

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

May 10 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

John Paukstis, Executive Director,

Montgomery County Habitat for Humanity



John has served as Executive Director since 2006. His prior experience includes owner of several residential construction businesses in Florida and a printing business in Chicago. He was the CEO of McBee Systems, Inc., Parsippany, NJ, a manufacturer of accounting forms and payroll services. After an eleven year career with McBee Systems, he facilitated CEO roundtable groups in Philadelphia, and strategic planning in North American as a team member of The Saga Institute. He serves on the

board of directors of Habitat for Humanity Maryland's State Support Organization (SSO), as well as the National Capital Area Regional Support Organization (RSO). John is a Global Village Team Leader who enjoys participating and leading Global Village teams to far flung corners of the earth.

May 10 – 8pm – Board of Directors Meeting

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

Kathleen Koch, Journalist, Author and Speaker

*Rising From Katrina: How My Mississippi Hometown
Lost It All and Found What Mattered*

Winner of the 2011 Independent Publisher Gold Award
for Best Non-Fiction in the Southeast Region



Kathleen Koch is an award-winning broadcast journalist and former longtime CNN correspondent based in Washington, D.C. Her two documentaries on Bay St. Louis's recovery received a New York Festivals Gold Medal. She also shared in the Peabody Award CNN won for its coverage of Hurricane Katrina. Koch began her television career as a reporter and weekend anchor for the ABC affiliate WLOX-TV in Biloxi, Miss. She spent 18 years

at CNN covering the White House, the Pentagon, Capitol Hill and aviation.

Koch currently serves on the USM School of Mass Communications and Journalism Advisory Board and on Rotary International's 2010-2011 Alumni Advisory Committee.

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

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

June 7 – 6:30pm Manna Food Center Service Project

June 14 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

Installation of 2012-2013 Officers

June 21 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

Ann Thompson, World Vision

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Receives JFGH Community Partner Award



On April 26 in front of 200 people gathered at a gala luncheon at the Washington Hebrew Congregation, President Chinyere Amaefule accepted the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes (JFGH) Community Partner Award on behalf of the Potomac-Bethesda



Rotary Club. "The JFGH Community Partner Award is presented annually to an outstanding not-for-profit agency whose support of our clients through funding and/or services has helped JFGH maintain quality of life and independence for our clients and a sustainable future for JFGH. The

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club has been an actively engaged and invaluable partner of JFGH over the past decade. Each year their dedicated members have provided the JFGH residences, among other volunteer endeavors: carpeting, gardening, painting, carpentry, electrical services and goods. They have additionally participated in social and recreational activities with our residents."

32nd Annual Potomac-Bethesda International Night Honored Scholars



Dr. Nathan Zook, Montgomery College, Keynote Speaker; Scholars Stephanie Glineur from Belgium and Mitsuru Misawa from Japan; MC Jason Hamel.

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In Memoriam: Anne Ratcliffe

By Arthur Blitz, May 8, 2012

Fellow Rotarians. I am sad to report that my mother-in-law, Anne Ratcliffe, passed away this morning. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, May 10th at 12:30 pm at Congregation Beth El, 8215 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, 20814. Although conflicting with our Club meeting, Shiva services will be held on Thursday at 7:30 pm at my house, 8804 Earl Court, Bethesda (off of Seven Locks Road). There will be tons of food, so whoever comes should come hungry. We will have an open house at our home on Sunday afternoon, and another Shiva service at our home on Sunday evening, 7:30.

Rotarians Celebrate Milestones In The Fight To Rid The World Of Polio

By Ryan Hyland RI News - 8 May 2012

Top: Bruce Aylward tells Rotarians India's removal from the polio-endemic list is a magnificent Rotary achievement. Bottom: Former Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar John Skerrit accepts the Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award. Rotary Images/Alyce Henson

Rotarians Tuesday celebrated two major milestones in the organization's decades-long fight to rid the world of polio with a laser light show at the 2012 RI Convention in Bangkok, Thailand.

