

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

April 14 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
Evgeniya Kazazaeva, Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar



In 2009 Evgeniya Kazazaeva was chosen to be a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholar or "Ambassador of Good Will" from Russia to the USA. Her sponsoring district was 5010 and host Rotary Club was in Troy, Alabama. As a Rotary scholar, she had the honor of presenting talks on her district, Russian culture and politics as well as relations between Russia and America

in many diverse American settings. These have included Rotary meetings, conferences, annual assemblies, immigrant clubs, Alabama youth leadership programs, and schools. These talks coincide with her personal goal of promoting understanding and eradicating stereotypes of rivalry and animosity between Russia and America. She recently graduated from Troy University with Master of Science degree in International Relations, and moved to Maryland with the purpose of OPT (Optional Practical training).

April 21 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
Chris Puttock, Adj Prof UofMD, "Oyster Reefs"

April 28 - 6:30pm Social - Normandie Farm

April 29-May 1 - DisCon 2011 Turf Valley Resort
Register at rotary7620.org

May 5 - 6:30pm - Service Project at Manna Food

May 12 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
Stella Koch, Audubon Naturalist Society

May 19 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
Corkey Hay DeSimone, Author

May 26 - 6:30pm Social - Normandie Farm

June 2 - 6:30pm - Service Project at Manna Food

June 9 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
SEEDS Haiti Project

June 16 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
"Outlook for Energy" by the ExxonMobil Coalition

June 23 - 6:30pm Social - Normandie Farm

June 30 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

July 7 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
Joy Hatchette, Maryland Insurance Administration

**Rotarians Promote "Service Above Self"
Working at Manna Food Center on April 7**



Haiti School Rebuilding Project Featured at Club Meeting on March 31



Guest speaker Paul Cormier, Soleil Foundation Founder and President, was an eyewitness to the tragedy of the Haiti earthquake and visually described the experience of the tremor. He was able to extend his Coast Guard reserve duty several months and assist in the recovery efforts. He is leading Operation Jericho to rebuild a school in Leogane.

www.pb-rotary.org www.rotary7620.org www.rotary.org

April 14, 2011 - Page 1

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News



[Above] Guests at the March 31 meeting included Rockville Rotarian John Kolm and prospective members Juan Carlos Peirano and Heidi Cordova.



[Left] Art Blitz displays some handcuffs at the Manna Food Center service project on April 7.

Japanese Rotarians Witness Devastation

By Ryan Hyland RI News - 6 April 2011

A red line indicates the tsunami level on this clinic in Kamaishi, Japan. Toshiro Ueda, a member of the Rotary Club of Otsuchi, Iwate, who runs the clinic, was barely able to escape by running to the fourth floor. Photo courtesy of Tatsuo Seshita

"The earth seemed to be shaking forever, and it was so strong," says RI Director Masahiro Kuroda. "I thought I was going to die."

Kuroda, a physician, was seeing a patient on the second floor of his medical clinic in Hachinohe, Aomori, Japan, when a 9.0-magnitude earthquake off the country's northeast coast struck on 11 March.

"I escorted her downstairs. Holding each other's arms tightly, we walked down very slowly. After we reached the bottom floor, the earthquake stopped," says Kuroda. "I led all the other patients outside and told them to go home, but she said she was too scared to leave and wanted to stay in the clinic. I didn't know



what to say - she was so frightened. She left a couple of hours later and safely arrived home."

The quake, the largest to hit Japan in recorded history, triggered a tsunami that swept 6 miles inland, destroying entire villages.

Kuroda and several staff members stayed at the clinic overnight after hearing on the radio that the waves had come close to the building. Kuroda's home and clinic were spared, but just a couple of miles east, the tsunami and quake had caused major destruction.

"All I was trying to do was to prepare for the night and get heat," he says. "It was very cold. I tried to find some oil and batteries for the stove and candles. The electricity went out, so it was dark and hard for everyone to walk around. There were constant aftershocks, really strong ones. We all were very scared."

Kuroda says he couldn't reach fellow Rotarians at first.

"Landline phones, cell phones, and e-mail were down for three days, We were completely isolated," he says.

"In the hardest-hit areas of District 2520 [Iwate and Miyagi], we don't know all the details of the damage. There are still Rotarians we haven't been able to contact yet."

Naoki Narayama, governor of District 2520, visited some of the affected villages soon after the earthquake.

"Our district, especially its Pacific coastal areas, sustained very severe damage. The devastation is much bigger than what we are seeing on TV," he says. "Search and rescue efforts continue. In the areas hit by the tsunami, there is an acute shortage of

food, water, gas, and medical supplies."

Narayama fears that the death toll, already estimated at more than 12,000, will rise. But he is encouraged by the response of Rotarians.

"In this darkest hour, I have received numerous heartwarming messages from Rotarians all over the world," he says. "Their considerate inquiries and kind offers of helping hands have greatly encouraged us to tackle this daunting destruction."

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Tatsuo Seshita, governor of District 2550 (Tochigi), says his district wasn't hit by the tsunami but was badly damaged by the quake.

"I kept under my desk. I was afraid that the shaking would continue forever," says Seshita. "When the big pillar in my office cracked, I thought it was going to fall down on top of me. Luckily it stood, but I thought my time had come."

Seshita traveled to the city of Kamaishi on 2 April to deliver relief supplies to a medical clinic run by Toshiro Ueda, of the Rotary Club of Otsuchi, Iwate. Ueda was barely able to escape to the fourth floor of the clinic during the tsunami, which reached up to the third floor.

Kuroda says Rotary clubs are doing what they can to support those affected by the disaster. "Despite the shortage of gasoline, many Rotarians are driving to deliver supplies to the areas most in need," he says. "We all, as Rotarians, are working together. I am deeply moved by what I'm seeing Rotarians do."

