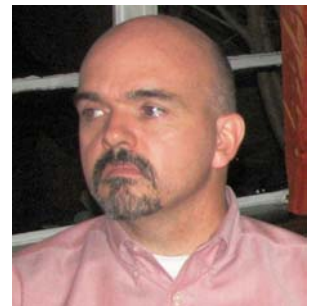
of the Rotaract club in Bangalore, India where he met his wife Geetha, who was a Rotaractor.



[Above] Visiting doctors from Iraq who are part of the Rotary Prosthetics Program founded by Montgomery Village Rotarian Linda Smythe [Right].

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 and his wife have worked on several international projects, including an ongoing project MAANASI which provides medical services. They return each year for four weeks to assist in this self-sustaining project currently serving 2000 patients in 165 villages. He also 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 thirtyfive years and they have two children. Sanchitha is an attorney and Nikhil works in the film industry in Los Angeles.

Governor Jay spoke passionately about Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self." He shared that his personal faith is Hindu and that it is his faith that drives him to help others. He described the personal joy he felt when he engaged in his first Rotaract project in India to implement a water well for a needy village. As a result of the club's efforts, 3000 people were able to partake of clean water for the first time. He encouraged all Rotarians to become involved in hands-on projects and shared his view that it is "God's work helping humanity."

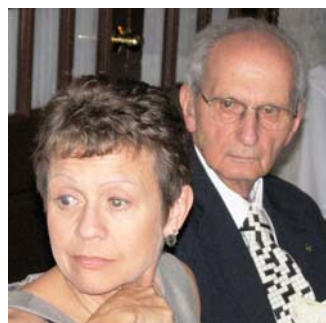


He spoke with great enthusiasm about the progress that has been made in Rotary's long-standing commitment to not only combat the dreaded disease polio, but to eradicate it world-wide. We should be proud of what we have done in world-wide polio immunization. He encouraged Rotarians to truly understand the magnitude of what we've accomplished. "No nation has been able to accomplish what Rotary has done." Jay said we should be proud of our accomplishments and that we should share this with the community in an effort to attract new members to join us in serving others. It is such a stellar record that an

We welcomed back Dr. Terry Sheehan, Chief Medical Officer at the Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital. Terry spoke to our club and participated in Manna.

honest accounting of it will attract new members. Jay indicated that we soon expect to be able to announce that there have been no new cases of polio world-wide. However, in response to questions, Jay indicated that Rotary will need to stay committed and focused on polio eradication for years to come because medical experts advise that we'll need to go for 10 years without new cases before we can truly say polio is eradicated. We will need to be very vigilant in identifying new cases and addressing these quickly. In some ways, our hardest challenge is ahead because we will need to convince people around the world to continue with the immunization programs when, due to the progress we've made, many younger people will never have had personal contact with a polio victim to see first hand how devastating the disease is. He spoke with great confidence that Rotary will succeed in the eradication of polio.

Jay also emphasized the importance of gifts to the Foundation and congratulated the Club on its consistent record of giving throughout its existence. Jay also congratulated Jerry Gross on being named a Paul Harris Fellow.



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[Above] Alan Grant presenting dictionaries to the third graders at the Hebrew Academy.

[From the Hebrew Academy] "Thank you to the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club for presenting each of our 3rd graders with a dictionary & to Michael Riffkin, father of Benjamin (4), Gabriella (2) for his part in making this happen."

Canadian Polio Survivor Enjoys A Royal Moment

By Arnold R. Grahl RI News – 28 October 2010

Polio survivor Ramesh Ferris (left) of the Rotary Club of Whitehorse, Yukon, meets with Queen Elizabeth II and Prime Minister Stephen Harper during the queen's 2010 Royal Tour of Canada. Photo courtesy of Ramesh Ferris

When polio survivor Ramesh Ferris hand-cycled across Canada in 2008 to raise money for polio eradication, one of his goals was to share with as many leaders and policymakers as possible the importance of ridding the world of the disease.

