



Rotary International District 7780

Archive

Mar 1, 2004

[print this page](#)

[Home](#)

District Information

[District Governor](#)
[District Calendar](#)
[DG Official Visits](#)
[Officers & Chairs](#)
[District Secretary](#)
[District Treasurer](#)
[Photo Gallery](#)
[Photo Album \(2007\)](#)
[District Bylaws](#)

Governors Newsletter

[Current](#)
[Archive](#)

District Club Info

[Links to Clubs](#)
[Make Up Opportunities](#)
[Club Fundraisers/Events](#)
[Speakers Bureau](#)
[World Community](#)

District Events/Forums

[District Assembly](#)
[District Changeover](#)
[District Conference](#)
[Foundation Seminar](#)
[Interact Conference](#)
[Intl Convention](#)
[Membership Seminar](#)
[Mid-Term Assembly](#)
[NE Multi-District PETS](#)
[RLI Course Dates](#)
[United Nations Day](#)
[W.U.P.D.](#)

District History

[Historian](#)
[Past Governors](#)

Foundation

[The Chair](#)
[Alumni Directory](#)
[Annual Giving](#)
[Foundation Grants](#)
[Group Study Exchange](#)
[Polio Plus](#)
[Foundation Scholarships](#)

Literacy

[Literacy Chair Message](#)
[Literacy Awards 2009-10](#)
[Literacy PR Release](#)
[4 Way Test Contest](#)
[Read Across America](#)
[Literacy Resources](#)

Membership

A Word from Governor Trish: Meeting the Challenge !



Governor Trish & PDG Carolyn Jones of District 5010, at our Birthday Dinner, February 24, 2004

They say March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. Does this truism apply to our Rotary activities as well as our spring weather?

HECK NO! We're busier than ever!

March is the month of our President Elects Training Seminar, referred to as PETS. I'm proud to tell those of you who may not already know, that our Mult-District PETS, held in Nashua (Mar 11-13), is considered one of the best in the world. There will be almost four hundred Presidents-Elect from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, and Canada in attendance. If you read your latest copy of *The Rotarian* magazine, you will see our own PDG Mike McGovern, himself a past chair of this event, quoted rather extensively on the value of the multi-district experience.

After that, on March 20, is the Rotary Leadership Institute, held in Portsmouth. RLI is an excellent training regimen for those in Rotary who aspire to Club or District service. Unlike PETS, the Rotary Institute is much smaller, with a greater facilitator-to-participant ratio. Although RLI is relatively new to this District, it's already receiving rave reviews from past participants.

Mixed in with these events are the various fund raising and club festivities that are occurring on a regular basis, not to mention our Foundation appeal for "Every Rotarian, Every Year" campaign, which has been picked up as a challenge to all other clubs from the Rotary Club of Hampton.

Then comes April, and our District Assembly, and then the GSE team arrives from Australia, and before you know it, our Centennial year officially kicks off with one of the best presents our District could have ever received---a visit from our Centennial Rotary International President Glenn Estess, here for the unveiling of our Centennial Hiram Shorey project.

Yes, the Rotary year is almost to its fourth quarter. It's time to get our second wind, and finish the projects we began so enthusiastically when the year started. For those of you, like me, who have found that each project begets another, we can be secure in the knowledge that although our 2003-2004 Rotary year winds down, there is no end to our resolve to "**Lend A Hand.**"

Rotary 99th Birthday Bash & Foundation Dinner

from the Damariscotta-Newcastle Rotary Club Bulletin

I wish every member of our club had attended this dinner...Certainly my wife, Mary Jane, Linda Brunner, Gary Stone and Gary Speers will remember this evening for a long time. A huge crowd

Chair Message
Committee
Membership Tools

Resources

Health & Hunger
Public Relations
Water

Youth Programs

Interact
RYLA
Youth Exchange

Service Above Self
Forms & Documents
RI Links/Contacts

Contact Us

turned out to hear a talk from Carolyn E. Jones about the "Children of Russia." Carolyn is the past District Governor of the largest district in Rotary International. This district covers 12 time zones, all of Alaska, the Canadian Yukon, all of Siberia and other parts of Russia. She has traveled to Russia 26 times in her service to Rotary and four of those visits were as a volunteer. Carolyn has been awarded the Rotary Service Above Self Award and the Rotary Foundation award for Meritorious Service. She has devoted a great deal of her life to the children of Russia, primarily to 126 orphanages where children have been essentially abandoned. Her story of the children of Russia was published in the July 2002 issue of the Rotarian and in "Chicken Soup For the Volunteer's Soul".

