

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

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

Dr. Bruce Trock – Johns Hopkins University



Bruce J. Trock, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Departments of Urology, Oncology, Epidemiology, and Environmental Health Sciences at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He is also Director of the Division of Epidemiology in the Brady Urological Institute. Dr. Trock is an internationally recognized expert in the field of cancer epidemiology and biomarker research, with particular emphasis on prostate and breast cancers. He has made important

contributions in a number of areas such as predicting outcomes of prostate cancer treatment, prognostic biomarkers, and the role of dietary factors in breast cancer. Prior to Johns Hopkins he worked at Georgetown University's Lombardi Cancer Center, the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, the University of Pennsylvania, and the National Cancer Institute. Bruce is married to Rotarian Beyhan Trock (Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rotary Club).

March 9 – Rotary District Awards Due

March 13 - 7pm – Manna Food Center Packing

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

I. J. Hudson and Steven Pinault

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC)

March 22 – 6:30pm Joint Rotary Social

with Rockville Rotary Club at Oro Pomodoro,

33 Maryland Avenue #A Rockville, MD 20850

(Rockville Town Center)

March 27 – 6:30pm Charter Night for the new

Dupont Circle Rotary Club (see flyer on page 5)

March 29 – 6:30pm – Club Assembly – Normandie

Farm

March 29 – April 1 – Rotary ChesCon in Cambridge

April 5 - 6:30pm – Service Project at Manna Food

April 10 - 7pm – Manna Food Center Packing

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

April 21 – 6:30pm – 32nd Annual International Night at the University Club (see flyer on page 6)

February 23 Meeting Report

On February 23 a joint social was held by the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rotary Club and the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club at the Jaleo Restaurant in Bethesda. A full page photo collage is featured on page 2 showing the fellowship between our two Rotary clubs. This month's social is being held in conjunction with the Rockville Rotary Club on March 22 at the Oro Pomodoro Restaurant in Rockville Town Center.



[Above] President Chinyere Amaefule receives two honors for our club from Rotary District Governor Claude Morissette. The Rotary Foundation recognition banners are for being a 100% Sustaining Member Club and \$100 per capita club with 100% of the members participating.



[Above] February 16 Rotary Club speakers were Rotarian Bob Pelletier and Curling Coach Sandra McMakin. The World Championships of the Rotary Curling Fellowship will be held April 1-6 in Beltsville.



[Above] Craig Melcher (C.F.O.) and Will Miller (Director of Education) gave an update on the Hilltop Microfinance project that that received \$8,000 seed funding from the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club.

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**February 23, 2012, Joint Rotary Social
Potomac-Bethesda and Bethesda-Chevy Chase Clubs**

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

India Is No Longer Polio Endemic

By Dan Nixon RI News, 27 February 2012

The All India End Polio Now Road Show, organized by District 3201 (parts of Kerala and Tamil Nadu), inspired support for polio eradication in India, Nepal, and Bhutan in late 2011 and early 2012. Photo courtesy of District 3201



The World Health Organization has officially removed India from the list of polio-endemic countries. Ghulam Nabi Azad, India's minister of Health and Family Welfare, made the announcement at the Polio Summit 2012 in New Delhi on 25 February. Azad said that he had been informed of WHO's action by its director-general, Dr. Margaret Chan.

"It is a matter of satisfaction that we have completed one year without any single new case of polio being reported from anywhere in the country," said Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the summit, which was organized by the government of India and Rotary International. "This gives us hope that we can finally eradicate polio not only from India but from the face of the entire mother earth. The success of our efforts shows that teamwork pays."

India's last reported case was a two-year-old girl in West Bengal State on 13 January 2011. Before polio eradication can be certified in India, it must go two more years without another case of the disease. Polio remains endemic in only three countries: Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

Bivalent oral vaccine

Until 2009, India accounted for nearly half the number of the world's polio cases. A chief factor in the country's success has been the widespread use of the bivalent oral polio vaccine, which is effective against both remaining types of the poliovirus. Another has been rigorous monitoring, which has helped reduce the number of children missed by health workers during National Immunization Days to less than 1 percent, according to WHO.

Rotary International has played a major role in helping to stop the transmission of polio in India. Rotary has been a spearheading partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative since 1988, along with WHO, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is also a key supporter of the initiative.

Sporting their signature yellow vests and caps, the nearly 119,000 Rotarians in India have helped administer vaccine to children, organize free health camps and polio awareness rallies, and distribute banners, caps, comic books, and other

items.

Global support from Rotarians

"With the support of their Rotary brothers and sisters around the world, Indian Rotarians have worked diligently month after month, year after year, to help organize and carry out the National Immunization Days that reach millions of children with the oral polio vaccine," says RI President Kalyan Banerjee, of the Rotary Club of Vapi, Gujarat. "As an Indian, I am immensely proud of what Rotary has accomplished. However, we know this is not the end of our work. Rotary and our partners must continue to immunize children in India and in other countries until the goal of a polio-free world is finally achieved."

Robert S. Scott, chair of Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee, calls India's achievement "a significant step towards a polio-free world - an example as to what can be accomplished no matter what problems need to be overcome. Rotarians of India are and should be proud of the key efforts they have made at all levels, without which the world would not be marking this milestone."

Deepak Kapur, chair of the India PolioPlus Committee, also credits the Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for its commitment to ending polio. To date, the Indian government has spent more than US\$1.2 billion on domestic polio eradication activities. "We are fortunate that our government is our biggest advocate in this effort," Kapur says.

