

Rotary7910.org

Newsletter OCTOBER 2014

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

By Val Callahan

Nine of us from [District 7910](#) have just come back from an outstanding [Zone 24 & 32 Institute](#) in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. I attended along with: **Jim Fusco**, 2015-'16 district governor, and his wife, **Karen Fusco**; **Pat Doyle**, '16-'17 DG, and her husband, **Skip Doyle**; past DGs **Carol Toomey**, **Tom Polito** and **Greg Roche**; and District Membership Chair Dr. **Saty Mitra**.

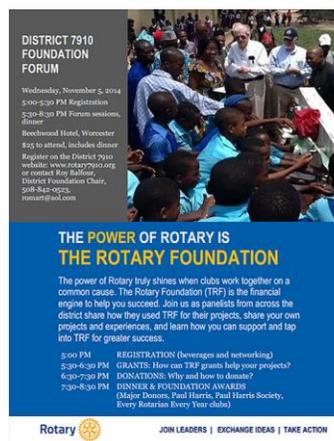


We had the privilege of watching Canadian Prime Minister **Stephen Harper** receive an award for Canada's work to eradicate polio. We also attended plenary and break-out sessions on many Rotary topics, including membership, The Rotary Foundation and public image. We are eager to share our latest information with you at the upcoming Foundation Forum. I look forward to seeing you there.

Our next major district event is the [Foundation Forum](#) on **November 5** at the **Beechwood Hotel** in Worcester. Mark your calendar. This promises to be an elegant affair. A portion of your ticket price will be underwritten by our district. Ask your club to pay for the ticket for your president and Foundation chair. Also, we will give out **10 Paul Harris Fellow Awards** to the clubs that provide the certificate to us. We will also present the **Major Donor awards** and **Bequest Awards** to recent recipients. Kindly let us know of the recent recipients in your club.



[Click here or on image for the Foundation Forum Special Readiness Newsletter](#)



[Click here on on image for the Foundation Forum flyer](#)

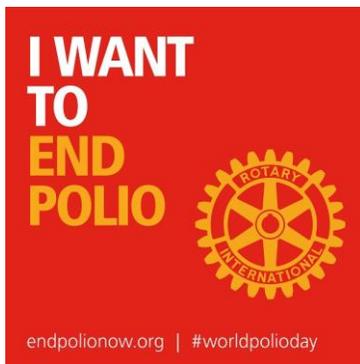


On October 2, I had the privilege to address Worcester Rotary's Luncheon Meeting. [Click here or on image](#) for a **25-minute video**, by Worcester Rotarian **Rich Prager**, of my keynote speech. I also had the honor of posing for a photo **Skip Hall** (far left) and **Roger Frost** (far right), longtime, active members of Worcester Rotary.

You may contact me at Valentine.Callahan@gmail.com.

World Polio Day, October 24

By Anil Garg



October is a very special month of the year.

Several famous and not so famous people were born in October. Just to name a few: Mahatma Gandhi, Eleanor Roosevelt, soccer star Pele, Hillary Clinton, Theodore Roosevelt, Bill Gates, John Adams, Dr. Jonas Salk (whose 100th birthday is this year) and yours truly. In addition, the United Nations was established on October 24, 1945. And Rotary International had a hand in the birth of the United Nations.

October 24 is widely celebrated as World Polio Day, which is an opportunity for the global polio eradication community to renew its promise for a polio-free world for the coming generations. All of the Global Polio Eradication Partners will be working to highlight our collective progress while urging the global community to help [End Polio Now](#).

One of our eradication partners, the national Centers for Disease Control will highlight the eradication work around the globe using the CDC's [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages. The CDC will feature the efforts and pictures of people working in the field for polio eradication.

To date we have reduced the incidence of polio by more than 99 percent. We have only three endemic countries remaining – Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria - compared to about 125 countries in 1985 when we started the campaign of polio eradication. When we began, we were getting roughly 1,000 cases per day worldwide. At the end of 2013 the annual number of cases worldwide was 423. We have come a long way to bring polio under control and we are very close to eradicating it completely.



This battle has not been easy. We have had numerous challenges from political to financial. Working with our partners – WHO, UNICEF, CDC, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the various governments of the world, we have been able to overcome these challenges to reach where we are now.

