

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## Rotary Club Calendar

**February 10 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm**  
**Ben Ross, Author, "The Polluters, The Making of Our Chemically Altered Environment"**



Environmental scientist Benjamin Ross is president of the Washington consulting firm, Disposal Safety, Inc. He has served on committees of the National Academy of Sciences and the USEPA Science Advisory Board. He is also active in Montgomery County affairs;

he just stepped down after 15 years as president of the Action Committee for Transit.

**February 16 – Sophia House Dinner (Tentative)**

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

**February 17 – 8pm - Board of Directors Meeting**

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

**Judy Christensen, Montgomery Co. Historical Society**  
**"Josiah Henson and Uncle Tom's Cabin"**

**February 26 – 8am Membership Seminar**  
**Holiday Inn Laurel West**

**March 3 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm**  
**Frank Islam, Author, "Renewing the American Dream"**

**March 8 – 7pm - Manna Food Center Packing**  
**9311 Gaither Road, Gaithersburg - Volunteers Needed**

**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 – Club Officers Training**

**Holiday Inn Laurel West**

**March 26 – International Night at University Club**

## February 3 Meeting Report

Vice President Nabil Bedewi announced that four of the Rotary Ambassadorial scholars have already confirmed that they are coming to the International Night Program on March 26 at the University Club in Washington. Nabil's parents went to Egypt on January 10 for his mother to have a second knee replacement and plan



to stay until April. He is in constant contact with them during the localized outbreak and their particular neighborhood has been quiet. Egypt is scheduled for elections in September.

Noel Howard is working on providing Valentine gifts for the homeless women at Sophia House. He reported that charter member Lou Fettig is feeling much better.

President Elect Chinyere Amaefule attended Pre-PETS and she invited members to attend a Membership Seminar on February 26. Also, all club officers will be receiving training on the morning of March 26. Bob Nelson has registration forms for the district conference, April 29-May 1.



The evening's speakers Dave Bahrs (below) and John Kolm (above left) have been members of the Rockville Rotary Club for a year. Dave introduced John who was a first responder to the Haiti earthquake a year ago. John gave a PowerPoint presentation on his experience last year and described a project that could be accomplished in an area of Haiti that has received little attention. The following is a summary of "Operation Jericho."

### Situation

When the quake hit Haiti on 12 January 2010, the schoolhouse for the town of Brossier (a church used for the purpose) collapsed into rubble, killing one student. Brossier is at the epicenter of the quake zone, with a student population of around 150. The school has not been rebuilt and lessons are currently run in a tent about a mile's walk away, in earthquake-devastated Leogane.



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## Mission

At an estimated cost of \$USD 23,000, build a replacement schoolhouse for the children of Brossier. This will consist of concrete slab and wall construction, truss roof, and indoor teaching space for up to 150 children aged 6-16. (Mixed-age and concurrent classes are routine in Haiti)

## Execution

Local project management will be by the Soleil Foundation based in Brossier, a registered 501c3 charity and a proven, well-established organization we personally know and trust. Daily on-ground presence will be by U.S. Coast Guard Chief Paul Cormier, head of the Soleil Foundation, who left the full-time U.S. Coast Guard and became a reservist in order to do this work.



Due diligence is well under control, land is already owned by the Soleil Foundation, suppliers are organized, blueprints

exist, shock-resistant design is included, there is no cholera risk (owing to an unlimited supply of fresh deep bore water) and all donations are fully deductible.

We have an existing relationship with media and documentary makers from a previous very successful visit training rescue teams in June 2010, and positive media coverage is assured.

## Any questions

Are welcome and can go to John Kolm, U.S. Operation Jericho Manager, on (202) 257 5593.

## Action

Tax-deductible donations can be made to the Rockville Rotary Foundation, marked "Exclusively for Opn Jericho", and mailed c/o John Kolm, 13724 Canal Vista Court, Potomac MD 20854. Money in Haiti goes about ten times as far as it does at home in the U.S.

## Water For Life Provides Clean Drinking Water For Haiti

By Ryan Hyland RI News – 27 January 2011



*Rotarian Roy Sheldrick (left), founder of Water For Life, and Past Governor Ralph Montesanto of District 7090 (parts of Canada and New York, USA) test a new water well in a village in the Artibonite Valley of Haiti. Photo courtesy of Roy Sheldrick.*

Roy Sheldrick and other members of the Rotary Club of Ancaster, Ontario, Canada, have spent 15 years helping to provide clean drinking water for 300,000 people in the Artibonite Valley of Haiti.

A year after a massive earthquake crippled the country, followed by a deadly cholera outbreak, their work in the region is more important than ever.

Sheldrick and his wife, Norma, founded Water for Life after taking part in a service trip to Haiti with their church in 1996. The nonprofit organization, supported by the Ancaster club and District 7090 (parts of Canada and New York, USA), drills wells to provide clean and accessible water in Haiti. To date, the project has raised more than US\$1.5 million for 219 wells. It has also helped construct more than 350 latrines.

"There is a desperate need for clean water in Haiti," says Sheldrick. "The fear of cholera made the need so much worse. More and more people are relying on our wells. They are lifesavers."

With the main river in the Artibonite Valley tainted by cholera, the wells are a crucial source of clean and accessible water.

Wells have been installed in schools and medical centers, including Albert Schweitzer Hospital, the largest medical facility in the valley.

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"We had to raise money and help build a new wing of the hospital because of the cholera outbreak. They were treating more patients for cholera than for trauma following the earthquake," says Sheldrick.

