

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

January 13 - 6:30pm - Social - Normandie Farm

Mid-Winter Social - Invite Family and Guests

January 20 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

Jeff Roman, Regulatory Affairs Analyst, Pepco
"Pepco Reliability"

January 20 - 8pm - Board of Directors Meeting

January 27 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

John Kolm & Dave Bahrs: "Operation Jericho Project"

February 3 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

February 8 - 7pm - Manna Food Center Packing



Sanjay, Bob, Alex, Pepe, Rene, Avi (with his "Parents for Sale" T-shirt) and Orly on the snowy evening of January 11 packed 192 food boxes at the Manna Food Center. Photo by Marilyn Nelson.

February 10 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

February 17 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

February 17 - 8pm - Board of Directors Meeting

February 24 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

March 3 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

March 8 - 7pm - Manna Food Center Packing

March 10 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

March 17 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

Peter Kyle, District Governor Nominee 2013-14

Peace Fellowship Program

March 17 - 8pm - Board of Directors Meeting

March 24 - No Meeting

March 26 - International Night at University Club

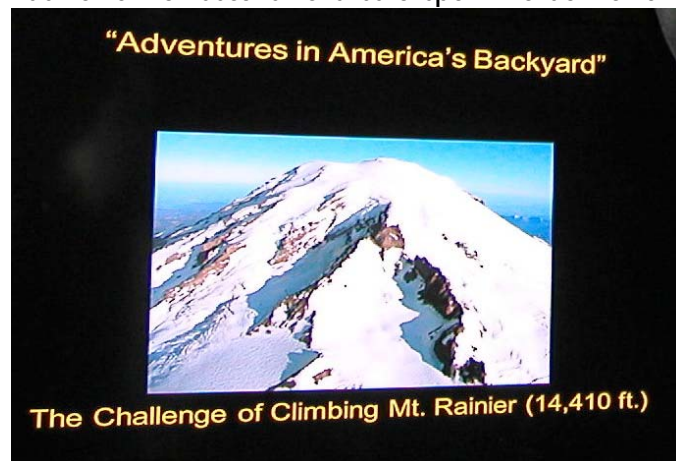
Please send news articles and photos to
Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov
for inclusion in the newsletter

January 6 Meeting Report

President Jason gave an exciting presentation of his climbing Mount Rainier last August. His brother in law made it to the top and unfurled the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club banner, but Jason struggled with the altitude and could not keep going about a mile from



the summit. He said that the mind gives up sooner than the capability of the body. They tried to force food ("goo") down his throat since his body desperately needed nourishment, but his mind refused it. First he had to further ascend to a safe spot in order to turn



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around. Fortunately a junior guide stayed behind with him tied by a rope to guide him back down the mountain while Jason was experiencing dizziness and loss of balance. He actually took longer to descend back to Camp Muir (10,080' elevation) than the earlier ascent. As he descended to lower altitudes he started to feel better. One of the liabilities of descending the mountain with a heavy pack is the effect on the feet, especially during the last two miles when blisters develop and the skin is shredded rubbing inside the boots. "You're done at that point", said Jason. Jason says he will make the attempt again because it's his "white whale" and now he knows better what he needs to do such as spending a couple nights to acclimate to the altitude. The guides said that he was in better physical shape than others that successfully made it to the top. A negative to taking more time on the mountain is that they don't have rest rooms and since the snow is used for drinking, you must carry all your waste.



No, but she lets him go and has a large life insurance policy. Sergeant at Arms Art Blitz related his own hardship story which he said was similar to Jason's. After Thanksgiving he and his wife went to Aruba. It rained one day and they couldn't go to the beach, the air conditioning went out for an hour, his steak was not quite done and on the return flight they wouldn't give him two cans of coca cola. Alan Grant is reading a book titled *Nemesis* by Philip Roth that describes the polio epidemic of 1946. Bob Nelson gave a happy dollar for his photo appearing in the *Gazette* the previous day (see article and photo below). He also thanked his guest Bob Bokma for coming to the meeting and invited him to return very soon.



Gazette Newspaper, January 5, 2011



Questions for Jason included one about what contributes to the half-dozen deaths that they experience during a year. Most are inexperienced and climbing without guides. But even the most experienced climber can get into trouble. Jason told of a climber in his 50s experiencing tiredness and not wanting to continue on a very difficult ice climb. His climbing partner was younger and prodded him to continue. Subsequently the partner lost him and a massive search failed to locate him. They did locate a snow cave that he had built and his clothes that were strewn about. He most likely experienced hypothermia which in the ending stage before death causes one to take off their clothes and in his confused state fell into a crevasse. Does Jason's wife approve of this climbing?