Carolyn talked about all the volunteers who have helped these children with training and education programs, clothing, clean water, etc. There weren't many dry eyes left in the audience when she was finished. As you began to realize how much she has done for so many children in Russia, you also realize how little you have done in comparison.

The programs in Russia... could not have happened without the support of the Foundation and without many special donations from numerous Rotary clubs. Carolyn showed us pictures of some of the children, when they were young and then what they look like to-day. A number of them have already started college. What a huge change has been made in their lives. Carolyn talked about starfish and bandaids. Some people view the Foundation as just a tiny bandaid on a huge global problem and ask... "why bother"? Others see the Foundation as throwing one starfish (of thousands on the beach) back into the water, to survive. To that one starfish, the effort made a huge difference.

In about 10 years, there will be more children in Africa without parents (because of Aids), than there are total children in America. Think about it!

This dinner, chaired by Trish Hunter, current DG, was held to celebrate both the Foundation and the 99th birthday of Rotary International. Last Saturday, Trish raised \$3,000 for the Foundation by herself, with sponsors (from a number of clubs in our district) for her Polar dip in Sebago Lake. Another woman in the audience also raised \$3,000.

We also met the members of the U.S. GSE team that is going to Australia in a few weeks. Dan Mooers, who has visited our club on several occasions, received a special award for Meritorious Service. He has traveled all over the world on behalf of Rotary. He talked about Hiram Shorrey and the centennial project in Litchfield.

A fascinating, heart warming, motivating talk and a great evening overall! I hope that more of you will attend this event in the future.

Doug Tigert, Foundation Chair
Damariscotta-Newcastle Rotary Club

District Challenge

The Rotary Club of Hampton

hereby challenges all Clubs in District 7780 to meet the goal of

"Every Rotarian, Every Year ~ \$100"

In an effort to have our District be the
VERY FIRST ROTARY DISTRICT IN THE WORLD
to have 100% Sustaining Members to The Rotary Foundation,

Please urge your Club members to write a Check or to go on-line
at the Rotary Website and charge their Rotary MasterCard for a minimum of \$100

This "CHALLENGE" will run from now until June 1st.
The results will be announced at an Awards Ceremony in June.
Rumor has it that District Governor Trish Hunter will present a
FANTASTIC PRIZE to the WINNING CLUB



For more details, contact:

Brad Jett, President
 Rotary Club of Hampton
 603-926-4459 or
brad@thevideoworkshop.com



First Annual Portsmouth Rotary Club Polar Bear Swim Great Success!!

The event was held on January 10th, 2004 at New Castle Common near Portsmouth. It was a sunny but cold day with the air temp hovering at 9 degrees F and the water a balmy 41 degrees F. Thanks to all swimmers, sponsors, volunteers and spectators. Special thanks to the New Castle Volunteer Fire Department and The Seacoast Red Cross.

With the Rotary flag snapping in the breeze and shouts from the crowd, 22 brave souls went splashing into the cold, clear water of the Piscataqua River, all managing a safe return to land. Hats off to 84 year old Rotarian Frank Butterworth of Kittery Point for taking the plunge. He shamed a lot of younger folks into considering the dip next year. The cry went out to jump in again, so 9 hardy swimmers went dashing back into the water for extra brownie points !!

After the swim, all retired to a heated tent for home baked treats, chili , coffee and hot chocolate. Each swimmer had a different tale to tell his attentive friends and supporters and all the dippers were awarded gift certificates from local restaurants and shops. The gift certificate to the local hot tub spa was one of the most highly prized awards.

The swim raised over \$14,000 for charity and we are already thinking about how to make the 2005 Polar Bear Swim bigger and better. Hope you'll join us for the fun !!

Earle Frank, Centenarian, 76 Years Perfect Attendance!

