



NEWSLETTER

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



One sunny morning at the end of June 1991, a van drove through the busy, rush-hour streets of Colombo, Sri Lanka. Winding through traffic to a northern suburb, the van arrived at the Forward Command Headquarters of the Defense Ministry. Security guards stopped it for inspection. When they did, the two suicide bombers driving the van detonated their cargo: thousands of kilograms of plastic explosives.

The roof of the building was blown off completely. Debris was strewn for blocks. In total, 21 people were killed and 175 people injured, among them many pupils of the girls' school next door. More than a kilometer away, the blast shattered every window in my home. My wife raced toward the sound of the explosion – toward our daughter's school.

Our daughter was then nine years old. That morning, she had forgotten her pencil case at home. At the moment of the blast, she was coming out of a stationer's shop, admiring her new pencils. Suddenly her ears were ringing, the air was filled with sand, and everywhere around her people were screaming, bleeding, and running. Someone pulled her into the garden of the badly damaged school, where she waited until my wife arrived to bring her back to our home – its floors still covered with broken glass.

Sri Lanka today is peaceful and thriving, visited by some two million tourists every year. Our war now is only a memory, and we as a nation look forward to a promising future. Yet so many other nations cannot say the same. Today, more of the world's countries are involved in conflict than not; a record 59.5 million people worldwide live displaced by wars and violence.

In Rotary we believe, in spite of all that, in the possibility of peace – not out of idealism, but out of experience. We have seen that even the most intractable conflicts can be resolved when people have more to lose by fighting than by working together. We have seen what can happen when we approach peace-building in ways that are truly radical, such as the work of our Rotary Peace Fellows. Through our Rotary Foundation, peace fellows become experts in preventing and resolving conflict. Our goal is that they will find new ways not only to end wars but to stop them before they begin.

Among the hundreds of peace fellows who have graduated from the program, two from Sri Lanka, one from each side of the conflict, studied together. In the first weeks of the course, both argued passionately for the rightness of their side. Yet week by week, they grew to understand each other's perspective; today, they are good friends. When I met them and heard their story, they gave me hope. If 25 years of pain and bitterness could be overcome by Rotary, then what, indeed, is beyond us?

We cannot fight violence with violence. But when we fight it with education, with understanding, and with peace, we can truly ***Be a Gift to the World.***



Election & Reporting of Club Officers

Election of the 2016-17 club officers will get clubs headed in the right direction for the next Rotary year. 31 December 2015 is the deadline for election of officers and 1 February 2016 is the deadline for reporting the officers to Rotary International. Current club officers can submit this information via My Rotary, approved vendors (DACdb, ClubRunner, etc.), or by sending the information to data@rotary.org.

Save the Date April 29 - May 1



Be a gift to the world



2016 • District Conference
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

District Calendar

- December 3 Queen City - Manchester
Christmas Tree Lighting Deerfield Park
- December 14 Brattleboro Sunrise
Trivia Night American Legion
- January 9 Bedford
5th Regional Idol Competition
Saint Anselm College Dana Center
- January 17 - 23 RI
International Assembly San Diego
- January 30 Queen City
Annual Comedy Bowl
St. George Greek Orthodox Church
- March 10 - 12
NEPETS Sheraton Framingham MA
- April 29 - May 1
District Conference
Sheraton Harborside, Portsmouth NH
- May 27 - 31
Rotary International Convention
Seoul Korea

Contents	Page
RI President's Monthly Message	1
District Calendar	2
Election & Reporting of Club Officers	2
Club Activities	3-6
Literacy	7
New Members	8

**CLUB ACTIVITIES - MEREDITH ROTARY CLUB**

During October Interlakes High School Interact Club, sponsored by Meredith Rotary Club, collected 900 pairs of socks for 'Soxtober'. The Interact Club distributed the socks to New Beginnings – Without Violence & Abuse, The Santa Fund of the Greater Lakes Region, and the Laconia Salvation Army. Pictured are Interact Service Chair Liz Brennen and Interact President Carter Smith presenting socks to The Santa Fund and The Salvation Army.

**CLUB ACTIVITIES - GOFFSTOWN ROTARY CLUB**

Goffstown Rotary Club had a busy October starting with a community breakfast on October 4th. The club partnered with a local Odd Fellows lodge to serve breakfast to over 80 guests. At the same time, they pulled the winning ticket in their Raffle for Tassels. One ticket was drawn from the limited ticket sale, and the winner took home an \$800 supermarket gift card. As luck would have it, the winning ticket was purchased by Rotarian Glenn Krull who used it as part of a tip to the woman who cuts his hair! The raffle raised \$2200 for the club's scholarship fund. The funds raised at the breakfast and accompanying penny sale are going to the club's general fund.



Over the chilly weekend of October 17th-18th, the Rotarians took part in the town's annual Giant Pumpkin Weigh-off and Regatta. The trusty wienermobile was on Rotary Park, as the crew served close to 500 hotdogs and over 400 burgers to hungry festival-goers. At each event, the club identifies a local food pantry to be the recipient of the "tip jar", this time for the New Boston food pantry. October 24th found the club once again facing chilly temps for their semi-annual roadside clean-up, part of the town's Adopt a Highway program. Despite the cold morning, the crew got nice and toasty picking up the remnants of a summer of traffic along the General John Stark Scenic Byway in Goffstown and Dunbarton. The Fall foliage was spectacular making the work a joy instead of a chore.