## Humanitarian grants

Since 1998, the Ancaster club and its Haitian partners have been awarded Rotary Foundation humanitarian grants totaling \$672,093 for well and latrine projects. The grants have helped the program become more sustainable.

"With the leveraged contributions from the Foundation, Water for Life has expanded to do more work for the communities, including teaching Haitians how to maintain the wells," says Sheldrick. "We trained plumbers and created all kinds of jobs. Water takes them out of poverty."

Villages must undergo training before receiving a well, and Haitian Rotarians have set up a supervisory committee to make sure the wells are tested regularly and maintained. Each well costs \$5,000 and is used by an average of 500 people.

Sheldrick sees the difference the wells have made. The valley residents are among the healthiest in the country, he says.

"Access to clean water is a life-or-death matter," he says. "I know that when a well is installed, the entire village benefits. They don't have to walk miles for dirty water. They can use clean water from their own backyard."

Sheldrick says he will continue to help build wells in Haiti for the rest of his life.

"I never tire of visiting the wells and seeing the many Haitians who come to these sources for clean water," he says. "You can see by the smile on their faces how happy they are. Giving clean water to the Haitian people brings hope for tomorrow."



## **Bell Ringing, Landmark Lighting To Mark Rotary's 106th Anniversary**

By Arnold R. Grahl RI News – 7 February 2011

*End Polio Now is projected onto the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain in 2010. The week of 23 February, iconic landmarks around the world will again be illuminated with an End Polio Now message. Photo by Ignacio Santás*

Rotary International will join Sanofi Pasteur, a leading provider of polio vaccine, in ringing the opening bell in four financial markets in Europe on 23 February, in honor of Rotary's 106th anniversary and in support of a polio-free world.

RI President Ray Klingensmith will also ring the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange in New York City.

Representatives of the two organizations will take part in openings in Lisbon, Portugal;

Amsterdam; Brussels, Belgium; and Paris. The stock exchange ceremonies represent the first time the bell will be rung for a single cause in all five markets.

As the largest company in the world devoted entirely to human vaccines, Sanofi Pasteur has played a major role in the effort to push polio to the brink of eradication.

Sanofi has contributed millions of doses of the oral polio vaccine to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, of which Rotary is a spearheading partner, along with the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF. Since 1988, the company has donated 120 million doses of oral polio vaccine for the immunization of children in war-ravaged Angola, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, and Southern Sudan.

## **Landmarks lit up**

Throughout the week of 23 February, Rotary clubs and districts will also be illuminating iconic landmarks around the world with the End Polio Now message to raise awareness of Rotary's pledge to rid the world of the crippling disease.



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The landmarks include the Trevi Fountain in Rome; the parliament building in The Hague; the soccer stadium in Cape Town, South Africa; a gate at the Lantern Festival in Taiwan; Kanazawa Castle in Kanazawa, Japan; the government building in Karachi, Pakistan; the planetarium in Seoul, Korea; the Globe of the Mall of Asia in the Philippines; and the Charminar in Hyderabad, India.

Rotarians in Great Britain and Ireland sold and planted 4.6 million crocus bulbs across the region in October so their purple blooms would flower around Rotary's birthday. The Rotary Club of Hitchin Tilehouse, Hertfordshire, England, earned a Guinness World Record for the most people (636) simultaneously planting flower bulbs during an event at Butt's Close Park in Hitchin.

## **Promote Rotary Through Signature Activities** Rotary International News – 8 February 2011

*The Rotary clubs of Churchland-Portsmouth and Portsmouth, Virginia, USA, hold a barbecue networking event each year as their signature event. Photo courtesy of Bill Pollard.*

For the past 17 years, the Rotary Club of Kamuning, Quezon City, Philippines, and District 3780 have partnered with local elementary and high schools to stage a daylong sports festival, attracting thousands of students from the city's 143 schools. Club members adopt a theme each year for the colossal event, with the 2010 competition reminding youth of the valuable role they will play in protecting and preserving the environment.

Many Rotary clubs are known in their communities for one big project or event that sets them apart from other groups. Whether it's an annual dinner that raises funds for polio eradication, or a park clean-up, your club's signature project or fundraiser can help build Rotary's public image as an action-oriented volunteer service organization.



"Several small projects leave no mark, but one larger project leaves a signature," notes RI Vice President Thomas M. Thorfinnson. "A great way to promote Rotary's image is to have a significant project or a significant fundraiser that is a very public event in your community and to do that event or fundraiser consistently over the years."

The Rotary Club of Kenosha West, Wisconsin, USA, holds an annual sports tournament to raise money for the club's charities. This highly anticipated event involves youth from the entire community. The club promotes the tournament prominently on its website and includes videos from previous years. The club's online membership directory, which includes photos, shows many members in their tournament uniforms.

Here are a few tips on how to create a signature activity. Also check out what other Rotarians have had to say on the topic in Your Voice, Your Solution for October and February .

- Identify. Decide on a public event and its purpose, such as to raise funds for The Rotary Foundation or to involve members of the community in a local service project.
- Publicize. Include your Rotary club or district in the name of the event, following the RI guidelines for using the Rotary Marks. Use social media and press releases to publicize your event and the work of Rotary and build interest and excitement.
- Connect. Assign club members to help answer questions about the Rotary club and its projects during the event to form connections with the general public. Distribute take-away information

such as *What's Rotary?* as well as pamphlets or business cards linking to your club's website.

- Repeat. Hold the event annually to build recognition. As awareness grows, more community members will participate and the event will become increasingly successful. You may even attract new members to your club.

Adapted from *Rotary Leader*