On March 5, 1904 I came into the world at our home in Ravenna, Ohio. Who would have thought that I would see 2004? I joined Rotary on November 7, 1927; two year after the club was chartered. My father, Levi, was a chartered member of the Rotary Club of Ravenna. My family moved to Phoenix Arizona in 1960 and then in March of 1961 moved to Prescott Arizona and became a member of the Prescott Rotary club. In 1990 we moved to Salt Lake City and I became a member of the Sugarhouse Rotary Club, in which my son Dick was a member. After we left those cold winters in Salt Lake City, we returned to Phoenix and I joined the Phoenix Thunderbird Rotary club with my son, Dick. I have been able to keep a perfect attendance record through all of these 76 years 3 months. This coming year, the Centennial of Rotary, I will be the president of the Phoenix Thunderbird club.

I have been very lucky and have enjoyed life. How is it to be 100, unbelievable, I have out lived all my friends and still plan to keep on going? I guess I have to contribute long living by keeping busy with work, hobbies, and my Rotary clubs. Rotary has been the catalyst in keeping young.

Being around many members that are younger and being around good friends, the comradeship and the interactions with so many Rotary International projects has led to my great life.

Advice to you younger and even older members in Canada and even in the entire world of Rotary, live a good rounded life and this means taking care of your own health, your family, and those in need throughout the Rotary world. Keep up the many friendships you have made in life. Don't be afraid to take a risk and even at 100 years old become your club's president.

God be with you.
Earle L Frank,
President-elect 2004-2005

"Friendship. ..the craving for which brought Rotary into existence is the thing that will keep Rotary a living, vital force in the world for all time, the very foundation of our organization."

Address to 1920 Rotary Convention, Atlantic City, New Jersey, USA



HIRAM Wants YOU!

For work on the Hiram Shorey Centennial Project at the Litchfield Town Hall.

This Saturday, March 13th, the framing of walls will begin. We need five or six Rotarians to cut studs and build walls under the direction of Lee Hansen and George Rice. Work begins promptly at 8:00 a.m. and finishes when the work is done. Volunteers should bring hammers and gloves.

Rotarians are needed for a few hours every Saturday until the end of May, for all phases of construction. Those with plumbing or electrical skills are especially welcome, although we don't discriminate! No experience is necessary to hold a paintbrush, just the willingness to engage in some Rotary fellowship and to help our Centennial project reach it's completion in time for the arrival of the President of Rotary International, Glen Estes, in July.

Coming Up: On March 20, we will require some talent in the form of 1 or 2 electricians and 1 or 2 plumbers to get services roughed in prior to drywalling. It would also be nice to rough in the underslab piping on the 13th.

Call PDG George Rice at 207-743-8946

from the Rotary Newsbasket:

Paul Harris to be honored in U.S. capital for going the extra mile

Rotary founder [Paul Harris](#) is among more than 70 outstanding U.S. volunteers who will be honored through a new national memorial in Washington, D.C, located on a one-mile path adjacent to the White House and U.S. Treasury Department.

When completed, "The Extra Mile" Volunteer Pathway will feature bronze medallions with a likeness of each honoree, a description of his or her achievements, and/or a quotation. Each of

the medallions will measure 42 inches (more than 1 meter) in diameter. Dedication is planned for mid-2004.

The RI Board of Directors has approved a project to facilitate the construction of the Paul Harris medallion, which will be placed in a block of granite set into the sidewalk. An effort is under way to raise US\$50,000 toward the cost of the monument.

"More than 1.7 million visitors are expected to see the Pathway each year and the medallion will remain there in perpetuity, creating a wonderful public relations opportunity for Rotary International," according to RI Vice President Frank C. Collins Jr. and Past District Governor Jack B. Blane, co-chairs of the project, in a letter addressed to all U.S. district governors, RI general officers, and The Rotary Foundation Trustees.

The Points of Light Foundation, initiator of the program, believes that the memorial will help promote the spirit of volunteerism among visitors who walk along the pathway.

More details are available from the [official memorial Web site](#). Contributions toward the special tribute to Paul Harris may be made by check only to Points of Light Foundation, c/o PDG Jack B. Blane, 2750 Ridge Road, Highland Park, IL 60035, USA.

WGME13-Rotary Bottle Drive Raises \$7435.15!

