

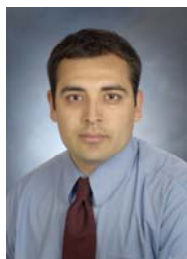
Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

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

Jeff Roman, Pepco Holdings

"Pepco Reliability"



Jeffrey Roman is a graduate of the University of Maryland with a degree in Government and Politics and a minor in Economics. He has been with Pepco Holdings, Inc. for almost four years working as an analyst in Regulatory Strategy and Policy. Jeff

has worked on the planning stages of many of the Company's energy efficiency and system improvement programs.

January 20 - 8pm - Board of Directors Meeting

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

John Kolm and Dave Bahrs

"Operation Jericho Project in Haiti"

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

February 8 - 7pm - Manna Food Center Packing

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

Ben Ross, Author, "The Polluters, The Making of Our Chemically Altered Environment"

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

February 17 - 8pm - Board of Directors Meeting

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

Judy Christensen

Montgomery County Historical Society

"Josiah Henson and Uncle Tom's Cabin"

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

Frank Islam, Author

"Renewing the American Dream"

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

See Page 2 for a Photo Collage of the Potomac-Bethesda Holiday Party held on January 13, 2011

'Reach Within to Embrace Humanity' is 2011-12 RI theme

By Joseph Derr RI News - 17 January 2011



RI President-elect Kalyan Banerjee announces the 2011-12 RI theme during the International Assembly in San Diego, California. Kalyan and Binota Banerjee will be the special guests at DisCon 2011, April 29-May 1, 2011, at Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City. Register now at rotary7620.org.

RI President-elect Kalyan Banerjee will ask Rotarians to Reach Within to Embrace Humanity during the 2011-12 Rotary year.

Banerjee unveiled the RI theme during the opening plenary session of the 2011 International Assembly, a training event for incoming district governors.

He urged participants to harness their inner resolve and strength to achieve success in Rotary.

"In order to achieve anything in this world, a person has to use all the resources he can draw on. And the only place to start is with ourselves and within ourselves," Banerjee said.

Once Rotarians find their inner strength, he continued, they can accomplish great things in their communities and around the world.

"Discover yourself, develop the strengths within you, and then unhesitatingly, unflinchingly, go forth and encircle the world, to embrace humanity," he said.

Banerjee emphasized the family as a starting point in serving others. "The communities we live in are not built of individual people but of families - families living in

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homes together, sharing their lives and their resources and their common destinies. Good families lead to good neighborhoods, and good neighborhoods build good communities."

Rotarians can focus on projects that support families, such as those that provide safe housing or improve maternal and child health, he said.

Continuity in Rotary's work, including polio eradication, is also important, Banerjee said. "There are so many things we are indeed good at: working for clean, safe water; spreading literacy; working in so many ways with the New Generations, our youth, in our newest Avenue of Service and assisting them to become the leaders of tomorrow."

Citing Mahatma Gandhi's call to "be the change you wish to see in the world," Banerjee said Rotarians should also focus on change.

"If we wish for peace, we start by living in peace ourselves, in our homes and in our communities," he explained. "If we wish environmental degradation to stop, if we wish to reduce child mortality or to prevent hunger, we must be the instrument of that change – and recognize that it must start within us, with each of us."

The theme inspired the roomful of Rotary leaders, including Jogesh Gambhir, governor-elect of District 3250 (India).

"It is a touching theme, but also very purposeful and meaningful," said Gambhir. "I'm sure we can inspire the clubs into action to solve the problems in the community. That's the ultimate goal of Rotary."

"There are no words for me to describe how remarkable it was. To me, he was right on and weaved everything together beautifully," said Jane Millar, governor-elect of District 6290 (parts of Ontario, Canada, and Michigan, USA). "I am so thrilled to be a district governor when this man is president."

"I loved the focus on family, continuity, and change," she added. "Family is the center of everything, and not just our immediate family. It's also about the family of Rotary and the world as one big family."

