



RI PRESIDENT GARY K.R. "RAVI" RAVINDRAN'S MONTHLY MESSAGE



In life, sometimes the experiences that matter the most are the briefest. They pass in the blink of an eye: a few days, a few hours, a few moments. They are the experiences that illuminate the landscape of our memory, shining brightly even years later. They are the moments in which we see, suddenly, something we had not seen; we understand something we had not understood; we forge a connection we had not expected.

For me, this has been a Rotary year like no other. I have been around the world, traversing countries and continents. I have been to places I had never seen before, and I have returned to familiar places and seen them, as for the first time, through the lens of Rotary.

When you travel for Rotary, you travel with a different sense of perspective and a different sense of purpose. There is an awareness of being part of something larger than yourself. When you board a plane or a train, or leave your home in the dark hours of early morning, you may be leaving for lands unknown – but at your destination, there will be no strangers. There will be Rotarians, waiting and welcoming. There will be work to do, something to learn, and perhaps something to teach.

There will be connections to forge, friendships to build, and memories to carry for a lifetime.

This year, I have been the traveler, and I have been welcomed by Rotarians around the world. A few months from now, from 28 May to 1 June, I invite you to step into my experience: allow me to welcome you to Seoul for our 107th International Convention.

The Koreans have a saying: 사람이 나면 서울로 보내라. In English we would say, "When a person is born, send them to Seoul." For Seoul is a city of opportunities: a wonderful destination with rich traditions, modern conveniences, and a culture unlike any other. But I ask you to join me in Seoul not only for all of this, but also for the experiences you will have there with your fellow Rotarians.

For a brief moment in time, you will experience Rotary as I have experienced it: in all its diversity, all its warmth, and all its potential. You will be greeted as an old friend by people you have never met; you will share your thoughts, even without a shared language. You will learn with wonder of what Rotary has achieved, and leave inspired to achieve even more.

Before this Rotary year comes to its close, I ask you to do what I have done: to leave your homes, to board your flights, to travel toward the unknown with an open heart and an open mind, confident that Rotary will welcome you. Join me, and your fellow Rotarians, as we Connect with Korea – Touch the World





MESSAGE FROM DG SANDRA

The theme of our District Conference in Portsmouth at the Sheraton Harborside on April 29 to May 1 is “I Was Here!” This theme was chosen to inspire us all to think about the great opportunities that we have, as Rotarians, to make our world a better place simply because we are blessed to have walked our path in life. How are we making a difference in the lives of others by our actions and deeds?



One of my favorite children’s books that I enjoyed reading to my students at Gilford Elementary School was a book entitled **Greyling**, by Jane Yolen. The story is about a fisherman and his wife who lived by the side of the sea. They had no children, and they were very lonesome for a child. One day, the fisherman spied a seal pup stranded on a sand bar. Seeing no other seals around, the fisherman wrapped it carefully in his shirt and took it home to his wife. To the surprise of the fisherman and his wife, when they uncovered the wrapping, instead of the seal pup, they found a small boy with great grey eyes and silvery grey hair. It was a selchie, believed to be men upon land and seals in the sea.

The fisherman and his wife called the boy Greyling. He gathered wood to keep them warm in the winter and searched the tide pools for shells for his mother’s mantle. He repaired his father’s fishing nets. He would stare at the sea longing for something that he did not know, but he never was allowed to go into the sea. He grew to a young lad and the fisherman and his wife were very happy.

Then one wind-wailing day, a storm blew in, and the fisherman was stranded in the sea. His boat was tossing and turning and many in the town thought that he would be lost. The fisherman’s wife called to the people of the town high on the great grey cliff to help her poor husband. But the people of the town shook their heads and turned their backs. They shut their doors and locked their windows. It was Greyling, who, seeing his father in distress, leaped from the high cliff and rescued him. The people of the town saw the diving boy disappearing under the waves and then, farther out, a large seal swimming toward the boat that wallowed in the sea. The selchie had returned to the sea.

What I have learned about Rotarians in District 7870 is that unlike the people of the town in this story, we do not turn our backs on anyone. This year we have heard heroic stories of work in Haiti, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Jamaica, and India. We have been involved in hundreds of local projects in our communities throughout the district.