A HUGE THANK YOU to ALL who participated!

Service Above Self Award Bestowed by Rotary International

Seldom do you find Dan Mooers "speechless," but that's the only way to describe him at the February 24th Foundation Dinner when Carolyn Jones surprised him by presenting to him Rotary's highest award to a Rotarian, the "Rotary Service Above Self Award." Voted by the R.I. Board to only a handful of Rotarians each year, President Jonathan Majiyagbe explained in a letter accompanying the award why Dan was chosen, as he wrote: "Your selfless service to others has distinguished you from among the members of the worldwide Rotary family, and I believe you are an extraordinary example of how each Rotarian can make a difference."

Dan is a 34 year member of the South Portland-Cape Elizabeth club and served as district 7780's first governor in 1990-91. He went on to serve as a Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator and then as a Director of R.I. in 1994-96. While on the R.I. Board, Dan served as Chair of R.I.'s Executive Committee, and on the Joint Committee of Directors and Trustees. In the eight years since, he has served on more than a dozen international committee including twice a member of the President's Advisory Committee, three years and as Chair of R.I.'s Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and currently as Chair of R.I.'s Election Review Committee. Dan also served two and a half years as Aide to the R.I. President.

Despite being so heavily involved at the international level of Rotary, Dan also has continued to serve at the district level. Last year he led our district's successful effort to support polio eradication and helped lead the district to an all time high for Foundation giving. This year he heads up the three-district Centennial Project to honor Hiram Elmer Shorey, one of the first four Rotarians.

But in Rotary Dan's real love is the opportunity to help children. He has made trip after trip to such places as China, Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Mexico, South Africa, Ghana, Togo, Zimbabwe, Siberia and Vanuatu to immunize children against polio, spray for mosquitoes to combat malaria, deliver food to starving children, comfort young dying AIDS patients, teach parents of disabled children how to form support groups and to investigate how Rotary and our Foundation can develop projects to relieve human misery.

Dan's wife, Shirley, frequently accompanies him on his Rotary missions and if Rotary had a "Service Above Self" award for spouses, she would be the first one picked to receive it. A loving grandmother of 13 grandchildren, taking time away from family to help is some far-off community comes as naturally to both Shirley and Dan as taking their own grandchildren to a county fair or

on a fishing trip.

Dan's volunteer work for The Rotary Foundation has been previously recognized by the Foundation Trustees with the "Citation for Meritorious Service" and the highest Foundation accolade, the "Distinguished Service Award."

President Jonathan concluded his letter to Dan by saying: "I am proud of the work you have done and to have you as my fellow Rotarian."



Mentoring Opportunities

Dear Rotarians:

First, thank you to all of you who have donated your valuable time and energy over the past few months to helping raise money and awareness for mentoring in Maine. I am pleased to have the opportunity to share my thanks for your efforts through this newsletter. I am also excited to share with you a little more information about our specific mentoring organization, the Case Management for Youth, Inc. Mentor Program.

Chances are you are already involved in an informal mentoring relationship. Perhaps you have helped a co-worker along, or spent valuable one-on-one time with a grandchild, nephew or friend of the family. You can probably also think of several people who have mentored you throughout your life: teachers, relatives or friends who have helped you to become who you are today. Mentors play an important role in all of our lives, helping us to reach our potential, and get through the rough patches we encounter. For many of us, mentors naturally enter our lives, but some people do not have encouraging role models to help them achieve their goals. Formal mentoring programs help to ensure that young people find caring adults to support them along their way.

The Case Management for Youth, Inc. (CMY) Mentor Program serves youth ages 6-17 from all over Cumberland County. All of the youth we serve receive case management services at Community Counseling Center in Portland, or have a sibling who receives these services. Mentors act as friends, role models and links to the community for these young people who are facing challenges at home, school or in their peer relationships. Our one-to-one mentors spend 1 hour per week for 1 year doing fun recreational activities out in the community with their youth match. The Mentor Program Staff provides training and ongoing support to mentors throughout the relationship. We currently have almost 40 young people on our waiting list for one-to-one mentors. Boys make up approximately 70% of the waiting list, and we are especially in need of caring, male mentors for these young men!

