

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

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

Kathleen Koch: Journalist, Author and Speaker



Kathleen Koch is a Washington-based freelance journalist, author, moderator and speaker. Her best-selling book, *Rising from Katrina*, which traces her Mississippi hometown's recovery from Hurricane Katrina and her experiences covering it, was named Best Non-fiction in the Southeast Region in the 2011 Independent Publisher Book Awards. It also received an honorary mention for Book of the

Year in the regional category from ForeWord Reviews.

For 18 years, Koch was a CNN Washington correspondent specializing in aviation reporting and serving as correspondent at the Pentagon, the White House and on Capitol Hill. She provided moving reports from the Mississippi Gulf Coast during and in the years following Hurricane Katrina. Koch's two documentaries on the recovery of Bay St. Louis – *Saving My Town* and *The Town That Fought Back* – received a New York Festivals gold medal. She also shared in the 2006 Peabody Award CNN received for its coverage of the hurricane.

Koch's other awards include three silver and one bronze Telly for a 2010 Astrocast.TV report on the construction of Spaceport America in the New Mexico desert. In 2007, she won a New York Festivals gold medal and a bronze award for investigative reporting from the New York Association of Black Journalists for a CNN report in which she uncovered the apparent murder of a young inmate by guards at a Mississippi jail.

Koch was a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar at the University of Dijon. She currently serves on the University of Southern Mississippi Mass Communications and Journalism Advisory Board.

Kathleen will have copies of her book available at a discounted purchase price.

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

May 31 – 6:30pm – Meeting – Normandie Farm

June 7 – 6:30pm – Meeting – Normandie Farm

June 11 – 6pm – Grow Your Membership Seminar



Holiday Inn Laurel West

15101 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD

Register at rotary7620.org

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

Installation of 2012-2013 Officers

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

Ann Thompson, World Vision

May 10 Rotary Club Meeting Report



President Chinyere presents the Rotary mug to guest speaker John Paukstis.

Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County was formed in 1982, one of 15 affiliates in the state of Maryland. John Paukstis has served as Executive Director since 2006. They have been building new homes or rehabilitating existing homes (typically distressed foreclosures) serving people with 30% to 60% of median county income. The people have jobs but cannot afford decent housing. The home comes with a 30 year zero percent mortgage. Only one default has occurred and all the other original homeowners still are in their homes. Nineteen new townhomes will be built on three acres in Gaithersburg starting in July. They have a store on Gaither Road selling building supplies. Todd Nitkin praised the program as he knows a Habitat for Humanity homeowner in Silver Spring.



Guest Vikas Arya [left], a former student of Nabil's at Georgetown University.

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Rotarians Leave Bangkok Encouraged To Fight Poverty And Finish The Job Of Eradicating Polio

By Ryan Hyland RI News – 9 May 2012

Top: RI President Kalyan Banerjee and RI President-elect Sakuji Tanaka during the closing plenary session. Bottom: Ron D. Burton, 2013-14 RI president, and his wife, Jetta, are introduced during the fourth plenary. Rotary Images/Monika Lozinska

Rotarians and friends left the 2012 RI Convention in Bangkok, Thailand, energized to keep up the fight against polio and to use their ingenuity to help reduce global poverty.

The four-day event, which drew to a close Wednesday, attracted more than 35,000 attendees from 181 countries and geographical areas and included a celebration of two major milestones in the global polio eradication effort.

Attendees were also treated to a preview of the next RI Convention, which will take place 23-26 June 2013, in Lisbon, Portugal. Register now.

In his closing remarks, RI President Kalyan Banerjee reminded Rotarians that “what’s important in Rotary isn’t what we say. It’s what we do, and who we are.”

“There dwells within you the power and spirit that can evoke the energy you may not realize,” Banerjee said. “You have to be hungry enough to reach within and release the energy to help you embrace humanity. I believe this is the state we call happiness. I have just given you the prescription for it. Rotary can help you achieve happiness in life that you seek.”

