

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

February 24 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
Judy Christensen, Montgomery Co. Historical Society
"Josiah Henson and Uncle Tom's Cabin"

Judith Christensen has worked as an architectural historian and preservation planner for municipal and county governments, private clients and historical/preservation groups since 1985. As a contractor, she surveyed and wrote historic sites surveys and evaluations for over 400 historical sites in Maryland and Virginia. She has written newspaper articles and other publications on local history and architecture. She was a founder of the Gaithersburg Heritage Museum (now Gaithersburg Community Museum) and currently serves as museum historian and on the collections committee. She is Executive Director of Montgomery Preservation Inc. and is also on the board of the Montgomery County Alliance for Heritage Tourism and the Montgomery County MOOseum.



The Josiah Henson Special Park (formerly called the Riley Farm/"Uncle Tom's Cabin") is a historic resource of local, state, national and

international significance because of its association with Reverend Josiah Henson, whose 1849 autobiography inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe's landmark novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The Riley Farm was where Henson lived and worked as a slave from 1795 to 1830. The existing structure was the home of Isaac and Matilda Riley. The frame portion dates to 1800-1815, based on nail chronology. The log wing, built as a kitchen with a loft, dates to 1850-51. Josiah Henson Special Park is located at 11420 Old Georgetown Road, N. Bethesda, MD 20852

February 24 - 8pm - Board of Directors Meeting

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
Ben Noll, Montgomery Conflict Resolution Center

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
See invitation on page 5.

Potomac-Bethesda Rotarians Prepare Dinner and Give Valentine's Gifts for 30 Homeless Women at Sophia House on February 16



February 10 Rotary Club Meeting Report



President Jason Hamel presents guest speaker Ben Ross with a Rotary wine glass. Ben is the author of the book, *The Polluters, The Making of Our Chemically Altered Environment*. He described some of the major debacles and personalities of the 20th century giving a very interesting narration as to how these people were able to defy government regulation and cause human death and environmental destruction. Ben brought along copies of his new book and several members were interested in purchasing a copy.

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Tailor-Made Opportunity For India's Weavers

By Peter Schmidtke RI News – 14 February 2011

Hannah Warren (right) helps Deepa, a seamstress, adjust her new sewing machine, which was donated by Jhoole.



While a 2005-06 Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar in India, Hannah Warren gave a child laborer money to buy a dress. She remembers wishing she could have done more to help the girl.

During her scholarship, which was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Loves Park, Illinois, USA, Warren learned to speak Hindi and tutored illiterate women.

In 2008, Warren returned to India to photograph sari weavers in Maheshwar, Madhya Pradesh, part of a project funded by the Royal Society for Asian Affairs. She had planned to shoot portraits of the women wearing their hand-woven garments, but none of them could afford to own the exquisite saris they wove for others or even to buy the raw materials. So instead, Warren gave the women funds to purchase materials to make their own saris. In their portraits, she says, the weavers "looked so beautiful and proud" wearing the first saris they had designed for themselves.

The experience motivated Warren to found Jhoole, a fair-trade social entrepreneurship. The enterprise, based in Maheshwar, provides impoverished women with training, materials, and an international market for hand-woven goods so they can earn a living wage.

In 2010, a US\$12,500 Rotary Foundation Matching Grant provided Jhoole with looms and other equipment, 1,500 pounds of cloth and thread, and funds to cover office expenses, publicity, and website design. It also covered the cost of training in weaving, sewing, and personal finance from the Indore School of Social Work. The grant was supported by the Loves Park club and four others in District 6420, including a \$7,500 contribution from the District Designated Fund. The Rotary Club of Khargone in District 3040 also provided funding.

"With Hannah as a catalyst, we were given the opportunity to improve the lives of women and children

in an area of the world our members may never visit," says Past District 6420 Governor Anita Papich.

District 3040 Governor Nalini Langer says that Warren "is making commendable endeavours to empower women weavers and keep the art of Maheshwari handlooms alive."

Using recycled material

By cultivating partnerships with designers and distributors, including

Chicago-based Mata Traders, Warren has created a direct market for dresses, skirts, and handbags. The weavers frequently produce items from recycled materials, such as scarves made of scraps of fabric donated by Pratibha Syntex.

Jhoole gives 20 percent of its profits to Chetanya Sewa Sansthan, which aids elderly women and people with disabilities. Warren estimates that more than 300 people have benefited from both organizations' programs.