Initially we conducted the campaign using the oral polio vaccine, starting with trivalent vaccine for combating the three strains of polio virus P1, P2 and P3. P2 was eradicated in 1999 and we have not seen a single case of P3 since November 2012. As we approach the finish line, we need to shift from the oral vaccine to the injectable inactivated vaccine. The oral vaccine uses a live, but weakened form of the polio virus. The disadvantage of this vaccine is that, in rare cases, polio can be caused by the vaccine itself. The inactivated vaccine uses a killed virus that does not pose the threat of reintroducing polio.



The good news is that we are now close enough to the finish line to begin using the injectable vaccine. Many countries, including the United States, already use the injectable vaccine exclusively and by the end of 2015, all countries will have introduced at least one dose of the injectable vaccine as part of the

Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan. Of the three remaining endemic countries, Nigeria is showing very promising progress. So far this year, Nigeria has had only six cases and we are hopeful that Nigeria may be the next country to be polio-free, paving the way for a polio-free Africa.

Afghanistan has confirmed 10 cases as of October 8, which is more than the six cases confirmed for the same time period in 2013. Afghanistan's cases are linked to ongoing cross-border polio transmission with neighboring Pakistan and Afghanistan's polio eradication fate is inextricably linked to efforts in Pakistan.

All eyes are on Pakistan which accounts for more than 80 percent of the world's polio cases in 2014 and has already confirmed 187 cases compared to 39 cases at the same time last year. Efforts are being made to reverse the tide in Pakistan and our fellow Rotarians are at the forefront of efforts to build trust in communities and work to secure commitment from officials at all levels.

One success story this year was that of India. It was said, that of the remaining four endemic countries, India would be the last one to eradicate polio. All the pundits were proven wrong when India and the entire Southeast Asia region were declared polio-free on March 27, 2014. India's example offers hope for Pakistan. Only five years ago, in 2009, India had the largest proportion of polio cases of any country in the world (741 cases).



Photo: Jean-Marc Giboux

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative partners support Rotary's "Make History Today, End Polio Now" campaign. It has been determined that we need an additional \$5.5 billion to complete the job by 2018. We have collected about \$1.8 billion; have a commitment for another \$3.1 billion, leaving a gap of about \$600 million to be raised.

World Polio Day is a reminder that we have a job: to eradicate polio completely. Collectively we need to go out in the communities, meet with our political leaders, shake every tree that we can in order to raise funds and awareness to complete the job.

Rotary International held a webinar on September 19, and here are some useful links from it:

- [View](#) a recording of the webinar.
- [View and download](#) the slides from the webinar, with speaker notes.

- [Register to watch](#) Rotary's livestream event on World Polio Day.
- [Download](#) event resources.
- [Order materials](#) for your upcoming World Polio Day event.
- [Donate](#) to End Polio Now.
- [Hear](#) polio survivor and Ironman athlete Minda Dentler's incredible story.
- [Make a gift today](#) and protect another child from getting polio for life.
- [Download](#) advocacy and event resources.
- [Download](#) End Polio Now graphic.
- [Watch](#) "End Polio Now: Make History Today" livestream event, including a global update on the status of polio eradication, on World Polio Day, October 24, at 7:30 p.m. (ET) and at EndPolio.org.

Your club or district can organize a viewing party or incorporate the viewing into your existing World Polio Day plans. The archived video will be available following the live program. Also, your club meeting during the week of World Polio Day can focus on Rotary's work to end polio. Community fundraisers scheduled on or around the day will raise public awareness of the need to eradicate polio and remind government officials to support the global commitment to a polio-free world.

Host your own event. Add your voice to the conversation with the hashtag #WorldPolioDay.

We *are* making history. So be sure to celebrate our collective accomplishment on World Polio Day.



Anil Garg is Zone 26 End Polio Now coordinator and past governor of District 5340. You may contact him at anil.garg@LPL.com.



Note: District 7910 is celebrating World Polio Day as "Purple Pinkie Day" on Friday, October 25. [Click here](#) for examples of Purple Pinkie Day materials that your Rotary Club can use and customize as well as YouTube videos on the Purple Pinkie Project

Gift of Life – Open-heart Surgeries for Children with Congenital Heart Defects



[Gift of Life International](#) is a Rotarian-based organization that over the past four decades has helped more than 17,000 children from emerging countries receive treatment for their heart disease. These children have come from 67 different countries and otherwise would not have been treated. [Click here](#) to view a list of all countries served by Gift of Life.

There are more than 70 Gift of Life programs throughout the world. The majority of these programs are

based in Rotary Clubs or Rotary Districts on five continents. [Click here](#) to view a list of Gift of Life-affiliated programs.

