

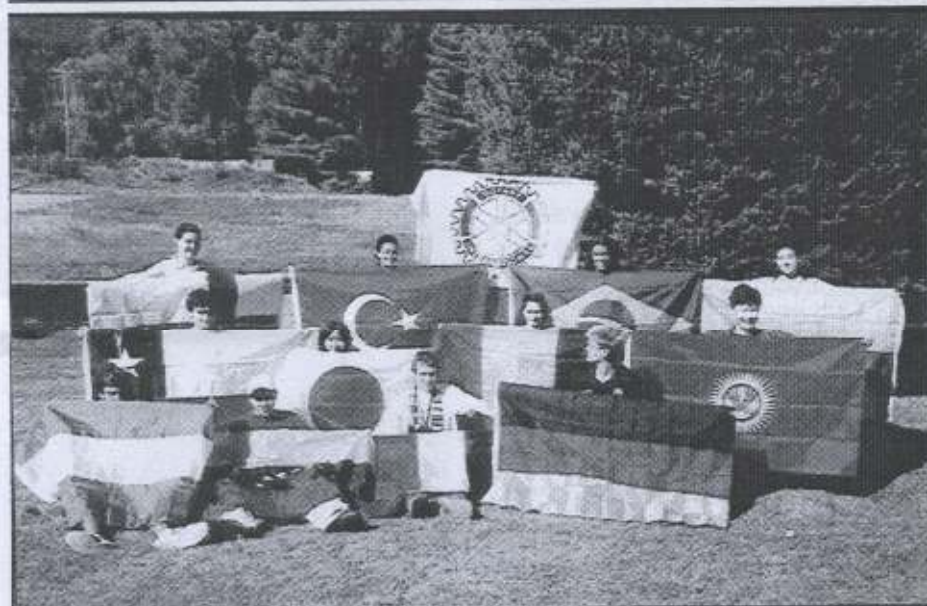
Governor's Newsletter

Peter C. Johnson, District Governor 2001-2002



October 2001

Rotary Vocational Service Month



Exchange Students and Reflections on Sept. 11
by Elias Thomas, District Governor 2000-2001

In 1911, Paul Harris said, "If ever I were to find myself standing on the stage in a great coliseum, staring into the eyes of every Rotarian, and had but one word to say, without hesitation and at the top of my voice, I would shout, 'TOLERATION'." Never before has this quotation from our founder been more apt.

This past weekend (Sept. 15), I spent several hours with this year's class of Rotary Youth Exchange students, and as always, was impressed by

their intelligence, their eagerness, and their charm. However, this year was different. Due to the tragic events of the past week, there was a very obvious concern on their part, not simply for their well-being, but also for the well-being of the place they would call "home" for the coming year.

We are blessed to have with us students from twelve different countries: Argentina, Brazil,

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From Governor Peter

The images of September 11 will forever be etched in memory, but so too will be the memories of the ensuing days. We were each moved by multiple images — some poignant, some powerful. People care about each other, and they care deeply. The aftermath of this tragedy proved it. Imagine more than 200,000 people gathering at the Brandenburg Gate to express their care and concern. Imagine the changing of *The Guard* to the tune of *The Star Spangled Banner*. For me, the strongest image was a simple one, that of a Swedish chimneysweep standing atop his chimney silhouetted against the clear blue sky for three minutes of silence at noon that Friday of remembrance. We learned that the world already has probably more than 100 million Rotarians — they just don't happen to wear our lapel pin.

This tragedy has also made me prouder than ever to be a Rotarian, and prouder of what we do as Rotarians to promote world understanding. On September 16, Carolyn and I had the joy of meeting

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(Students, continued from page 1)

Venezuela, Turkey, France, Belgium, Kyrgyzstan, Colombia, Germany, Japan, Finland, and Chile. The young student from Finland was quite sure that she wanted to return home — immediately. Others questioned, “Why?” Others were just quiet, though none the less disturbed.

Tradition has it that our District purchases the flags for each country represented by our in-bound students. As always, we displayed the flags in the dining hall. After lunch, the students were asked to retrieve their country’s flag and return to the living room. That day was probably the first time each of them had seen their own flag since arriving in the United States some one to six weeks prior. The adults were very moved when the students, coming back to the living room, returned wrapped in the safety of his or her country’s flag.

