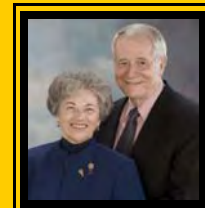




District 6380

www.rotary6380.org

March 2010



District 6380
Governor Judy
Garver and husband
Hal Parish

GOVERNOR MUSINGS for March

It is hard to believe that we are three quarters of the way through this Rotary year 2009-10. It has been an incredibly rewarding and amazing experience. The amazing part came when I learned about all the service projects and humanitarian efforts that every Rotary club in our district was putting forth. The rewarding part has come because I am so proud to be part of a district where we have so many Rotarians who are committed to the principles and ideals of Rotary.

The Rotarians in our district are making huge efforts to improve unacceptable living conditions that so many live under in our world. We are truly helping save lives and promoting world peace and understanding.

The first literacy conference in our district was held on March 13 at Oakland University. There was an outstanding program and excellent presenters. All of us in attendance were shown how critically important literacy is for the future of our children and the world. Achieving the basics of literacy is the absolute key to individuals and every member of worldwide communities being able to lead productive and rewarding lives. Many thanks to our district literacy coordinators Jay Eastman and Mary Elizabeth Harper for initiating this conference. They, along with Linda Eastman, put forth much effort to make the day the success it was.

Throughout the month our Rotary clubs have been busy working on programs and projects. The Metro Detroit Rotaract Club held a fundraiser at the Mongolian restaurant in Royal Oak to raise funds to send students to RYLA who would not be able to go otherwise. An Interact club at Tilbury High School was formally chartered on March 22. We had school officials and Tilbury Rotary Club sponsors in attendance at the ceremony in addition to the chartering members of the club. It was a special day for all of us who were able to be there to share in the program.

President-Elect Training was held in Kalamazoo the weekend of March 18-20. There was an excellent slate of speakers which included RI President-Elect Ray Klingensmith, Past RI President Rick King, and RI Director-Elect Betsy Demaray. The Presidents-Elect met with our District Governor-Elect Janet McPeck to continue the training that was started in Pre-PETS sessions. Everyone who was in attendance at this training came away motivated and inspired to finish out this Rotary year and transition into the new year without taking a break.

The sixth annual Thirsting to Serve Clean Water Conference was held in Grand Rapids on March 27. Our district cosponsors the event along with Districts 6290 and 6360. We were updated on many clean water projects that are in progress in the Dominican Republic and elsewhere. District Governor Amand from District 3230 in India spoke to us about the water issues that face people living in urban areas in his district. There was a group of students from Central Michigan University who are working on a study at the graduate level which focuses on water issues. Plans are underway for the next conference. I will let you know the date when it has been determined – most likely it will be in March again next year and perhaps the same weekend.

And now we are heading into the month of April. This month will be spent finalizing all the details necessary to have a very successful district conference at the Dearborn Inn April 30 to May 2. The conference committee under the leadership of Rotarian John Curell has been working hard for several months to ensure that this conference will meet and exceed all expectations for a district conference. I look forward to being with everyone at the Dearborn Inn. We will celebrate the accomplishments of the Rotary year that is drawing to a close and open the gateway to the new Rotary year.

*In Rotary Service,
Judy*

THE FUTURE OF ROTARY -- AND THE WORLD -- IS IN OUR HANDS.

Judy

Dear District 6380 Rotarians:

• Judy Garver



I am inviting each one of you to come to our district conference which is scheduled for April 30 to May 2 at the Dearborn Inn. Every district conference in the past has provided Rotarians and their guests an opportunity to learn new things about Rotary, learn about projects that our clubs are working on, hear excellent speakers, and meet Rotarians from around the district and beyond. This district conference will meet all of the above expectations and even exceed them.

We have an excellent slate of speakers from various parts of the world who will provide inspiring and motivating information. Dr. Marilyn Fitzgerald from the Traverse City MI Rotary Club will tell us about the Children of the Dump at the Friday noon luncheon meeting. She will also lead a workshop in the afternoon on micro loans. Friday afternoon, there will be breakout sessions on a variety of topics that you will not want to miss. Dr. Bob Scott, past Foundation trustee and chair of the PolioPlus Campaign, will give us the latest update on our efforts to eradicate polio on Friday evening. Anyone who has heard Bob speak before knows that he is passionate, knowledgeable, and witty. An excellent combination for a great program.

We will all have the opportunity to meet our Youth Exchange students -- both inbound and outbound, Interactors, Rotaractors, the Group Study Exchange team from Japan and our outbound team to Japan, and hear Joe Cavanaugh, renowned speaker, founder and CEO of Youth Frontiers, an organization dedicated to helping young people develop strong character, on Saturday. In addition, Dr. Ed Hatcher, RI President John Kenny's representative to our conference, will bring us a message from John Kenny and update us on RI. Ed is a past GSE team leader to China, and he will update us on China in a workshop.

Sunday we will hold our traditional memorial service to honor all Rotarians and spouses who passed away since our last conference. We will enjoy a wonderful Dearborn Inn brunch, and we will present some outstanding awards before hearing our final words from Ed Hatcher.