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Global Grant Project Educates, Supports New Mothers With HIV

By Dan Nixon RI News, 1 March 2012

Vocational training team member Rich Casey (far left), of the Rotary Club of Los Altos, California, USA, greets doctors at St. Joseph's Hospital in Monrovia, Liberia, site of the HIV-prevention training workshop. Photo courtesy of the Rotary Club of Los Altos



Fifty doctors, nurses, and home-based health care workers in Liberia are using techniques gained from a Rotarian-sponsored workshop to help prevent transmission of HIV from infected mothers to their children. The techniques are being used to educate pregnant women about HIV and AIDS, treat mothers and their newborn babies with medication, and inform the public about HIV prevention.

With funding from a Rotary Foundation global grant, a vocational training team of two Rotarians and six other health care professionals from District 5170 (California, USA) conducted the weeklong workshop in Monrovia, which ended on 3 February. Workshop participants received resource books, information on diagnosing and treating HIV, and other materials as well.

Members of the local Rotary Club of Sinkor, Montserrado County, are now helping distribute nutritional supplements to malnourished HIV-infected women and children and are providing transportation for them to public health clinics.

"The general feedback was that the workshop was a complete success, and the participants agreed to take this information and resource materials back to their various places of work and train others," says team member Allan Varni of the Los Altos club.

At work on many fronts

The HIV-prevention workshop is one of several global grant-funded projects and activities that District 5170 has undertaken as a Future Vision pilot district. Rotarians are providing medical equipment to two hospitals in Guatemala and one in the Philippines,

installing a toilet block at an elementary school in Belize, and implementing an "adopt-a-village" project in Uganda, among other efforts.

District Rotarians say the global grants are making it possible to effectively address a number of Foundation areas of focus in line with the district's goals.

"The Future Vision procedures have made the process of grant funding more efficient and timely," says Roger Hassler, past governor of District 5170. "Rotarians in our district are using the resources of The Rotary Foundation to plan and implement meaningful humanitarian and educational projects around the world."

The district's involvement in global grant projects is producing other benefits as well.

"As we have worked through the steps needed to qualify our clubs and district, smaller clubs have begun to embrace the process and actively seek ways to work with other clubs, both within and outside our district, to create larger, more sustainable projects," says Cecelia Babkirk, chair of the district's grants subcommittee. "I challenge Rotarians to think big about the Future Vision Plan."

Gaithersburg Man Goes To Annapolis To Fight For Homeowners

Wants Property Tax Assessment Information More Public

by Jen Bondeson, Gazette Staff Writer, March 7, 2012

When Robert Nelson learned that the assessed value of his home on Goshen School Road went up 16 percent since 2009, but that the value of all other homes on his street had decreased over the last few years, he was astounded.

The Gaithersburg man said he hasn't made updates to his 2004 custom-built home since adding a deck and sun porch in 2006.

He told delegates in the Maryland State House Ways and Means committee on Feb. 28 that his situation is a good example of why HB789, proposed by Delegate Susan K. McComas (R-Dist. 35B) of Bel Air, should pass.

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Greater visibility to property tax assessment records is desperately needed, Nelson said.

In HB789, McComas writes that Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation should be required to post detailed worksheets and cards associated with each assessment on its website. Worksheets, which are now only available after someone initiates an appeal on a property, give detailed property characteristics and information about updates to homes. Land owners currently request worksheets of neighboring properties in order to research comparables during the appeal process.

Having these worksheets prior to appealing could help homeowners make more educated decisions of whether or not to appeal, according to Roy Whiteley, president of Marylanders For Fair Property Taxation, who testified before the committee.

Nelson has begun to appeal the assessment of his home with the state department.

When he found out about HB789, he realized that he is not alone.

Last year, 5,868 appeals and petitions regarding commercial or home assessments were submitted by county residents to the state department; statewide, 50,613 were submitted, Young said.

Of those who appeal, about one in four are successful in changing the assessed value, he said.

But the worksheets have been ruled by the legislator in 1969 and 1980 as private, and putting the information out there for the general public would be a fundamental policy change, according to Robert Young, the director of the Department of

Assessments and Taxation, who testified against the bill.

Also, developers from the Center for Applied Information Technology at Towson University have estimated that building an online system that shows this information for Maryland's 2.1 million homeowners would cost about \$200,000, Young said.

When only about 3,000 owners requested worksheets this year, Young asked the delegates whether the cost and privacy change is justified.

McComas said that she hopes the bill gets legs, because someone needs to look into the system.

"We really need to take the cover off this black box, and see how it is being done," she said.

jbondeson@gazette.net

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



PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE CHARTER
OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF DUPONT CIRCLE

Tuesday, March 27, 2012
6:30 - 8:30pm

K&L Gates LLP
1601 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-1600
(Farragut North Metro)

Cocktail Attire / RSVP March 16, 2012

Tickets - \$40 per person, includes a selection of heavy hors d'oeuvres,
small plates, and beer and wine cash bar.

For payment and registration for Rotarians please click [here](#)
and for non-Rotarians click [here](#).

Registering prior to the event is required due to building security policies.

For more information, contact us at charternight@dupontrotary.com
or by phone at (202) 656-2383.



Rotary Club of Potomac-Bethesda

www.pb-rotary.org

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

The 32nd 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, April 21st, 2012

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 32nd Annual International Night at the University Club, on Saturday April 21st at a cost of \$65 per adult and \$20 per child (under 12).

\$65 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 31st - 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 31st.