The CMY Mentor Program is a wholly owned subsidiary of Community Counseling of Maine, and a member of the Maine Mentoring Partnership. For more information about our mentoring program, or to get an application, please don't hesitate to contact me! Thank you again for your commitment to service and your support of mentoring.

Molly O'Connell
Mentor Program Recruitment Specialist
CMY Mentor Program

(207) 874-1030
moconnell@commcc.org

Excerpt from a letter to YE Outbound Coordinator Tom Wilbur:

Hey everyone!

It's that time again, group e-mail time! Wahoo! Hahahaha! I miss you all tons, but Ecuador is slowly becoming my second home, which is a good thing! I've really started to build a nice little life here in South America.....A whole Christmas has passed, a new year has started, and I've changed families.....My new family is pretty cool...They're two older folks with hearts of gold...As much as I miss my old host family, I can't *not* like my new one. I have brothers and sisters here but they're all grown. My brother lives in an apartment downstairs and my two other sisters are married and have kids. My nephew who's 8 is here mostly after school so I get to hang with him, so if I imagine real hard, he's kinda like a little brother! hahaha! This host family is kinda different than the rest. They have a restaurant that has Middle Eastern food which I get to try all the time and they have a cool jewelry store right next door.....

This past weekend was a big one for me! I went to the Amazon forest!!! Can you all believe it? It was crazy! My official bug bite count is 56, and they're all on my legs! OUCH! Hahaha! It's worth every one of them though! The group I went with was just the Rotary kids that live here in Quito, 26 ended up going which is a little more than 1/2, but we had an awesome group...We did so many things, didn't sleep, and ate the best food ever. Our guides were awesome, we actually made good friends with them, and they're 5 days I'll never ever forget. That will be kinda hard since I have 221 pictures to keep the memories alive! Hahahaha! I did some things I never thought I'd do, like swing from a tree vine over the edge of a nice little drop off like Tarzan, hold a monkey, watch parrots fly through the jungle, and drink about a gallon of water each day, and rarely have to go to the bathroom due to sweating more than ever....I liked the experience and lodge so much that I've actually convinced Mom and Dad to stand up to the heat and humidity and come see the wonders of the Amazon Forest! So I get to go back in about 3 weeks and do it all over again, luckily! It's going to be great!

So between crazy travel opportunities, I'll try to keep you guys posted on how great I am (hahaha!) and how much I love and miss you all!!!! Write me soon!

love your little jungle girl,
 Angela

Mass immunization campaigns that aim to vaccinate 250 million children against polio have been announced following an emergency meeting at the World Health Organization.

After discussions, representatives from the six remaining polio endemic countries committed their governments to eradicating the virus by the end of this year.

Nigeria's health minister was the first to sign the declaration followed by Afghanistan, India, Egypt, Niger and Pakistan - the remaining polio endemic countries. The \$3bn campaign has already missed its initial target of ridding the world of polio by 2000, and many doctors suspect this could be the last chance to achieve it. When the Global Polio Eradication Campaign started in 1988, more than 125 countries were affected. Last year, there were only 700 cases of polio around the world.

But there has been a major setback over the last few months. Immunization schemes in Nigeria's northern states stopped last year after some Islamic clerics claimed the vaccine could cause infertility and was unsafe. Independent scientific tests carried out in South Africa and Nigeria have shown no traces of anti-fertility agents in the vaccine.

But it has led to neighboring countries - already declared polio-free - being re-infected with the virus.

Extra campaigns

The declaration is being seen as a major push by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to achieve their goal by the end of the year. Dr Bruce Aylward, the coordinator of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative at the WHO, said the six countries had recognized that the issue required action from the top levels of government.

"I think this declaration is incredibly important because the countries are committed," he told the BBC. "They were committed before, but there is a renewed commitment and a different scale of commitment now. Polio eradication is no longer a health issue. It is a political issue."

Unless every child at risk is immunized the effort will have been wasted and the virus will spread quickly throughout the world. Additional campaigns in countries re-infected by polio from Nigeria are estimated to cost more than \$10m so far. Once this containment is achieved, the next step will be to rid the six remaining endemic countries of polio by the end of this year altogether.

With increased political support and a detailed immunization program planned by the remaining endemic countries, there is a feeling of hope here that the world may soon be polio free.

