

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

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

Juan Carlos Peirano's

Induction and Classification Talk

April 12 – 8pm - Normandie Farm

Board of Directors Meeting

April 19 – No Meeting

April 21 – 9am –

Club Officer Training Assembly

Holiday Inn Laurel West

April 21 – 6:30pm –

32nd Annual International Night

Hosted at the University Club

1135 16th St NW, Washington, DC 20005

Featuring the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Nathan Zook

“The Importance of International Exchange”

Dr. Nathan Zook is an Associate Professor of Political Science and the Coordinator for the International Studies Program at Montgomery College. He majored in International Studies and Political Science at Towson University and then earned his Ph.D. in Political Science at Indiana University. In addition to Montgomery College, he has taught at the University of Tennessee and the University of Wisconsin-Rock County. His lectures and research focus on international relations. He has visited more than 30 countries. His fondest memories as an undergraduate involved studying abroad in Budapest, Hungary. Currently, he lives in the Bloomingdale neighborhood of D.C. with his wife, their two sons, and one daughter.



Rotary District Governor Claude Morissette and District Governor Elect Bob Parkinson will join us.

Reservations required – please register online at:

<http://pbrotaryinternationalnight.eventbrite.com>

April 26 – 12pm – Jewish Foundation for Group Homes

Community Partner Award to the Potomac-Bethesda

Rotary Club at Washington Hebrew Congregation

April 26 – 6:30pm – Social – Normandie Farm

May 3 – 6:30pm – Manna Food Center Sorting Night

May 8 – 7pm - Manna Food Center Packing Night

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

May 17 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

May 24 – 6:30pm – Social – Normandie Farm

May 31 – 6:30pm – Club Assembly – Normandie Farm

Farm

March 22 Joint Social With Rockville Rotary



The monthly Rotary Club social evening was held in conjunction with the Rockville Rotary Club at Oro Pomodoro Italian Restaurant in Rockville Town Center. Rotarians and guests enjoyed great food and fellowship. Thanks so much to past president Jason Hamel for making all the arrangements.

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

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Hari and Swapna, and Gladys Howard at the Social.

March 15 Meeting Report



I.J. Hudson and Steven Pinault were our guest speakers on March 15. Steven is the Project Manager for the Bi-County Water Tunnel Project and gave a presentation on the massive project to bore a tunnel along the Capital Beltway to provide water across the county. WSSC is the eighth largest water and wastewater utility in the nation, serving 1.8 million residents in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties with a network of more than 5,500 miles of fresh water pipeline and nearly 5,400 miles of sewer pipeline.



RI President Presents Polio Medal to Afghanistan President In Kabul

Rotary International News – 4 April 2012

RI President Kalyan Banerjee presents Afghan President Hamid Karzai with a medal in recognition of Karzai's support for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.



Rotary International

President Kalyan Banerjee presented a medal to Afghan President Hamid Karzai on 2 April in Kabul, in recognition of Karzai's support for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, in which Rotary is a spearheading partner.

Banerjee is the first RI president to visit Afghanistan. His visit was made possible through the work of Rotary Foundation Trustee Stephen R. Brown and Fary Moini, both members of the Rotary Club of La Jolla Golden Triangle, California, USA, which has carried out numerous successful educational projects in Jalalabad.

During their 45-minute meeting, Karzai and Banerjee discussed how lessons learned from India's success might be applied in Afghanistan. Banerjee's home country of India was removed from the polio-endemic list in February.

"I encouraged the president to keep up the intensity of the immunization program because, by doing so, they can stop polio as we did in India," Banerjee said. "Once it stops, it stops. You don't know when it will happen, or where the last polio case will be; but one day it will happen if you remain ever vigilant."

Continued support for polio eradication

Karzai vowed his government will continue to support the eradication program and said he personally would help encourage and educate the Afghan public on the

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importance of reaching all children with the oral polio vaccine.

In discussing strategies, Banerjee said Muslim leaders who supported India's polio immunization campaign could be encouraged to communicate with their Afghan counterparts to explain the importance of immunizations. Indian Rotary members were instrumental in gaining the support of influential clerics to help dispel misconceptions about polio immunizations within some Muslim communities.

Banerjee also said both countries could exchange teams of health workers so that Indian vaccinators can share best-practice approaches and learn more about the challenges facing polio eradication in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan is one of only three countries where the wild poliovirus has never been stopped. So far in 2012, Afghanistan has reported five new polio cases out of the 36 recorded globally. The country reported 80 cases in 2011. The other two endemic countries are Nigeria and Pakistan. Polio infections due to cross-border traffic between Afghanistan and Pakistan are a continuing problem, making bi-national cooperation essential. Pakistan has reported 15 cases this year after posting 198 in 2011.