Former Peace Fellows Help Haiti Rebuild

By Ryan Hyland RI News – 12 April 2011

Louisa Dow and Bernard D. Togba Jr., meet at the Habitat for Humanity office in Haiti. Photo by Alyce Henson/Rotary Images.

With Haiti still reeling from last year's devastating earthquake and a continuing cholera epidemic, two former Rotary Peace Fellows are using their

expertise to help the country rebuild and recover.

Louisa Dow is the Habitat for Humanity partnership coordinator for Haiti disaster response, responsible for the organization's relationships with the United Nations, USAID, and other agencies.

Dow manages the USAID Emergency Community Assistance and Planning (ECAP) program. Designed by Habitat for Humanity, ECAP is a nine-month, US\$3 million emergency program that provides community-focused, on-the-ground technical support to government agencies that oversee Haiti's post-earthquake shelter and settlement initiatives.

"I feel so privileged to be in Haiti, helping families rebuild their lives by giving them the pathway to permanent housing," says Dow.

Dow, who is from Australia, says her 2008-10 studies at Duke University and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA, helped prepare her for the work. Her applied field experience with Habitat for Humanity in Latin America and the Caribbean opened her eyes to the role of permanent housing in developing a peaceful and just society.

"Peace fellows work in diverse sectors," she says. "Not all of us are about mediation or negotiation. Providing access to shelter, education, and health care services has a direct impact on people living in conflict nations."

Dow says her fellowship, which focused on international development policy, gave her the time and space to think about how she could help people improve their quality of life.

"I don't think there is a program that could have given me a better education in development and peace than the peace fellow curriculum," Dow says. "Being in an environment that nurtured all of us to find new and innovative areas to research was an experience like no other."

Izabela Pereira supports development efforts

As a cooperation project analyst for the United Nations Development Programme for Brazil, former Rotary Peace Fellow Izabela Pereira works with the Brazilian government to identify ways to implement cooperative reconstruction and development projects

in Haiti.

"What motivates me is that I help my country to help another nation in need," says Pereira, a 2005-07 peace fellow at Universidad del Salvador in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Pereira says Brazil is a leader in the UN peacekeeping mission in Haiti as well as one of the main donors supporting the country's reconstruction. She travels between Brazil and Haiti, helping the Brazilian Agency for Cooperation implement initiatives in agriculture, water and sanitation, infrastructure, health care, security, and other areas.



Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Previously, Pereira worked as a democratic governance officer with the UN Integrated Mission in the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. Read more.

"Without a doubt, my previous experiences helped me deal with the unexpected and learn ways to overcome obstacles," she says. "These attributes are crucial in my work toward helping Haiti rebuild." Pereira says her experience working for nongovernmental organizations in Haiti and other countries taught her that the Rotary Peace Centers program serves a critical need.

"With the plethora of conflicts in so many regions, more specialists are needed, particularly coming from conflict zones," she says. "One of the program's greatest contributions is the promotion of peace through specialized education."

Rotary Clubs Celebrate Success Over Guinea Worm In Ghana

By Arnold R. Grahl RI News – 5 April 2011

A victim of Buruli ulcer is treated in Ghana. Photo courtesy of Walter Hughes.

Rotary clubs in 14 districts and four countries are celebrating a milestone in the fight against Guinea worm in Ghana and setting their sights on their next target, a rare flesh-eating disease known as Buruli ulcer.

Walter Hughes, a member of the Rotary Club of Rocky Mount, Virginia, USA, says Ghana has not had a case of Guinea worm since May 2010. People contract the disease when they drink standing water containing a tiny flea that carries the worm's larvae. The larvae, which can take a year to mature within the human body, cause long-term and sometimes crippling effects. If no cases are reported through May 2011, Ghana will have broken the breeding cycle of the larvae. But a country must go three years without a reported incident for the World Health Organization to officially declare it free of Guinea worm. The parasite also remains endemic in Ethiopia, Mali, and Sudan.

Because of the work in Ghana, RI President Ray Klinginsmith has appointed Hughes to speak on

Rotary's behalf during a World Health Day event in Boston on 7 April. Hughes says he will stress the role that teamwork, both within and outside of Rotary, has played in the Guinea worm effort.

"It's exciting for me to see us reach this point, and I am honored to be chosen by President Ray to speak," says Hughes. "Whenever we can come together as a team, we can set our goals high and achieve those goals."

Clubs in Canada, Ghana, Switzerland, and the United States have supported the fight against Guinea worm with help from seven Foundation Matching Grants, totaling more than \$1 million over six years, to provide safe drinking water to remote communities in northern Ghana. Rotarians worked with the Guinea Worm Eradication Programme, a partnership of the Carter Center and the Ghanaian government, to identify the best locations for wells and water systems.

Hughes says the wells motivated communities in Ghana

to participate in other aspects of the eradication effort, such as detection, treatment, and prevention. He adds that the clubs would like to use the same approach to fight a new target, Buruli ulcer.

The microorganism that causes the tropical disease is from the same family of bacteria that causes tuberculosis and leprosy but has received far less attention. It is on the rise in West Africa.

The infection starts with a painless nodule, which develops into skin lesions as the disease progresses. If

detected early, it can be easily treated by removing the nodule, but more advanced cases can result in disabled limbs and may require amputation.

Though researchers don't know exactly how the infection is transmitted, they believe contaminated water and soil may play a role. The Rotary clubs of Thomasville, North Carolina, USA, and Sunyani Central, Ghana, have been approved for a global grant project with a total budget of US\$190,000 to provide clean water through new boreholes and the repair of existing wells, as well as disease education and treatment.