We all remember Hurricane Irene in 2012. We can all be very proud of the Rotary Matching Grant which provided much needed relief to people in Vermont and New Hampshire in the wake of that devastating hurricane. Our District recently received a warm thank you letter from the West Hartford Vermont Library, who was the recipient of remaining funds in the grant which allowed them to purchase furniture that was lost due to flooding. Their project was the final piece of this \$347,609.03 project.

Let’s continue to celebrate our great work at the District Conference! See you in Portsmouth at the Sheraton Harborside on April 29.



Save the Date April 29 - May 1



Be a gift to the world



2016 • District Conference
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

[Register for District Conference](#)

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CLUB ACTIVITIES - BEDFORD ROTARY CLUB

High School Freshman Wins Bedford Rotary Regional Idol Show

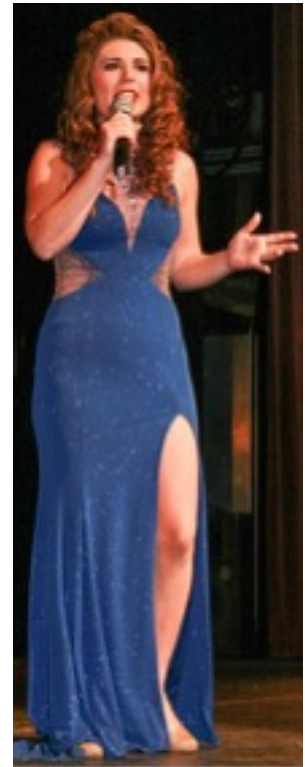
Morgane Grace Vigroux, a 14-year-old freshman at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, took first place in Bedford Rotary Club's 5th annual Regional Idol Scholarship Competition held at the Saint Anselm College's Dana Center Theater on January 9.

For her rendition of the song "A New Life" from the Broadway musical Jekyll and Hyde, Morgane was chosen as one of four finalists by a panel of three professional musician and performing arts judges. After each finalist gave one more performance, the near capacity audience cast their votes for the winner, and it was Morgane for her sophisticated performance of "Wherever He Ain't" from the Broadway show Mack and Mabel.

The other three finalists were **Carly LaPaglia** (1st runner-up), **Andrew Alvarado** (2nd runner-up), and **Emily Dion** (3rd runner-up).



Morgane Grace Vigroux, a 14-year-old freshman at Pinkerton Academy, was the first place winner at the 5th annual Regional Idol Scholarship Competition held at Saint Anselm College's Dana Center Theater on January 9.



Carly LaPaglia, a senior at Trinity High School, was first-runner-up in the 2016 Regional Idol Scholarship Competition held in the Dana Center Theater at Saint Anselm College on January 9. s. LaPaglia was also 1st runner-up in the 2015 show. No contestant has achieved such high successive year placement in the five year history of the competition.



The four finalists in the 5th annual Regional Idol Scholarship Competition held at the Dana Center Theater at Saint Anselm College on January 9 are announced by Master of Ceremonies Doug Rickard. From l. to r. are Aimee LaLiberte (3rd runner-up), Morgane Grace Vigroux (Winner), Andrew Alvarado (2nd runner-up) and Carly LaPaglia (1st runner-up). In the background is the show's Executive Producer, Edward Bordeleau.



CLUB ACTIVITIES -HENNIKER ROTARY CLUB

The Rotary Club of Henniker is partnering with the Brattleboro Rotary Club on their Pine Ridge Reservation Project.

Women on the Pine Ridge reservation make and sell beautiful one of a kind quilts. “Entrepreneurs” have been purchasing the quilts, which the women sell for a very modest price and re-selling them, often at 3-4 times the price paid to the Lakota women, with none of these profits going back to the women. This project will help the women develop their own marketing program and sell the quilts themselves for a true market price, utilizing the web as their primary marketing tool. A webmaster will help the women implement their online presence.



Between January and the end of March, the Henniker Rotary will be collecting clean cotton and satin fabric (“fat quarters” or larger) to send to the project manager on the reservation. Collecting this additional fabric will enable the women to grow their micro-business enterprise. We have received great encouragement from individual quilters, quilting groups, fabric stores and others who plan to assist with this project over the next few months. We invite any other club members in our district who quilt or sew and have leftover fabric to donate, to contact us. We can arrange for pick up. We plan to send our first shipment to Pine Ridge in April or as soon as we can arrange for shipping.

