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**RI PRESIDENT GARY K.R. "RAVI" RAVINDRANS MONTHLY MESSAGE**



When the Canadian army liberated the Netherlands in 1945, they found the country on the brink of starvation. Seeing the suffering of so many, and especially moved by the faces of the children, four Canadian privates stationed near Apeldoorn that year decided to make that Christmas special for as many Dutch children as they could.

Together, they made the rounds among their fellow soldiers, collecting chocolate bars and chewing gum, candy and comic books. In their spare moments, they built toy trucks out of wood and wire, sawed scrap lumber for building blocks; one, risking the military police, sold his cigarette ration on the black market, using the money to buy rag dolls. Each thought longingly of his own family at home; each channeled his energies instead toward the children whose Christmas they knew they could brighten.

By 1 December, four sacks of gifts lay ready; the soldiers eagerly looked forward to the 25th. But two days later, they learned the date they were to depart for Canada: 6 December, long before Christmas. With mixed emotions, the soldiers decided that the best plan simply would be to take their sacks over to the local orphanage and leave them there to await Christmas.

The night before they were to leave the Netherlands, the four set off for the orphanage, one of them in a makeshift white beard and red cap. On their way, they were surprised to hear church bells ringing and see houses lit brightly, with Christmas still some weeks away. As they approached the orphanage, boots crunching in the snow, they saw through the windows that the children, two dozen girls and boys, were gathered at their evening meal. Only a few months after the war's end, food was still scarce; the meal was small, and the children's faces pale and thin.

"Santa Claus" raised the knocker on the door and knocked three times, hard. As if by magic, the chatter of young voices inside fell silent; a priest opened the door. His polite expression gave way to one of shock, as the children behind him erupted into cheers, rushing forward and swarming the private who had dressed for Christmas three weeks early – but exactly on time. For in the Netherlands, Sinterklaas comes on St. Nicholas Eve: 5 December.

For an hour, joyful chaos reigned as packages were opened and exclaimed over, sweets were tasted, dolls caressed. The last wooden truck, the last bar of chocolate, went into the hands of a little boy who had been waiting patiently all the while. After thanking the men, he turned to the priest and said something to him in Dutch, his face alight with happiness. The priest smiled and nodded. "What did he say?" one of the soldiers asked.

The priest looked at them with eyes full of tears. "He said, 'We told you he would come.'"

By sending joy out into the world, we do not sacrifice it for ourselves – we only multiply it. As we enter this season of giving, let us multiply the gifts we have been given by sharing them with others. Through acts of caring, kindness, and generosity, in our clubs and through our Foundation, we become and remain a gift to the world.



# Save the Date April 29 - May 1



## Be a gift to the world



2016 • District Conference  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

### Rotary Leadership Institute Philosophy

"Having leadership skills does not alone assure good Rotary leadership. An effective Rotary leader must *also* have Rotary knowledge, perspective about where Rotary has been, where it is now and a vision of what Rotary can be."



Contents	Page
RI President's Monthly Message	1
District Calendar	2
Club Activities	3-6
District Activities	6-7
New Members	8

### District Calendar

January 9 Bedford  
**5th Regional Idol Competition**  
Saint Anselm College Dana Center

January 17 - 23 RI  
**International Assembly** San Diego

January 27  
**PrePETS** Holiday Inn Express, Springfield VT

January 28  
**PrePETS** Comfort Inn, Rutland VT

January 30 Queen City  
**Annual Comedy Bowl**  
St. George Greek Orthodox Church

February 03  
**PrePETS** Merrimack Community Center

February 10  
**PrePETS** Comfort Inn Concord, NH

March 10 - 12  
**NEPETS** Sheraton Framingham MA

March 19 Monadnock  
**RYLA** Dublin School

April 29 - May 1  
**District Conference**  
Sheraton Harborside, Portsmouth NH

May 27 - 31  
**Rotary International Convention**  
Seoul Korea

## CLUB ACTIVITIES - BOW ROTARY CLUB AUCTION



Every year – for 45 year so far! The Bow Rotary Club holds their annual auction at the Bow Community Center. The goal is to raise money for Scholarships, Camperships and other community support.