All this, and much more, will happen at our district conference. Friendships will be made and fun activities will be held. We will even have our own Kentucky Derby Horse Race on Saturday evening. You won't want to miss out. You will leave the conference all the more

committed to Service Above Self and knowing that our clubs, district and Rotarians are helping to make this troubled world a better place for all to live.

Reflections on Ann Arbor Sunrise Club

• Judy Garver

On March 26 the last meeting of the Ann Arbor Sunrise Club was held. The meeting was chaired by president Kathy Wilde. This club has served the Ann Arbor and international communities for almost 20 years. Although the members reluctantly made the decision to close the club at this time, everybody who was in attendance at this final meeting celebrated all the wonderful projects and services that had been carried on by the club since its inception. President Kathy bestowed Paul Harris Fellowships on several members, awarded the Outstanding Rotarian of the Year Award to Ray Singer, and recounted the many projects that the club has been engaged in for many years. I am happy to report that it was a standing-room-only day at Weber's because Rotarians from area clubs and friends of the Sunrise club came to wish all members a good Rotary future. Ann Arbor Sunrise Club members will be transferring into surrounding clubs, and representatives from those clubs were in attendance at this meeting to welcome these members to their clubs. We are extremely grateful for all the years that our district has benefitted from having this club be a vital part of us. We wish all these members many more years of Rotary service in their new clubs. They are very fortunate to have you join them.

**RI Convention Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Sunday, June 20 - Wednesday, June 23
Please contact PDG Keith Koke
for more information at
keith@ciaccess.com
(519) 352-7436**

RotaryTrain Travel

So far we have 33 traveling by train. Train leaves Windsor Saturday, June 19 at 5:45 a.m. Arrives in Montreal 5:09 p.m. Return: Leaves Montreal Thursday, June 24 at 9:40 a.m. - Arrives Windsor 9:02 p.m. The Via Rail station in Montreal is right next to the Metro subway station Bonaventure on the orange line. This line will bring us directly to our hotel at station Sherbrooke, in about ten minutes.

Hotel Accommodations

Rooms reserved one night before the convention and one night after the convention (five nights) at the 319-room Grand Plaza Montreal Centre-ville, right down town Montreal. Our hotel is located about 20 minutes walk or five minutes subway from the convention center and regular Rotary busses come and go from the hotel to the convention center which takes about 10 minutes. We are right in the heart of Montreal for shopping and dining. (www.grandplazamontreal.com)

The Rotary Leadership Institute Great Lakes Division

• *Renée Merchant*

You are invited to attend our new Rotary Leadership Institute! Learn more about Rotary as you enhance your leadership and team-building skills. If you are interested in stepping into a leadership position in your club or district, this is the place for you!

Rotary Leadership Institute Part I Saturday, April 24

Continental Breakfast 8:15 a.m. / Start promptly 9 a.m. / Adjourn 4 p.m. at CP Federal Credit Union at 1100 Clinton Road in Jackson MI 49202 (517) 784-7101

This program is a collaboration of Rotary Districts 6290, 6360, and 6380. We have formed the RLI Great Lakes Division, and we are offering Part I of a three-part curriculum. This program consists of three full-day parts presented over time. The three parts are taken sequentially. The discussion leaders are trained past district governors, past presidents and others with special expertise. The programs are presented using the facilitated discussion method, rather than lecture.

PART I COVERS THESE TOPICS

***Leadership Characteristics
Rotary Beyond the Club
Team-Building
Rotary Foundation I
Membership Retention
Service Projects***

Subsequent Parts II and III include Communications Skills, Goal Setting, Analyzing Your Club, Ethics/Vocational Service, Membership Recruitment, International Service, Effective Leadership Strategies, Public Relations, Rotary Foundation II and Making a Difference. Part II will be offered August 2010.

RLI is not PETS or District Leadership Training, which are job-specific training programs. The purpose of the RLI is to provide an educational opportunity for Rotarians identified as potential Rotary leaders to build leadership skills and Rotary knowledge.

Space is limited, so act quickly. For the fee of \$55 for Part I, each participant receives a manual with materials, continental breakfast and lunch, and a training certificate. Reserve your spot in this program by sending your registration form and a check for \$55 made out to: "RLI Great Lakes Division" and mail to: PDG Renée Merchant 5621 Somerset Drive Brooklyn, MI 49230

For more information, contact Renée at (517) 592-5463 or renee@4DeltaSystems.com

More information about The Rotary Leadership Institute is found on www.rotaryleadershipinstitute.org



Future Vision Foundation Workshops

• *Janet McPeck*

If you get the opportunity to look on the Rotary Web site, you will see that I have scheduled the first three Future Vision Foundation Workshops. I will schedule more in the future, as many as needed in order for everyone to feel comfortable with the material. It is important for you to register as soon as possible for one of the sessions so that we can make arrangements for dinner on the nights of the workshops.

This workshop is intended to cover key information regarding the elements of Future Vision, especially the relevant materials for club qualification process for grant applications. Attendees should include current President, President-Elect, club Foundation Chair and all interested club members. Additional workshops will be offered over the next several months to include everyone who is interested and to help walk clubs through the process as needed.

We are available to meet at your request, and we recommend considering arranging by sector, in order to better develop an understanding of the Future Vision programs and the funding model. The goal is to reach all 52 clubs so that we are knowledgeable and comfortable as a District in how to maximize the opportunities for local and international service through the Future Vision Model.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email either me or Don Chisholm.