I told the students about Paul Harris and the beginnings of Rotary. I wanted them to understand the background and basic truth of our organization. I told them that Paul Harris had grown up in a small town in Vermont and found himself in Chicago in the midst of hundreds of thousands of strangers, and he was lonely. He began his organization with three other men who agreed to meet on a weekly basis, rotating from one member’s office to the next. He needed the fellowship of others, just as each of us does. fellowship, friendship, companionship, relationship, interaction, conversation, debate, respect, support, and TOLERATION.

I told them that, from those four men, our organization has grown to over 1.2 million members strong. However, quoting our current District Governor’s observation:

“During this past week of national crisis ... we have witnessed more than one hundred million Rotarians in this world, they just don’t have a club to call their own.” He is absolutely right. To see the outpouring of love and support, of caring and sharing, of prayer and thoughtful silence — these are all qualities of Rotarians throughout the world.

After the primer lesson in Rotary history, I asked the adults in the room to join me in singing a blessing and invocation: *Let There be Peace on Earth*. Each adult stood, and together we sang the words: “Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me ...” As each lyric was sung, there seemed to be a relaxation of shoulders, a release of stress and anxiety, and a calm settled as our young people clung to the very fibers and threads of their countries. It is through Rotary International that these students will be kept from harm’s way. It is through Rotary International that our out-bound students will be protected. We are not a government nor a religious organization. We have no agenda other than to serve mankind. As Rotarians, we provide the safety net that we cast around these students — the safety net that is stitched from the fibers and threads of the flags of every country.

In the days ahead, we must remember why we are here and what we are here to do. We must remember that when we see any person, whether black or white, Asian or Middle Eastern, we do not judge them, but rather that we embrace them. After all, what more appropriate word of advice could our founder have given to us some 90 years ago? “Without any hesitation and at the top of my voice, I would shout: TOLERATION!”

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(Gov. Peter, continued from page 1)

this year's group of foreign exchange students which included two Muslims. Imagine the irony of being welcomed to the United States at such a time. Yet Rotary was there to embrace all of them.

I am proud of Rotary's international outreach, and I am exceedingly proud of the contributions made to global understanding by Rotarians in our own district. Forever changed will be the attitudes toward us of people whose only garbage truck in town came from Rotarians in Durham, New Hampshire, or whose desperately needed school books were provided by the Rotary Club of Windham, Maine. And these are only two examples among thousands.

I am also proud of the decision of our leaders in Evanston to create one of our newest programs, the Rotary World Peace Scholarship Program. There was a growing institutional sense that more could be done by Rotary to promote world understanding and peace. If conflicts are to be resolved, who will resolve them? Because of Rotary's foresight, there will soon be 70 scholars around the globe earning Master's Degrees in International Conflict Resolution, a program specifically designed for Rotary. To my knowledge, no other organization in the world is doing anything similar.

Who is training people to be capable of negotiating those resolutions? The Rotary Centers University Partners were selected for their outstanding faculty and curriculum in the areas of international relations, peace, and conflict resolution. Through their unique and diverse interdisciplinary

programs, the seven Rotary Centers will provide academic and practical training to prepare Rotary World Peace Scholars as leaders who can help solve the problems contributing to conflict around the world. The University Partners are the International Christian University in Tokyo; the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia; the University of Bradford in West Yorkshire, England; the Sciences Po in Paris; Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; the University of California-Berkley; and the Universidad del Salvador in Buenos Aires.

How is this program to be paid for? Remember when the District Governor, or President, or Club Foundation Chair last spoke about the need to support the annual program of the Rotary Foundation with our personal checks? Here's what happened. When you write a check, that exact amount of money is allocated to be spent on programs three years later. Rotary International spends 40% of the allocation, and 60% is returned to the local district to be spent at our discretion but within Rotary's rules. In 2000, Rotary International challenged districts to use their 60% share to support this new scholarship program. Our District — YOUR District — met that challenge and became one of the original sponsors of the new program.

What we do as Rotarians matters, and it matters greatly. Be proud. Tell a friend. Lots of friends!



The Governor-Elect's Column

I confess that I have slacked off on club visits in August and retired to our beloved camp on Worthly Pond, basking in the sun and swimming. This is not to say I was not involved in Rotary business. Between reading and writing e-mails and reading newsletters clubs have sent, I have kept updated on our Rotary world.

August started off with a flying trip to Newark, NJ, for a one day seminar put on by Zones 31 and 32. The meeting was overseen by our own PDG Mike McGovern.

In perfect baseball weather, Glad and I attended the Portland Sea Dogs game for the "Rotary Takes a Swing at Homelessness" project which is near and dear to Elias's heart. The food pantries in Saco and Biddeford were the recipients of a great variety of nonperishable food items. Next year, let's all get on the bandwagon and really take another big swing for this greatly needed project in our communities. Elias needs volunteers for the committee, so sign up early.

