

**Robert "Bob" Johnson**  
District Governor

# ROTARY DISTRICT 6630 NEWS

**Mike Johns, Jr**  
Editor

## August 2013

### Inside this issue:

Governor's Letter Cont'd	2
Get Together, the Sky's the Limit	2
Prayers Sought for Injured Rotarian	2
Shelter Warmth & Dignity	2
Christina Paschyn-Ambassadorial Scholar	3
Christina Paschyn cont'd	4
Collard Green Cook-Off	4
Lou Groza Golf Outing	4
News From TRC Kent	5
Medina Sunrise Welcomes Eli	5
Rotarian Moves to Ecuador	5
TRC Jefferson Poker Run	5
TRC Shaker Hts Garage Sale	5
Pig Roast in Brunswick	6
Solon Backyard Games	6
Rotary Direct	6
RI Revamps Website	7
New RI Website	7
Nigerian Rotarian Visits 6630	8
Interact Helps Romanian Farmer	9
Upcoming Events Around District	9
News From TRC Berea	10
Membership Minute	11
Membership Minute cont'd	12
Youth Exchange Students	13
Sydney Convention Info	14
Sydney Convention Info cont'd	15

## Governor's Letter

My year as District Governor which I sometimes felt would never get here, has not only gotten here, but is almost 2 months gone! That old saying about "time flies when you're having fun" must be true. I am thoroughly enjoying my club visits. I have completed 25% of them and have all but 10 left to schedule for the coming months. It is truly enjoyable to see the different "personalities" of the various clubs. Some are loud and boisterous and others are very calm and easy going, just like the many great Rotarians I meet along the way. I continue to be amazed at the variety and sheer numbers of projects and activities going on in District 6630. We are alive and well! The only problem that I have observed is that some of the smaller clubs have sort of bogged down. With a small work force, it is sometimes difficult to plan large and effective fund raisers and therefore the size of the club's budget restricts their spending and activities. I wish we could fuse them with a large club for a month or two and transfer some of the energy I see in a larger club with many committees and projects going on. This is not an easy question to address but I would like to suggest something that has worked for my home club, RC of Burton-Middlefield when planning fund raisers. When our Pancakes in March event

got to be too much work for our 40 member club we reached out to our Interact Club, high school seniors that needed community service hours and, yes, the local Kiwanis Club. They all supply some of the manpower to staff our fundraiser and we help the Kiwanis at their fish fries in the fall. The Interact members earn some money for their activities and the high school seniors get a great exposure to community service and many of the ideals of Rotary. We also have fun and get to spread a little Rotary image around the community. Creativity must be part of the process.

We are planning an exciting and different Foundation Event for Nov. 9th this year. Information should be out within the month but please set that date aside. Our membership and foundation seminars are now scheduled over the next 10 weeks. Al Conners, Tony Corrao, co-chairs of the membership committee and Cheryl Warren, our DGN and annual fund chair, have put in many hours and worked very hard to make these sessions informative and productive. Please make sure you or someone in your club takes advantage and attends these events. It's all about your club!

I could not be more proud of our new staff on Youth Exchange. These people have

stepped up and helped prepare for another group of young people to take advantage of a life changing opportunity. Even though the group is small this year, the work has been just as extensive. Our incoming youth will attend an orientation on August 24th. at Rex Lake at the Akron Rotary Camp. Here they will get to interact with and develop relationships with host families, counselors and Youth Exchange officers and prepare for their year in the USA.

Rick Pollak our new District Secretary is working diligently on this year's directory and feels it will be ready next month if all goes well. It goes without saying that developing the directory takes a great deal of time and effort. I appreciate all District 6630 Rotarians that have responded in a timely fashion to Rick's requests for information. If you have not responded, you may find incorrect, incomplete or missing information about your club in the directory that could cause problems down the road. We are making every effort to keep these situations to a minimum. Please do him the courtesy of responding as quickly as possible for all requests for information.

As I did in July/August I have prepared a district calendar of club events and fund raisers for September/October. Hopeful-

## Governor's Letter cont'd

ly Mike Johns Jr., our District Newsletter publisher, can format it and include it in this issue of the newsletter. If not we will get it out to you and the clubs some other way. I have included information on all events that were submitted to me, so if I missed something for your club, I'm sorry. Attending a neighboring club's event or fund raiser is a great way to meet and interact with other Rotarians that share your interest in our great organization and, inevitably, have a lot of fun at the same time! To add some excitement and incentive to attending

these neighboring club's events, I will award the top three people who attend the most District 6630 and/or club events free tickets to the fabulous Burton-Middlefield Pancake Breakfasts which will take place every Sunday in March 2014. Four tickets will be awarded to the top event attendee and two each to the others. Keep track and e-mail me by 2/15/2014. And by the way; remember the first line of the

4-WAY Test!

Bob Johnson

District Governor

District 6630 - 2013/2014



## Prayers Sought for Injured Rotarian

All Rotarians - District Governor Bob Johnson is asking for prayers for this year's president of the RC of Burton-Middlefield, Rich Newsome and his wife Donna who were involved in a very serious motorcycle accident in New York state on Saturday 8/17. They were both life-flighted and Rich is still in ICU at a Syracuse Hospital. He has undergone several operations and has more scheduled today and tomorrow. At this point it appears he will make it, but it will be a long road to recovery. His wife, Donna, was flown to another hospital with multiple broken bones.

We are asking for prayers from our Rotary family. Please do not send any correspondence to their home as they have no children and live alone and obviously will not be home for a while. Any contact can be made through me or the District Treasurer, Tracy Jemison at P. O. Box 578 - Burton, OH - 44021 or: tjemison@adelphia.net  
Bob Johnson  
District Governor - Dist. 6630 - 2013/2014

## Shelter Warmth & Dignity

Rotary PDG Jack Young and Board member of the Board member of Shelter Box USA, an affiliate of the International Shelter Box Disaster Relief Organization, spent 10 days representing the organization at the 2013 Scouting Jamboree. This year's Jamboree involved over 40,000 youth and adult leaders from throughout the United States and a number of foreign countries.