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

Incoming Governors Talk About 2011-12 RI Theme

Rotary International News – 18 January 2011

RI News spoke with several district governors-elect after the opening plenary session of the 2011 International Assembly, when RI President-elect Kalyan Banerjee announced the 2011-12 theme, Reach Within to Embrace Humanity. Here's what they had to say.

Fred ne Tiabu Tatukila

District 9150 (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

"The theme is very good. It all begins with the heart. It is the heart that communicates to the head and tells us to start doing things and taking action."

Rajendran Sangilimuthu

District 3000 (India)

"It is an excellent theme and, being from India myself, this was a wonderful experience. We are eagerly waiting to start reaching within."

Marco Antonio Colenci

District 4310 (Brazil)

"It's the best possible theme we could have asked for. We believe in what he said, especially about the importance of family, during his speech. We agree with his values."

Paula J. Matthews

District 7770 (South Carolina, USA)

"We've been talking about the family of Rotary and building on our fellowship. Continuity of our work is a huge thing we've also been working on. We're also branding Rotary using Facebook and Twitter. This theme gives me more impetus to work with clubs and get these done."

Mahomed Baboo

District 9220 (Mauritius)

"It is a very deep theme. We'll announce it this year at our presidents-elect training seminar, where we'll be talking about our goals: consolidating clubs, ensuring that we're up to date with the RI Strategic Plan, and promoting fellowship and friendship in our district."

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Power Of Attorney

By Dan Nixon RI News – 14 January 2011

Charles Foster (right) with actor Kyle MacLachlan, who portrayed him in the film Mao's Last Dancer. Photo by Dave Rossman

Chinese ballet star Li Cunxin made international headlines in 1981 when he was forcibly detained inside the Chinese consulate in Houston, Texas, USA, after informing officials there of his intent to remain in the United States.

Li had first come to Houston as a member of the Beijing Academy of Dance for a three-month cultural exchange with the Houston Ballet Academy. His skill earned him an extended stay, and Li passionately desired to continue in his art with the Houston Ballet.

Li's attorney, Charles Foster, refused to abandon his client to the custody of consular officials, concerned that they would force the artist to leave the country against his will. During 21 hours of tense negotiations that followed, Foster obtained a federal court order restraining Chinese officials from taking further action.

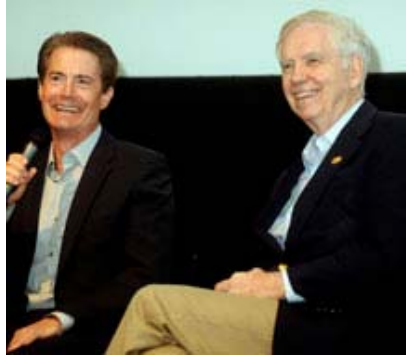
He also phoned senior U.S. government authorities, alerting them to the legal consequences of forcibly repatriating Li to China.

In the end, Foster's persistence prevailed and Li was allowed to stay in the United States. He went on to become a principal dancer and star of the Houston Ballet.

The standoff at the consulate is a key scene in the movie *Mao's Last Dancer*, released by Samuel Goldwyn Films and ATO Pictures in August. Directed by Bruce Beresford and based on Li's autobiography, the film stars Chi Cao as Li and Kyle MacLachlan as Foster.

"If it wasn't for Charles's knowledge of the applicable law, his quick thinking, and his dedication to me as his

client, I am not sure how it might have turned out," says Li, who now lives with his family in Australia.



"Li is a remarkably talented and courageous person who deserves all the recognition and accolades his book and the film are receiving," says Foster, a member of the Rotary Club of Houston and a former Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar.

The case helped spark a tradition at FosterQuan LLP of providing pro bono immigration legal work for the Houston Ballet and other local arts organizations. Foster is a founding partner of the law firm.

