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



There is a story told in my Hindu tradition of two sages, Shaunaka and Abhipratari. They were worshippers of Prana, the wind god. One day, the two men were about to sit down to lunch when a poor student knocked on their door, asking for food.

"No, boy, do not bother us at this hour," was the reply. The student was surprised but very hungry, so he persisted.

"Tell me, honored sirs, which deity do you worship?"

"Prana, the wind god," they answered impatiently.

"Do you not know that the world begins and ends with wind, and that wind pervades the entire universe?"

The two sages were by now very irritated by their impertinent guest. "Of course we know it!" they replied.

"Well, then," continued the student, "if Prana pervades the universe, then he pervades me also, since I am but part of the universe. He is also in this hungry body, which stands before you begging for a bite to eat! And so in denying food to me, you deny it to the very deity whom you say you serve."

The sages realized the student spoke the truth and invited him to enter and share their meal. For they understood, at that moment, that by opening the door to one who sought their help, they were not only serving that individual – but reaching toward a larger goal.

Our experience of Rotary is, for the most part, based in our own communities. We meet every week in our clubs, in the same places, with the same familiar friends. While almost all of us are involved in some way or other in international service, the Rotary we see and share from day to day feels very local. It can be easy to lose sight of the larger picture – of what our service truly means.

Every impact you have as a Rotarian, individually and through your club, is multiplied by the power of our numbers. When you feed one person who is hungry, when you educate one person who is illiterate, when you protect one child from disease, the impact may seem small. It is anything but. For it is only through the power of numbers, through the power of our individual actions and gifts, that we can have the impact we seek: to truly Be a Gift to the World.



# 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 - RAYMOND AREA ROTARY CLUB

### ***Rotary Trustee Mike McGovern To Headline Leadership Seminar***

The Raymond Area Rotary Club has announcing that its third annual **NH LEAD** (Leadership Education and Development) seminar is coming to Raymond, NH again on February 5<sup>th</sup>. The club has developed a reputation for bringing in excellent leadership speakers from the business, government and non-profit world. This year's program has an outstanding line-up of presentations that will continue this tradition.

Mike McGovern has been the town manager of Cape Elizabeth Maine since 1985. He has been involved in many non-profit organizations and he is currently a Trustee of the Rotary Foundation. He has traveled extensively in the US and internationally with his duties representing Rotary.

Also we will be having a presentation by Amanda Grappone Osmer, head of the Grappone Auto Group in Concord. She will be speaking about the change to their business model based on the mission statement which calls for service above self. She will share the company's results over the past two years with this philosophy.

Former Chief Justice of the NH Supreme Court John Broderick is joining us this year. In addition to being a judge, John has a broad background in private practice and as the former dean of the University of New Hampshire law school. His presentation will be "Reflections on Practical Leadership Skills Learned and Applied".

We are bringing back Ken Bosse who has been our highest rated speaker the last two years. Ken has extensive leadership experience currently as a pastor and a life coach. His presentation will be "The Emotionally Healthy Leader".

Rounding out our day of presenters will be Kate Luczko of Stay Work Play New Hampshire. Kate has her MBA with a certificate in leadership from SNHU. She has received extensive recognition as a young leader in New Hampshire. Hans Asoera will of Edward Jones Investments will also be sharing with us.

NH LEAD will be held at New Life Church Route 156 in Raymond, NH. Contact Steve Puderbaugh 603-483-8131 for more information.