Do any of you work for a shipping or trucking company that travels to South Dakota that could help us minimize the shipping costs to deliver the fabric to Pine Ridge? If so, please contact Ruth Zax, President, Henniker Rotary Club rbzax@comcast.net.

Rotarians – We Want You to Take the Chili Challenge

Last year the Goffstown and Hopkinton Rotary Clubs took the challenge – and this year we hope that more clubs in District 7870 will do so as well so that we can have a full fledged, District 7870 Chili Contest at the annual Henniker Rotary Club Fire on the Mountain Chili Fest.

Okay, it's mid-winter in NH, and mild as it has been, I'll bet there are many weekends you've been perfecting your chili recipes to enjoy as you watch your favorite winter sports teams or after indulging in outdoor activities. So take all that creativity, and go to www.chilnewhampshire.org to download an application. I know it's six months away, but it will get you out of the winter doldrums and thinking of those glorious summer days to come. We'll have a display at District Training Assembly and Conference with applications as well. The goal this year is to get at least 6 clubs signed on to Take the Rotary Chili Challenge. Will you be one of them? Email me for additional information: Ruth Zax, President, Henniker Rotary Club, rbzax@comcast.net. Let the games begin!

Ruth Zax, President



DISTRICT 7870 EXCHANGE STUDENT INVITED TO AUDITION FOR "THE VOICE"

One of our current exchange students, Lola (France), was invited to audition for the popular television show "The Voice" after a video of her singing was submitted to the show. Lola did not know that the video was being sent to the show but was thrilled for the opportunity to audition. She traveled to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania recently to participate in the audition, where she performed two songs. No recorded music or instrumental accompaniment was allowed, just Lola and her amazing voice. Independent sources say she performed beautifully, which is no surprise to those who have heard her sing.



Now is the time for your club to consider hosting a Rotary student during the 2016-2017 Rotary year. For more information please contact Inbound Coordinator Jim Rumrill at jrumrill@hotmail.com or at 802-380-2766. Open your club to this experience this year!

An Evening in Paradise

Join us for a fun-filled evening of sun & sand (in the middle of winter!)

with *The Island Castaways*
(a Jimmy Buffet tribute band)

Saturday, April 2, 2016

5:30 pm • \$50/person • \$90/Couple

at the **Gilford Youth Center**

19 Potter Hill Rd., Gilford, NH

Silent Auction, 50/50 Raffle, Special Island Drinks
Caribbean Style Buffet

Tickets at www.gilfordrotaryevents.weebly.com

Order By Phone From Gilford Rotary: 986-0806



Sponsored by Gilford Rotary

All proceeds to benefit the Gilford Youth Center & other local charities



CLUB ACTIVITIES - DERRYVILLAGE ROTARY CLUB

Disabled and Limbless Veterans Inc. (DLVMA) was founded in 2008 with the vision to empower and improve the lives of our most needy veterans by providing them assistance and support. Since the organization's inception they have engaged local restaurants, supermarkets, corporate donors and community members to provide meals, clothing and shelter to many hundreds of veterans in the Boston and Eastern Massachusetts area. Some of their many activities include providing transportation for veterans to and from appointments, providing suits to veterans for job interviews, lunch and holiday meal programs at local VA hospitals and clinics and Christmas gifts donated to children of deployed troops. The DLVMA is a 501 c (3) organization. They are totally volunteer-staffed and 100% of all charitable donations go back to the veterans AND THE VETERAN FAMILIES they serve.



In December 2015 The Derry Village (Derry, NH) Rotary club reached out to DLVMA leaders to facilitate a partnership and expand their good work into the Southern New Hampshire region. The club invited Dominic Marcellino; president, founding member, US Marine veteran and triple amputee, to speak to an assembled group of local and state government elected officials, veterans group representatives and Rotarians, including District 7870 governor Sandra



McGonagle. Networking at this meeting resulted in established links between the **Disabled and Limbless Veterans Inc.** and veterans support groups in both Manchester NH and Nashua NH. New Hampshire State legislators present took away a better appreciation for Veteran needs and committed to lead discussions at the state level to foster Veteran needs awareness. In addition, Derry Village Rotarians collected and presented \$900 plus a whole minivan load of gently used suits, and men's / women's dress clothing in support of the DLVMA **Suits for Success** program.