Saturday, March 20, 2004 - Rotary Leadership Institute, Portsmouth, NH.

Anyone seeking to learn more about effective leadership is invited and encouraged to attend!

Meet the District Governor Nominee Designate 2006-2007

William M. Hobbs

William M. "Billy" Hobbs was born and educated in Portland, Maine, and studied in Europe before graduating from Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, Georgia with a BA degree.

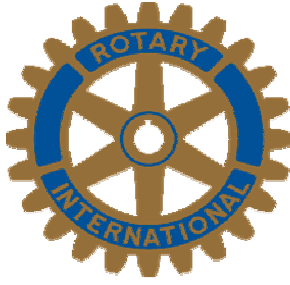
He traveled extensively, finally settling down to own and operate a successful seafood restaurant in Wells Beach, Maine. In 1985, Billy was one of the Charter members of the Wells Rotary club, and served as President from 1990-1991. During his presidency, many changes occurred in the club, including the famous chicken BBQ, an increase in membership, and the installation of a flag pole at Wells Harbor, the cornerstone of the Wells Harbor Park, which eventually expanded to include the Hope Fenderson Hobbs Gazebo, the Wells Rotary Pavilion, and a playground for the children of Wells.

Billy has served as co-chair, for many politician's campaigns, and served on the presidential advisory committee in Washington DC for President George H.W. Bush, as well as serving as a Maine delegate to two national conventions.



Billy's classification is seafood restaurants; however, he has been involved in many areas from businesses to local and state committees, including his work as the North East Director of the National Alumnae Association for Oglethorpe University.

Billy is proud to be a Paul Harris fellow, and looks forward to working with all the clubs in the District, and to serving his fellow Rotarians.



The Rotary Wheel

Make no mistake. Marjorie Dawson is an engineer. When she got her shot at a Rotary Minute at her home club, Portland, she used it to give a most interesting and amusing account of the evolution of our symbol, the Rotary wheel. Seems the artists out-influenced the engineers in the early days of Rotary, and the first several versions of the wheel were, as she put it, "engineeringly incorrect."

At first, there were as many versions of the symbol as there were clubs. The symbol started out in 1905 as a buggy wheel, and only grew cogs in 1911, as buggies went out of style. The early cogs were too far apart, and there weren't enough of them. So this was changed, and the correctly proportioned and cogged wheel became the universal symbol of Rotary clubs everywhere.

But the engineers intervened again, noting that no geared wheel can drive anything unless it can be connected to a shaft through a keyway at its center. The keyway was added in 1920, and we have had the symbol for our powerful, highly efficient Rotary organization (and contented engineers) ever since. Thank you, Marjorie!

Portland Rotary Club

Boothbay Rotary (Soup) Bowl Night

Don't forget about Boothbay Rotary's Soup Bowl Night! This year, it's happening on March 25th at the American Legion Hall in Boothbay. The entrance ticket gets you access to a long table full of soups of every kind. You get to keep the bowl - gorgeous pottery made by local artists. You can purchase extra bowls for a nominal fee. If you are interested in warming up the winter with some Rotary fellowship, let me know so we can be sure to have enough room for our out-of-town guests

-DGE Bob Jacobson

Casino Night, March 27, 2004, Portland Rotary Club

Take a Step Back in Time...

Hula Hoops, 3-D Movies, Elvis, Poodle Skirts, Coonskin caps, Marilyn, "telephone cramming" and everything coming up PINK!

Welcome to the 1950's!!! On Saturday, March 27th the Rotary Club will be hosting its 2nd Annual Casino Night! If you remember last year's Speakeasy Club, you don't want to miss this years step back in time!

The Results of Youth Exchange: Rebound Students Making a Difference

As a rebound (returned) youth exchange student from the tiny state of Maine, youth exchange has taught me the importance and power of this generation of youth. While it is true that reverse culture shock could be more difficult than adjusting to a new culture, local Rotary clubs have supported me through this adjustment process by encouraging me to continue to be involved and use my leadership skills to the fullest.