On October 27th, the club moved its weekly meetings to a local establishment, The Village Trestle, at 25 Main Street in Goffstown having outgrown its previous space at the Allard Center YMCA. The Y was gracious to donate space to the club for the past several years, but new growth in membership has necessitated the move. We invite anyone needing a make-up to join us in our new location, breakfast is still at 7:30 on Tuesday mornings.

Last, but not least, members of the club handed out Trick-or-Treats from Rotary Park during Goffstown's Halloween celebration. Over 900 goblins, pirates, witches, and snow queens made their way to Main Street, and club members greeted each and every one with treats.. It was a great way to close out a very busy month!



CLUB ACTIVITIES - MEREDITH ROTARY CLUB

Meredith Rotarians undertook a major project to renovate an historic cabin on Lake Winnepesaukee's Stonedam Island. The project included tree clearing, replacing the support pilings and installing an entirely new roof. The cabin and surrounding property are on Stonedam Island land preserved by the Lakes Region Conservation Trust.

The Trust was founded in 1979 to conserve the natural heritage of New Hampshire's Lakes Region. The cabin's hand-hewn timbers came from an East Alton farmhouse and barn built in the 1860's.

In 1925, using the 1860's timbers, the cabin was constructed as a summer residence for Camp Kehonka (1902 - 1985), a girls camp in Wolfeboro, NH. The uniquely constructed building was then donated to the Trust in 1986 and barged across the lake to its current location on Stonedam Island.

Plans are to use the cabin for a visitor and learning center. The pictures show before and after the Meredith Rotarians installed the new roof.





CLUB ACTIVITIES - GOFFSTOWN ROTARY CLUB

The Goffstown Rotary Club may be small in numbers, but no one can't fault the size of its heart! On the day before Veteran's Day, the club was joined by Carol Cricenti, a local member of Quilts of Valor, a non-profit whose mission is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. Each quilt is sewn in red, white, and blue fabrics and given to either an active duty member or a veteran. Carol explained that some quilts are made in tandem --- one volunteer sewing the patchwork, one quilting. All the quilts are made with love, according to Carol, and they have found their

way to hospitals in Europe, tents in Afghanistan, and VA hospitals across the country. Carol told the group about the people she has met through this program and of the impact it has had on her own life. The recipients may be nominated by friends and family, or they may just be in need of a quilt and given one by a hospital unit. Over 126,000 quilts have been awarded thus far, and three of them went to Goffstown Rotarians in an inspiring ceremony led by Carol and club secretary, Robin Morrell.

Club President Durwood Sargent, President-elect Glenn Krull, and Charter Member Rich Hopf are all veterans. Each served our country in the military, and each one was awarded a quilt designed and sewn by Carol. The quilts come with a certificate noting the award, and each quilt is signed on the back. The three Rotarians, true to the Service Above Self Rotary ideal, were genuinely moved by the experience, and they relayed stories of their time in service. For some, the experience was tinged by the country's response to the Viet Nam War, and they all expressed their gratitude for this singular recognition. It was an amazing meeting, and one our members will not soon forget.

To learn more about Quilts of Valor, or to nominate a recipient, visit www.govf.org.



LITERACY BY ESTER SHERMAN ARLAN, DISTRICT 7870 LITERACY CHAIR

Clubs around District 7870 are busy with many literacy projects but only a few have responded to my request to submit their projects for the upcoming “Literacy Projects in District 7870” booklet.

What we have learned thus far is that many Clubs have made arrangements with their local school district and/or library to donate a book in honor of their speaker. The book has a Rotary Club label and the name of the speakers. It helps the budgets of both the local library and/or the school district.

It is time to reflect on the literacy projects that you have been doing for quite a while and see if they could use some tweaking. Maybe you should consider adding additional projects that do not cost dollars. Many schools collect “Box Tops for Education” found on projects like cereal and tissues. They submit the “coupons” and receive equipment for their schools. Place a jar at the sign in desk and Rotarians can drop them in each week and monthly they can be taken to the school. A win-win for one and all.

Upcoming in January is Vocational Service month. Do you have members of your Club that could volunteer to speak to students about their vocations? Providing books on the vocations to the school library would be great.

In April the Rotary calendar is designated as “Mother and Child Health” month. What a great time to have a presentation to children in school. Books on “Visiting the Doctor” and or “Dentist” would be great additions to your local school or library. Check with the librarian to make sure it would be age appropriate.

The Rotary Club of Fairborn, Ohio has a book, “andyanddelmer”, book markers and an activity book on the 4 Way Test. If you are interested in seeing the book before ordering I have a hard back copy of the book, DG Sandy has the soft cover book and I have the rest of the items.

I look forward to hearing what your Club is doing. Need more ideas or want to start a project please feel free to contact me.

My e-mail address is: learlan@comcast.net (under subject mark LITERACY) or call me at 518.891.3458.

Be a Gift to the World thru Literacy.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:**November**

Rothwell	Jane	Bedford
Ives	Thomas	Bow Rotary
Burch	Adam	Derry Village
Huntley	Theresa	
Matzke	Kyle	Franklin
Space	Thomas	Gilford
Hamilton	Jamie	Monadnock
Barclay	Ryan	Nashua
Goddette	Jill	Newport
Jepson	Lyle	Rutland
Moran	Nicole	
Petrini	Cathy	
Mouser	Katie	Windsor

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: December 21st.