In addition to being a past advisor for the Venture Scouting group in Ashtabula County, Ohio he is also a member of the International Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians and a Ohio Representative for the Fellowship.

This year's participants in the Jamboree will be creating history as the first visitors to the wonderful new Scott Summit Center. This year's scouts and adult leaders experienced history at the first time Jamboree at its new permanent home in the beautiful mountains of West Virginia. During the week and one half event, participants had the opportunity to experience high adventure like they have never seen before.

According to Wayne Brock, Chief Scout executive, the new home of the Jamboree boasts world class cross country bike trails (27 miles worth) and mountain bike tracks that will challenge bikers of all skill levels.. There are more than 28,000 feet of zip lines, an X Games - Quality skate park, a set of breathtaking canopy tours and the Rocks, a system of man-made

walls that brings the best rock climbing of the nearby New River Gorge right to your door step.

The Summit also has the best sporting course in the country and world class archery ranges. Along with this scouts had the opportunity to earn all types of merit badges. The 2013 National Scout Jamboree is the most extreme, high venture Jamboree ever.

In addition to various activities, the 2013 Jamboree was set up to allow registered participants the opportunity to try a little bit of everything. All scouts were automatically slotted for the Messengers of Peace

Day of Service, a full day trek to Garden Mountain and some time at Technology Quest. Along with this, Scouts participated in a number of community improvement projects in and around neighboring towns.

All adult participants and volunteers were housed in 4 person tents with scouts living in their tents at 7 major sub camps on the new land donated by the Bechtel family. According to Young, "The new Jamboree site is truly a tremendous opportunity for all young people to experience the scouting organization and in future years the Jamboree will become even more exciting for all scouts and their volunteer leaders." For more information on the Shelter Box Organization and its partnership with Scouting, please contact Jack Young in Brunswick at

Jack1villa@aol.com.



# Christina Paschyn, Former Ambassadorial Scholar Visits TRC Parma

By Ron Bryski, PADG

As Parma Rotary's ambassadorial scholarship chairman, I first had contact with Christina Paschyn in late February, 2007, when she sent me an e-mail and expressed an interest in becoming a Rotary "ambassador of goodwill" and an interest in pursuing her graduate studies abroad.

Christina Paschyn, of Ukrainian-American decent, was a 2003 graduate of Parma Senior High School and resided locally in Parma with her parents. Her twin sister, Larissa, is a former Fulbright Scholar who studied in the Ukraine, got a job there, married an Australian man, and then moved to China to teach English to the Chinese.

In December, 2007, Christina received her Master of Science degree, after receiving her Bachelor's degree, in broadcast journalism from the Medill school of journalism at northwestern university. While at Northwestern, she studied abroad at the American University in Cairo, Egypt in 2005. She also was a business reporter and webcaster for the Medill news service and a member of the kappa tau journalism honor society. Christina was also president of the northwestern society of professional journalists in 2006-2007.

Her journalism experiences included:

-serving as a broadcast reporter for e news in Johannesburg, South Africa from March through June in 2006.

-working as a Washington, D.C. correspondent for KVRR TV in Fargo, North Dakota

from June through August, 2007.

-obtaining experience as a reporter and video editor for time magazine in London, England from September, 2007 through January, 2008.

-functioning as a war correspondent in Israel for Cleveland, Ohio WEWS news channel 5 during the December/January, 2009 Gaza war.

-operating as a war reporter in Israel for CNN, Atlanta Georgia during January, 2009.

Christina was given a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship for 2008-2009 in the amount of \$23,000.00 to study abroad. This was during the Parma Club's 50th anniversary year. The Rotary club of Parma was her sponsor and Iron Bryski, past assistant district governor and two time president of the Parma Rotary club, was her Rotary advisor and mentor. Parma rotary club never had an ambassadorial scholarship winner before and they were very proud of Christina and of their club.

However, there was one very big concern. Christina had chosen to study abroad in Israel.

### Christina in Israel

The good news ... in August, 2009, Christina received an international masters of arts in Middle East studies degree from the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Be'er She-

va, Israel.

But back to the beginning ... when she first arrived at Ben-Gurion University in Israel, Christina received intensive language training in Arabic and Hebrew. She also was a website video producer and English tutor to Bedouin children for NGO Step Forward.

She joined a local English speaking theater group called the light opera group of the Negev and landed the lead role in the group's production of "Guys and Dolls". She was made an honorary member of the Be'er Sheva Rotary Club. Ron had given her on one of their club's Rotary flags to exchange with that club's president.

Then it started ...the Israeli/Gaza war.

There were rocket attacks daily by the Hamas and Palestinian militants. Christina spent many hours in bomb shelters ... eventually she had to flee the city. She provided ongoing interviews to a local Cleveland TV station, even to a station in San Diego.

The Parma club feared for her life ... what had we sent her to? What can we do from so many

miles away? Her parents who lived locally were, of course, deeply concerned. But then it suddenly ended with a tenuous cease fire. Classes resumed ... Christina was safe.

### An International Project

Within the first few months of her stay, Christina was taken under the wing of Be'er Sheva Rotarian president-elect, Nathan Noach, and his wife, Ruth, who are both originally from Holland, and who served as her "host family" while she was in Israel.

Nathan is a survivor of the Auschwitz concentration camp. Ruth was a survivor of the war years by running and hiding among family friends.

A few years ago, a local high school in Be'er Sheva produced an excellent documentary, titled "Between Pain & Longing", chronicling Nathan's and Ruth's experiences during the holocaust. The documentary is in Hebrew but includes Dutch subtitles, which was funded by a Rotary Club in the Netherlands.

Since Christina only had a basic comprehension of Hebrew, Nathan and Ruth orally translated the documentary for her. She found it so moving that she became determined to help Nathan in his efforts to add English subtitles to the film. To achieve this, Christina contacted her sponsor

**\*\*EDITOR'S NOTE\*\***  
**BE SURE TO MOVE YOUR CURSOR OVER THE GRAPHICS OR PICTURES FOUND IN THIS DOCUMENT... MANY OF THEM ARE LINKS TO VIDEOS, WEBSITES, PICTURES OR OTHER GOODIES**



Cont'd on pg. 4

## Christina Paschyn, cont'd

sor club advisor and mentor, Ron Bryski. Together they were able to persuade the rotary club of Parma to fund the English translation of the documentary as an international project for their club. Once completed, it was sent to the Holocaust Institute in Washington, D.C. and then distributed to high schools across the United States.