GR Firms, Rotary Offer Safer Water for Haitians

Two Grand Rapids companies are part of a campaign to give Americans the opportunity to send clean water to Haitian families.

Triple Quest of Grand Rapids is partnering with Rotary International District 6290, 60 Rotary clubs from the United States and Canada, to launch the campaign.

A donation of less than \$100 is required to buy, ship and install a HydrAid BioSand water filter system, which will provide more than 100 gallons of safer drinking water per day for 10 years or more for one family.

The Rotary is also set up to serve families in the Dominican Republic, Honduras and other developing countries.

Developed by a Canadian inventor, the HydrAid gravity-flow filter is manufactured by Cascade Engineering, also based in Grand Rapids, and distributed by Triple Quest. The water filter is made of food-grade BPA-free plastic, weighs about eight pounds and requires no electricity. The filter removes parasites, bacteria and viruses from contaminated water, making it safer to drink. The lack of clean drinking water is the second leading global cause of death among children under five.

"Providing clean drinking water is essential to battling disease and death in developing countries," said Christina Keller, business unit leader, Triple Quest. "World Water Day reminds us of the need to get sustainable, clean water systems in place throughout the developing countries. This system allows families in-home access to clean water for cooking, washing and drinking for an entire decade."

Rotary International District 6290 partnered with Triple Quest as part of the organization's commitment to worldwide community service," said Jim Van Dyke, president of Rotary 6290. The Rotary project is called Thirsting to Serve - Rotary District 6290.

"In addition to our 60 clubs, this program is now available for other Rotarians around the world to use as their service project," Van Dyke said.

For more information, or to make a donation, go to <http://hydraid.org> and, click on "donate a filter now."

"The Great Lakes IT Report"

An e-publication of WWJ Newsradio 950, Detroit

www.WWJ.com WWJ Newsradio 950

Posted March 22, 2010

<http://www.wwj.com/pages/6630577.php>

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Pontiac Rotarians Celebrate First BioSand Filter in Ecuador

The Rotary Club of Pontiac was established in 1922 and since that time their mission kept them here in the city -- primarily helping the children of Pontiac in all ways possible. That changed last year when Carol and Ron Cousineau joined the Pontiac Club and encouraged it to look south to Ecuador, where children are ill and dying because they lack safe drinking water. The result has been an amazing journey for both the Cousineaus and the Rotary Club of Pontiac.

Ecuador is a country the size of Nevada, located on the Pacific Coast of the South American continent. Santo Domingo de los Colorados is a city of roughly 250,000 people, about three hours west of Quito, the capital.

The need for clean water and sanitation is staggering in Ecuador, a country of 14 million people with a birth rate of 21.5 per 1,000 population. Infant mortality is 21.35 deaths for 1,000 live births. Waterborne diseases are the major cause of deaths and illnesses in the young population.

There are few cities with adequate water supply and none with properly processed sanitation. The vast majority of the population does not have access to clean water. BioSand filters offer health and hope to poor families who get water from shallow polluted wells or rivers and streams and must spend a significant portion of their daily income and time boiling their water.

BioSand Water Filters are a modern adaptation of the centuries-old slow sand filtration process, still used in municipal water treatment plants all over the U.S. and the world. BSFs produce 20 gallons per day, enough water to provide for the needs of a large family. They supply considerably more water with less effort than the other three water filtration devices the World Health Organization recommends for third world countries. "It's now estimated that there are more than 200,000 BSFs in more than 70 countries in Africa, Europe, Asia, North, Central and South America, the Caribbean and the South Pacific - with several hundred more being constructed and installed every week," says Dr. David Mainz who holds the patent for the invention.

The advantages are numerous:

- Functional - household size
- High user acceptance
- User friendly - easy maintenance
- Durable - expected to last for at least 50 years with no cost to the owner except minimal chlorine
- Affordable - \$60 installed including two five-gallon pure water storage / dispensers

Clean water around the world is one of many projects adopted by Rotary International. If you would like to learn more about this project or perhaps make a contribution to this effort, please contact Carol Cousineau at cjcousineau@aol.com



In Ecuador - Carol Cousineau, Gabriel Jimenez, Ron Cousineau

Saturday, April 24, 2010, 12:00-3:00pm

HAITI WALK-A-THON

Entertainment
Generously Provided
by Star Trax!!!!

Visit www.miforhaiti.webs.com

Although the media has moved on, the desperate plight of the people of Haiti is not over. Many are without the most basic of necessities like shelter, food and water.

Please stop by the West Bloomfield High School on April 24, between 12:00 and 3:00pm for a walk-a-thon to raise money for those in need. It is only \$5.00 per person, and a three-mile walk around the track, (although you don't have to walk to participate). There will be refreshments, music, fun and goodwill.

The Rotary Club of West Bloomfield will be collecting the proceeds, ensuring specific materials get to the people in need. Visit www.miforhaiti.webs.com to see how two WB students decided to MAKE A DIFFERENCE, and YOU CAN TOO!

This will be a fun, easy and affordable way to reach out across the globe and help people in need. If you can spare a little of your time and \$5.00 a person, come and have some fun while helping others.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!!!!!!!!





