

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

December 8 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm



Sara (Dispenza) Bannon,

Former Rotary Youth Exchange Student to Belgium;

Stephanie Glinuer,

Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar from Belgium;

Stephanie is currently a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholar from Belgium and is working/researching at the NIH Bethesda Campus. Sara is a past Rotary Youth Exchange high school student who went from the U.S. to Belgium.

[See full biographies on page 2.]

December 8 – 8pm - Board of Directors Meeting

December 15 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

December 22 -6:30pm -Holiday Party Normandie Farm

December 29 – No Meeting

January 5 – 6:30pm - Service Project at Manna

January 12 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

Dr. Michelle Thaller, NASA

January 19 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

Philip Tarnoff, “The Road Ahead”

January 26 - 6:30pm – Social - Normandie Farm

February 2- 6:30pm – Service Project

February 9 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

Bob Hester - Metro

February 16 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

February 23 – 6:30pm – Social - Normandie Farm



Manna Food Packing
December 1

November 17 Meeting Report

Andrea Sawyer was the guest speaker from the Wounded Warrior Project. Her husband was a licensed funeral director and she was a history teacher. In wartime the armed forces need to recruit morticians and her husband signed up for the Army. Her husband went to Iraq and returned in February 2007. She had



been talking with her husband by phone every night and noticed some changes. All he did the first two months back home was scream and he could not cope with the slightest variation in routine. Sometimes he would forget how to get home. One day everything snapped and she called command and told them something was terribly wrong. He was taken to mental health where they said there was a three-month wait. He was enrolled in an anger management class and



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was declared two weeks later to be too angry for the class. Her husband's anger went into depression by November 2007 and she decided to remove the children from the home. In the doctor's office her husband said he did not know who or where he was and he was hospitalized for six weeks.



The doctor declared that her husband's military and civilian career was over and that it would be a long recovery process. The next eight months she had three appointments per week and he was placed on retirement. After retirement they faced a new medical environment with another three-month wait. She then got in touch with the Wounded Warrior Project who said they would help to have them make the transition easier. Now she is a spokesperson for the Wounded Warrior Project. The mission of Wounded Warrior Project is to honor and empower the wounded warrior. Their purpose is to raise awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of injured service members; help injured service members aid and assist each other; and provide unique, direct programs and services to



meet the needs of injured service members. The presentation was so moving that the club immediately donated a total of \$600. Thanks so much to Andrea for alerting us to the fine work of the Wounded Warrior Project. Another visiting guest was Rotarian Ray Aylor from the College Park Rotary Club.

December 8 Rotary Club Speakers' Biographies

Stephanie Glineur

I was born in November 27, 1979, in Brussels where I grew up in a family of four, my brother being two years older than I, and where I spent all my childhood. My father was a mathematics teacher and my mother

worked a little bit as a nurse but quickly decided to devote her time to the education of her children, Pascal and myself. I spent my elementary and high school years in my native town, specifically at the "Athénée Royal d'Uccle I" where I chose for my course of study an orientation in Latin - Mathematics - Sciences, already having a profound interest in Life Sciences and particularly enjoying the structured and logical aspect inherent in the study of Mathematics and Latin. Meanwhile, my attraction for animals was at that time well-defined, as horses were an integral part of my daily life, and in response to my repeated and justified request, our family joined the ranks of the happy dog owners.

When I was 15 years old, I had the occasion to join a scout movement called "Les Cadets d'Uccle". I found there much personal satisfaction and had a lot of opportunities to acquire experience in leading and coordinating young people sharing the same ideals: helping to form responsible young citizens with values like respect for others, the mutual aid, and the sharing and respect for our environment, which unfortunately has become a major world-wide problem. My contribution to this scout movement ended three years ago after spending the last four years as the "big chief".

After secondary school, I entered university with the intent of becoming a veterinarian, the reason I came to Liège. After six years, in June 2003, I obtained my diploma, and while I began these studies to treat small animals like dogs and cats, I modified my plans and decided on a research career. Thanks to my achievements during my second cycle, I was actually allowed to apply to the "Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique", and I obtained funding for four years to do my doctoral work.

At that time, I had the opportunity to work in the lab of Animal Genomics, led by Professor Michel Georges, where I begin a study of Crohn's disease. Indeed, this disease is quite multifactorial, with genetic and environmental factors involved in its pathogenesis. My thesis work was completed in the laboratory led by Pr. Daniel Desmecht. Engaged as a teaching assistant for 3 years, I also pursued at the same time my PhD and defended it in last April. My thesis focused on the study

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of the resistance opposed by SJL/J mice to infection by pneumonia virus of mice, a model for infantile bronchiolitis due to human respiratory syncytial virus.

Achieving a doctorate has given to me the opportunity to consider the science under its most innovative and most advanced technological aspects, but also has allowed me to gain independence and perseverance, two essential features to success in such an endeavor. At the other side, working as a teaching assistant in pathology also gives me the possibility to develop other skills that include the ability to communicate, listen and deliver, in front of a large audience, messages that need to be clear and accurate.

Beside my work, I find much satisfaction by spending time with my friends, but also by traveling, a wonderful way to discover new countries, new people and new cultures. I like also doing sport and have found in running a healthy way to contribute to my personal fulfillment...I will never forget how proud of myself I felt when I finished my first marathon.

Sara Dispenza, CPA, is the Director of Finance and Administration and CFO of the American Society of International Law (ASIL). Founded in 1906, ASIL maintains 4,000 members from nearly 100 nations dedicated to study, promotion, and development of international law. At the Society, Sara oversees accounting, administration, compliance, technology, and human resources.