Ultimately, the purpose of this International Project was to educate people about what actually happened in the holocaust through the stories and recollections of individuals who experienced it first hand, and to challenge the misconception that mostly eastern European Jews were affected by Hitler's extermination policies. For instance, few know that in Holland more than 80% of the country's Jews were killed in the holocaust, making it second only to Poland to have had the most Jews murdered by the Nazis.

### Christina after Israel

In August, 2009, Christina graduated with an international Master of Arts degree in Middle East studies from the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Be'er Sheva, Israel. She spent the next 3 months in Edinburgh, Scotland, visiting her boyfriend, Alex, a Ukrainian-Scotsman, who she had met 3 years previously, back in Parma, at a Ukrainian festival, while Alex was visiting the country.

Christina returned to the US in late 2009 and took a job with Reuter's News Service in Washington, D.C. that was followed by a job at the Pulitzer Center on crisis reporting in Washington. She and Alex became engaged and they were married in September, 2011, in a castle in Scotland.

To the chagrin of her parents, with one daughter now living in China, Christina and Alex presently live in Dohar, Qatar, where she is a journalism professor at the Northwestern University Extension in Qatar.

Christina, joined by her husband, Alex, visited the Parma Rotary Club in early August as a guest speaker. She spoke on her new life in Dohar, Qatar. Some of her comments are:

"Doha is the capital of Qatar. There are 2 million people in the country and only 15% are citizens. It is very multi-cultural. Oil and gas is the biggest industry with education being the second. Doha is the home of Education City, where Christina resides. They are trying to be the education hub of the Middle East. There are 6 universities in Qatar and Harvard Law School will have an extension in a couple of years. 85% of the students at the universities are women. There is free health insurance and low crime. But there are Human Rights issues with South Asian migrant workers in construction due to

worker exploitation and forced labor. Qatar is also the "Fattest" country in the world since the country is very wealthy. McDonalds, KFC, and other fast food franchises deliver!"

Christina concluded her visit by announcing that she recently signed a new 3 year extension to continue teaching at Northwestern University in Dohar and that she now intends to pursue a PhD. Degree.

Although the Ambassadorial Scholarship is no longer offered by RI, this scholarship represented Rotary's faith that promising students would become tomorrow's leaders and would make substantial contributions both to their communities and to the world by serving as "ambassadors of goodwill". Thus this Ambassadorial Scholarship Program really did support the mission of the Rotary Foundation to further international understanding and world peace.

**2013 Annual Collard Green Cook-Off & Art Festival**  
 Snickerfritz Cultural Workshop for the Arts, Inc.  
 A non-profit Art Scholarship Fundraiser

**Music - Fun - Food**  
**Collard Green Cook-Off Contest**  
**JAZZ Entertainment**  
**Fashion Show**  
**Gospel**

**Tickets \$15**  
(3 samples of collards, sides & beverage)  
 Tickets purchased by August 15<sup>th</sup> will receive a \$5 discount

**Saturday, September 28, 2013**  
**10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**  
 13240 Euclid Ave. (UC East Area)  
 E. Cleveland, Ohio 44112

for more information  
 Please Call 216-851-6910 or 216-681-7572  
**VENDORS & COOK-OFF Contestants WELCOME!!**  
\* Proceeds to benefit Art scholarships for students

**Lou Groza Charity Golf Event**

Sept. 5  
 Coppertop at Cherokee Hills  
 Shotgun Start 9 a.m.



\$99 per person  
 For more information:  
 Contact Chuck Stanko, (440) 572-2090  
[chuckshero@aol.com](mailto:chuckshero@aol.com)  
[www.grozacharitygolf.com](http://www.grozacharitygolf.com)

Items for raffle baskets are needed, especially golf items.  
 If you have a raffle item to contribute or if you have a suggestion on a business we can contact, please notify

Kathy Olmeda  
 (440) 234-7174  
[krolmeda@att.net](mailto:krolmeda@att.net)

Ball Drop Chances \$5  
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## TRC Kent

It is a pleasure to announce that the Kent Rotary Club is awarding the "Foundation for Oklahoma Rotary" a check for \$2,750 for relief aid to the Bi-district Tornado Disaster Fund. These funds were from a special collection during our annual Kent Rotary Auction, chaired by Rebekah Wright. Pictured in the attachment is John Ryan, Pres. Kent Rotary Foundation, Dan Smith 2013 Past Club President, Joe Giancola, Present Club President and Rebekah Wright.

Thank you,  
Nelson W. Burns



## Medina Sunrise Welcomes Eli

"Welcome home, Eli!" greeted John Ross, president of the Medina Sunrise Rotary Club, to Elijah Turk who had spent a year in Norway living with host families and attending school as a Rotary Youth Exchange Student.

Eli, a Senior at Medina High School,



spoke about his life-changing experiences during his exchange year in Molde, Norway, a city with about the same population as Medina. Accompanied by his parents Brian and Jami Turk, Eli thanked Ralph Waite, John Kanieski, Jeff D'Annolfo and Medina Sunrise Rotary for helping him to learn a new way of living, a new culture and language, and a great deal about himself ~ while making some good friends in the process.

## Former Medina Sunrise Rotarian Brings Service to Ecuador

Dear Rotarians and Friends,

This email conveys the wonderful news that Dr. Michael Medgyessy (past Medina Sunrise Rotarian) and his wife Marlene will leave Tuesday for their new home and new lives in Ecuador!

Following Mike and Marlene's visit to Dr. Andres Bello\* in Ecuador earlier this summer, in which they donated medical supplies from MEDWISH and personal supplies for children from Medina WALMART (thanks to Chorey and Maggie Howell) to our Rotaract Club in Portoviejo, Mike sold his medical practice in Canada and Strongsville



and bought a home and rural medical clinic in Crucita, Ecuador.

