

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

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

Frank Islam, Author, “Renewing the American Dream”



Frank F. Islam is a successful entrepreneur and investor based in metropolitan Washington, DC. He is the Chairman/CEO of FI Investment Group LLC (FIG), an investment firm he founded in 2007.

Previously, Mr. Islam was the founder and CEO of QSS Group. QSS Group was an Information Technology company which generated revenue of \$300 Million. Through QSS, Mr. Islam garnered multiple industry

awards for leadership, entrepreneurship and excellence. In 1999, Mr. Islam was recognized by the Ernst and Young as Maryland Entrepreneur of the Year. The US Small Business Administration selected him as the Small Business Person of the Year of the Washington DC Metropolitan Area in 2001.

Mr. Islam has been an active participant in the Information Technology, Aerospace Engineering Services and Systems Integration business for more than 25 years. He holds a B.S. and M.S. Degrees in Computer Science from the University of Colorado. His extensive business development experience within the Federal Government sector was the key to the remarkable growth of QSS.

Mr. Islam is a well-known philanthropist whose private foundation supports educational, cultural and artistic causes worldwide. He participates in a number of non-profit organizations as a board member, such as TiE –DC and the Strathmore Center for the Arts (located in Montgomery County, Maryland), as well as chairing the StateDemocracy Foundation. He speaks often at a variety of commercial and non-profit forums, and is frequently included in press coverage.

Mr. Islam hosts a TV show “Washington Current Review” on MHz Networks.

In all endeavors, whether in the world of business or charity, Mr. Islam strives to create opportunities that are sustainable and uplifting for humanity – always guided by the virtues of hard work, focus, quality, innovation and kindness!

Mr. Islam is a contributor to several publications including Huffington Post, Indian Express, Economics Times, and India Abroad.

Mr. Islam is co-author of a book *Renewing the American Dream* www.renewingtheamericandream.net. Mr. Islam’s website is www.ffislam.com

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

February 24 Meeting Report



Above: President Jason congratulates Neil Cohen with a Paul Harris Pin. Below: Guests included Steve Grant (left), son of Alan Grant, and Jon Van Winkle (right) from the Wheaton-Kensington Rotary Club.



Judi Christensen from the Montgomery County Historical Society gave a fascinating history of Josiah Henson and Uncle Tom’s Cabin, located just six miles



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March 3, 2011 - Page 1

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

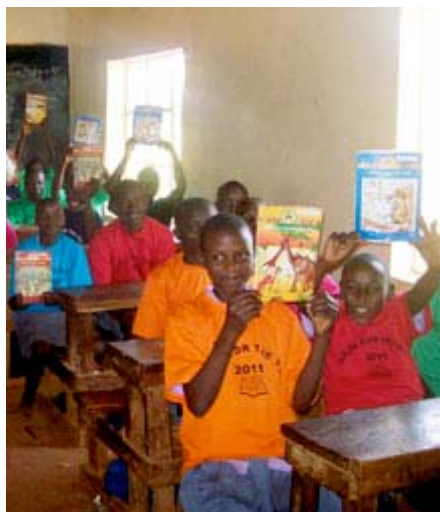
from our meeting place. "Josiah Henson was born on a farm near Port Tobacco in Charles County, Maryland. When he was a boy, his father was punished for standing up to a slave owner, receiving one hundred lashes and having his right ear nailed to the whipping-post, and then cut off. His father was later sold to someone in Alabama. Following his family's master's death, young Josiah was separated from his mother, brothers and sisters, when he was sold as property in an estate sale. After his mother pleaded with her new owner Isaac Riley, Riley agreed to buy back Henson so she could at least have her youngest child with her; on condition he would work in the fields. Riley would not regret his decision for Henson rose in his owners' esteem, and was eventually entrusted as the supervisor of his master's farm, located in what is now North Bethesda. He tried to buy his freedom by giving his master \$350 which he had saved up over the years, only to find that it had been increased to \$1000. Josiah Henson moved to Little Yellowbanks near present day, Lewisport, Ky, in 1825. He was overseer for Amos Riley's slaves. Amos obtained Josiah from his brother Isaac. Isaac transferred slaves to his brother when he incurred debts he could not pay. Josiah escaped to Canada in 1829 from Kentucky. Cheated of his money, he escaped to Kent County, U.C., in 1830, after learning he might be sold again. There he founded a settlement and laborer's school for other fugitive slaves at Dawn, Canada West. Henson crossed into Upper Canada via the Niagara River, with his wife Nancy and their four children. Ontario had become a refuge for slaves from the United States after 1793, when Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe passed "An Act to prevent further introduction of Slaves, and to limit the Term of Contracts for Servitude within this Province". The legislation did not immediately end slavery in the colony, but it did prevent the importation of slaves, meaning that any U.S. slave who set foot in what would eventually become Ontario, was free. By the time Henson arrived, others had already made Ontario home, including Black Loyalists from the