My name is Kaitlyn Sawyer and I am 17 years old. I am the Rotex co-president for D-7780 and a senior at Yarmouth High School. I just recently completed a youth exchange program to Belgium, in which I gained fluency in the French language, lived with three wonderful host families, and simply, had one of the most memorable years of my life. I am writing to you because during my year, I met your outbound exchange student and was touched by their compassion and incredible representation of your country.

I am working in collaboration with Mariah Ernst, a rebound who studied Bali, Indonesia. Both she and I were touched by the people we had met and astonished by the suffering and poverty we had encountered in both of these countries. With support of the Yarmouth Rotary Club, Mariah and I are taking on a Rotary fundraiser for the club of Pietermaritzburg Azalea, South Africa. Together, we will raise money within our state, internationally with the help of fellow rebounds and their home clubs, we would like to go above and beyond by helping to build a freestanding classroom for children who have been effected by the AIDS/HIV virus. .

Mariah and I both would hope that projects conducted by rebounds such of these will demonstrate the importance of Youth Exchange and the power of this forthcoming generation of youth.

Kaitlyn Sawyer



New Breakwater Daybreak Rotary Club in South Portland

The newest Rotary club in District 7780, the Breakwater Daybreak Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth, (provisional) meets at 7:15 am every Wednesday at the Betsey Ross House, 99 Preble Street, South Portland. A continental breakfast is served. For more information, contact Shirley Mooers @ 207-871-1785.

Camp Sebago Cleanup

The Annual Salvation Army/Camp Sebago Cleanup will be held on May 8, 2004. This is an annual affair and many Rotarian clubs participate. It will be from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm with lunch provided. There will be painting, raking, hammering etc. The camp is located in Standish and serves over 1300 kids per season in the age range of 7 to 12. More information will be forthcoming over the next couple of months.

And Now.....

A Word From Our Youth Exchange Student In Japan

Hello All,

I believe it has been about a month since I last sent one of these (time flies), so here we go.

So, here in Aomori...like other countries in North America...it is wintertime. Aomori prefecture is pretty far north, so we get a lot of snow here, even though the temperature usually hovers around 32 degrees. In fact, as far as cities in Japan go, Aomori gets more snowfall than any other, including anywhere in Sapporo (Note: That applies to the city itself, and not the country surrounding it). It seriously has snowed here EVERY SINGLE DAY for over a month, with the exception of today,

and the day before yesterday, but I'll be getting back to that later. Naturally, lots of snow equals lots of skiing in Aomori, because there are so many ski resorts only a stone's throw away, and having gone skiing a moderate amount back in the states, I am totally up for that.

Anyway, at my first meeting with my new Rotary club, the Hokutou (northeast) Rotary Club, they found out that I have a casual interest in skiing. Little did I know, that this small bit of information would cause my Rotary club to buy me ski wear (jacket, gloves, goggles, and snow pants), ski boots, and last, and most gloriously surprising of all, brand new skis. Yes. Brand new skis. And yes, they are the carving kind, for those of you who were wondering. I looked up the price on the internet, and was even more shocked...and it makes me wonder, *``What have I done to deserve this?``*. Must be some good karma from a previous life...that's the only conclusion I can draw.

Another pleasant twist is one of the members of my Rotary club owns the chair lift to Mt. Hakkoda, which is an absolutely fantastic mountain that is very close by, and is my host father's personal favorite. This guy was one of the ski champions of Japan back in his day, and now I go there once or twice every week. Mt. Hakkoda is the only mountain I have ever been to that has real powder...it's fantastic. I have improved significantly since the addition of my new skis.

While we are still on the topic of skiing, my host father got the day off from work today, and I got the day off from school today, so we both went together. You see, at Hakkoda, they have the normal chair lifts to the normal trails, and a gondola that takes you to the very top, which is a pretty highly advanced course (meaning people **die** there annually). This was my second time going there, but the difference for today was, it wasn't snowing. The second time in over a month that it hadn't snowed happened to be the day we went to the top of Hakkoda. Of course, this would mean that it would be insanely crowded right? Usually you can not even park remotely near the parking lot, but today when we went, there were no more than FOUR cars in the parking lot. FOUR...the only number that is seven less than eleven. Needless to say, the view from the top, and on the way down was breathtakingly beautiful. My host dad managed to take some pictures from the top, so I will try to send a few home.