On August 9, Glad and I drove to Toronto to attend the North American Presidential Conference for 2001, a long drive but well worth it. The coming together of over 500 very dedicated Rotarians from 12 countries was a gratifying experience, to say the least. President Rick King was at the conference, and we had the opportunity to hear him speak at two of the sessions. He is a deeply caring man and truly believes in Rotary. Rotary's Global Quest is going to work.

The Toronto Rotary Club made our stay a pleasant experience. Among numerous optional activities a cable

car tour of the city proved to be very exciting.

On our return from Toronto, we headed for Danvers to attend a banquet hosted by the Newburyport Club to honor President Rick King. Once again we had the opportunity to hear President Rick speak. He never loses his enthusiasm. As those who hear him can attest, he leaves his listeners ready to go conquer the world. Let's pass on his message to new Rotarians. Not only induct them, but strive to keep them involved in your clubs. Remember, participation of new members is as important as increasing their numbers. Please find out why each Rotarian became a member and use that information for the betterment of your club.

In the next few weeks, Glad and I will be seeing you in club meetings — or maybe even in the Rotary Potato Booth at the Fryeburg Fair!

Tim Placey

2003-04 RI President Nominated

The nominating committee of Rotary International has unanimously named Jonathan B. Majiyagbe as the President-Nominee for 2003-04. Mr. Majiyagbe is a member of the Rotary Club of Kano, Nigeria, and has been a Rotarian since 1967. He will succeed Bhichai Rattakul. Mr. Majiyagbe's biography may be read on the Rotary International website.



Four Avenues of Service Citation for Individual Rotarians

Because the objective of Rotary is service, RI recognized the need to reward those Rotarians who have made outstanding contributions in the Four Avenues of Service. Nominated Rotarians must be members in good standing, who have participated in the Avenues of Club Vocational, Community, and International Service. One person per club may be nominated. Each club makes their own nomination, which is then endorsed by the club president and submitted to Rotary International. Clubs may organize their own way of making the nomination, but nominations must be made no later than February 15, 2002.

Fifty-Year Membership Award

Does your club have any members coming up on fifty years of membership? If so, contact the Membership Services Department of Rotary International at 847-866-3000 for a certificate to present to those honored members.



Cairo Conference Cancelled

Rotary International President Rick King has cancelled the upcoming Cairo, Egypt, conference as a precautionary measure, saying that he must consider the safety of all Rotarians and their guests. You can read his letter and more information about the conference on the Rotary International website:

www.rotary.org

District 7780 Attendance and Membership – September, 2001

	Attendance %	Members 7/01	Members 9/01	Change		Attendance %	Members 7/01	Members 9/01	Change
Bath	55	57	53	-4	Newburyport	NR	76	NR	
Bath Sunrise	86.32	21	21		Ogunquit	NR	35	NR	
Bethel	NR	35	NR		Oxford Hills	85.09	60	55	-5
Biddeford-Saco	NR		NR		Portland	61.59	184	180	-4
Boothbay Harbor	73.51	51	51		Portsmouth	74	255	251	-4
Bridgton-Lake Region	NR	20	NR		Portsmouth Sunrise	70	29	28	-1
Brunswick	77.8	124	120	-4	Rochester	66	74	77	3
Brunswick Coastal	71	13	NR		Rumford	71.67	35	31	-4
Casco Bay Sunrise	86.36	32	22	-10	Saco Bay	88.71	67	62	-5
Damariscotta-New Castle	89.58	45	47	2	Sanford-Springvale	76.4	52	49	-3
Dover	NR	83	NR		Scarborough	79	25	29	4
Durham-Great Bay	78.87	57	57		Seabrook-Hampton Falls	NR	16	NR	
Exeter	77.57	43	44	1	Somersworth	NR	28	NR	
Falmouth					South Berwick	NR	46	NR	
Freeport	NR	41	NR		So. Portland-Cape Elizabeth	94	56	53	-3
Fryeburg Area	76	24	21	-3	Wells	NR	48	NR	
Hampton	94.9	55	54	-1	Westbrook-Gorham	67.4	38	39	1
Kennebunk	70.8	81	80	-1	Windham	NR	39	NR	
Kennebunk Portside	79	34	35	1	Yarmouth	56	43	41	-2
Kittery	68	23	24	1	York	NR	65	NR	

Letter from Turkey

This email was written by Erin Fuller, a foreign exchange student sponsored by the South Berwick Club who is spending her year abroad in Turkey. She sent it to Tom Wilbur, Youth Exchange Outbound Coordinator, before the recent tragic events.