Crucita is located just 20 miles east of Manta, where Andres is a surgeon at Hospital Rodriguez - Zambrano, and 20 miles north of Portoviejo, where Andres is a professor at Medicina y Cirugia at UTM.

## TRC Jefferson Poker Run

On Sept 14th the Rotary Club of Jefferson will host a bike/skate/run/walk poker run on the Western Reserve Greenway (bike trail). The event will start at 9 am and entries must be finished by 12 noon.. The cost of entry is \$10.00. 40 % of the purse will be paid in prize money with a guaranteed amount of \$100 for high hand and \$50 for low hand. Entrant may start at any one of 5 points along the trail; Herzog Rotary Park in Ashtabula, Old Austinburg Rd, Austinburg Rt 307, Lampson Rd., and Eagleville-Jefferson Rd. Parking is available at all locations. Distances of 0 - 26 miles can be covered. Proceeds will benefit the Rotary scholarship fund and the Greenway Tail Bike Patrol. For details contact [jstevenson121@yahoo.com](mailto:jstevenson121@yahoo.com).

Please join me in extending our blessings, best personal regards and support for Mike and Marlene in Ecuador as they "Engage Rotary and Change Lives."

Sincerely yours in the Family of Rotary International,

David

\*Dr. Andres Bello, M.D., was a Rotary International Youth Exchange Student who graduated from Medina High School and became president of the Rotaract Club of Portoviejo, ECUADOR and then Rotaract Governor General. He is an Honorary Medina Sunrise Rotarian, a Paul Harris Fellow - Level 2, and a recipient of the McClintock Award for Service Above Self.

el 2, and a recipient of the McClintock Award for Service Above Self.

## TRC Shaker Hits Garage Sale

The Shaker Heights is having a garage sale / fund raiser on Saturday September 7th at 2178 South Overlook Road.

We are targeting the normal stuff but with an emphasis of items that College students may need as they set up apartments.

Items can be dropped off at Maria Kaiser's house, 2178 S Overlook, but you must call first, her number is 229 4130, or you can call me, John Sobotincic at 321 1443 or c-330 416 9383. I can also pick up any items you may have.

Our deadline for items is by noon on Friday September 6th as we will be setting up for the sale then.

Our goal is to raise funds for our International project in Honduras.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and assistance with this effort,

John Sobotincic



## Rotary International Revamps Website

Dear Rotary Club Officer,

For nearly two years, we've been working to refresh and revitalize Rotary's website and in just a few days, your new website will be unveiled to our members and the public. We are set to launch on August 26th, and in anticipation of this exciting event, I am reaching out to the leaders of our organization and asking you to join me in being champions and advocates for this wonderful new tool.

Each of you plays a key leadership role in your club and with its members. We want to highlight the many positive aspects of the new website and ease any initial concerns that may arise as you and the members of your club familiarize yourselves with the new site.

I've had the opportunity to speak directly with RI President Ron D. Burton about the upcoming launch and he has expressed his enthusiasm and support for the many improvements being made. We hope to make the transition to the new online experience as smooth as possible.

We want to draw attention to a few key features of the new website that we think you will find most helpful as you field questions from Rotarians in the coming weeks.

Two distinct versions of the website

My Rotary (for members)

- All members will be encouraged to register and sign in when visiting the site. Members will be able to bet-

ter engage through their own customized experience based on their interests, and conduct their Rotary business more easily than ever before.

- The new website will eliminate the need for the Member Access Portal (MAP). Those currently registered in MAP will simply be prompted to re-register when first visiting the site and will then be able to access tools previously located in MAP, such as the ability to edit club data, use Rotary Club Central, etc.

Rotary.org (for the general public)

- The public site tells our story to external audiences in a fresh, streamlined way, encouraging people to get to know Rotary and learn about all the great work Rotarians are doing all over the world.

Find what you need!

- The website has been entirely rebuilt, grouping items more logically. Testing has confirmed that user experience is cleaner and more streamlined than what is offered today. For example, tools that help you manage your Rotary business—such as running reports—are now conveniently located under a tab called “Manage.”

- The website's “search” engine is now powered by Google, making locating documents, articles and tools much easier.

Important changes

- “Contact this Club” – Visitors to the site can submit

a request online to learn more about a specific club and membership. The RI Board has requested that an email be automatically sent to the District Governor and Membership Chair to notify you of this request, they will then follow up as appropriate with the club.

- Rotary Foundation Grants – Many of you have already visited the Rotary Grants microsite and all it has to offer. That functionality will now be merged into the new site so everything you need will be in one place.

- Security – As part of the new launch, we are also adopting industry leading security measures to manage your IDs and passwords. To facilitate this transition, any MAP user who logged in within the last year will go through an abbreviated re-registration process.

- Browsers – The new website uses some of the latest browser capabilities and because of that, visitors to the site will need to be on modern browsers. Whatever browser you prefer to use, we recommend you upgrade to the latest version to have the best experience possible.

As we head into the final days before the new website launches, I want to remind us all that with any major launch, we can anticipate a few minor issues early on as we make the transition, so I kindly ask for your patience and request that you encourage the same from those who

may experience some technical setbacks in the first few days after launch. Explore the new site and provide us with your feedback on your experience. Encourage your fellow members to do the same. The more feedback you can give us, the more we can do to ensure your online experience is a positive one. We hope you enjoy your experience on the new website and look forward to hearing your thoughts.

## Nigerian Rotarian Alex Oakafor and Family Visit District 6630

“Nordia Hills Rotary Meeting of 8-6-13 was about Nigeria, Rotary and the Oakafor's. PDG Bob Prevette opened the meeting presentation with Highlights of Nigerias Geography, History, and Current conditions along with the picture time line for Eight Years of Friendship with Alex and his family. Past RI Director Mike Johns Spoke Of RI Grant Generated Water Well In Cano, Nigeria Dedicated to His Past Wife Nickie who Mike and PDG Steve Zabor Visited for Its Dedication. Alex wrapped up the Meeting with the Status of Polio Plus.