Ferris, a member of the Rotary Club of Whitehorse, Yukon, had another opportunity on 30 June, when he was granted an audience with Queen Elizabeth II and Prime Minister Stephen Harper during the queen's 2010 Royal Tour of Canada.



The 30-year-old polio survivor had been invited to a royal garden party at Rideau Hall in Ottawa by Senator Daniel Lang of Yukon, whom Ferris has known since childhood. In his conversation with the queen and prime minister, Ferris spoke about how polio had changed his life, about his experiences cycling across Canada, and about the need to eradicate the disease. Before the party, Ferris conferred with Lang and decided to wear cycling shorts and a T-shirt to the event instead of formal attire. "We felt it would have a bigger impact on Her Majesty if she could see the effects of polio on my body," Ferris says. "Her Majesty looked quite shocked to see my legs, and it created an opening to share my personal experience and the importance of Rotary's cause."

He says he reminded the queen, who was scheduled to speak to the United Nations General Assembly the next week, that when she had last addressed the assembly, in 1957, there were thousands of cases of polio in the United States alone, primarily in children under five. "I told her we are so close to eradicating polio, and encouraged her to talk about the importance of continuing the fight."

Ferris says the queen "was very engaged" and that Harper affirmed Canada's commitment to helping in the eradication effort.

During the RI Convention in Montréal, Québec, earlier in June, Ferris promoted the cause by hand-cycling through the streets and leading a group of Rotarians to a special ceremony in Vieux-Montréal, where the landmark Bonsecours Market was illuminated with Rotary's pledge to End Polio Now (En finir avec la polio).

Ferris, who contracted polio in India when he was six months old, was adopted by Canadian parents at the age of two. After numerous surgeries and extensive physical therapy, he learned to

walk with crutches.

In 2002, he founded Cycle to Walk, a public awareness campaign for polio eradication, education, and rehabilitation. The effort has included hundreds of presentations to Rotary clubs, schools, and churches across Canada, generating more than 300 media

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interviews to advocate continued support of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. In 2008, he rode his 27-speed hand-cycle on a 4,474-mile journey from Victoria, British Columbia, to Cape Spear, Newfoundland.

"Rotary's fight against polio has such a personal connection for me," Ferris says. "To prevent children from suffering through the same pain that marred my childhood truly touches my heart."

He says he was moved by his meeting with the queen and prime minister. "It was a powerful experience to stand with my country's leader and our monarch."

[Special Note: Ramesh Ferris will be a speaker at DisCon 2011 at Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City, April 29-May 1.]

Reach Out to Africa

I was a Rotary Scholar at the University of Cape Town in 1961. During my year there, I traveled 16,000 miles through South Africa and the countries now known as Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Namibia. I visited 35 Rotary clubs, met countless Rotarians, and became immersed in the rich culture of Southern Africa.



During my initial visit, I developed a deep appreciation for both the traditions and the challenges of life in Africa, and my respect and admiration for the land and people have caused me to return several times as a Rotarian. Now - almost amazingly - I have a unique opportunity to use my experience as a Rotary Scholar to enhance the role of Rotary in Africa!

This is the fourth year of the Reach Out to Africa (ROTA) initiative, and the ROTA Committee for this year has been streamlined to move more quickly and efficiently to achieve its goals. We need to increase the number of Rotarians in Africa! I also hope to see a substantial increase in international service projects for Africa, particularly those projects with assistance from The Rotary Foundation. The ROTA Committee has an excellent website, and I encourage all Rotarians to review it at www.reachouttoafrica.org.

I have implemented two new activities this year to make it easier for Rotarians to visit Africa and to increase their involvement in international service projects. The first is Ray's Rotary Reunions, to be held in Cape Town 3-5 February, and I hope many Rotarians will join me in the Fairest Cape for that event. The second, Rotary Project Safaris, will facilitate visits by Rotarians to the areas of the world where poverty is prevalent, and where local Rotarians have developed many beneficial projects that need financial assistance. More information about the reunions and the safaris is available on the RI president's pages at www.rotary.org/president. Please contact elsa.sanabria@rotary.org for any needed assistance.