Yes, I am settling in. In fact, today I returned to Istanbul after spending two weeks in Antalya, and it felt like I was coming "home." My family is amazing. They are so nice and caring, and they do so much for me. They definitely treat me like I am their daughter. They have created a very comfortable environment for me here.

I have done so many amazing things already, and seen so many beautiful places. I have found connections to the

president of the Yıldız Palace and he has gotten me tours and into the Ayasofya, Topkapı Palace, Sultanahmet mosque, and other famous places. I even got to work with a photographer at the Ayasofya and help translate English captions for an exhibition he is going to display in October.

I just spent the last two weeks in Finike, near Antalya, where my host mother's sister lives. They were so pleased to take me to all of the historical sites nearby, and to beautiful beaches on the Mediterranean. It was wonderful.

School starts on Monday, but I won't go until Wednesday. Supposedly our Turkish lessons are going to start soon, but I haven't really heard much about

that. I am really anxious to begin after having spent a month already in Turkey without knowing the language. Without lessons, my Turkish is coming along very slowly.

I have been to my host club's meeting, and have met my counselor. I plan on going again this week.

Please keep Erin and all of our exchange students here and abroad in your thoughts and prayers.

Nancy Hawes



Community Service Program Task Forces

PDG Marie Williams is overseeing all the Community Service Program Task Forces in Zones 31, 32, 33, 34, and part of 22. She sent the following information:

"We are here to support and help districts and clubs to achieve the goals set by President Rick King for the Community Service portion of the Presidential Citation. Our mission statement is:

'Touch your members' hearts — get them involved in a NEW Community Service project.'

We cover eight different areas ... AIDS Education, Aging, Children at Risk, Crime Reduction, Environment, Literacy, Programs for the Disabled, and Rotary Community Corps. The Task Force Coordinators are experienced Rotarians who are more than willing to assist you in any way they can — offer suggestions for programs in your community, provide you with resources, etc. Please utilize them and help your club start a NEW community service project, as *Mankind is Our Business.*"

Task Force Coordinators for our zone are listed below.

Committee on Aging
William E. Adams (MA)
(H) 978-372-0741
(E) billadams@cheerful.com

Committee on the Environment
Harry Blaser (NY)
(H) 716-248-3533
(E) h.blaser@worldnet.att.net

Committee on Literacy
Ernest A. DiMattia, Jr. (CT)
(H) 203-322-9055
(E) dimattia@fergusonlibrary.org

Programs for the Disabled
Frederic T. O'Hara (NY)
(H) 518-377-3948
(E) flyted@msn.com

Committee for Crime Reduction
George W. Rice (ME)
(H) 207-743-2285
(E) pmrice@austinp.com

Committee for Children at Risk
William H. Rizzini (RI)
(H) 401-254-1967

Committee for AIDS Education
Henry F. Scopp, Sr. (CT)
(H) 203-934-4234
(E) henscopp@concentric.net

Rotary Community Corps
Robert E. Golosov (MA)
(H) 781-848-9181
(E) nailsix@aol.com

and
Benjamin F. Lawton, Jr. (VT)
(H) 802-247-3425
(E) claudettel@aol.com

Group Study Exchange 2002

Group Study Exchange (GSE) is one of several programs that our District participates in each year. This year we have the pleasure of hosting and sending professional businessmen and women between our District #7780 and District #3780, Quezon City, Philippines.

The participation of every club in the District is essential to make this program a success. The task of the GSE Committee is twofold: first, to assemble a team of business/professional people to travel to the Philippines, and second, to prepare an itinerary and secure host families for the incoming team members.

The Committee's initial request from each club is to identify potential candidates who are able to travel for one month from March 24, 2002 to April 20, 2002. Team members — four will be selected — may not be Rotarians or close relatives of Rotarians. They should be between the ages of 25 - 40, employed full-time in their present profession/vocation, and U.S. citizens. The team leader must be a Rotarian (no age restriction) capable of leading the group for an intense itinerary. Our goal is to have a candidate pool that is representative of the strength of the business and professional sectors in District #7780.

The deadline for team leader applications is **October 19**; team member applications has been extended to **November 2**. All applications postmarked by that date will be considered. For more information and applications go to the Rotary website www.rotary.org or contact Chairman John Ramsay (please see box at left).