During the third plenary session, which was also made available through a live webcast, Rotarians were congratulated for meeting and exceeding Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge, Rotary's response to \$355 million in matching grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for polio eradication efforts. Attendees also celebrated India's removal from the polio-endemic list in February, which leaves only three countries where transmission of the virus has never been stopped.

But speakers reminded the festive assembly that the work is far from complete, because the ultimate goal has not been reached.

"We know that we haven't reached our goal. We haven't ended polio," said John F. Germ, chair of Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge Committee. "Our clubs are still planning polio fundraisers for the coming years and encouraging donations from people in their communities."

Germ announced that, as of 4 May, Rotarians and supporters have raised \$215.7 million for the challenge, which runs through June. But with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative facing a significant funding shortfall for 2012 and beyond, it is vital for clubs and districts to keep pushing forward with their many creative fundraisers.

Public health emergency

Bruce Aylward, assistant director-general for polio, emergencies and country collaboration for the World Health Organization, said India's removal from the polio-endemic list is "perhaps the most important milestone ever on the long road to eradication."

"It's a magnificent achievement. And it is a Rotary achievement," he said. "Today, Rotary's vision of a polio-free world is much closer to reality."

But an upsurge in cases of paralysis from polio in Nigeria, Pakistan, and Afghanistan and recent polio outbreaks in China, the Congo, and Tajikistan have also prompted what he called an "unprecedented push" to finally end the disease. He said 192 ministers of health will meet next week and declare polio a public health emergency.

"The world understands the full consequences of failure," he said. "We must be faster, we must be more focused and each one of us must be fully accountable."

Indian philanthropist Rajashree Birla, who has given more than \$4.2 million to the Foundation for polio eradication, said she has been "overwhelmed with Rotary's polio efforts."

Birla's late husband, Aditya, built the family business into one of India's largest. Today, Birla and her son, Kumar Mangalam, head the Aditya Birla Group, a Fortune 500 company.



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Birla stressed the need for business accountability and community service. Her *Giving to Living* campaign encourages corporations to “embed giving into their DNA.”

“When a corporation pushes its energies and helps resolve social sector issues through engagement, it indirectly stimulates its own business development,” said Birla. “There is much to be gained when business leaders take giving to heart, and set the mandate of making a difference by caring for people in their community.”

Service to Humanity award

Former Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar John Skerrit was presented with the 2011-12 Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award by Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair William B. Boyd.

“Just as Rotary Fellowships help build international understanding, I had the privilege of leading a program of postgraduate training for over 300 agricultural scientists from 18 developing countries to assist in building the next generation of thinkers and leaders,” said Skerritt. In his keynote address, Boyd noted the difference The Rotary Foundation makes in lives daily.

“When a group calling themselves Rotarians comes to a village and asks what are the most pressing needs that can be worked through together and the answer is water, you can understand the opportunity that this gives the woman who spends three hours each day walking with her teenage daughter to collect dirty water as that is the only supply available,” he said.

“A water supply to her village will give her time to grow food, will enable her daughter to be educated, her other children will not be constantly sick, and maybe she can get a microcredit loan and start a small business. What a difference that day will bring.” Amanda Martin, an alumna of the Rotary Peace Center at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, thanked Rotary for the opportunity to broaden her skills. She said her work as a public health coordinator and teacher in a refugee camp on the border of Thailand and Myanmar is “inspiring and fulfilling.”

“Rotary has already made a dramatic difference in my life and is having a profound ripple effect, radiating from me to my students and onto the impoverished populations that they will serve as public health workers,” said Martin.



Speakers Urge Rotarians To Fight Global Poverty

By Ryan Hyland RI News – 7 May 2012

Top: Muhammad Yunus commends Rotarians for their work in developing microcredit loans for the poor during the second plenary session 7 May. Bottom: Hugh Evans urges Rotarians to use their influence to help end poverty. Rotary Images/Monika Lozinska

Poverty and hunger were the targets of the second plenary session of the 2012 RI Convention, as a variety of award-winning speakers encouraged Rotarians to use their ingenuity to solve these global challenges.