District 6380's first Literacy Conference took place on March 13 at Oakland University's Conference Center.

Linda and Jay Eastman lined up a great array of speakers, all of whom were both passionate and well-informed about their subjects. Some 40 attendees braved the grey damp weather to

learn and then tell each other, "this is very good," "I've learned so much," and "I'm so glad I came." Among those attending were Hirona Myoshi an exchange student from Japan who is affiliated with the Rochester Rotary Club. After listening to Linda Ayers's program about nursery rhymes, Hirona said she is familiar with "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." Patricia Barbosa, a university student affiliated with the Rochester Club, is an Ambassadorial Scholar and is working on her master's in linguistics at Oakland University. Patricia was the event photographer and one of several helpers who did various tasks as needed. The format of three 15-minute presentations followed by a break for questions and answers kept the pace moving. Many of us will no doubt be taking new ideas back to our own clubs. And, Cheryl Prince, Literacy Committee Chair of the Chatham Rotary Club is asking for ideas for the name of club's newest literacy project: establishing a library for the Women's Center. To offer ideas or learn more about the project, send email to astockdill@gmail.com.



The Macomb Daily

Saturday, March 27, 2010

Rotary promotes literacy in March

Rotary International uses the month of March to promote literacy projects.

Margo Baker of the Clinton Township Sunrise Rotary Club cites research from the National Research



Linda May

Council and the National Adult Literacy Survey as to why her club promotes literacy.

She found that reading problems faced by adolescents can be avoided or resolved in early childhood years, and children who have not already

developed some basic literacy practices when they enter school are three to four times more likely to drop out later.

The National Academy on an Aging Society even linked low literacy skills to \$73 billion in costs for longer hospital stays, the need for more medication, emergency room and doctor visits.

"The Clinton Township Sunrise Rotary Club has adopted promoting literacy as one of their projects this year," Baker said. "We are providing children's books free of charge to doctors' offices for the waiting rooms of physicians and dentists who provide services to children. Following the distribution of the children's books, the club has had many positive responses from the participating doctors."

Rotary has a Literacy Resource Group that connects Rotarians with literacy projects at home and worldwide. About two-thirds of the world's 500 million non-readers are women without access to a basic education, and about 72 million children of primary school age are not in school.

The Rotary Club of Sterling Heights, established in 1969, gave \$1,000 to Macomb Literacy Partners as part of the MLP's 25th anniversary celebration. The club collects books to give to reading programs.

"Literacy is fundamental to success in society, and our club is doing its part to help," said Martin Brown, the club literacy chairman. "The Rotary club is so proud of our service to the community."

He urges people to attend one of his club's weekly meetings to see how they can become involved in Rotary projects.

For more information about the Sterling Heights club, see www.sterlingheightsrotary.org or call Brown at (586) 979-6460. The Sterling Heights Rotary Club meets on Thursday afternoons.

The Sterling Heights club has contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to a wide variety of projects including clean water, health, parks, scholarships, hunger projects, special needs children, Salvation Army, children's bicycle safety and polio eradication.

Meeting 'Challenge'

As of March 1, Rotary International's 1.2 million members have raised \$114.5 million for Rotary's "\$200 Million Challenge." The contributions are being collected to match \$355 million in challenge grants received from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the "End Polio Now" cam-

paign.

"The resulting \$555 million supports immunization campaigns in Nigeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India where polio continues to infect and paralyze children, robbing them of their futures and compounding the hardships faced by their families," Sterling Heights Rotarian Merie Loch said. "As long as polio threatens even one child anywhere in the world, children everywhere remain at risk. The stakes are that high."

Rotary's ambitious PolioPlus program is the volunteer arm of the global partnership. For more than 20 years, Rotary has led the private sector in the global effort to rid the world of the disease. PolioPlus is recognized worldwide as a model of public-private cooperation in pursuit of a humanitarian goal.

Taliban leaders in Afghanistan recently allowed Rotary volunteers to administer a new polio vaccine in carried letters from the Taliban leaders, the Afghanistan PolioPlus Committee, and the Rotary Club of Jalalabad, endorsing the campaign. About 84 percent of Afghans live in areas that are polio-free, but dozens of polio cases occurred last year in places where families move frequently due to changing security situations, making it difficult for the Afghan Ministry of Health to locate unvaccinated children.

Opportunities abound

There are several types of education opportunities available through The Rotary Foundation that has awarded more than \$1.1 billion in humanitarian and educational grants.

Rotary Peace Fellowship applications from non-Rotarians need to be submitted by July 1. About a hundred fellowships (50 master's degree fellowships and 50 professional development certificate fellowships) are offered annually at six Rotary Centers at universities in North Carolina and California, Argentina, England, Japan, Australia and Thailand.



People train to be international leaders who promote national and international cooperation and peace using diplomacy, mediation and conflict resolution. They study international relations, public administration, sustainable development and negotiation.

About a thousand Ambassadorial Scholarships go to university students every year to study for up to two years in a country other than their own. Students serve as ambassadors of goodwill. Since 1947, The Rotary Foundation has sponsored more than 39,000 scholars from more than 115 countries.