Peter's Palm Pilot Pancake

DG Peter takes a loaner car while his is being serviced ... takes his "stuff" out of car A to put in car B ... puts "stuff" on roof of car B ... drives off. The "stuff" deposited on the roadbed is three magazines and a Palm Pilot. A little way down Route 1, DG Peter realizes his mistake and returns to find two magazines and a note. The note is from a Rotarian visiting from Australia who picked up the pancaked Palm Pilot. It was returned to Peter the next day, and an Australian Rotarian was delighted to meet the Governor of District 7780!

New Chairman for Group Study Exchange

John Anderson is not able to continue as GSE chair for District 7780. John F. Ramsay, a member of the Durham-Great Bay Club, has assumed the chairmanship. John can be contacted at:

98 Langs Lane
Newmarket, NY 03857
email: jframsay@aol.com
(H) 603-659-5775
(W) 603-659-2795
(F) 603-659-2731

Membership Seminars

Membership Seminars were held last month at USM Gorham and UNE Biddeford. Doug Hooper, a member of the Saco Bay Club, put together the two outstanding events.

On September 15, DG Peter's



Doug Hooper

opening remarks reflected the somber mood of the country, but he made the point that we have never needed a healthy organization more than we do now. Our "product" —

service — is essential locally, nationally, and internationally, not only for the pleasure we take in offering service and making changes for the good, but because of the goodwill those changes generate. A family in Chile whose child with a cleft palate is cured by a team from Rotaplast will find it hard to hate the U.S. So, too, will the town in India rid of the scourge of polio.

To do all these things, we need a strong, healthy Rotary, with new members joining every day. The seminars offered nine topics addressing this Global Quest. Attendees could participate in as many discussions as interested them. Starting with "Why Be a Rotarian?" the topics continued through "Identifying Prospective New Members" to "Retaining Members" to "Publicity."

Each moderator offered excellent pamphlets, check lists, articles, or references. Discussions at the tables were lively and thought-provoking. The events were thoroughly rewarding for those who attended, and thanks and congratulations are due to Doug for all his efforts.

Honorary Members: News from Bridgton

Taking advantage of a new ruling from Rotary International, the Bridgton-Lake Region Club named three local residents as honorary members. This is a way to thank local residents who have done a great deal for the club even though they are not members.

DG Peter Johnson was on hand to present the awards with club President Dick Enright. The honorees were Bob Grace, Mike Daley, and Cynthia Pabst.

Bob Grace was honored for sponsoring an annual trip to the Portland Sea Dogs for young people. The club helps with this project, and several Rotarians go along as chaperones. Mike Daley's wife, Faye, is an officer of the club, and Mike has given a helping hand to many of the Rotary projects. And Cynthia Pabst's husband, Gil, was a member of the club — slated to become club president — when he died unexpectedly. Cynthia has been attending Rotary meetings regularly ever since, sharing her husband's devotion to the organization.

Recognizing honorary members is not only a way of saying "thank you," it is also a way to help promote awareness of Rotary's many activities. The Bridgton-Lake Region event was given excellent coverage. An article, accompanied by a photograph of the honorees, mentioned all of the local projects the club sponsors — from food baskets to scholarships — as well as projects that Rotary International supports such as Rotaplast and Camp Sunshine in Casco.

Disaster Relief: News from Exeter

Allison Field is President of the Exeter Club. She works at First Savings, and persuaded all of the branch managers to put out cans for donations and allow Rotary to administer the funds. She wrote:

"As of Friday afternoon, the Rotary Disaster Relief Fund had almost \$3,000 in it. This is due to the generosity of many customers of First Savings, and numerous Rotarians. Particularly touching to me was one customer who signed over a tax rebate check of \$600.00. (The couple) told my staff member that others needed it more than they did. Examples of this type of generosity abound everywhere. They touch our hearts, and renew our spirits. They are examples of the strength and character of the American people. In the face of the tragedy of terrorist acts, we are witnesses to a rebirth of caring and community that many of us have never seen in our lifetimes. How nice to turn on the television and hear of the good coming from the evil."

The Governor's Newsletter is a monthly publication of Rotary International District 7780. Club Presidents and secretaries, please send copies of your newsletters to Holly Holbrook.

Articles, photos, and information are welcome and need to be received by the 15th of each month prior to the month of publication. Please contact the editor, Holly Holbrook: call 207-846-0875, fax 207-846-0138, or write to 63 Sligo Road, Yarmouth, ME 04096.

Rotary's Global Quest:

One New Member Every Month!

Have **you** asked anyone yet?

As Governor Peter is fond of saying: "More is Better!"



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