[Gift of Life New England](#) has helped to save the lives of more than 120 children since it began in 2000. The New England effort has been very active since 2012, when it added Maine Medical Center in Portland.



Shown, are members of Gift of Life New England. Standing, left to right: Ted Shaughnessy, Glen Davis, Bill Rosenthal, Paul Emery, Barry Friedman, Steve Rand and Milan Jackson. Seated, left to right: Cheryl Rosen, Shelia Jackson, Barbara Friedman and Erica Bond. Front: Carl Kaliszewski.

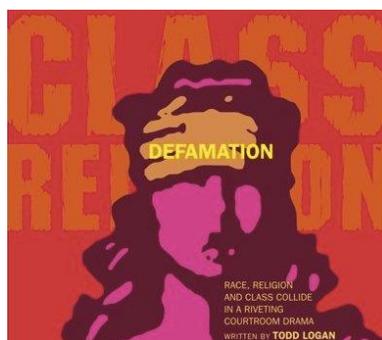
Gift of Life is now a Rotary project of Districts 7910 and 7780. In Massachusetts, Gift of Life enables care at Children's Hospital, Mass. General Hospital and Tufts Floating Hospital for Children, all in Boston. The New England initiative also seeks Rotary Matching and Global Grants. One grant provided surgeries for up to 35 children in their home country while another one included medical equipment for a surgical team in the Dominican Republic.



The [Our Hearts Are In ...](#) global initiative focuses on the development of sustainable pediatric cardiac surgery and aftercare programs in Uganda, El Salvador and Jamaica. These programs are defined by the empowerment of doctors and nurses to care for their own children. Ongoing training, essential equipment acquisition and supplement supply programs have been implemented in these countries to ensure that children afflicted with congenital heart defects can be cared for on a sustainable and reliable basis. More than 1,800 Salvadoran, Ugandan and Jamaican children have been treated through this program.

'Defamation – The Play' – A Riveting Courtroom Drama

By Christine Pinney



You are invited to a special event/interactive performance of [Defamation - The Play](#). Proceeds will benefit [District 7910 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards](#).

This riveting courtroom drama that explores the highly charged issues of race, religion, gender, class and the law with a twist: You, and the audience, are the jury. The performance is on Sunday, November 9 from 3:00 to -5:00 p.m. at the Boxboro Holiday Inn in Boxborough. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

The premise is a civil suit: A Chicago South Side African-American woman sues a Jewish North Shore real estate developer for defamation. The trial runs 70 minutes. The deliberation is 15 minutes. Post-show discussion with playwright and cast is 30 minutes. This is an event that should be attended by high school students and their parents.

"Whether we like it or not, we still have major divides in this country," Playwright Todd Logan states. "Most of us still go to bed at night in cities, communities and neighborhoods that are segregated by race, religion, ethnicity and/or class. I wanted to write a play that encourages open, honest

conversation that leads to greater understanding and empathy to combat today's prevailing trends,"

For more information:

- ["Defamation" Facebook page](#)
- ["Defamation" website](#)
- ["Defamation" YouTube video](#)

For information and to purchase blocks of tickets (perhaps for your Interact Club), you may contact RYLA Chairs Skip and Pat Doyle at 508 393-9031 or PWD Doyle2@verizon.net.



Christine Pinney is a RYLA facilitator, a RYLA director and past president of the Rotary Club of Bedford. You may contact her at Christine@ChristinePinney.com.

Bequest Society Member: Rotary offers Carl Gomes a platform to live out his passions

By Mauro DePasquale



Worcester Rotarian **Carl Gomes** is the latest member of District 7910's **Bequest Society**. He has bequested **\$10,000** in his will to benefit **The Rotary Foundation**.

Carl is a member of Worcester Rotary's **International Committee** and co-chair (along with **Satya Mitra**) of the Club's **Foundation Committee**. He is also Worcester Rotary's representative to the newly formed **Rotaract Club** at WPI in Worcester.

Carl and fellow Worcester Rotarian **Patrick English** are in **Haiti** from **October 19 through 26** as part of Worcester Rotary's **Global Grant** effort. Accompanied by Patrick, Carl is returning to [Lambi Village](#), the site of the build project he worked on last January (see photo, next page) through **Fuller Housing Center** and **Grace International**. They are also meeting and talking with other missionaries in Haiti about volunteering on future missions there.