Sara currently sits on the Board of the Greater Washington Society of CPAs (GWSCPA) and is chairing its Not-for-Profit Committee. Previously, she chaired and acted as the curriculum chair of the GWSCPA's Not-for-Profit Symposium, which serves 500 accounting professionals. She currently serves as an Associate member of the Ohio University Accounting Advisory Council and is a member of the 2012 nominating committee for the Council's annual awards. In addition, Sara is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. When she has time, Sara volunteers at community service organizations based in DC.

Most recently, before joining ASIL, Sara served as the Finance and Benefits Manager for the Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation. Her prior work

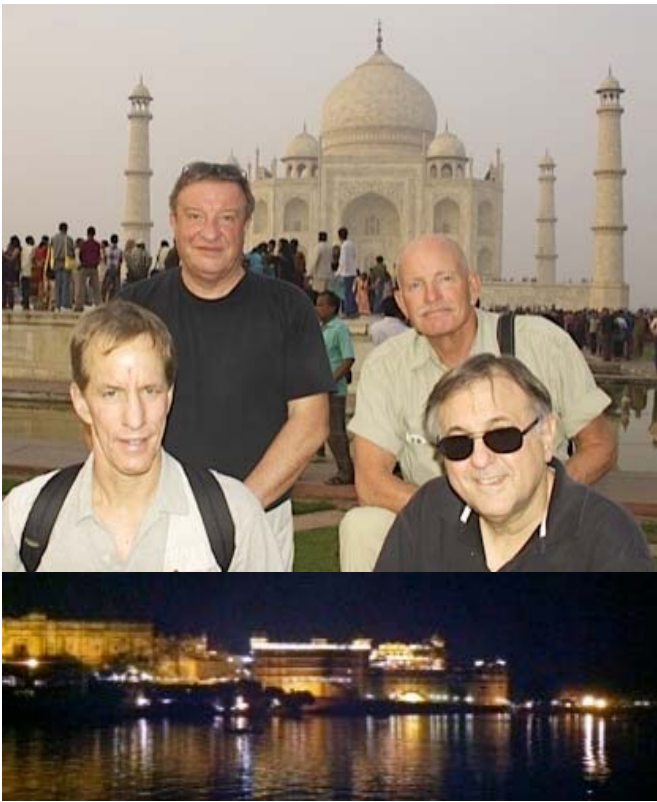
experience also includes an accounting policy position at Chevy Chase Bank and assurance services at PricewaterhouseCoopers, where she audited private and public companies alike.

Sara is an alumna of the Honors Tutorial College at Ohio University where she wrote her thesis on the convergence of domestic and international accounting standards. She was the recipient of the 2008 Young Alumnus Award from Ohio University's School of Accountancy and in 2010 the GWSCPA President's Award for Emerging Leadership.

Neil Cohen's Trip to India



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India Presses Its Advantage Against Polio

By Dan Nixon RI News – 23 November 2011

John Germ, chair of Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge Committee, holds a child as Rotary Foundation Trustee Ashok Mahajan administers drops of polio vaccine, part of a Subnational Immunization Day in Mumbai, India, on 13 November. Photo by Ritam Banerjee



With just one case of polio reported in the last 10 months, India is more determined than ever to ensure eradication of the disease.

As part of that effort, Rotarians helped administer bivalent oral polio vaccine to more than 35 million children during a Subnational Immunization Day on 13 November. The vaccine is effective against the two remaining types of the virus.

Sporting their signature yellow vests and caps, the Rotarians also helped organize free health camps and

polio awareness rallies, as well as distribute banners, caps, face masks, comic books, and other items to the children.

On 20 November, a team of Rotarians from District 3700 (Korea) served in a health camp in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, which included immunization of children against polio. The camp was organized by Indian Rotarians in cooperation with local health officials and UNICEF.

The following day, the team took part in a door-to-door mop-up campaign, administering vaccine to children who otherwise would have missed receiving it. A TV news crew from Korea accompanied the Rotarians throughout their visit, taking the End Polio Now message back to their country.

And in Mumbai, Rotary leaders John Germ, chair of Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge Committee; Rotary Foundation Trustee Ashok Mahajan; and RI General Secretary John Hewko joined Indian Rotarians in immunizing children.

"This year, there have been just over 500 cases worldwide. The fact that only one of those cases is in India is a tremendous achievement that reflects the determination of the nation's leaders and its citizens to finally rid their country – and the world – of this terrible scourge," Hewko wrote in an article published earlier

this month in the Hindu Business Line.

India's next National Immunization Days are scheduled for January and February, and a series of supplementary activities are planned through June. At the same time, intensive surveillance for the wild poliovirus is continuing throughout the country.

"Rotary has invested heavily in surveillance in India over the last 12 months," said Bruce Aylward, the World Health Organization's assistant director-general for polio eradication and related areas, at a September meeting of Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee. "That's the reason we can say with confidence that we think we're getting close to zero [cases] in India."

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Winter Fundraising Event

SEEDS-HAITI, INC.

cordially invites you to celebrate this season of giving
with an evening of dinner and Haitian entertainment

Friday December 16, 2011

7:30 pm

Tragara Ristorante

4935 Cordell Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814

Program includes:

- *Buffet Dinner*
- *KaNu Folkloric Dance Theatre*
- *Konpa Music by DJ Relax*
 - *Door Prizes*
 - *Silent Auction*

\$65 per person

Seating Limited

Donations are welcome!

**All Proceeds from this event will benefit
The Good Samaritain School
in Arcahaie, Haiti**

For Tickets or to contribute, please contact:

SEEDS-HAITI, Inc.

PO Box 66524

Washington, DC 20035

Telephone: 240.381.0113

No admittance without a ticket