In addition to the grant, Jhoole has received support from the Rotary Club of Maheshwar and others, which has helped fund two Jhoole fashion shows. The club is also donating \$2,000 and land for another training facility in nearby Manpur.

"Because of its humanitarian aid and helping to eradicate poverty, Jhoole's project has created a great impact," says Alok Joshi, a Maheshwar club member.

"There is no way I could be doing this [work] were it not for my Ambassadorial Scholarship," Warren says.

"Like Jhoole's programs, Rotary scholarships are not a one-time donation; they are an investment in goodwill."

RI Travel Service Helps Scholars Flee Egyptian Unrest

By Ryan Hyland RI News – 11 February 2011

Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar Jamie Gajewski was studying Arabic at Alexandria University before the civil unrest in Egypt. Rotary International Travel Service helped her and four other scholars leave the country safely. Photo courtesy of Jamie Gajewski.



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Rotary International Travel Service (RITS) stepped in to help Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar Jamie Gajewski and four other scholars to leave Egypt when civil unrest made it unsafe for them to complete their scholarships there.

Gajewski, from Madison, Wisconsin, USA, was studying Arabic at Alexandria University. Rotarians and Rotaractors in Egypt took good care of her from the minute she arrived in the country five months ago until her safe departure. After widespread street demonstrations erupted on 25 January, her previously safe neighborhood in Alexandria was overrun by military tanks and demonstrators.

"My neighborhood is a labyrinth of dark, narrow streets, and in front of every building there were bands of men and young boys armed with wooden planks, metal rods, knives, and guns, working together to protect their businesses and families from looters," says Gajewski. "Overnight, this safe neighborhood became unstable and dangerous."

Gajewski says that when foreigners were urged to leave the country, Internet and cell phone interruptions made it difficult to get information about evacuations.

"I began receiving worried phone calls from Egyptian and foreign friends from all over the city," she says. "They heard reports of roving gangs armed with guns who were specifically targeting our neighborhood. Seeing as my roommate and I lived on the ground floor, our friends, including Rotaractors I met, began to devise a plan to get us out of our apartment and into a safer area."

Using a landline phone, Gajewski was able to reach her mother, Janet, who contacted RITS. Within 24 hours, RITS secured transportation to the airport, as well as a plane ticket to Kuwait. It also obtained flights out of the country for four other Rotary Scholars.

"It was pretty scary not having reliable communication with anyone. Since the Internet was shut down, all I

brought to the airport was a slip of paper with my ticket number written on it," says Gajewski. "Within a few hours, I was in Kuwait and continued on to Germany, Belgium, and finally France. I'm very lucky Rotary was there to pull me out."

Gajewski says the Egyptian Rotarians and Rotaractors she met became close friends. "They were involved in every facet of my life," she says. "I never went a day without a phone call, an e-mail, or a personal visit from someone. It really was comforting to know they were there when things got bad."

She says Rotary has a strong presence in Egypt, and Rotarians are already making efforts to help in affected areas. Club members are also handing out food to families in need.

Gajewski acknowledges that it's unlikely she'll be able to return to Egypt. She is scheduled to finish her scholarship at the University of Granada in Spain.

"I wish I could have said goodbye to my friends the way I would have liked," she says. "I worry about their safety. I hope all Egyptians can achieve their goals peacefully and return the country to stability."



Anything Short Of Eradicating Polio Is 'Unacceptable,' Says DePreist

RI News – 11 February 2011

James DePreist will conduct Itzhak Perlman and members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in a concert benefiting Rotary's campaign to end polio worldwide on 7 March.

On 7 March in Chicago, James DePreist will conduct Itzhak Perlman and members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in a concert benefiting Rotary's campaign to end polio worldwide. Both Perlman and DePreist are polio survivors. RI News recently talked with DePreist about the importance of eradicating the disease.

You contracted polio in 1962, when you were in your 20s. What was the disease's impact on your life?

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The impact was obvious and immediate: I could no longer walk. Crutches and braces became a part of my life, and I learned to adapt.

What do you want people to know about polio?

Polio is a profound limiter that requires imagination and energy to deal with. It helps if one can use the upper body constructively and creatively.

Why do you think it's important to eradicate polio and not just contain the disease?

Containment means acceptance, and acceptance is unacceptable.

Why did you want to be a part of the Concert to End Polio, and what does it mean to conduct Itzhak Perlman for that performance?

Itzhak and I are old friends. We've worked together several times here and abroad. This is our first concert together in which there is a focus on polio.

What would you say to Rotary club members to encourage them to continue their more than two decades of work to eradicate polio?

If the goal is eradication, then the fight is ongoing.