This December, Carl plans to go on missions to Kenya and Capetown, South Africa. The mission to Kenya was postponed from last December due to the fatal bombing at a shopping mall there. And because he attended the Rotary International convention in Australia and toured Australia and New Zealand last spring, he had to cancel mission trips scheduled for this past June to the Be Like Brit orphanage in Haiti and a water mission to Dominican Republic.

However, Carl plans to reschedule those two missions in 2015. Also in 2015, he plans to go on missions to Costa Rica and attend the annual Rotary International convention in Brazil.

Currently, Carl is collaborating with the mission director of **Brooklyn Tabernacle Church** in New York

City to develop a church-based mission team locally. He is a lifetime member of the Rotarian Wine Fellowship and is working with 2014-2015 District 7910 Governor Val Callahan to establish a **Rotarian Wine Fellowship** chapter for our district.

Carl was the recipient last spring of the District's annual **Unsung Hero Award** (see photo, left). Outside of Rotary, he is developing a program to work with addicts and veterans in recovery programs that challenge the public view of addiction and addicts. It is called the Ambassadors of Recovery Project. He is more than happy to discuss in person and in depth this very transforming project with any of you.



As Carl says, "The foundation of my life is faith, family and focus. I am third-generation Cape Verdean. My family history and journey to the U.S. has shaped my world view and has driven me to make a difference with my life and in this world. Most immigrants come to America to find opportunity and make life better for the generations that come after them. They are the trailblazers. Often, they come without education, skills and little or no financial resources. They survive by sheer will and hard work and sacrifice and a strong sense of *community!*"

Carl retired as a state probation officer three years ago on his 55th birthday. He was born on Christmas Day in 1955, which he regards as the greatest Christmas gift he have ever received. He spent 32 years as a juvenile and adult probation officer, and also invested in real estate. His family forced him to choose one career or the other - and not both.

Following his retirement, Carl spent two years processing how he would spend the balance of his life. "I wanted to combine my interest with my passions," he says. "I love to travel and helping people. As a result of this, I became a mission worker/investor."

Carl started a company to buy, sell and rehabilitate real estate to fund mission work as well as a foundation he is creating to promote and fund International human-rights organizations. "Rotary offers me a platform to live out my passions," he says.



Carl's first mission was to Haiti last January. Next June, he plans to go to the Dominican Republic on a clean-water mission and to Haiti to work at the **Be Like Brit** orphanage, which was founded by local Rotarians **Len** and **Cherylann Gengel** in memory of their daughter, **Britney Gengel**, who died in the Haiti earthquake of 2010.

"That is my reason for becoming a Rotarian," Carl says. "In five years, I aspire to be a leader in promoting international human rights and an ambassador of service above self through Rotary. I enjoy music, wine, great food, whitewater rafting and - most important of all - time with family and friends sharing a good laugh. Life is hard work, but who says you can't have fun along the way."



Mauro DePasquale is a member of Worcester Rotary's Public Relations Committee. You may reach him at mauro@wccatv.com. You may reach Carl Gomes at carlcgomes56@icloud.com.



Note: On **October 26 at 10 p.m.** (ET), tune in to *The Business Beat* on **90.5 WICN** for a 29-minute interview with **Katie Picchione** (shown, right) of the **WPI chapter of Engineers Without Borders USA** and WPI's **Rotaract Club**, **Richard Simon** (shown, left) of the **Rotary Club of Nashoba Valley** and **Carl Gomes** (shown, center) of the **Rotary Club of Worcester**. They will talk about **bringing clean drinking water to the world**. [Click here](#) to learn more about this episode. By October 27, the episode will be available **24/7** in **MP3 format** on the [Business Beat podcast page](#). *The Business Beat* is produced and hosted by Worcester Rotarian **Steve Jones-D'Agostino**.

Groton Pepperell Rotary Throws Down Gauntlet for Loaves & Fishes



- **Event:** Veteran's Day Challenge
- **Date & Time:** November 11, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- **Description:** In celebration of Veterans Day, [Groton Pepperell Rotary](#) will match monetary donations up to \$1,000 to purchase linens, towels, washcloths, pillowcases for the Veteran's Project to benefit the [Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry](#) at Devens. Make checks payable to: Loaves & Fishes Pantry, Inc. Write on memo line: Veteran's Project. Mail to: Groton Pepperell Rotary, PO Box 1405, Pepperell, MA 01463.

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable, non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible. [Click here](#) for the event flyer, in PDF format.