American Revolution, and refugees from the War of 1812.

Henson first worked farms near Fort Erie, then Waterloo, moving with friends to Colchester by 1834 to set up a Black settlement on rented land. Through contacts and financial assistance there, he was able to purchase 200 acres in Dawn Township, in next-door Kent County, to realize his vision of a self-sufficient community. The Dawn Settlement eventually prospered, reaching a population of 500 at its height, and exporting black walnut lumber to the United States and Britain. Henson purchased an additional 200 acres next to the Settlement, where his family lived. Henson also became an active Methodist preacher, and spoke as an abolitionist on routes between Tennessee and Ontario. He also served in the Canadian army as a military officer, having led a Black militia unit in the Rebellion of 1837. Though many residents of the Dawn Settlement returned to the United States after slavery was abolished there, Henson and his wife continued to live in Dawn for the rest of their lives. Henson died at the age of 93 in Dresden." *From wikipedia.org*

District 5020 Embraces Future Vision

By Dan Nixon RI News – 1 March 2011



Students in Kenya proudly display books they received as part of a literacy project funded by a district grant. Photo courtesy of Brian Beagle

Building on a long history of support for Rotary Foundation programs, District 5020 (parts of British Columbia, Canada, and Washington, USA) has become one of the more active participants in the Future Vision Plan.

The district has received 12 global grants totaling US\$297,103 and a \$187,889 district grant in 2010-11, which together are supporting activities in 15 countries.

A major area of focus for the district is basic education and literacy, which is the target of 13 projects funded

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March 3, 2011 - Page 2

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

by the district grant and a global grant effort. The timetable for completing these projects ranges from three months to a year.

"Three local projects have already been completed," says Brian Beagle, chair of the district Rotary Foundation committee. "One provided books for a First Nations [indigenous peoples] library. Another purchased backpacks filled with school supplies for disadvantaged families. A third provided defibrillators for local school events."

In some cases, the inspiration for a project is another club's successful effort, while in other cases, traveling Rotarians have identified international communities that could benefit from assistance.

The district stresses that the most effective way to get local community and host club buy-in is to have the host club conduct an assessment to identify the community's needs. "This experience and trust, often gained with smaller initial projects, enables our clubs to have confidence in the host partners," Beagle says.

A \$2,500 project in Kenya funded by the district grant, for example, is providing books, supplies, and teacher training to enable schoolchildren to improve their reading skills in both English and Swahili. The effort, patterned after a project implemented by the Rotary Club of Victoria, British Columbia, has grown to include 500 students in more than 10 schools.

In Peru, members of the Rotary clubs of Tacoma Narrows, Washington, and Camana, Peru, teamed up to install solar panels on the roofs of three schools. A similar project in the Philippines is being funded by \$5,000 in district grant money.