**CLUB ACTIVITIES - NASHUA ROTARY CLUB BY LARRY HERSH**

***Nashua Rotary Trip to Mexico for Project Review***

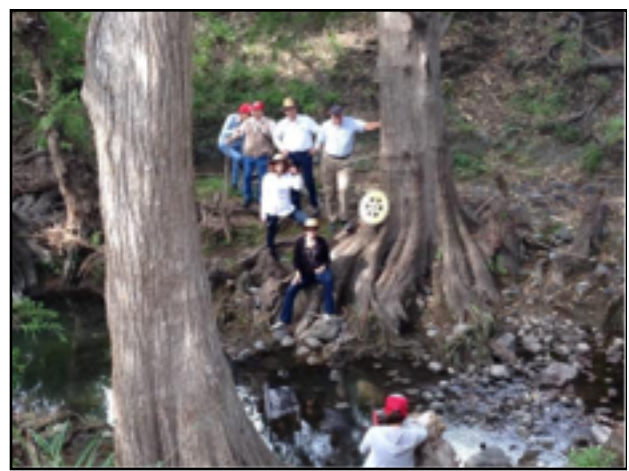
The Rotary Club of Nashua, NH has been working with the Corregidora Rotary Club in Mexico on a Global Rotary Grant to help the thousands of children in Mexico with neurological disorders. This is the first International project that the Nashua Club has led. We are partnering with a third party called Fumenep, which is headed by Dr. Fernando Garcia Jasso, a renowned Mexican Neurological Pediatrician. Besides the portable medical we will provide, we are providing funds for a 10,000 square meter hydroponic system, to grow organic tomatoes as a cash crop to sustain the project. Our trip to Mexico was to meet Dr. Jasso and his team, and to view the existing hydroponic systems and the site for the Rotarian hydroponic system. Below please find the report of our visit to Mexico.

Rick and Janet Manganello and Larry Hersh were met at the Mexico City Airport by Jean Villeval and Débora García Bordier of the Corregidora Rotary Club. We proceeded to a restaurant where we met Dr. Fernando Garcia Jasso and his children Flor Fernanda García Hernández and Benjamin García Hernández.

After a meal, we proceeded to the Military Hospital for Women and Neonatal Specialties, where we met key members of the staff, including Dr. Azucena DEL Carmen Hernández Martínez, Deputy Executive Director of the hospital and Dr. Garcia Jasso's wife, and toured the facilities. We were impressed by the facilities and some of the forward looking practices, such as having the pediatrics co-located in the birthing rooms. We then had a welcome message, in English, by Dr. Garcia Jasso, and a presentation of capabilities and status of Fumenep and A-Q (hydroponics) by Flor and Benjamin. Among some of the new ideas that we heard was the possibility of hiring handicapped individuals for the hydroponics, to help them develop a work track record and earn income. Another idea was that families who agree to sell tomatoes could buy the tomatoes at the wholesale price, and get 30% of that price put directly towards their child's treatment. This would allow

them to make a profit while supporting their own child's health.

The next morning, with Débora try to keep up with the Doctor's vehicle, we headed to Tilapa, Puebla. Maria Eugenia Luna Alcantara (Maru) also from the Corregidora Rotary Club had joined us by then. There we saw the prototype of the bamboo hydroponic system under construction. We were joined by Agricultural Engineer Crecencio Vejar Campos, who explained the structure. He gave us a review of the structure and the Tilapia pond, which will provide the water and nutrients to the hydroponic system. We then relaxed a little and took pictures at the magic river that will feed the water to the systems. The amazing scenery of the river and giant eucalyptus trees was a soothing respite.





**CLUB ACTIVITIES -NASHUA ROTARY CLUB CONTINUED**



We next went to a local gathering with wonderful colorful outfits, dancing and more in celebration of the Virgin Mary. We then proceeded to the nursery, where Crecencio showed us the way they took the cuttings from the tomato plants to create new plants, removing the cost of seeds from the process. Crecencio also told us how he reversed some of the Monsanto modifications, which now allow the plants to grow more vertically. He demonstrated how fast the cuttings grew, and that they replaced the plants in the hydroponic systems twice each year. We then proceeded to Atlixco, Puebla.

In Atlixco, we first had a wonderful breakfast, where we met presidents of the local clubs, César Hernández Cué, president of the RC Atlixco and Julio Gallardo D'Martini, president of the RC Atlixco Villa de Carillon, the elected D4185 Governor Jorge LUNA and Sergio Romero, former District Governor and now District Foundation Chairman

for the local district, who was so generous in supporting our Program. A full list of Rotarians present will be forthcoming.

Most of the Rotarians joined us for the day's tours. We



went to A-Q's existing hydroponic growing area, and saw the incredible volume and quality of the tomatoes produced. We even got to try them. The tomatoes are organic, and we needed to enter through a special area where our shoes' soles stepped in a white powder (lime?) and we were sprayed from above to kill any bacteria or other items that would negatively impact the plants. The doors were made of overlapping screening, and only one side of the room could be opened at one time to prevent insects from entering. They also have their own bees, to pollinate the plants. As the pictures show, it was a wonderful setup producing an incredible crop. With the "organic" label, they should be able to get top dollar for the crops. Certain restaurants, for example, will buy

these specifically so that they can advertise the organic properties of their meals. A-Q are fixing the price for the first year, to allow for the market to develop, and may adjust the price after the first year and after seeing what the market will bear.