ROBERT NELSON (SUBMITTED)

Community and preservation leaders stand in front of the newly installed plaque to honor the history of Goshen Mills. Pictured are (from left) Alpuan Atay and Joanne Atay, members of the Goshen Historical Preservation Society; Robert Nelson, member of the Greater Goshen Civic Association; Rosemary Arkoian, Joan Eames and Denver Saunders, members of the Greater Goshen Civic Association and the Goshen Historical Preservation Society; Susan Soderberg of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Historical Division and the Germantown Historical Society; and Judy Christensen, executive director of Montgomery Preservation Inc.

Above photo by Marilyn Nelson.

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One Year Later, Haiti Still Struggles To Rebuild

By Ryan Hyland RI News – 11 January 2011

Top: The Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund committed more than US\$128,000 toward the rebuilding of classrooms at La St. Famille Elementary school in Cayes, Haiti. Bottom: Haitians plant fruit trees as part of a \$13,000 reforestation project. Photos courtesy of the Haiti Fund

In the year since a catastrophic earthquake struck Haiti, Rotarians in the country have been using resources and funds donated by Rotary clubs worldwide to rebuild schools, support environmental education, and fund clean water initiatives.

A 7.0-magnitude quake struck Haiti on 12 January 2010, killing more than 300,000 people and crumbling the country's infrastructure. More than a million people still live in tents and under tarpaulins. A deadly cholera outbreak in October slowed the work toward long-term recovery. See related story on page 4.

Rotary clubs have provided more than \$18 million in aid to Haiti. District 7020, which includes Haiti, raised US\$1.5 million and secured goods and services valued at about \$11 million for immediate help.

"All the Rotarians in Haiti have shown amazing dedication to tirelessly working to help their communities recover from the earthquake," says Past RI Director Barry Rassin. "I admire what they have done and continue to do."

Rassin is an account holder of the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund, a donor advised fund set up by The Rotary Foundation. Rotarians worldwide have contributed more than \$2 million to the fund. So far, the Haiti fund committee has agreed to allocate about \$1 million toward 53 projects.

The relief effort has involved Rotarians from about 50 countries.

"Rotary has been a major influence in Haiti," Rassin says. Rotarians "have participated in various programs to help those in Haiti who have been seriously affected by the tragedy. We must continue to support recovery efforts and work side by side with the Rotarians in Haiti to move their country to a more positive place." Some of the initiatives supported by the Haiti fund include:

- * A \$50,000 project by District 7020 and the Rotary Club of Cayes to rebuild six classrooms at La Sainte Famille, an elementary school in La Savane, one of the poorest neighborhoods in the city of Les Cayes. The school serves 682 students, including more than 40 displaced by the earthquake.

- * A \$13,700 project by the Rotary Club of Carrefour/Mon Repos, Ouest, to educate 1,300 students about the importance of reforestation. Haiti lost 98 percent of its trees because of the earthquake. Students will plant and maintain fruit trees, reducing erosion and increasing agricultural production.

- * A \$64,000 project by the Rotary Club of Mirebalais, Centre,

to construct 80 rainwater collection tanks, each with a 2,500-gallon capacity, in a section of Mirebalais, where there is no irrigation, potable water, or electricity. Ninety-five percent of the area's residents work in agriculture. The tanks and filters will provide clean water for about 3,000 people.

"It will take years for the country to recover, but by working together on each project and seeing it through completion, Rotary will make a difference in the lives of millions of people," Rassin says.



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Richard McCombe, a member of the Rotary Club of South-East Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas, says Rotary is particularly well suited to help in Haiti's recovery: More than 30 humanitarian and educational projects were already underway before the quake.

"We decided that whatever we do in Haiti must help improve sustainability and build capacity," McCombe says. For example, a prosthetic limbs project in Pignon in northern Haiti also provides job training to local workers to produce and fit lightweight, low-cost artificial limbs. The \$500,000 project, supported by the Foundation and Rotary clubs in the United Kingdom, will benefit about 4,000 quake survivors and others in need of prostheses.

Rotarians Respond To Cholera Outbreak In Haiti

By Ryan Hyland RI News – 12 January 2011

The Rotary Club of Leogane, Haiti, posted this banner with cholera information in a rural community in November. Photo courtesy of Diana White



A deadly outbreak of cholera remains a top concern in Haiti as Rotarians assist with long-term recovery efforts.

The waterborne disease, which has spread to all areas of the country, has sickened more than 171,000 Haitians and killed more than 3,651, according to the Haitian health ministry.

Cholera bacteria are transmitted through contact with contaminated water or food and can cause severe diarrhea, vomiting, and death from dehydration. Though the disease is easy to treat with adequate supplies of fresh water and medical attention, most Haitians lack both, says Guy Theodore, governor-elect of District 7020.