"What most audiences don't think about is that major performing arts organizations, such as the Houston Ballet, have an ongoing need to navigate complex immigration laws in order to legally bring the best talent from around the world to perform here," he says. "The process is time consuming and involves multiple federal agencies, so it requires experienced legal counsel."

A recognized expert on U.S. immigration law, Foster also served as a senior policy adviser to both George W. Bush and Barack Obama during their presidential campaigns.

Foster studied law as a 1964-65 Rotary Scholar at Universidad de Concepción, Chile, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Corpus Christi, Texas.

"The Rotary scholarship experience was a huge influence on me," he says. "I was [later] hired as an international lawyer, because I was deemed to be sufficiently bilingual to do international legal work in both English and Spanish."

In addition, Foster says he "spoke to just about every Rotary club in Chile" and large numbers of clubs in Texas. After starting his own law firm, he became a Rotarian.

"It was a very natural thing to do, having been so involved with Rotary," he says.

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New Pilot Programs Support Member Diversity

By Arnold R. Grahl RI News – 10 January 2011

Rotary clubs interested in taking part in one of four new pilot programs approved recently by the RI Board can now download an application form and related fact sheets.

The three-year pilots – satellite club, associate member, corporate member, and innovative and flexible Rotary club – will allow participating Rotary clubs to experiment with flexible membership requirements and club operations beginning 1 July.

Each one is designed to improve recruitment and retention, allow for flexibility in club operations and structures, and provide Rotary clubs with an opportunity to explore new and innovative ways to promote member diversity – all goals of the RI Strategic Plan. Other potential benefits include improved leadership, engagement, and participation among members and increased support of The Rotary Foundation.

The pilots will allow RI to collect data and analyze results from the participating clubs to evaluate the effectiveness of each change.

Clubs have until 1 April to submit applications to Rotary International to be considered for a pilot. Read more about the 2011-14 pilots, and download related fact sheets and an application. Information and applications are also being sent to each club this month. Up to 200 clubs will be selected for each pilot. Rotary clubs must have been chartered before 30 June 2009 to be considered.

Satellite Club

The Satellite Club Pilot Program will assess the impact of allowing a Rotary club to conduct multiple club meetings during a week, each taking place at a different location, on a different day, or at a different time.

Rotarians in the satellite club would belong to a host club but would meet at their own time and location and could have their own projects. This structure may be helpful in areas with many rural communities as well as in large metropolitan areas. The pilot could give a small, weak, or struggling club the opportunity to

become connected to a larger, active, and vibrant club in a nearby area and receive ongoing support.

Associate Member

The Associate Member Pilot Program gives clubs a tool for teaching prospective members about the club and the expectations of membership before they join. Clubs would determine the length of time a person could remain an associate member before becoming an active member.

The pilot is aimed at potential members who may be uncertain of the commitment involved with membership. It will provide them with an opportunity to get acquainted with a club's members, programs, and projects, thereby increasing retention.

Corporate Member

The Corporate Member Pilot Program will allow a corporation or company in a club's area to become a member of the Rotary club and appoint up to four people to serve as club members. These corporate members will attend club meetings, participate in projects, and vote on club matters, and are eligible to serve as club officers and committee members. One of the designees must be a member of the corporation's senior executive group, but the others could hold any full-time managerial role.

Only one of the designees would need to attend club meetings at a time, yet each would be considered an official member of the club and would be required to pay RI and annual club dues, as determined by the club.

Innovative and Flexible Rotary Club

Under the Innovative and Flexible Rotary Club Pilot Program, clubs will be allowed to change one element of its format or structure as an experiment. For example, a club might offer family memberships or conduct a blend of online and in-person meetings. The change should not duplicate another pilot, however.

The pilot is focused on encouraging Rotary clubs to be fun, dynamic, diverse, resilient, tolerant, interested in trying new things, member driven, inspirational, and relationship rich.

Contact ripilotprograms@rotary.org with any questions about the pilot.

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