Rotary also has Group Study Exchanges so groups of young professionals, 25- to 40 years old, can participate in four- to six-week exchanges between two countries, and Rotary sponsors youth exchanges for teenagers. The GSE group from Japan coming to Michigan in April includes an experimental plasma physicist, a music teacher, a ceramist, a nurse and an office administrator.

Rotarian Margo Baker drops off children's books to a pediatrician's office to promote reading as part of the Clinton Township Sunrise Rotary Club's efforts during March — Literacy Month.

Send service club and veterans news to: Linda May c/o The Macomb Daily, 100 Macomb Daily Drive, Mount Clemens MI 48046; or lindamay@ameritech.net. Phone/fax (586) 791-8116.

BRIGHTON ROTARY CLUB BUILDS WHEELCHAIR RAMP

• Lori A. Lalama

I received the following email on behalf of the Brighton Rotary Raiders most recent ramp build in February.

To: bdonovanbuilders@yahoo.com

Brian,

I wanted to thank you and your fellow Rotary members for my beautiful ramp! I cried as I walked up it the first time. It is just wonderful! I did want to give you the heads up that I did contact the Livingston County Press and Argus twice with a note to say thank you to everyone that helped on this project. However, I have heard nothing and have not seen anything printed in the paper. I was pretty much bummed. So I was hoping that you would be able to let everyone know how I felt, that helped in this project. This is part of what I wrote to the paper and I have added to it as well. : Someone once told me that the Rotary club stood for Service of others above self. I also believe that they stand for compassion and love of others as well. I was blessed this week by the Rotary Club of Brighton to receive a beautiful wheelchair ramp at my home by these kind angels. I truly can't express the joy and gratitude that I have for those that designed, built and placed the ramp at my home. They have given me back a freedom that I didn't know I would ever get back. This project would not have even come to fruition if it hadn't been for the City of Brighton's Building Inspector, Mr. Jim Rowell and other generous employees. These kind people looked out for me when I was confused and nervous about a situation that concerned building a ramp. Mr. Rowell guided me and introduced me to the Rotary club and for this I am deeply grateful. The Rotary club is filled with angels that deserve to be recognized for all that they do for others. Because of their patience, kindness and generosity that they have given to others, they need to know that they do make a difference and I am living proof. I wish to Thank all of these wonderful, kind and generous people from the bottom of my heart for helping me get my life back.

Sincerely,

Stephanie L. Osborne



NOVI & FARMINGTON ROTARY CLUBS

Invite you to join us at
A Breakfast and Learn Charity Event
With Nationally Recognized Speaker:
DR. LEE MEADOWS

April 20 ~ 7:45 a.m. - 9 a.m.

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE \$200 MILLION "END POLIO NOW" CHALLENGE

What would you discover if you became your own "Undercover Boss?" Simple steps to increasing Employee/Volunteer participation & your bottom line. Can your organization run smoother in a challenging economy?

Author, columnist, and noted speaker Dr. Meadows will answer these questions and more. A Professor of Business Management at Walsh College, he is gifted in his ability to entertain while educating. Dr. Meadows has provided training for our police departments, public schools and many other prestigious organizations. Visit <http://www.leemeadows.biz/> to find out more about Dr. Meadows.

Our Breakfast & Learn will be held at our host location: DirectBuy Club of Farmington Hills at 33800 West 9 Mile Road (west of Farmington Road) Farmington, MI 48335-4710.

Breakfast cost is \$20 with \$10 of each ticket a tax-deductible donation to our Rotary Foundation. Seating is limited so please make your reservations by calling Ginger Barrons at (248) 348-0551 or email reliable@cdnet.net More information may be found at www.novirotary.org www.farmingtonrotaryclub.org

submitted by Joyce Joyce, Rotary Club of Sterling Heights, Michigan: The following article was on the Internet news:

GENEVA (AP) — The World Health Organization says more than 85 million children under 5 in west and central Africa will be vaccinated against polio. The agency says the massive vaccination campaign in 19 countries by U.N. agencies and the Red Cross will start March 6. It will involve more than 400,000 volunteers and health workers. It is largely funded by Rotary International WHO says a 2008 polio outbreak in Nigeria spread throughout western Africa up to Mauritania. It says previous vaccination programs failed to stop the outbreak. Polio is spread when unvaccinated people come into contact with the feces of those with the virus, often through water. It usually causes paralysis, muscular atrophy, deformation and sometimes death.

ROMEO, MICHIGAN 48065—WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2010

Romeo Rotary honors 2nd member with 50-year pin

by DEBI MARTONE
Observer Special Writer

The Romeo Rotary Club recently honored a member for 50 years of dedication to the organization, marking only the second time in its 82-year history to do so.

Melvin E. Bleich, publisher of *The Romeo Observer*, was recognized for his milestone with a brief ceremony held during the club's weekly meeting in mid-February. Rotary President Dave Damron presented Bleich with a 50-year tag to hang from his club lapel pin.

"It certainly doesn't seem like 50 years," Bleich said. "But I've enjoyed having perfect attendance. It has been time well-spent."

Bleich was asked to join the club by the local Buick dealership owner, Roy Davis, the same year he purchased *The Romeo Observer*. Like many business professional organizations, new Rotarians are recruited by members in accordance to their line of work.