Nordia Hills Meeting Special Attendees were Barb Frye Medina, Nancy Eisenhart (Barb Frye's Mother) PAG Stan Socha Brunswick Club, Penny Socha, PDG Jim Frame Mantua Club, PDG Stew Buchanan Akron Club, Cheryl Buchanan, PDG Steve Zabor Mantua Club, PDG Julie West Cleveland Club, Hudson Rotary Past President Jimmie "Inky" Sutphin, Past International Director Mike Johns Cleveland Club, Caroline Prevette, Alex Oakafor, Bertha Oakafor, Barbara Oakafor, & Joe Gambitta. PDG Al and Mary Connors were out of town and unable to attend.

PDG Bob Prevette Introduced The Guests. Many of these folks have known and met personally or have heard of Alex and the Oakafor's for several years.

It was a special time for Alex for all coming to be with the Oakafor's. Barbara Oakafor Graduated from The University Of Prince Edward Island Charlottetown Prince Edward Island, Canada In 2012 with a

Degree in Business. Her two Bothers Ken & Alex Jr are currently enrolled there also.

Barbara Frye had responded direct to Alex from his kindly remarks as she had planned to be with us As Our Guest speaker this past 6-11-13 at Nordonia Hills Rotary. She communicated directly with Alex by e-mail and gave him an Autographed Copy of Her Book, "Stop Wishing for The life You do Not have ,Start Living The Life you Do", noting in her writing, Alex Save Lunch for me on your Next Visit here which he did and she came again from Medina to be with him!

Inky, Jimmie Sutphin has heard so much about Alex and with the many Rotary Friend attendees Inky wanted to be at the meeting with, Stan & Penny, Stew and Cheryl Steve, Julie, Jim & Mike who have been with us and the Oakafor's throughout the years re International Conventions and Zone breakfasts.

PDG Audrey Chevalier District 6380 Chatham, Ontario who has been at our Nordonia Hills Rotary Club and our dear friend sent her Best Wishes to All by E-mail the day of The Meeting.

A real proud time for Alex, his family and the Nordonia Hills Rotary Club having these visitors that included five Past District Governors and a Past RI Director.

Many of our Nordonia Hills Club members were here at our 5-22-12 Rotary meeting that Alex and Bertha attended.

The other Aspect is the respect for a Rotarian and his Family

Internationally. It's that a Rotary

Club, Nordonia Hills Ohio 26 members, some 5,750 miles to Benin City Nigeria Rotary Club 30

Members, Imagine Two Rotary Clubs with in Rotary Internationals 34,000 Clubs of 1.2 Million Rotarians, and District 6630 leaders with some 640 Worldwide Districts who have come together again to be with Nigeria District 9140 re Alex and his family. So indeed it's great that the Oakafor's and their friends could once again be together.

Alex is a Christian, family man, father, businessman, one of three remaining Charter Members of the Rotary Club of Oregbeni, Benin City, Nigeria District 9140 Chartered in 1985. Currently this club has 28 Members. Alex a 28 year Rotarian, Club President in 1997-98, A RI Foundation Major Donor and has attended 11 Rotary International Conventions from 2002 to 2012.

PDG Bob Prevette and Caroline first met the Oakafor's at The RI Centennial Convention in Chicago in June of 2005. One of the Oakafor's (then) "little" Sons, Alex was sitting at Mc Donald's in McCormick Place with his family. Bob said to Caroline do you think his parents will care if I gave him a Rotary Pin. That was the start of a life long lasting friendship. We later spent time in the House of Friendship with them.

Alex's Response from our first meeting in Chicago... Alex's First E-mail 7-10-2005:

HI, IT IS NICE MEETING YOU. HOPING OUR RELATIONSHIP WOULD ENDURE. I SHALL ALWAYS BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU.WARM REGARD TO YOUR FAMILY AND THANKS. ROTARIAN ALEX OKAFOR.

Endure It Did: July 2013 8 Years and Still Going. RI Conventions 6 Together-Chicago 05, Copenhagen 06, Salt Lake City 07, Los Angeles 08, Montreal 10, & New Orleans 11. Zone Breakfasts & River Trips

Mega E-mails USA Visits May 2012 & August 2013



Alex Oakafor



Rear L to R: PDG Stew Buchanan Akron Club, Past President Jimmie Sutphin Hudson Club, Past President Robin Bugenske Nordonia Hills Club, PAG Stan Socha Brunswick Club, PDG Steve Zabor's Mantua Club, Nancy Eisenhart Barb Frye's Mother, Bertha Oakafor, PDG Jim Frame Mantua Club, Caroline Prevette, Alex Oakafor , PDG Bob Prevette Nordonia Hills Club. Front Row L to R: Penny Socha, Sylvia Hanneken President Nordonia Hills Rotary Club, PDG Julie West Cleveland Club, Mike Johns Past Rotary International Director Cleveland Club, Barbara Frye, Cheryl Buchanan, & Barbara Oakafor





Pictured are Ingrid and Irina Vatamanu and an elderly Romanian Farmer and her new cow which was purchased with money raised by the Lakewood High School Interact Club. Irina Vatamanu is the current president of the Interact Club at Lakewood High School. She went to Romania during the month of June with my sister, Ingrid Vatamanu, who founded the Lakewood High School Interact Club. She explained, "previous to our departure my grandmother told our mother of an elderly lady in their village, whose cow had recently died. She depended on this cow to get her milk and cheese to sell, in order to make a living. After giving it some thought my mom, sister, and I decided that we would try to buy her a new one, even though the price of a cow came to be about \$650." Club members contacted their sponsoring Lakewood Rocky River Rotary clubs. Their members donated money. With the help of young ladies' church, Michael Abraham and Maryann Hanson of Hanson Services, and Marty Harris, member of the Sunrise Club and the Rotarian responsible for starting an Interact Club at Lakewood High School, the Club was able to raise enough money to buy a cow. When Ingrid and Irina went to Romania they bought a cow and delivered it to the lady. She said that she thought she would die before she witnessed this. She said she wakes up in the middle of the night and goes to see the cow and can't believe it. This is just a sample of the many service activities that are planned and organized by the dedicated and service oriented members of Interact clubs with the help of the local Rotary Clubs.