- **Event chair:** Bob France
- **Email:** BFrance@SenateConstruction.com
- **Phone:** 978-425-9802

Framingham Rotary Flips Pancakes for Senior Housing

- **Event:** Third Annual [Framingham Rotary](#) Pancake Breakfast
- **Date & Time:** Saturday, November 1, 7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
- **Location:** Joseph P. Keefe Technical High School, 750 Winter St., Framingham
- **Description:** Pancakes, sausages, juice, coffee, milk and good cheer. \$5.00 donation, Under 5, free. Don't miss out on this fun, community event. [Click here](#) for the event flyer, in PDF format.
- **Event chair:** Bob Schecter
- **Email:** BartScriv@verizon.net
- **Phone:** 508-820-7789



District 7910 Has 16 Active 'New Generation' Clubs

District 7910 has **16 active Interact clubs** (shown below, in alphabetical order by club name), which we refer to a **"New Generation" clubs**. They are for youth ages 12 to 18 who want to connect with other young people in their community or school. Interact club members have fun while carrying out service projects and learning about the world. Interact clubs organize at least two service projects a year: one, that benefits their community; and one, that encourages international understanding.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Interact, including how to sponsor an Interact club in your community.

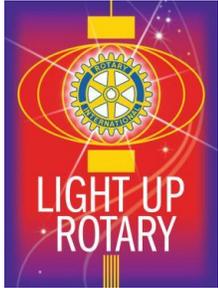
Status	Interact Club Name	Sponsoring Rotary Club	Sponsoring Rotary Club President	Sponsoring Rotary Club President Email	Interact Advisor Name	Interact Advisor Email
Active	Atuburn					
Active	Brookline High School	Brookline	Ms. Joyce Wilcox Graff	jgraff@pipeline.com		
Active	Concord-Carlisle High School	Concord	Sheila S. Watts	swatts@middlesexbank.com		
Active	Dedham	Dedham	Sandra A. Nelson	skintelligence1@gmail.com		
Active	Dracut	Dracut	Peter Clark	pclark13@comcast.net		
Active	Fitchburg East	Fitchburg East	William F. Walsh	bwalsh@verizon.net		
Active	Framingham Fuller Middle School	Framingham	Mr. James H. Patterson	jpatterson@cpajm.com	Ms. Elizabeth Cross	blzy1213@yahoo.com
Active	Framingham High School	Framingham	Mr. James H. Patterson	jpatterson@cpajm.com		
Active	Gardner	Gardner	Joseph D. Guercio	jguercio@colonial4banking.com		
Active	Leominster H.S.	Leominster	Mary T. Dean	mdean@clintonsavings.com		
Active	Littleton	Littleton	President Mina Femino	mfermino@hotmail.com		
Active	Marlborough High School	Marlborough	Mr. David Hecht	david@hechtconnect.com		
Active	Needham High School	Needham	Glen Davis	gdavis@providerig.com		
Active	Tri Hi Y	Watertown	Anthony J. Donato	anthonyjdonato@hotmail.com		
Active	Westborough High School	Westborough	William J. Domings	wdomings@msn.com		
Active	Weston & Weyland	Weston	Jonathan White			

Speakers Who Have Presented At District 7910 Rotary Clubs



- **Speaker:** Lindsay Morand, great niece of E.B. White, who was author of "Charlotte's Web," and president of [E.B. White Memorabilia Inc.](#)
- **Subject:** Life history of E.B. White
- **Rotary Club Presentations To Date:**
 - [Montachusett Area](#) (9/18/14)
 - [Fitchburg](#) (9/23/14)
- **Contact:** 978-697-7951; Lindsay@EBWhiteNiece.com

Save The Dates



- **Oct. 24 & 25:** [Purple Pinkie for Polio](#)
- **Nov. 1:** [Rotary Leadership Institute](#), Holiday Inn, Boxborough
- **Nov. 1:** [Rotary UN Day](#) **SOLD OUT**
- **Nov. 5:** [Foundation Forum](#), Beechwood Hotel, Worcester
- **Dec. 7:** Holiday Party, Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston

For More Information



Questions? Have something you want to share? Contact Governor **Val Callahan** at Valentine.Callahan@gmail.com. To **learn more** about District 7910, visit our [website](#), and **join us online** at [Facebook](#), [Google+](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).



Visit District 7910's brand new [YouTube page](#).



Visit [My Rotary](#), Rotary International's website for Rotarians.



Learn how Rotary International got 119,350 supporters from 173 countries to join in the fight to [End Polio Now](#) by making the world's largest commercial.



[Click here](#) for Past Issues of 'District 7910 Newsletter.'