"Most are recruited because they are reaching out for that profession," Bleich said. "I was recruited because I owned the newspaper in town. That first meeting was the first of many meetings I would attend."

During his 50 years as a member, Bleich never missed a weekly meeting. He also served as Rotary Club president twice and visited clubs all over the world. From Lon-

don to Portugal to Norway to Scotland, Bleich's travels always included attending a Rotary Club meeting. In 1997, Bleich went to Russia as part of a Rotary Club delegation. While there, he attended a ceremony that commemorated the grand opening of a new club.

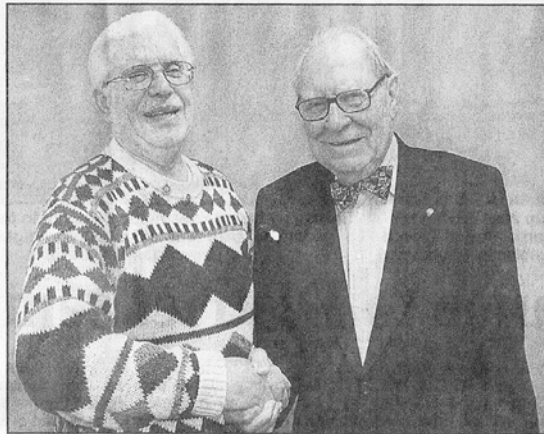
"Mel has always brought back good programs from his travels. He has always been a good resource for our club," said fellow long-standing club member, William Himelberger.

Himelberger is a 33-year Rotarian. He is the current past president and served as president three times. Himelberger will become the district's assistant governor in July.

The Romeo Rotary Club was formed in 1928 and is part of Rotary International, a global, secular service organization that brings business and professional leaders together to provide humanitarian service, promote higher educational standards and help build goodwill to the world. One of the club's biggest projects over the past 20 years has been to eradicate polio, an undertaking that Himelberger said is 99 percent complete.

"All of the kids in India received the polio vaccine in one day," Himelberger said. "There are only about four countries left."

In addition to stamping out polio, Rotary Clubs worldwide are working on providing clean drink-



Bill Himelberger, left, received his 33-year pin from the Romeo Rotary in February and Mel Bleich received his 50-year pin, only the second person in the Romeo Rotary's 82-year history to be awarded one.

ing water to the hundreds upon thousands of people who do not have access to it.

"It is a big problem," Bleich said.

Literacy is also a project Rotarians have been involved with for many years. Locally, the Romeo Rotary, with the help of Indian Hills Elementary and Westview Orchards, collected 2,000 books last year to donate to the Macomb Lit-

eracy Read to Me program, which encourages children and their parents to learn to read together. New this year to Rotary District 6380, which encompasses 55 clubs from Ann Arbor to Canada, is a Literacy Conference, to be held on Saturday, March 13, at Oakland University. The conference, which is also open to the public, will feature guest speakers and educational materi-

als aimed at promoting literacy around the world as well as locally.

"The main goal is this," Himelberger said. "When you can read, you can take care of yourself."

Rotary Clubs, such as Romeo's, also sponsor student exchange programs and highly encourage Rotarians, as well as others in the community, to get involved. The Romeo Rotary has also sponsored Boy Scout Troop No. 87 for many years and awards two \$500 scholarships to Romeo High School graduates, one male and one female, every year.

Funding for projects comes from various endeavors, including member donations, parking cars during the Michigan Peach Festival, wine tasting events and an annual circus, which is their chief fundraising event.

Bleich said this year's circus has been canceled due to scheduling conflicts.

"I hope we can bring it back next year without these timing problems," he said.

A. Bleich begins his 51st year as a Rotarian, he said that through the years the club membership may have changed, from numbers to people, but what remains constant is the club's dedication to their projects worldwide.

"There's always something that needs to be fixed," he said.

Clarkston Rotary Club History Moment #8 March 8, 2010

• L.O. (Lu) Hewko

"Clarkston Rotary Goodfellows Paper Sale Project Celebrates 70-ty Years of Success"

For 70 years this year, without interruption, Clarkston Rotarians at Christmas time, have been selling Goodfellows Papers at various street corners and intersections throughout the Clarkston Village and Independence Township. The proceeds from the sale were used to purchase shoes for the area needy children and were distributed by the Rotarians according to a list of family names prepared by the Clarkston School System, and more recently, by the Lighthouse North Organization.

The Clarkston Rotary Goodfellows Shoe Program is one of the club's programs that involves the largest number of members and other volunteers, touches the largest number of needy recipients and provides the highest leverage of collected donation dollars to the dollar value of provided assistance. Here are some statistics, based on some extrapolated, but mostly on actual dollar values.

Since 1940 until 2010, or in 70 years, the program provided shoes for an estimated 25,250 needy children. This year alone 651 pairs of shoes were distributed -- an over 40% increase from ten years ago.

The sales of the Goodfellows Paper this year brought in \$21,308 in donations and fully paid for the cost of this wholly volunteer program. If the government or a commercial company were to conduct this program, even with labor paid at a minimum wage level, the cost of the program would have been nearly \$75,000. In 70 years, this amounts to over \$2,000,000 value to the community in voluntarism -- what a wonderful idea!