This year's event was on Saturday, November 7th and boasted the theme of "Around the World and Around the Corner" in honor of the good deeds done by all Rotarians in their local communities and around the world, as Rotary is an International Service Organization with 1.2 million members in over 400 countries and territories around the world.

We had approximately 130 people attend and enjoy the evening's festivities as well as the fabulous home cooked food, lovingly made by Rotarians that followed the aforementioned theme. There were over 150 Silent Board items, and a dozen Live Auction items. Music was provided by Tony Bonjourno.

Although final numbers are not in, it appears that we raised a net of at least \$23,000!

The funds go to scholarships for students who graduate from Bow High School (yes, this includes our new Dunbarton contingent) or who live in Bow, camperships for children, support for community events such as the tree lighting, Winterfest, personalized books for Bow First Graders. This year's "Fund a Need" project was a collection of over \$3,000 to the Baker Free Library in honor of long time Bow Resident and former Library employee, Charlotte Buxton.

As you see, we accomplish many things year round. However, we couldn't do it without the generous support of our Premier Sponsor: R & T Electric and our major sponsors: Mason & Rich, Merrimack County Savings Bank, Roberts + Greene, Bow Landscaping, Kiniry Law Firm, Crisp Law Firm and The Parkinson Family.

Thank you all so much! What a wonderful community we have.

*Photos by Eric Anderson*





**CLUB ACTIVITIES - BEDFORD ROTARY CLUB**

For more than forty years the Rotary Club of Bedford has thrown a joyful holiday bash for community seniors who may not have visitors at this festive time of year. Residents are identified by local home caretakers and enjoy an afternoon of entertainment, fellowship, and good food.

The Rotary Club of Bedford Music Ensemble, directed by past District 7870 Governor Paul Bordeleau, and consisting of many Rotarians, past and present, accompanied MC and vocalist Doug Rickard.



*The live Rotary Club Band horn and percussion sections.*

The band performed much-loved holiday tunes and popular Christmas carols. Pictures courtesy of Gerald Hanauer.

A surprise visit from Santa (past President Mark Whitney) put smiles on faces as he greeted every guest and the ladies received fresh roses.



*Rotary Club of Bedford President Melinde Byrne, past President Mark Whitney, and Board Director, Tammy Poirier.*



*Santa (past president Mark Whitney) and his helpers (Kyla Ludwig and Isaac LaCount).*

The celebration and traditional meal took place at the Manchester Country Club under the direction of Rev.

Robert Kruger, assisted by Stuart Frizzell, Kevin Flynn, Kyla Ludwig, and Isaac LaCount. Portraits were taken of every guest and Rotarian by photographer Gerald Hanauer. At the following meeting, prints of Rotarians with Santa were redeemed for Happy Dollars.

The final rousing singalong included the New Hampshire state song, composed by Rotarian Paul Bordeleau, "Christmas in New Hampshire."



*A joyful guest with white roses.*



**CLUB ACTIVITIES - MEREDITH ROTARY CLUB**

On December 5 Inter-Lakes High School Interact Club, sponsored by Meredith Rotary Club, visited the New Hampshire Veterans Home in Tilton. The Interact members sang Christmas carols in seven wards and then sat individually with the veterans to hear about the roles that they played in U.S. history. Due to the success of this first visit to the Veterans Home, the Interact Club is planning to follow up with more visits in the future. Pictured are the Interact members singing carols in one of the wards and talking with the veterans.





## CLUB ACTIVITIES - SOUHEGAN VALLEY "HAPPY HOUR" ROTARY CLUB

### What We've Been Up To:

This past week we joined the Front Door Agency for their Annual Holiday Party at Jump On In and as always had a blast bringing Christmas Joy to some incredible kids and their families. We've also been very busy planning our own Holiday Party which will be held at the Hunt Building this coming Monday. So if you'd like to visit us, please attend our next official 'off-site' meeting on the 21st the Djinn Spirits Distillery!