In Honduras, a \$33,245 global grant is helping to furnish classrooms and washrooms at a vocational and literacy training school. The project's sponsors, the Rotary clubs of Santa Bárbara, Honduras, and Campbell River, British Columbia, are separately providing uniforms, shoes, school bags, and other items.

In addition, district grant funds are supporting scholarships for two individuals selected for their outstanding ambassadorial traits.

Beagle says the district's clubs have chosen to sponsor such a large number and variety of projects because the Future Vision pilot enables them to develop efforts that fit their capacity, passion, and expertise.

District Governor Robert Martin is excited about his district's level of participation in the Future Vision Plan.

"This is clearly an indication of the desire of District 5020 clubs and Rotarians to make the world a better place to live," he says.

New Zealand Rotarians Responding To Christchurch Earthquake

By Joseph Derr RI News – 25 February 2011



The March issue of Rotary Down Under, the regional magazine in New Zealand, Australia, and neighboring countries, will include coverage of the Christchurch earthquake.

Rotarians in New Zealand are doing what they can to assist victims of the devastating earthquake 22 February in Christchurch, where more than 100 people have been killed and at least 200 are still missing.

As efforts move from search-and-rescue to recovery, responses from Rotarians offering assistance have been pouring in. Authorities are

requesting that donations in kind or noncash items not be sent to Christchurch, as the government, local agencies, and NGOs have sufficient emergency and second phase supplies for the ongoing needs of the community.

Rotary New Zealand World Community Service, a group of Rotarians dedicated to international service projects in New Zealand and the South Pacific, has set up an earthquake appeal fund. Learn more.

"New Zealand is a small country and everyone knows someone in Christchurch, so this is truly a national

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

disaster," said Past RI President William B. Boyd, a native of New Zealand. "I know that the six districts [there] will work together to rebuild the spirit of the city. Best wishes from Rotarians from around the world have reminded us once again that we are a family and that in difficult times, families come together."

The incoming Rotary Foundation trustee-chair added: "The Rotary Foundation has an important place in the family of Rotary, and our Foundation will play its part as Christchurch rebuilds."

According to a press release on the Rotary Zone 7B (New Zealand and Pacific Islands) website, Rotarians are offering to host traumatized residents so that they can get away to rest before trying to rebuild their lives. The effort is being coordinated within Rotary and through welfare agencies.

"We are OK but very stirred and shaken. Aftershocks are still continuing," assistant Rotary coordinator Ross Skinner wrote in a post on the site. "We have power and water (it seems) but no waste water or flushing of toilets."

Leanne Jaggs, past governor for District 9920 who lives in Auckland, posted on Tuesday that she was in Christchurch on business when the earthquake hit. "I was just about to jump out of my rental car for a meeting, when it felt like the car was moving," she wrote. "Our hope is that everyone we know is safe."

Rotarians Celebrate Rotary's 106th Anniversary

By Diana Schoberg and Arnold R. Grahl

RI News – 23 February 2011

Representatives of Rotary International and Sanofi Pasteur, a leading provider of polio vaccine, helped ring the opening bell in Brussels.

Rotarians around the world are celebrating Rotary's 106th anniversary with a variety of activities drawing attention to the progress that has been made to eradicate polio and the need to finish the job.

Representatives of Rotary International and Sanofi Pasteur, a leading provider of polio vaccine, helped ring the opening bell in four European financial markets, in Lisbon, Portugal; Amsterdam; Brussels; and Paris.

Video of the events can be viewed at www.euronext.com.

A closing-bell ceremony at the New York Stock Exchange is scheduled for 15:40 Eastern Time with remarks by RI President Ray Klinginsmith and Michael Watson, Sanofi Pasteur's vice president of global immunization policy, followed by a countdown to the final bell at 16:00.

In the evening, the exterior of the stock exchange building will be illuminated with Rotary's End Polio Now message, joining other global landmarks in a dramatic visual public awareness campaign to build support for polio eradication.