Over the years, Clarkston Goodfellows Paper Sale Program had numerous different partners, such as: The Independence Township Firemen, Machine Engineering Company and its employees, various churches, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and others whose identity unfortunately is not in the record. Clarkston local newspaper the "Clarkston News" graciously provides the printing services.

The growth and the success of the program is due to the Club members and leadership dedication to the concept of voluntarism. Since I have been a member of this club, in the 31 years we had three different chairpersons for the program, Lu Hewko, Don Ernst and Joel DeLong. Joel DeLong deserves a special recognition for expanding and systematizing the program.

And that's the way it was over the years in Clarkston Rotary, Michigan.



*Our condolences
to these families . . .*

- A funeral was held March 27 at the Heckman Funeral Home in Howard City (north of Grand Rapids) for Shirley Christiansen, the mother of Judy Windrim, president of Davisburg.
- Barbara McCririe, wife of Brighton Rotarian Bill McCririe, passed away. We send our deepest sympathy to Bill and his family.
- It is with deep sadness that we learned that Valerie Hanson, wife of Mount Clemens Rotarian Gerry Hanson, passed away due. Our prayers and thoughts are with the Hanson and Pierson families. Funeral services were held in mid-March at the Wujek Calcaterra Funeral Home in Sterling Heights and at Bethel Lutheran Church in St. Clair Shores. (From Jeff Furest)
- From Dianne Twynstra Administrative and Program Coordinator CRCID in London, Ontario: My Rotary Friends, I regret to inform you that our good friend Joan Wilkinson, 78, passed away March 22 in hospital in Trenton, Ontario from an advanced cancer of the liver and pancreas. I was with Wilf in North Carolina and was informed that Joan had returned home from India and became ill. She was hospitalized for tests. She had only been ill for a short time, and it is very sad that she has passed on so suddenly. Wilf Wilkenson was RI President 2007-2008 (the year Audrey Chevalier was district governor). He was the keynote speaker at the Dresden Club's annual fundraiser just one year ago and Joan was with him. She was very well liked by all who came in contact with her. Our hearts go out to Wilf and his family, and they will need our ongoing support. Joan was a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother and a friend to us all. We will all miss her. The family received friends at the Rushnell Funeral Centre, in Trenton and Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Peter's Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Trenton Memorial Hospital Foundation, The Rotary Foundation (Canada) or St. Peter's Church, Trenton

**A message from Rotary International Zone 29
Director Tom Thorfinnson**

A Tribute to My Club and to a Rotarian:

On March 10, I lost a friend. Larry and I met 21 years ago at a girls gymnastics meet. For more than a decade we sat together cheering on our daughters. Actually for the last six years he was more than just a friend he was a Rotarian, a member of my own club.

As it turns out, Larry's last months of life are an amazing example of what is right about Rotary. If there is one aspect to Rotary that separates us from the competition it is the strong connection between our members. Like Norm from the TV show Cheers, I can walk into my club meeting and everyone knows my name! But, far beyond that the connection among the members of my club is something to be cherished. Our club is less than six years old, but in those few years we have grown to be something far greater than the sum of our parts.

When Brad lost his job, we rallied, circulating his resume, checking with our friends and business associates: Each of us put in a good word for Brad who was one of us and in need of help. When my father passed away the huge turnout at my father's memorial service by members from my club was a throwback to times gone by and tremendously uplifting.

When we gather for fundraising events such as our RibFest, the camaraderie is an absolute hoot! Stacey, a member of our club who grew up on a farm in southern Minnesota, once informed the membership that she had won a beauty contest as a teenager. It was during a pork grower's festival. She quickly became labeled the Pork Princess and now takes more grief than you can imagine; but, she dishes it right back to us in spades.

Larry had his own business selling coffee and worked from home. He was diagnosed with cancer just a few months ago. It was bad: He lost weight almost immediately. Despite the weight loss, he continued to come to our club meetings almost to the very end. One member in our club took charge. Jim kept tabs on Larry and updated us regularly. We used our Web site to set up a schedule so that we could regularly deliver meals to Larry and his family. We even helped give Larry's wife, Linda, time off from round the clock care. Hospital visits were part of our members' efforts and when extra help or support was needed the word went out through a blast e-mail to all of us. The care and support my fellow Rotarians showed was absolutely the best!

As Jim put it in his email to our club "The Eden Prairie Noon Rotary club was a very important part of Larry's life and he often said that joining was one of the best decisions he ever made."

We don't always know how best to market our organization. Fellowship is an archaic term and I search regularly for its contemporary equivalent. If we can just communicate to the next generation how strongly we get connected and engaged together in service we will continue to thrive for many years to come.

One of the challenges about being a director is missing so many of my own club meetings, where everyone knows my name. Cheers to Larry and the members of Eden Prairie Noon Rotary!