"We have a serious epidemic going on in Haiti," says Theodore, chair of the Haiti Task Force, established three years ago by the district to administer financial aid to the



nation. "All 19 Rotary clubs in the country are dedicated to helping prevent the spread of the disease. Haitians need more education in preventive hygiene. Our clubs will focus on those needs."

District 7020 and the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund, a donor advised fund set up by The Rotary Foundation, have committed US\$200,000 for projects aimed at cholera prevention. Since the outbreak, Haitian Rotarians have used megaphones to spread the word about proper hygiene in local communities. They also have distributed hand sanitizer, soap, and water purification tablets, and posted banners with cholera information in villages.

Diana White, governor of District 7020, says Rotary is best suited to help with disease education and prevention.

"There are a lot of organizations in Haiti that are treating those affected by cholera. Challenges still remain in extremely poor and rural areas," she says. "Education is a critical service and is one that can be managed by any and all clubs that are willing to do so."

Theodore says these efforts have helped slow the rate of infection in some areas. At a medical clinic where he works in Pignon, the rate of cases dropped from 100 every week to 20 since the outbreak hit in October.

Rotary Names Attorney John Hewko As Its New Top Executive

Rotary International News – 12 January 2011

Rotary International has named John Hewko, an attorney with extensive international experience in both the private and public sectors, to be the global humanitarian service organization's new top executive, serving as its general secretary.

Hewko is a former partner with the international law firm of Baker & McKenzie and was vice president at the Millennium Challenge Corporation, a U.S. government agency established in 2004 to deliver U.S. foreign assistance to the world's poorest

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countries. He begins work on 1 July at a key moment in Rotary's 106-year history. Hewko will play a lead role in the implementation of the organization's newly revised strategic plan that envisions Rotary's expanded engagement in areas such as maternal and child health, water and sanitation, disease prevention and treatment, basic education and literacy, economic and community development, and peace studies and conflict prevention/resolution. His tenure could also see the successful conclusion of Rotary's principal humanitarian initiative: its 25-year campaign to eradicate the crippling disease polio, a goal that is more than 99 percent complete.

Hewko also will interact with government and business leaders to enhance Rotary's global visibility and forge new strategic partnerships worldwide to achieve common objectives and maximize the use of resources. He also will work to expand and strengthen Rotary's current relationship with organizations such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the World Health Organization, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and others.

In announcing Hewko's hiring, Rotary International President Ray Klinginsmith hailed his "visionary leadership" and predicted that under Hewko's leadership Rotary will "continue to grow in numbers, stature, and involvement in making the world a better place."

"Rotary is fortunate to have attracted a candidate with John Hewko's proven ability and extensive international experience," Klinginsmith said. "His leadership will be an important asset for Rotary in the next few years."

During his 15 years at Baker & McKenzie, Hewko specialized in international corporate transactions in emerging markets. He participated in the establishment of the firm's Moscow office and was the managing partner of its offices in Kyiv and Prague. While in Ukraine in the early 1990s, Hewko assisted the working group that prepared the initial draft of the new Ukrainian post-Soviet constitution and was a charter member of the first Rotary club in Kyiv. Prior to joining Baker & McKenzie, he worked for leading Brazilian and Argentine law firms and later with Gibson, Dunn &

Crutcher in Washington and New York handling Latin American and project finance transactions.

In 2004, Hewko entered public service with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). As vice president for operations and compact development, Hewko had primary responsibility for managing MCC's relationship with its 26 partner countries in Africa, Asia, South America, the Middle East, and the former Soviet Union. During his tenure he oversaw the development, negotiation, and approval of foreign assistance agreements with 18 countries totaling \$6.3 billion for projects in infrastructure, agriculture, water, sanitation, health, and education. For the past year, he has been a non-resident senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, where his writing has focused on international development and foreign policy issues.

Hewko is a 1985 graduate of Harvard Law School, and holds a master's degree from Oxford University (where he studied as a Marshall Scholar) and a bachelor's degree from Hamilton College in Clinton, New York. He speaks six languages.

"I am delighted to be joining Rotary and honored to be able to participate in the organization's mission to promote world peace and understanding by addressing some of the root causes of conflict, such as poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, and the global water and sanitation crisis," Hewko said. "Rotary's global membership of 1.2 million business and professional leaders – supported by a dedicated, professional staff – is a powerful resource that is making a meaningful global and grassroots contribution to that goal. Just look at what Rotary already has accomplished in the area of polio prevention and eradication."

Hewko emerged from a field of 440 potential candidates for Rotary's top job. The Rotary search committee worked with Korn/Ferry International, the world's largest executive search firm. Hewko replaces Edwin Futa, who is retiring after 10 years as general secretary.

Hewko and his wife, Margarita, have a daughter, Maria, who graduates this year from high school in the Washington, D.C., area.