Microcredit pioneer Muhammad Yunus, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, commended Rotarians for their work in developing microcredit loans for the poor. The founder of Grameen Bank also encouraged Rotarians to pursue social business enterprises that would work with microcredit-funded businesses not just to produce revenue but also to return profits to the communities where they operate.

As an example, Yunus highlighted a joint venture between Grameen Bank and Danone, a European food company, to produce high-nutrition yogurt for children in Bangladesh. The goal is to reduce malnutrition while creating manufacturing and distribution jobs.

“In today’s world, we use money to make money, not solve problems,” said Yunus. “If we use money creatively in a business framework, we can solve any problem.”

Recently, Grameen Bank also joined forces with Adidas to produce shoes that cost less than US\$1 per pair. The affordable shoes help prevent infection by foot parasites in poor communities.

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"My dream is to one day take poverty out of our society and put it in a museum that our grandchildren can visit to see what it was like," Yunus said.

Antipoverty crusader Hugh Evans, cofounder and CEO of the Global Poverty Project, said Rotary can use its considerable influence to fight poverty.

"Like Rotary, we believe that mass mobilization of individuals can effect real change in the world," Evans said. "When we focus on the needs of others, our own burdens become lighter. Our perspective sharpens."

"This idea, the same one that drives you as Rotarians, guides our work at the Global Poverty Project," he said.

UN connection

Gillian Sorensen, senior adviser and national advocate at the United Nations Foundation, encouraged Rotarians to work with governments to solve global problems including poverty, hunger, illiteracy, and lack of access to clean drinking water and sanitation.

"What is clear is that problems like this are too great for governments alone to resolve," said Sorensen, who has served in many positions at the UN including assistant secretary-general for external relations. "They need partners of every kind, from private sector to civil organizations like yours, who have the means to contribute and lead."

Sorensen said Rotary, which has a 66-year relationship with the UN, continues to be an active and influential presence at the organization's headquarters in New York. "You play a similar role with UNICEF, UNESCO, and WHO," she adds.

Angelique Kidjo, Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter and activist, said the world has many health issues for which there are no solutions, but added that "the most frustrating are the ones for which we have a solution and not enough is being done."

Kidjo, who was named a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador in 2002, said Rotary's "This Close" campaign is the right message to help eradicate polio for good.

"What I love about [the campaign] is that a simple goal is set," she said. "We know eradication is possible. With your goodwill and energy, this goal is achievable."

In other convention news, Rotarians attempted to create the world's biggest smile during an event at the Convention Center 6 May. Exactly 2,012 attendees wore blue and yellow ponchos and stood in the form of a smiley face. The event will be registered with Ripley's *Believe It or Not*.

Complete Rotary Membership Survey

By Governor Claude Morissette

If you haven't yet filled out our district membership survey, please do so now. This will be the last reminder sent regarding this survey.

What is your experience in being a Rotarian? How do you feel about your club's local and international service activities? How is your club doing attracting new members and ensuring that existing members remain in the club? How is the fellowship experience in your club? What could be done by your club, as well as by your district, to make your Rotary experience more rewarding?

In order to help each of our clubs, as well as our district as a whole, in making the Rotary experience the best it can be, we need to hear from you. We have designed a new web-based survey that is both detailed and easy to respond to in order to identify what our priorities should be based on your own priorities. You can be assured that your responses to the survey will be confidential. The survey does not ask you to identify yourself. Only aggregate results will be provided to clubs and for the district as a whole. The survey consists of 28 questions, and it should take you about 15 minutes to complete. Our commitment is to report to you the results of the survey, both at the club and district levels, and to help you identify what steps your club might take based on the survey results.

Thank you for taking part. This is a unique opportunity to take stock of where we stand and how to move forward. Together with DGE Bob Parkinson and DGN Peter Kyle, I ask that you please take the time to fill out the survey, which is available at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YWXSM5S>

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

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