Rotary's work in Afghanistan

Accompanying Banerjee on his historic visit were Brown; Moini; Dr. Ajmal Pardis, chair of Rotary's Afghanistan National PolioPlus Committee and a member of the Rotary Club of Jalalabad; and Mohammad Ishaq, a member of the Rotary Club of Jalalabad.

Brown and Moini have led several projects in Afghanistan and participated in National Immunization Days there. The Global Connections and Exchange Program, an education project of the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary club, administers Internet training labs in 13 high schools as well as a central training facility in Jalalabad. The effort is part of a larger initiative to promote technology, curriculum development, and international collaboration.

Young Rotarian Models Leadership In Australia

By Katie Hills, *The Rotarian*, April 2012

During her first year at college, Holly Ransom, a member of the Rotary Club of Crawley, Australia, noticed that a lack of role models was demoralizing her female friends.

"Unfortunately, if you're looking to the media, you're struggling for female role models other than celebrities going in and out of rehab," she says.

In 2009, she founded Women Who Lead, a nonprofit that aims to provide positive examples and foster leadership skills.

A year ago, she joined the Crawley club and learned that only 2 percent of Rotarians are under age 30, and 16 percent are women.

"I couldn't get those statistics out of my head," the 22-year-old says. She told David Goldstone, one of the club's charter members, that she wanted to get more involved; soon after, Ransom became president-elect.

She'll take office in 2012-13, shortly after graduating from the University of Western Australia with a degree in law and economics.

"Our club members are so different in composition and mindset," she says. "It's invigorating to be a part of the energy in the room every time we're together."



Holly Ransom, 22, is president-elect of the Rotary Club of Crawley, Australia. Photo by Frances Andrijich

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

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Rotary To Use 2.5 Million Charity Miles To Support Lifesaving Surgeries, Service Projects

**By Arnold R. Grahl, Rotary International News
- 28 March 2012**

Ali received corrective surgery on his thoracic cage in 2008. Rotary International's Rotary Miles program provided airfare to bring Ali and family members from Iraq to the United States for the surgery.

Ali was born with a seriously deformed spine and thoracic cage.

Doctors treating the 12-year-old Iraqi boy at a clinic run by off-duty U.S. Army medics in Baghdad knew his best hope for corrective surgery existed outside Iraq. Through the efforts of clinic staff and Rotarians in the United States, Ali and several other Iraqi children were able to undergo life-changing surgery at Shriners Hospital in Philadelphia in 2008.

Rotary International's Rotary Miles program provided free airfare for the children and their family members through the organization's participation in United Airlines' charity miles program. Over the years, Rotary has used donated miles to support surgeries by Gift of Life and Rotaplast, two organizations supported by Rotarians. The miles also have been used for Engineers Without Borders volunteers working on Rotary water projects, and in support of other Rotary club and district humanitarian efforts around the world.

Rotary wins 2.5 million miles

Recently, Rotary Miles received a major boost when it qualified for roughly 2.5 million miles from United's 10 Million Charity Miles Giveaway, held in December.

The contest invited people to vote online to determine how the miles would be divided among 45 organizations participating in the airline's charity miles program, with awards equal to the percentage of the vote received. Spurred on by social media promotions, Rotarians helped catapult Rotary from 18th to second

place in the span of a week, winning 24.8 percent of the United miles.

"Given that this was during December, a time that many clubs had wound down for the festive season, it was a fantastic result," says Simone Carot Collins, past chair of the Rotarians on Social Networks Fellowship. "We promoted it heavily through social networks (especially Facebook), and from there, clubs emailed and posted in their club bulletins."

In coming months, the miles will be used for eight volunteers participating in National Immunization Days (NIDs), will enable four youth exchange students from disadvantaged households to participate in the NIDs, and will provide for four Gift of Life trips bringing children and their mothers to the United States for surgery.

In addition, the miles will support Rotary Friendship Exchanges, send a student and parent to a Rotary institute or peace conference in celebration of Interact's 50th anniversary, support service projects in each of Rotary's six areas of focus, and send participants to a peace conference in Berlin, a Rotary education event in Myanmar, and the Global Poverty Project Concert in New York City.

How you can donate miles

With Rotary's participation in the United Airlines Mileage Plus Charity Miles Program, Rotarians and non-Rotarians can donate miles, in 1,000-mile increments, to benefit Rotary Foundation programs. (Mileage Plus members can donate online through their Mileage Plus account by clicking on the About United link, then on Global Citizen and Charity Miles, and then selecting Rotary and the number of miles to be donated.)

Rotarians also can work with the Rotary International Travel Service to collect miles from their community for a specific project.