Here is a list of District events and fundraisers for Sept. and Oct. 2013 that were submitted upon request. As you can see we have a very active district with lots to do. If your club has nothing planned for the date, please take advantage of some of these other fun and exciting activities with your neighboring clubs and meet some great Rotarians at the same time!!

**NFL FOOTBALL POOLS - Ongoing**

1. Stow-Munroe Falls - Bob Oborn - boborn@kentelastomer.com

2. Northampton Twp. - wcDavis@att.net Walt Davis

**8/31 GOLF BALL DROP - Summer Sunset Blast - Stow-Munroe Falls**

\$5. Per ball - \$20. For 5 Balls dropped from 100 ft. crane to target

1st. \$1000. 2nd. \$500. 3rd. \$250 for closest to target contact Annie Hanson - 330-730-6424

**9/3 LOU GROZA CHARITY GOLF OUTING - Berea - Cherokee Hills G. C.**

Golf with Cleve. Browns Alumni 8:00 AM registration 9:00 AM start Contact Chuck Stanko - chuckshero@aol.com or grozacharitygolf.com \$99. Includes GPS cart, breakfast, lunch at turn, dinner, much more

**9/7 ROTARY GARAGE SALE - RC of Shaker Hts. Garage sale of a vast amount of valuable "stuff" - Household items & much more. 2178 S. Overlook Rd. - Cleveland, OH**

**9/14 ANNUAL PIG ROAST - Brunswick - Eagles Club Pavilion Opens at 4:30 349 Pearl Rd. - Brunswick Dinner at 6:00 music & dancing \$1000. Grand prize Contact Bill Wilkinson 330-220-5494**

**9/15 BEDFORD ROTARY 10K RUN - Bedford - Amy DiMarco -**

Amydan16@windstream.net  
330-573-8254

**9/26 18TH. GOLF OUTING CHALLENGE (THURS) - Westlake-Bay Village**

Sweetbriar Golf Club Avon - Registration/lunch - noon Dinner/awards 6:00 PM Sponsorship Opportunities

Contact: Jim Strunk 440-617-0588

**9/28 AKRON ROTARY CLUB REGATTA - A chance to see the beautiful new Akron Rotary Camp - Great food & cocktails, boat rides, entertainment, Auction and finally FIREWORKS!!! - contact: Lance Chima 330-867-4770 lance@chimatravel.net**

9/29 DOCUMENTARY FILM FEST 5K RUN - Chagrin Valley Rotary - Run

**9/29 DOCUMENTARY FILM FEST 5K RUN - Chagrin Valley Rotary - Run**

Through beautiful Chagrin Falls - Proceeds go to Leukemia & Lymphoma Society - Contact Mark Besand 440-567-2397 bykrdad@gmail.com

**10/5 CHAGRIN DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL - Chagrin Valley**

Gala Dinner & Awards Ceremony "Rotary goes Hollywood" Proceeds benefit El Porvenir water projects in Nicaragua Info: Lori O'neill loneillpost1@aol.com

**10/6 CHARITY BALL - KIRTLAND COUNTRY CLUB - Willoughby**

Contact Linda Wise

lwise@fineartsassociation.org 216-965-9518

**10/13 SAVOR-THE-FLAVOR - Strongsville Bart James - 440-537-6739**

4:00 to 8:00 PM Petitti's Garden Center Strongsville - Proceeds Benefit the local Food Bank and other Rotary projects - Food from 25 Strongsville and surrounding area restaurants.

**10/12 & 10/13 - ASHTABULA COUNTY COVERED BRIDGE FESTIVAL - Jefferson**

Ashtabula County Fairgrounds - Jefferson, Ohio RC of Jefferson serving the best BEAN SOUP in America

**10/16 STOW-MUNROE FALLS REVERSE RAFFLE - Guy's Party Center**

500 E. Waterloo Rd. - Akron - cocktails 6:30 dinner 7:45 cash bar \$125 per couple - \$3000. Top cash prize - Also: silent auction Contact: Bob Oborn-boborn@kentelastomer.com 330-689-0485

**10/26 North Ridgeville Night at the Races - RC of No. Ridgeville**

VFW Post 9871 - 6805 Lear Nagle Rd. - N. Ridgeville 44039 Dinner 6:00 PM - Races at 7:00 - \$15./person dinner/beer/pop

## News From TRC Berea

### Oz Arey honored at annual Steak Roast



At Berea Rotary's annual steak roast, long-time member Oz Arey was presented with an Honorary Rotary Membership as he and his wife, Kathryn, prepare to move to Chicago. Oz joined Rotary in 1980 and is very proud of his perfect attendance. To make sure that's never a problem, President Matthew Lombardi gave Oz his Honorary Rotary pin with a special attachment marking his 33 years of continuous membership. Oz, 86, is a retired salesman and a veteran of World War II. He also served on Berea City Council for many years.



### Rotarian recognized on 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his business

Berea Mayor Cyril Kleem presented a proclamation to Rudi and Joan Kamper of Suburban Clock on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their business. The Kampers celebrated with Clocktoberfest, a daylong com-

munity event in downtown Berea with German music and food, a raffle of a grandfather clock and a vintage car show. Rudi Kamper is past president of Berea Rotary, a Paul Harris Fellow and a generous contributor to many Rotary projects. He is a native of Germany and helped found Suburban Clock with his uncle. The mayor named Saturday, Aug. 10 as Clocktoberfest Day in Berea.

### Berea Rotary inducts two new members

Berea Rotary welcomes two new members. Bob Quayle was reinstated after serving his second stint in the Army. Bob, who lives in Olmsted Falls, owns the UPS store in West Valley Plaza in Berea. His original sponsor was Al Tadych, who was represented by Bob Hammer at the ceremony. Bob Quayle said his last assignment with the Army was as an intelligence analyst and he was part of the team that helped hunt down Osama bin Laden.

Nick Kinasz of Parma is a graduate of Ashland University. He is a clinical systems analyst with The Cleveland Clinic and was sponsored by Jeremy Rexroad, who also works at The Clinic. Nick says his hobbies are football, basketball, fishing and cars.