## DISTRICT ACTIVITIES - SHORT TERM EXCHANGE PROGRAM - STEP

*Family to family vacation homestay  
A cultural exchange  
for high school students*

The Rotary Short Term Exchange Program (STEP) presents opportunities for applicants to advance their knowledge and world understanding by allowing them to exchange in a different country. Participants will live with host families in their selected land usually for three to four weeks each way during school summer vacation, under the sponsorship of their local Rotary Club.

The objective is to foster world peace, international understanding and good will by extending international communication at the personal level through the exchange of students of high school age. It is our hope that these young people will be able to observe, first hand, the problems and accomplishments of other countries by living with and meeting people of cultures, creeds and colors other than their own.

Applicants must be sponsored by a local Rotary Club. Contact any member of a local club who will put you in touch with its Youth Exchange Chairperson regarding details. High school guidance counselors may also be able to help you make that contact.

You will be matched with a student of similar interests in a country of your selection or approval. The two of you will spend an agreed upon time together – half the time in your home and half in their home for a minimum of at least three weeks each way. Could be 4 weeks each way if time allows and by mutual agreement of both families.

More information on STEP, including application forms is available on the District 7870 web site: [STEP](#).





## DISTRICT 7870 ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS

*BY BALMEET KAUR KHALSO*

**RYLA 2016 will be held at the Dublin School in Dublin, NH on March 19, 2016,  
from 10:00 am - 4:30 pm**

**Registration Deadline: February 20th, 2016**

Your club is invited to sponsor students to the annual Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) event being sponsored by the Monadnock Rotary Club.

We have changed the format of the program this year to better suit the needs of our teens. This peer leadership program will give the selected teens the skills to understand their own leadership styles, how teams work, and how a group can perform more effectively.

Specifically, this program allows the teens to:

- Understand qualities that make effective leaders and followers.
- Deepen their awareness around accountability and responsibility
- Apply goal-setting and self-assessment strategies in relation to leadership style
- Develop skills needed to be able to resolve team conflict
- Create an open dialogue among team members and desired behaviors
- Build a strong community in order to function as an effective team

Make sure to contact your Interact Clubs before winter break to let them know about the program this year. Space is limited and will fill up, so please register your students as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact us.

We look forward to working with students sponsored by your club!

Please select the links below to print, fill out, and mail the following forms to **RYLA, c/o Balmeet Kaur Khalsa, 88 Pierce Rd, Dublin, New Hampshire 03444**, or email them to [balmeetkkhalsa@gmail.com](mailto:balmeetkkhalsa@gmail.com).

[RYLA Participation Form](#)  
[Dublin School General Waiver](#)

Sincerely,  
Balmeet Kaur Khalsa and Mary Loftis  
Monadnock Rotary Club RYLA Committee





**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:**

**December**

<b>Pincince</b>	<b>Rene</b>	<b>Bedford</b>
<b>Pitaro</b>	<b>Matthew</b>	
<b>Spataro</b>	<b>Joseph</b>	<b>Concord</b>
<b>Edwards</b>	<b>Mia</b>	<b>Deerfield Valley</b>
<b>Zeira</b>	<b>Eitan</b>	<b>Hollis-Brookline</b>
<b>Farmer</b>	<b>Patty</b>	<b>Keene-Elm City</b>
<b>Ruth</b>	<b>Brianna</b>	<b>Queen City-Manchester</b>
<b>Bloomer</b>	<b>Betsy</b>	<b>Rutland</b>
<b>Cannon</b>	<b>Freddie</b>	
<b>Costello</b>	<b>Steve</b>	
<b>Northrop</b>	<b>Diane</b>	<b>Rutland South</b>
<b>Sanborn</b>	<b>Deborah</b>	
<b>Bickford</b>	<b>Linda</b>	<b>Wantastiquet Londonderry</b>
<b>Fish</b>	<b>Robert</b>	



**HAVE SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH THE ENTIRE DISTRICT?**

Updates and short (1-2 pages) articles, along with images may be submitted to the Newsletter Editor, Dennis McMann, at [dennis@mcmann.net](mailto:dennis@mcmann.net) to be included in our Monthly Newsletter. The District Newsletter is a means of communicating to other clubs in our district; items of interest, upcoming events, fundraisers or opportunities for service.

**Deadline for next Newsletter Submissions: January 21st.**