Historic Moments: The First Four Rotarians

By Susan Hanf RI News - 10 February 2011

The first four Rotarians -- Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele, Hiram E. Shorey, Paul P. Harris.

On 23 February 1905, Paul P. Harris, Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele, and Hiram E. Shorey gathered in Loehr's office for what would become known as the first Rotary club meeting.

Harris's desire for camaraderie among business associates brought together these four men and eventually led to an international organization of service and fellowship.

Read about each of the first four Rotarians below, and about Harry L. Ruggles, who is often called the "fifth Rotarian."

Rotary's founder, Harris, was born in Wisconsin, USA, on 19 April 1868. He was raised by his paternal

grandparents in Vermont and attended the University of Vermont, Princeton, and the University of Iowa. He was Rotary president from 1910 to 1912 and a member of the Rotary Club of Chicago until his death on 27 January 1947. Learn more about the founder of Rotary in "The Life and Times of Paul Harris."

Loehr, a mining engineer, was born on 18 October 1864 in Carlinville, Illinois. He was a Rotarian for only a few years, never holding office at the club or international level. But that first Rotary meeting was held in his office, Room 711 of the Unity Building in downtown Chicago. He died in Chicago on 23 May 1918.

A Rotarian for only a few years, Shorey served as recording secretary during the club's first year. He was born in Maine in August 1862 and died in March 1944.

Schiele, a coal dealer, served as the Chicago club's first president in 1905 and Rotary International's third treasurer in 1945. Born in Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1870, Schiele attended Terre Haute Business College and served in the U.S. Army during the Spanish-American War. He was president of the Schiele Coal Company from 1902 until his retirement in 1939. He and Harris became lifelong friends and lived near each

other on the South Side of Chicago. Schiele died on 17 December 1945 and is buried near Harris at Mount Hope Cemetery.

Originally from Michigan, Ruggles was a graduate of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and joined Rotary at its second meeting. He was treasurer of the Chicago club during its first year, president from 1908 to

1910, and a Rotary director from 1912 to 1913. He is known for having introduced singing to Rotary club meetings. His printing company, H.L. Ruggles & Co., printed the first issue of *The National Rotarian* and the first Rotary songbook. He died on 26 October 1959, an honorary member of seven clubs in addition to his home club, the Rotary Club of Chicago.





Rotary Club of Potomac-Bethesda

www.pb-rotary.org

Meets on Thursdays at 6:30 pm at Normandie Farm (www.popovers.com)

The 31st Annual International Night

Sponsored by the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club

Hosted by

The University Club

1135 Sixteenth Street N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20036

(202) 862-8800

<http://www.universityclubdc.com/>

Saturday, March 26th, 2011

6:30-9:30 PM

Please join us in

Honoring this year's Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars

Ambassadorial Scholarships, The Rotary Foundation's oldest and best-known program, was founded in 1947. Since then, more than 40,000 men and women from about 100 nations have studied abroad under its auspices. Today it is one of the world's largest privately funded international scholarships programs. Nearly 700 scholarships were awarded for study in 2009-10. Through grants totaling approximately US\$16.2 million, recipients from about 70 countries studied in more than 80 nations.

The purpose of the Ambassadorial Scholarships program is to further international understanding and friendly relations among people of different countries and geographical areas. The program sponsors academic year scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students as well as for qualified professionals pursuing vocational studies. While abroad, scholars serve as goodwill ambassadors to the host country and give presentations about their homelands to Rotary clubs and other groups. Upon returning home, scholars share with Rotarians and others the experiences that led to a greater understanding of their host country.



Rotary Club of Potomac-Bethesda

www.pb-rotary.org

RESPONSE FORM

I would like to attend the 31st Annual International Night at the University Club, on Saturday March 26th at a cost of \$60 per adult and \$20 per child (under 12).

\$60 x ___ adults attending = \$ _____

\$20 x ___ children attending = \$ _____

Total Payment = \$ _____

Number of guests requesting:

Oven Roasted Breast of Chicken entrée _____

Grilled Filet of Salmon entrée _____

Vegetarian meal _____

Children's Meal (Fruit, Chicken Fingers & French Fries, Cookies) _____

Please mail this response form along with your check by March 10th - payable to the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Foundation ("International Night" in the memo field) to P.O. Box 59824, Potomac, MD 20859.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ eMail Address: _____

Please email us at rotary.pb@gmail.com if you have additional questions or would like to send your response electronically.

Please note that all reservations are guaranteed only after payment is received by March 10th.