Time to get off the ski topic, I suppose. Lets see...ah yes! Yesterday I went to my host mom's volleyball game. That was a very interesting ordeal, mostly because I found it humorous to see so many, excuse the term, soccer moms diving all over the floor after the volley balls. In all seriousness though, they were very, VERY good. I wouldn't be able to stand a minute in there without leaving with black eyes and significantly worse injuries. Very admirable. Easily the funniest part of the whole...shindig, was when I was looking around for an air pump (for my basketball), and in doing so took a few peeks into their bags. I counted no less than THREE rice cookers amongst their street clothes and purses. I am still wondering about that, especially since I detected no rice being cooked in the entire gym.

Other news...is...ah hah! In Japan, an overwhelming percentage of high school (and middle school) students join a sports team or some other extracurricular club. In Japanese, the word for such an activity is "bukatsu." Meaning you can join the basketball bukatsu, or the tea ceremony bukatsu, and its the same word. The reason I am telling you this, is I have recently joined the cooking bukatsu, and it sounds a lot better said in the Japanese way, than to say the cooking club. There is something about being in a cooking club that I don't like the sound of.

I forgot to explain about Japanese Valentines day. Yeah, basically the girls give the boys stuff on February 14, and then the guys give the girls stuff on March 14. It was the most delicious day of my life on Thursday, which was the last school day before Valentines day. Just thought you should know...Don't forget to send me news,

Jake

Ready for a swim?



Windham's President Lori LePaulou takes a Polar Bear Dip for ME Children's Cancer during her club's Annual Ice Fishing Derby on February 21. Also enjoying Sebago Lake was Governor Trish, and Lori's fellow Presidents Alice Bean Andrenyak of Brunswick, and Joe Pace, of Durham-Great Bay. The event raised \$100,000!

Congratulations, Windham Rotary Club!

Are You Listening?

We are often "reminded" that we have two ears and one mouth – and we should use them in that proportion. But it is clear that few of us do. Famed jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis makes an interesting observation on this issue. He has written:

"I have taught Master Classes in jazz all over the world. I always start with the same exercise. When the group is set up and in their places, I ask each one of them to play a short solo – and then I just listen. I don't say anything, I just listen. Each will play a piece that is about 5 minutes long, but one or two of them will solo for too long – to the obvious discomfort of all. When they have all finished their piece, I point to one of them and ask the others 'what did s/he play?'

"Anybody – this isn't a test – I just wonder who can tell me what s/he played.'

"One hundred percent of the time no one knows. One hundred percent – not 99.9. Not in 15 years has anyone ever been able to tell me what one of the other members of their group had played.

"I do this exercise because it is important for young musicians to understand that the choices they make on the bandstand are exactly like the choices they going to make in the greater society.

"This is – in its essence – what jazz is all about.

"You can be the greatest soloist in the world, but if you don't know what the other people in your group are playing – and they don't know what you are playing – then you are just not going to sound good.

"This is the hardest thing to convince young students of – that it is important for you to view yourself in the context of everyone else."

It makes me wonder if Wynton is a Rotarian.

Thanks to Bob Mitchell, President, Rotary Club of Exeter



Maine's Governor John Baldacci gets a "Four Way Test" Plaque from PDG Dan Vachon of District 7790, PRID Dan Mooers of 7780 and District Governor Trish

District 7780 DDF Watch!

Governor Trish started the year with \$63,722.95 in DDF funds for Matching Grants. So far, the following applications have been sent to the Rotary Foundation:

MG 50836 A grant to help establish a Revolving Loan Fund for organizations and groups of people caring for AIDS orphans in Kisumu, Kenya. DDF Committed: \$10,000.00

MG 51389 A grant to provide a mobile x-ray machine for the Radiology/Ultrasound Department of St. Mary's Hospital, in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. DDF Committed: \$4,318.00

MG 22838 A grant to provide a clean water to an orphanage in Romania. DDF Committed: \$7,000.00

That leaves **\$42,404.95** remaining in DDF funds.

Please submit your Matching Grant applications to the Grants Coordinator, Tom Stypinski. email: jtstypinski@gibbscox.com



Governor Trish and First Gentleman Ted after her relaxing dip in Sebago Lake, February 21

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