Bob Quayle



Nick Kinasz



PDG Julie West presents awards to Berea Rotary  
Past District Governor Julie West paid a visit to the Rotary

Club of Berea on Aug. 13 to present the A.Z. Baker Award as well as several other awards to club members.

She presented Bill Beyer with his 50-year pin. Bill joined Berea Rotary on Aug. 1, 1963. His sponsor was the late Leland S. Asling, founder of the Asling-Hoffman Insurance Agency - now the Hoffman Group, from which Bill retired. He also is a Marine Corps veteran.

Julie also honored Bob Hugel and Judy Stull for their many years working at the District 6630 level with Youth Exchange Students.

Receiving Certificates of Achievement were Marc West, for his work with RYLA; Linda Kramer, as district public image chair; and PDG Dave Skrzynski, for his help organizing the district conference and chairing the grants committee.



## Membership Minute

August 2013

### Get ready for Membership Month

Last year's Membership and Extension Month was a big success. Rotarians from more than 400 districts in over 100 countries committed to membership goals. And members from every continent tweeted their favorite #RotaryMoment. So this year, we're going to challenge you to do even more.

Join the Membership Thunderclap and plug Rotary's goal of connecting leaders and creating change in communities around the world. Thunderclap is an online tool that lets you share a single message with a mass audience through Facebook and Twitter. It's a simple way to reach a wide group of people. [Learn](#) how you can be part of our Thunderclap.

We're also inviting you once again to participate in our Membership Challenge. Simply complete a brief [online form](#) and set your membership goal, and we'll send you tips and best practices to help you accomplish your objectives. Possible goals:

- refer a new member
- invite a family member to attend a club meeting or activity
- ask a friend or colleague to take part in a service project
- reconnect with alumni
- engage young leaders through Interact, Rotaract, or RYLA

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### Are you interested in a club makeover?

The Young Professionals Campaign is looking for clubs to participate. The campaign was created in 2012 to help Rotary clubs and districts learn strategies for attracting and engaging young professionals and sharing Rotary's message.

From working with Rotary districts during the first phase of the campaign, we learned that combining service and social activities is a great way to appeal to young professionals. We also learned that clubs can generate interest in their activities by promoting them through social media and word of mouth.

Now we want to see how the campaign can help at the club level. Clubs that join the campaign will choose one of three areas in which to work on appealing to young professionals:

1. A special event (service project or networking event)
2. Club meetings (club culture assessment)
3. Online presence (club website or Facebook page)

Cont'd on pg. 12 

If selected for the program, your club will receive a number of benefits that support the option you've chosen:

- a grant
- access to webinars with experts on member engagement, public relations, social media outreach, and cross-generational communication
- templates for print and online advertising
- an online assessment tool to monitor your club's progress

Invitations including links for clubs to apply will be emailed to all US Rotary leaders in early fall.

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### Regional membership plans update

The regional membership plans initiative has kicked off its second year. Regions around the world are developing and submitting their plans for the 2013-14 Rotary year now. Last year, regions created a variety of strategies to attract new members, including creating an online "club health check" resource, developing partnerships with other organizations, and inviting alumni to join an e-club.

Once all of the regional membership plans are approved, they'll be made available to all Rotarians. In the meantime, a new [graphic](#) explains regional membership plans and how you can get involved.

### Membership Resources

[Telling Your Story Resource Kit](#)

[Membership Development Resource Guide \(417\)](#)

[New Member Orientation: A How-to Guide for Clubs \(414\)](#)

[How to Propose a New Member \(254\)](#)

[Rotary Basics Online](#)

[Club Brochure Templates](#)

[Leadership Development: Your Guide to Starting a Program \(250\)](#)

[Be a Vibrant Club: Your Club Leadership Plan \(245\)](#)

[Club Membership Committee Manual \(228b\)](#)

[More Membership Resources](#)

## Learning abroad cultivates growth in NR student, Brazilian counterpart

By Scott Patake  
spatsko@sunnews.com

Prior to this past school year, Evan Vargo and Vitor Sano were able to spend a couple weeks together. The two participants in the Broadview Heights/North Royalton Rotary Club Outbound Exchange Program were almost trading places, with Sano, from Brazil, living with Vargo's family in North Royalton, and Vargo headed to Brazil.

Now, 10 months later, they cross paths again, with Vargo returning home June 24 and Sano set to do the same July 13.

Both complete the exchange program different people than when they began.

"I learned many new ideas and new ways that people live, just a new perspective on my part," said Vargo, 16, who will be a senior at North Royalton High School this year. "I've made lots of friends from so many different countries."

Sano, 18, won't have to return to high school in Brazil. Instead, he will be looking for a college. He feels the exchange program experience made him grow up.

"(The Vargos) did a lot to make my experience the best possible. I faced all these challenges they imposed on me, and in the school. I met new people and I'm speaking a new language. I grew up a lot this year."

Vargo, who spoke Spanish before his time in Brazil, had hoped to be placed in Spain through the exchange program. However, he now feels



Sano



Vargo

he's close to being fluent in Portuguese, the language of Brazil.

While technology such as Skype and Facebook helped both students keep in touch with family and friends back home, Vargo admits he's still getting re-acclimated to the United States after 10 months away.

Sano, on the other hand, tried to keep his contact with family in Brazil to a minimum to stay focused on what he was learning in North Royalton.

"But it was hard not being in touch with them," Sano said. "I missed them a lot. It was really hard."

Both Vargo and Sano hope this isn't their last foray into international studies. Vargo said he would like to study abroad for a semester in college.

"I still don't know where," he said, "but I definitely want to go back to Brazil at some point. I made a lot of good friends."

Sano, meanwhile, has already started looking into scholarship opportunities, some even in the U.S.

"I had such a great experience here that I'd like to do it again," he said.

See more North Royalton news at [cleveland.com/north-royalton](http://cleveland.com/north-royalton).