From there we went to the site of the future Rotary Hydroponic system, a 10,000 square meter site that looks perfect for the system. The gently sloping field will allow a gravity feed for the water, eliminating the need to pump the water through the greenhouse and further reducing costs. This was another opportunity for photographs, with all of the Rotarians and others getting into pictures.

We then proceeded back to Mexico City, where we had dinner with the Dr, Dra, Flor, and the Corregidora team (Maru, Debora and Jean). This culminated the wonderful week we had, creating many friends, learning the processes, and believing even more in the mission of this project and Rotary.





2016-17 **PRESIDENTIAL THEME**



Rotary's founder, Paul Harris, believed that serving humanity is "the most worthwhile thing a person can do," RI President-elect John F. Germ said, and that being a part of Rotary is a "great opportunity" to make that happen.

Germ unveiled the 2016-17 presidential theme, **Rotary Serving Humanity**, to incoming district governors on 18 January at the International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA.

"I believe everyone recognizes the opportunity to serve Rotary for what it truly is: not a small opportunity, but a great one; an opportunity of a lifetime to change the world for the better, forever through Rotary's service to humanity," said Germ.

Rotary members around the globe are serving humanity by providing clean water to underdeveloped communities, promoting peace in conflict areas, and strengthening communities through basic education and literacy. But none more important than our work to eradicate polio worldwide, he said.

After a historic year in which transmission of the wild poliovirus was stopped in Nigeria and all of Africa, Germ said we are closer than ever to ending polio.

"We are at a crossroads in Rotary," he added. "We are looking ahead at a year that may one day be known as the greatest year in Rotary's history: the year that sees the world's last case of polio."

Last year's milestones leave just two countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan, where the virus still circulates. Polio would be only the second human disease ever to be eradicated.

When that moment arrives, it's "tremendously important" that Rotary is ready for it, said Germ. "We need to be sure that we are recognized for that success, and leverage that success into more partnerships, greater growth, and even more ambitious service in the decades to come."

Germ, a member of the Rotary Club of Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA, encouraged attendees to return to their clubs and communities and spread the word about Rotary's role in the fight for a polio-free world.

"People who want to do good will see that Rotary is a place where they can change the world. Every Rotary club needs to be ready to give them that opportunity," Germ said.

Enhancing Rotary's image isn't the only way to boost membership. "We need clubs that are flexible, so our service will be more attractive to younger members, recent retirees, and working people."

He added: "We need more willing hands, more caring hearts, and more bright minds to move our work forward."



**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:**

**January**

<b>Walsh Nancy</b>	<b>Bedford</b>
<b>Primrose Shannon</b>	<b>Brattleboro Sunrise</b>
<b>Hund Timberly</b>	
<b>Foote Charlie</b>	<b>Derry Village</b>
<b>Onksen Felicia</b>	<b>Hollis-Brookline</b>
<b>Peirce Nathaniel</b>	<b>Jaffrey-Rindge</b>
<b>White Brad</b>	
<b>Card Kathleene</b>	
<b>Galarza Ernesto</b>	<b>Queen City- Manchester</b>
<b>Richter Barbara</b>	<b>Rutland South</b>
<b>Spanjian Richard</b>	<b>Springfield</b>
<b>Platt Robert</b>	<b>White River Junction</b>

**Presidential Theme 2016-17**



**District Calendar**

February 03  
PrePETS Merrimack Community Center

February 05  
NH Lead Raymond Area

February 10  
PrePETS Comfort Inn Concord, NH

March 10 - 12  
NEPETS Sheraton Framingham MA

March 12 Brattleboro Sunrise

March Madness Union High School

March 19 Monadnock

RYLA Dublin School

April 9  
District Training Assembly Keene High School

April 9 Bedford

38th Pasta Festival Bedford HS Cafeteria

April 29 - May  
District Conference  
Sheraton Harbourside, Portsmouth NH

May 7 Souhegan Valley Happy Hour

Kentucky Derby Party Boston Billiards Club

May 14 Bow

Annual Open Car Show Concord Group Insurance

May 27 - 31  
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](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: February 25th.**