District 6380 Status as of February 28, 2010

Rotary			YTD	2008-09	2009-10	2009-10	2009-10	2009-10	Annual Giving Per Capita	Annual Giving Per Capita
International District 6380 Statistics	Membership as of Jun-09	Membership Reported to District 28-Feb-10	net gain or loss	Foundation Annual Giving (actual)	Foundation Annual Giving (Club Pledge)	Foundation Annual Giving 28-Feb-10	Foundation Restricted Giving 28-Feb-10	Foundation Permanent Fund 28-Feb-10	Rank	
Club	SAR									
Anchor Bay	17	18	1	\$ -	\$ 2,300					\$ -
Ann Arbor	309	305	-4	\$ 25,077	\$ 35,880	\$ 22,966	\$ 27,428			\$ 74.32
Ann Arbor Sunrise	8	7	-1	\$ 995	\$ 1,100	\$ 300				\$ 37.50
Ann Arbor North	31	33	2	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,800	\$ 3,000			\$ 58.06
Auburn Hills	14	12	-2		\$ 1,200					
Berkley	25	24	-1	\$ 100	\$ 2,500					\$ -
Birmingham	74	73	-1	\$ 425	\$ 8,600	\$ 2,326	\$ 1,374			
Blenheim	25	23	-2	\$ 3,074	\$ 3,450	\$ 3,398	\$ 2,049			\$ 135.92
Bloomfield Hills	30	33	3	\$ 15,300	\$ 3,105	\$ 3,700	\$ 1,000			\$ 123.33
Brighton	66	69	3	\$ 5,440	\$ 6,900					\$ -
Chatham	63	61	-2	\$ 5,892	\$ 8,875	\$ 1,315	\$ 1,489			\$ 20.87
Chatham Sunrise	38	40	2	\$ 5,289	\$ 3,800	\$ 1,894				\$ 49.84
Chelsea	29	31	2		\$ 2,700					
Clarkston	28	24	-4	\$ 7,541	\$ 4,500	\$ 11,818	\$ 2,050		1	\$ 422.07
Clawson	18	17	-1	\$ 2,275	\$ 1,000		\$ 2,000			\$ -
Clinton Township Sunrise	11	8	-3	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,200					\$ -
Davisburg	18	14	-4	\$ 605	\$ 2,300					\$ -
Dexter	32	35	3		\$ 3,828		\$ 1,430			\$ -
Dresden	22	20	-2	\$ 2,613	\$ 1,000					\$ -
Eastpointe	16	17	1	\$ 2,000	\$ -					\$ -
Farmington	24	23	-1	\$ 3,100	\$ 3,900	\$ 100				\$ 4.17
Ferndale	19	21	2		\$ 1,900	\$ 245	\$ 940	\$ 125		\$ 12.89
Fowlerville	22	27	5		\$ 2,500					\$ -
Hartland	20	25	5		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000				\$ 50.00
Howell	34	43	9	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 25				\$ -
Lake Orion	26	26	0	\$ 2,700	\$ 1,700	\$ 2,425	\$ 2,325			\$ 93.27
Lakes Area	18	13	-5	\$ 2,932	\$ 2,300					\$ -
Livingston Sunrise	52	54	2	\$ 6,500	\$ 5,800	\$ 5,400	\$ 3,800			\$ 103.85
Lyon Area	15	16	1	\$ -	\$ 720					
Milan	22	19	-3	\$ 300	\$ 2,200	\$ 200	\$ 300			\$ 9.09
Milford	30	30	0	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000					\$ -
Mt. Clemens	81	83	2	\$ 13,812	\$ 8,400	\$ 1,380	\$ 3,285			\$ 17.04
Novi	35	36	1	\$ 111	\$ 5,740	\$ 5,500	\$ 120		3	\$ 157.14
Ortonville	14	11	-3	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500				\$ 35.71
Oxford	39	34	-5	\$ 3,590	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,350				\$ 34.62
Pontiac	26	25	-1	\$ 2,375	\$ 2,000	\$ 250				\$ 9.62
Richmond	33	32	-1	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,400		\$ 2,000			\$ -
Ridgetown	30	29	-1	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,795					\$ -
Rochester	93	86	-7	\$ 16,880	\$ 21,150	\$ 11,000				\$ 118.28
Romeo	10	10	0	\$ 400	\$ 1,000	\$ 200				\$ 20.00
Royal Oak	38	38	0	\$ 6,662	\$ 8,164	\$ 960				\$ 25.26
Saline	32	36	4	\$ 2,710	\$ 2,000	\$ 300				\$ 9.38
Southfield	14	12	-2	\$ 200	\$ 1,500	\$ 50				\$ 3.57
Sterling Heights	23	23	0	\$ 4,250	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,365			4	\$ 146.30
Thamesville	7	7	0		\$ 900					\$ -
Tilbury	21	21	0	\$ 3,731	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,121				\$ 53.38
Troy	34	38	4	\$ 1,550	\$ 1,700	\$ 200				\$ 5.88
Utica-Shelby	12	13	1	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,596	\$ 2,000			2	\$ 166.67
Wallaceburg	11	11	0	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000					\$ -
Warren	27	25	-2	\$ 2,025	\$ 2,700		\$ 56			\$ -
Waterford	24	25	1	\$ 6,200	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,145				\$ 131.04
West Bloomfield	22	19	-3	\$ 1,039	\$ 2,100	\$ 1,100	\$ 100			\$ 50.00
Ypsilanti	21	23	2	1550	\$ 3,565	\$ 1,235				\$ 58.81
District 6380							\$ 180			
District Total	1803	1798	-5	\$ 174,593	\$ 206,568	\$ 92,568	\$ 54,926	\$ 125		
			Per Capita ->	\$ 91.75		\$ 51.34				