# G'Day from Sydney



Dear Zone 28 and 29 Leaders -

Sydney, 2014 will be upon us before we know it. We are fortunate that our own PDG Holly Callen is serving on the RI Promotions Committee for the Sydney Convention. She will not only be helping each of us promote the Convention, she has also agreed to chair our "Saturday Night Live in Sydney" fellowship event for ALL Zones 28-29 Convention-goers.

Holly and our Zones 28-29 team of PDGs Cathy Smith, Colleen Wood and George Wood are going to lead all of us on a wonderful adventure as we are "Engaging Rotary. . . Changing Lives" together in Sydney, Australia.

Please encourage every Rotarian you meet to join us in Sydney, June 1-4, 2014. Our Zones 28-29 evening will give all of us the chance to greet old friends and meet new friends—just prior to the opening of the Convention on Sunday. With Holly at the helm, we know that this is a convention that you won't want to miss.

We look forward to seeing you soon and seeing you again in Sydney in 2014.

RID Mary Beth and Alan



Volume 1, Issue 2

August, 2013

## Important Dates

**June 1-4, 2014 —Rotary Sydney Convention**

**Dec. 16, 2013-Increase in registration price**

## Useful Links

Host Committee -

[www.rotary2014.com.au](http://www.rotary2014.com.au)

Tourism—[www.australia.com](http://www.australia.com)

Facebook —

[www.facebook.com/Ricon14](http://www.facebook.com/Ricon14)

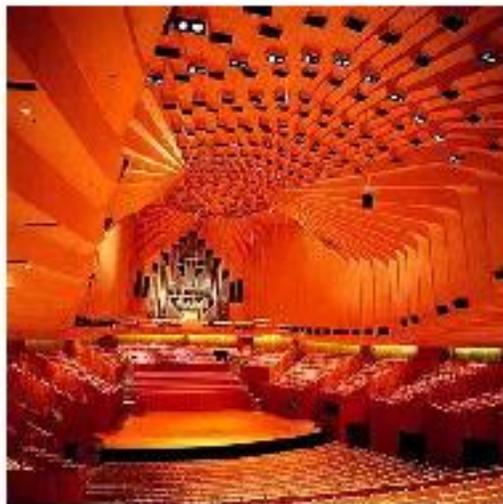
Registration Info—

[www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en.pdf](http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en.pdf)

[z14.registration.form.en.pdf](http://z14.registration.form.en.pdf)

Zone Website Info -

[www.zones28-29.org/sydney-ri-convention-information/](http://www.zones28-29.org/sydney-ri-convention-information/)



## Sydney Opera House Concert

The fabulous Sydney Opera House is the site of the **Monday night Host Organizing Committee Event—a Sydney Symphony Orchestra Concert!**

**Attendance is limited to 2,500** - so be sure to get your tickets early. Go to the Host Committee (HOC) website to register online or print a registration form.

## Zones 28-29 Northland Event "Saturday Night Live in Sydney"



Be a "Wild & Crazy Guy" (or Gal) and kick off the Sydney Convention on May 31st, with the **Zones 28-29 Northland Event "Saturday Night Live in Sydney."** From 5 to 8:30 pm, we will gather at the Dockside, overlooking exciting **Darling Harbor**. We will eat, drink, celebrate Rotary and share a surprise or two!

Following our kickoff party, walk down to Darling Harbor to people watch, eat or drink at one of the many restaurants and bars, or just stroll along the boardwalk. To end the evening, enjoy a beautiful **fireworks display** over the harbor!

Cost—including beer, wine, sodas, food and FUN — only **\$75 per person**

Space is limited. Register online at <http://www.directory-online.com/Rotary/index.cfm?EventID=77209305> or print a registration form from the Zone website.

## Travel Tips

**Tipping is not customary in Australia. The advertised price for a product or service is usually inclusive of tip and tax. So, the price you see is the price you pay. You are welcome to tip if you like, but it is not expected. You might want to just round up your bill.**

## Projects & Fundraising Ideas from “Down Under”



**Graffiti Removal Day** - *Rotary Down Under* is joining with the government of New South Wales and several other large community organizations, including the Scouts and Girl Guides, on Sunday, October 20th to remove graffiti and clean up their communities. Over 520 volunteers participated in last year's Graffiti Removal Day and the turnout this year is expected to be even larger.

*Rotary Down Under* Executive Director Bob Aitken said, “The operation was a great success, with the efforts of volunteers saving the community over half a million dollars in graffiti clean-up costs.” *What a simple way to help your community!*

## Australian Animal Facts

### ***Kangaroo or Wallaby?***

The main difference between a kangaroo and a wallaby is size—wallabies tend to be smaller. Estimates of Australia's kangaroo population vary between 30 and 60 million. You should easily be able to see kangaroos in the wild in most rural parts of Australia.



Wallabies are widespread across Australia, particularly in more remote, rocky and rugged areas. Spot them in South Australia's Flinders Ranges, Tasmania's Freycinet National Park and in Namadgi and Kosciuszko National Parks in the Australian Alps.

### **SPEAK AUSSIE**

**“Billabong”** — *A meeting place or watering hole—as in “G'day Mate. Join me for a cold one in the Billabong House of Friendship.”*

### **QUESTIONS? Contact:**

Promotions Chair - Holly Callen  
612-419-2158  
holly@hcallen.com

Zone 28 Vice-Chair—Cathy Smith  
651-633-6802  
smithcatherine1955@gmail.com

Zone 29 Vice-Chairs—  
Colleen & George Wood - 724-547-8292  
colleen@woodsjewelers.com  
george@woodsjewelers.com

### **Good Eating Aussie Style**



### **Pavlova**

#### INGREDIENTS

4 egg whites  
1 C caster sugar (C&H Baker's Sugar)  
1 tsp lemon juice or vinegar  
2 tsp corn starch

SERVES 10-12

#### METHOD

In small electric mixer bowl, beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Add sugar, lemon juice and sifted corn starch and beat until stiff and glossy (at least 10 minutes).

Cover a baking tray with baking paper. Pile meringue onto paper and shape into a large circle, leaving the center slightly hollowed.

Bake at 275° for 1 hour or until crisp on the outside. Turn off oven and leave Pavlova to cool in the oven with the door ajar.

Decorate with whipped cream and fruit in season.