Peace through service

Incoming RI President Sakuji Tanaka outlined his plans for his term, which begins 1 July. Tanaka will ask Rotarians to achieve Peace through Service.

“Through service we learn that the problems that may seem large to us are really very small,” said Tanaka. “We learn empathy for others. We come closer to

people who seem very different from us. And we begin to understand how much we are all the same.”

“Through our Rotary service, we know that cooperation is more productive than conflict,” he said.

“We know that every one of us has something to give, and everyone has something to teach.”

Delegates elected nominee Ron D. Burton, of the Rotary Club of Norman, Oklahoma, USA, as the 2013-14 RI president during the fourth plenary session earlier in the day.

“I am both honored and humbled to accept the nomination of president of Rotary International,” Burton said in his acceptance remarks. “I take a tremendous amount of pride in being a Rotarian. To me, Rotary isn’t just another service organization. It is something different, something special.”

Burton says the best years are still to come for Rotary. He emphasized RI’s Strategic Plan as the tool to make that happen.

“The plan is a way to look clearly at who we are, where we are going, and how we should get there,” said

Burton. “It’s a powerful reminder of our goals and priorities, which at their heart are the same as they’ve been since Rotary was founded.”

Achieving peace

Jose Ramos-Horta, president of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, talked about his country’s struggle to achieve peace. He told Rotarians that peace can be difficult but, with the right people in place, it’s attainable.

“Peace is a process – sometimes a long one, too long. It can be a formal political process,” said Ramos-Horta.

“But to be sustained we have to deal with human beings as individuals, as communities, as people with traumas, emotions, and anger, but also with hopes, hearts, and feelings.” Earlier in the session, Banerjee honored clubs and districts with the Changemaker Award and the Presidential Citation.



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The Changemaker Award recognizes clubs that made an extraordinary impact during 2011-12 through the Avenues of Service. The Presidential Citation recognizes achievements related to membership development and contributing to The Rotary Foundation.

During the fourth plenary session, General Secretary John Hewko outlined five priorities for the Secretariat to get Rotary on the best footing possible to embark on its second century. These included eradicating polio, implementing the Strategic Plan and Future Vision, finding an effective way to track and demonstrate the value of the service provided by Rotarians, increasing membership, and bringing Rotary into the ranks of major players in the world of global humanitarian assistance and development.

RI President's Message for May: The Importance of Getting New Members Involved in Their Club.

By Kalyan Banerjee, President, Rotary International.

My dear brothers and sisters in Rotary,
When we talk about building membership, we all recognize that welcoming a new member into a Rotary club is only the beginning of our task. To turn a new club member into a committed Rotarian, much more is necessary – and the first step is helping that new member to get involved.

Every Rotarian in every club should know that he or she is not only needed but relied upon. Every Rotarian should have a job within the club – a role to play. After all, why are we in Rotary? We are here to make a difference. Yes, we enjoy our Rotary service, but that is not enough if we are to make Rotary a priority week after week, year after year. The knowledge that we are having an impact, that we are changing lives – that is what keeps us going, no matter what other demands may compete for our time. And this is why each one of us, however long we have been in Rotary, must always be striving to grow as Rotarians – to find new ways to help others, and to bring about all the positive change we possibly can. For this, more than anything, is what makes our Rotary service worthwhile.

Whether we are new members or old ones, each of us can find ways to become more involved in Rotary

service – at the club level, the district level, and beyond. Rotarian Action Groups are a wonderful opportunity to put specific expertise or interests to work, in a way that brings Rotarians from every part of the Rotary world together for a common goal. Whether your passion is water and sanitation issues, or microcredit, or blindness prevention – whether you want to volunteer your dental skills or help organize blood drives – chances are there is a Rotarian Action Group for you. And if not, why not organize one yourself? You can learn more about Rotarian Action Groups at www.rotary.org/actiongroups.