I am proud to be a product of The Rotary Foundation, and it will be the most significant achievement of my presidency if I can serve as a catalyst to enhance Rotary in Africa! So come join me for the reunions and the safaris. Help me to complete the circle from being a Rotary Foundation Scholar in Africa to helping Rotary in Africa to be Bigger, Better, and Bolder!

RI President Ray Klinginsmith

Celebrate Rotary Foundation Month

November is Rotary Foundation Month. It all began in 1917 when then RI President Arch Klumph announced the acceptance of endowments for doing good in the world - The Rotary Foundation was born! Contributions took off in 1947 in memory of our founder Paul Harris.



Although The Rotary Foundation originally sponsored only educational programs, it added humanitarian programs in the late 1960s and has continued to evolve with the addition of our famous PolioPlus program to our Permanent Fund, the Rotary Centers for International Studies and, finally, the Future Vision Plan.

Our 3-year Future Vision pilot took effect on 1 July. The pilot is intended to teach us what is good - or bad - in our plan, so that we can correct it, as the Future Vision Plan is here to stay.

However, The Rotary Foundation's Future Vision Plan is much more than just a plan for the Foundation. Rotary

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International's Strategic Plan is a parallel plan which, to a large extent, joins and supplements our plan. We are too small an organization for two plans of this magnitude – they shall have to merge. Not necessarily tomorrow, but some time after 2017 when The Rotary Foundation celebrates its 100th anniversary. If I were to target a year for this merger, I would pick 2025 – the year when our Permanent Fund is expected to reach USD1,000,000,000 (one billion!).

How can we reach this goal? By Building Communities – Bridging Continents through Service Above Self.

Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar
Foundation Trustee Chair

Progress Report Recognizes Rotary's Gains

Rotary International News – 29 October 2010

Rotary International's membership has grown nearly 38 percent in sub-Saharan Africa since 2001, significant progress has been made in the effort to rid the world of polio, and the image of Rotary has been enhanced through public service announcements and the illumination of landmarks with the End Polio Now message.

These are just a few of the achievements listed in a recently released progress report on the

organization's strategic plan. The report highlights major gains RI has made within the seven priorities established by the RI Strategic Plan 2007-10.

In January, the Board of Directors approved a revised RI Strategic Plan, which carries forward many of the successes of the old one. The streamlined plan, which took effect 1 July, places an increased emphasis on individual clubs, with the aim of allowing them to better advance the goals and priorities of RI.

The progress report highlights gains that Rotary has made in eradicating polio, advancing the recognition and public image of RI, increasing Rotary's capacity to serve, expanding membership globally in number and quality, emphasizing Rotary's unique vocational service

commitment, optimizing leadership talents within RI, and fully implementing the strategic planning process.

Achievements in polio eradication have been most remarkable in Nigeria, where only 8 cases have been reported through 26 October, compared with 382 during the same period in 2009. Also, more than US\$147 million has been raised toward Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge through 30 September.

Rotary's public image has advanced through the continued distribution of Humanity in Motion public service announcements, worldwide media coverage of more than 20 End Polio Now illuminations on 23 February 2010, and the "This Close" campaign, which features notable figures including Jane Goodall, Itzhak Perlman, and Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu.

Public relations grants of \$5.2 million have resulted in about \$24.7 million in in-kind and district donations.

RI also has awarded nearly 100 graduate and professional certificate fellowships in peace and conflict resolution between 2007 and 2009, totaling \$4 million; increased membership by more than 80 percent in Central and Eastern Europe over the past 10 years; and developed the new Rotary coordinator program to increase Rotary's capacity to provide service.

In 2009, Rotary completed a triennial review of the strategic plan, including a survey of 14,000 Rotarians worldwide. After the review, the Board adopted the revised plan, which identifies three strategic priorities: support and strengthen clubs, focus and increase humanitarian service, and enhance public image and awareness. Many of the aims of the 2007-10 plan have been folded into the 16 goals that support these three strategic priorities.



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

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