In Rome, hundreds of Rotarians and guests will gather for the lighting of the iconic Trevi Fountain and a reception for a special exhibit of artwork from "Amazing Stories of Polio!" and "The Remarkable Mr. Harris," two illustrated works that appeared in The Rotarian. Organizers will sell a commemorative poster drawn by the artist, Steve Buccellato, to raise money for polio eradication.

During the event, attendees will premier a new "This Close" testimonial, featuring actress Maria Grazia Cucinotta. Cucinotta, who is scheduled to attend the event, is best known for her role in the Oscar-nominated film *Il Postino* and as a Bond girl.

Rotary's This Close polio awareness campaign features a growing roster of public figures and celebrities raising their thumbs and forefingers in the "this close" gesture. These print, outdoor, and broadcast public service announcements are in support of a polio free world. See and share a video on the new campaign and progress made toward ending polio.

The city of Montalban, Italy, is among other landmark lighting events, including 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



Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

government building in Karachi, Pakistan; the planetarium in Seoul, Korea; the Globe of the Mall of Asia in the Philippines; Byblos Castle in Byblos, Lebanon; and the Charminar in Hyderabad, India. View a photo gallery of the illuminated landmarks at www.rotary.org beginning 24 February.

Rotary clubs and districts also organized a variety of celebrations in honor of the 106th anniversary. Rotarians in Great Britain and Ireland planned ahead, selling and planting 4.6 million crocus bulbs across the region in October so their purple blooms would flower in late February. The color purple is meant to evoke the purple dye used to mark the fingers of children who have received the oral polio vaccine during National Immunization Days. The Rotary Club of Hitchin Tilehouse, Hertfordshire, England, earned a citation in Guinness World Records for the most people (636) simultaneously planting flower bulbs, during an event at a Hitchin park.

Historic Moments:

Paul Harris Fellow Recognition

By Susan Hanf RI News – 16 November 2010



The first Paul Harris Fellow medallion (left) and a later version. Various lapel and neck ribbons were used with this medallion throughout the years.

The Paul Harris Fellow recognition acknowledges individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of US\$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

It was established in 1957 to show appreciation for and encourage substantial contributions to what was

then the Foundation's only program, Rotary Foundation Fellowships for Advanced Study, the precursor to Ambassadorial Scholarships.

The first Paul Harris Fellows include 1937-38 RI Director Allison G. Brush and longtime RI Treasurer Rufus F. Chapin, both for donations they made in 1946. Mrs. Adan Vargas was the first woman to receive the recognition, for a gift made in 1953. Mrs. Harry L. Jones was the second, and one of only five people recognized for contributions made in 1957.

Early Paul Harris Fellows received a certificate of recognition. In 1969, the Foundation unveiled the first Paul Harris Fellow medallion at the RI Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. Japanese metal artist Fiju Tsuda created the piece under the direction of then-past Foundation Trustee Kyoza Yuasa. Today, Paul Harris Fellows receive a certificate and pin. They are also eligible to purchase a Paul Harris Fellow medallion.

Rotarians have a tradition of supporting the Foundation by honoring others. Ida LeTulle Taylor became a Paul Harris Fellow in 1978 when her husband, then-District Governor Vann Taylor, made a donation in her name in honor of their 34th wedding anniversary. The gift also made her the 25,000th Paul Harris Fellow.

At the International Assembly in 1979, then-RI President-elect James Bomar challenged each Rotary club to make one non-Rotarian a Paul Harris Fellow. The Rotary Club of Pikesville, Maryland, USA, responded by making a donation in the name of Mother Teresa in 1980. The entertainer Pearl Bailey also became a Paul Harris Fellow through a joint effort of the Rotary clubs in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

Many other notable figures have been named as Paul Harris Fellows, including U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, U.S. astronaut James Lovell, UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, and Jonas Salk.

The number of Paul Harris Fellows reached the one million mark in 2006.

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

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March 3, 2011 - Page 5