From left: District Gov Sandra McGonagle, Rotary President Jennifer Caron, Dominic Marcellino, Michael McNulty, organizing Rotarian Ricardo Buzanga



For more information regarding the **Disabled and Limbless Veterans** go to their website @ WWW.DLVMA.org or feel free to contact CEO / founding member Mike McNulty by email: ironmike@supportourvets.org -or- phone 1-781-352-3575.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Belanger	Bryan	Raymond Area
Bemis	Greg	Raymond Area
Psiakis	Johnny	Raymond Area
Dupuis	Michael	Merrimack
Kohler, CSB	John	Brattleboro
Lanning	Avaloy	Rutland
Roderick	William	Gilford
Simon	Lori	Manchester, VT
Sweatt	Cassandra	Concord
Geiger	Stevan	Concord
Zingales	Chad	Milford
Haecock	Nicholas	Newport
Steinrueck	Nate	Poultney
Bourke	Diane	New London
Mead	Adam	Derry
Nicolopoulos	Christopher	Bow
Green	Jane	Laconia
Barry	John	Derry Village
Gleeson	Erin	Nashua
Sullivan	Jerrilyn	Nashua

District Calendar

<u>March 2</u>	Newport
50th Annual Ski Day	Mt Sunapee
<u>March 10 - 12</u>	
NEPETS	Sheraton Framingham MA
<u>March 12</u>	Brattleboro Sunrise
March Madness	Union High School
<u>March 19</u>	Monadnock
RYLA	Dublin School
<u>April 9</u>	
District Training Assembly	Keene High School
<u>April 9</u>	Bedford
38th Pasta Festival	Bedford HS Cafeteria
<u>April 29 - May 1</u>	
District Conference	
	Sheraton Harbourside, Portsmouth NH
<u>May 7</u>	Souhegan Valley Happy Hour
Kentucky Derby Party	Boston Billiards Club
<u>May 14</u>	Bow
Annual Open Car Show	Concord Group Insurance
<u>May 27 - 31</u>	
Rotary International Convention	Seoul Korea

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 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: March 25th.

Love Your Neighbor Food Drive

On what was arguably one of the coldest days of 2016, the intrepid **Goffstown** Rotarians stood outside a local supermarket for 6 hours and collected canned goods and cash donations for 2 local food pantries during their Love Your Neighbor Food Drive. The Goffstown Network which serves 3 area towns and the Caregivers' Caring Cupboard which serves seniors were the beneficiaries of the frozen fundraiser which is always held near Valentine's Day, and coincidentally, always seems to fall on a frigid day. Hand warmers and hot coffee made the job easier, but by far, the generosity of the shoppers made up for the bitterly cold weather. The group filled a truck with groceries and raised over \$430 for the food pantries. This was the third annual food drive with the date selected knowing that pantries often run low on supplies after the holidays, and the need increases with people deciding on whether to eat or heat their homes. As Rotarian Robin Morrell posted on the group's Facebook page, "Don't feel sorry for us, as we stand in freezing temps today. At the end of the day, we will be fine. Feel sorry for the families who struggle every day to put food on their tables." And, at the end of the day, all agreed it was well worth the effort.



DISTRICT ACTIVITIES - ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS

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

Last Call for Registration! We cannot accept any applications submitted after March 1, 2016.

Your club is invited to sponsor students to the annual Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) event being sponsored by the Monadnock Rotary Club this fall. This year's event will be held on March 19th at the Dublin School.

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!

Sincerely,

Balmeet Kaur Khalsa and Mary Loftis
Monadnock Rotary Club RYLA Committee



DISTRICT ACTIVITIES - 4-WAY TEST SPEECH CONTEST SEMI-FINALS

Reminder: the deadline for registering for the 4-Way Test speech contest semi-finals is March 26. The semi-finals will be held in Henniker on the 3rd of April beginning at 1pm with contestants expected by 12:30pm. Requests for more information can sent to daryl.pat@myfairpoint.net.