Rotary is and always has been an organization based on its clubs. The purpose of Rotary International is not to direct its clubs, but to connect, inform, and support them. Where and how each club, and each Rotarian, chooses to serve, is ultimately the decision of each one alone. So follow your own ambition and your own vision. Open your eyes to the challenges in our world, and use the strength you have through Rotary to find ways to overcome them. Every one of us has so much potential, and can achieve so much, when we Reach Within to Embrace Humanity.

Trustee Chair Message for May: With New Grant Model, We Can Do More Good In The World.

By Bill Boyd, Foundation Trustee Chair.

I recently met with a number of Rotarians who will be responsible for communicating with you in the coming year about our new grant model under the Future Vision Plan. I recognize that we are asking the nonpilot districts to make a considerable leap of faith in the development of our Rotary Foundation for the future. It is difficult to understand and accept the changes when you do not know the details.

Why Future Vision? So that we can do more good in the world and use our resources in the best way possible. We needed to change our Foundation, as we were facing major challenges. We had to simplify. If this meant that we had to move away from some of our “feel good” activities, we were prepared to do so. Doing good was a greater priority, and when we do good, feeling good follows.

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This is not somebody else's plan. The starting point was the responses of the thousands of Rotarians who presented their views. One of the direct results is the six areas of focus. These are where Rotarians want to serve.

Almost all of the pilot districts say their Rotary is stronger because of Future Vision. They like the greater opportunity to make their own decisions with district grants. Sometimes building sustainability into global grants has been a challenge, but the pilot districts understand the importance, and our helpful staff can and do assist.

What do I ask of you? To get your district structure in place so that you are ready for 1 July 2013, and to please be patient as we make our new Foundation as effective and productive as it can possibly be. If you can wait just a little longer, you will enjoy the new opportunities.

Rotary Announces Partnerships With Food Bank Network And Youth Service Group

By Ryan Hyland RI News 19 April 2012

Top: The Global FoodBanking Network works with food banks in 19 countries to collect goods that would otherwise go to waste from sources such as stores, manufacturers, restaurants, and farms, and distribute them through local pantries, soup kitchens, hospices, and school programs. Bottom: Craig Nemitz (left), director of field services for The Global FoodBanking Network and a member of the Rotary Club of Channahon-Minooka, Illinois, USA, presents a banner to Rotarian Hennie de Bruin, a strong supporter of FoodBank South Africa in Johannesburg. Photos courtesy of Global FoodBanking Network

Two new service partnerships announced this month by Rotary International will support humanitarian efforts by clubs and districts.

RI will combine resources with the Global FoodBanking Network to alleviate hunger worldwide. And Rotary and YSA (Youth Service America) will work together to encourage young people to participate in service projects in their communities.

Working with the Global FoodBanking Network, Rotary clubs and districts will be able to volunteer at food banks and help create new ones, organize food collection drives, sponsor trucks for food delivery and distribution, raise awareness of hunger, and distribute food to hungry children through the Backpack and other school food programs.

"Rotarians have served selflessly in the communities where we are developing and expanding food banks," says Jeffery D. Klein, CEO of the Global FoodBanking Network. "We want to connect Rotary clubs and districts to service projects and food distribution in the more than 20 countries where we are currently engaged in food banking activity, and inspire them to take leadership in this generation's quest to end hunger."

Opportunities for youth

Founded in 1986, YSA has partnered with hundreds of organizations in more than 65 countries to increase the number and diversity of young people ages 5 to 25 serving in their communities. The organization works to educate youth, teachers, community organizations, and public officials in the power of young people to solve

problems, and to engage the children and youth as volunteers, academic achievers, and community leaders.

YSA's annual Global Youth Service Day campaign, this year 20-22 April, mobilizes millions of young people in service activities.

Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact clubs and districts are encouraged to use YSA resources and participate in the organization's activities. Interact and Rotaract clubs and districts are also encouraged to take part in Global Youth Service Day by registering their projects with YSA.

Among the clubs participating in this year's event is the Interact Club of

AMES-Cottonwood, Utah, USA, which will host a mini marathon. Funds from the race will be donated to Salt Lake Donated Dental Services, a nonprofit organization that provides dental treatment to underprivileged residents.

