



# Rotary International District 7780

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The Rotary Club of Portsmouth-Sunrise honored former Charter Member, Ken Clark, with a Paul Harris Fellow Award to recognize his efforts and contributions to all that is Rotary. From left to right: Ken Clark, Adjutant General, NHANG; Vanessa LaPointe, President, Portsmouth-Sunrise Rotary Club; Marie Williams, District Governor, Rotary District 7780; John Hebert, Assistant Governor, Rotary District 7780.

## A Word From Governor Marie--

My Fellow Rotarians:

Here we are again – another month has gone by and the groundhog has seen his shadow, which means another six weeks of winter! I am not thrilled as I am a warm weather person but if I want to live in New England I have to accept it. I recently had a meeting with all the Assistant Governors and one commented that as of March 1st his shovel is put away. In the next breath, he tells us he is taking his family north skiing. I hope we don't have a lot of snow after March 1st, John. (You guess which one as we have several AGs named John!)

How do I talk about February, World Understanding Month and Rotary's anniversary month? I can not get over the fact that there are so many more international projects going on in this district compared to what was being done in 1997-98. We did a lot of projects back then but the interest in International Service has grown tremendously which is absolutely fantastic! I have asked the clubs to provide me with information and pictures about an international project that they are doing for the World Understanding & Peace Dinner at the end of this month. Our dinner is actually on Rotary's 102nd Anniversary, 23 February. I have received not just one project but numerous projects from several clubs.

Don't be bashful, now is the time to toot your own horn. We need to share with everyone in the District what our clubs are doing around the world. There are projects that have been completed, ones that are being worked on year after year and a number of them in progress that may not happen until next year, which shows our club leadership teams are working together. The projects are large and small and cover many aspects of improving the way of life for our neighbors around the world. You name it and our clubs are doing it – water, literacy, health care and hunger and working with the family of Rotary. World Understanding is what we are all about. Once we understand each other and work together there will be Peace around the world. You – the clubs and Rotarians in District 7780 - are working very hard to make this happen. You are improving lives and letting strangers know that they are cared about. I cannot begin to imagine how many lives have been affected in the past, present and future by what you have done, are doing or planning to do to make it a better world for

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them to live in. Further down in this newsletter you will read how four District 7780 Rotarians are working on NIDs in India to help eradicate Polio this month.

How does this all happen? Someone has an idea and is not afraid to talk about it or do it. You don't have to be a large club or have lots of money to do an international project. You can be a small club with a small treasury. What you really need is the dedication to an idea; the determination to get it done and you will find a way.

One of the ways is through a matching grant from the District and/or The Rotary Foundation but this will not happen without your contributions to The Rotary Foundation every year. Without our contributions and faith in The Rotary Foundation a lot of these projects would not have happened. We all need to remember how much we have been able to do because of our yearly contributions to The Rotary Foundation. The fact that our interest in international service projects has grown, so has the interest by other clubs and Districts around the world. Without our yearly support to The Rotary Foundation through the annual giving program, to PolioPlus partners or to specific grants we will not be able to continue all the great things we are currently doing around the world. If you are not a Benefactor or a member of The Bequest Society think about it. This is a way that you can give to The Rotary Foundation in the future so these programs will be able to continue on long after we have all gone on to greener pastures. Think of all those children that now have clean drinking water, are saved from the awful disease of polio, can read and write, don't go to bed at night hungry and actually have a bed to go to. It is all because of you, because you are Leading the Way to a better life for thousands of people that you will never meet because you are Rotarians and you believe in Service Above Self!

THANK YOU, DISTRICT 7780 for your dedication to World Understanding & Peace!

**Marie**



## District Governor Nominee Designate for 2009-2010 Announced

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the District Nominating Committee met on February 3, 2007 and nominated Jeffrey Pelkey as District Governor Nominee Designate for 2009-2010.

Jeffrey Pelkey joined Rotary in 1993 as a member of the South Berwick Club. He transferred to the Rotary Club of Kittery in 2002 where he is currently a member. Jeff was president of the South Berwick Club in 1997-98 and president of the Rotary Club of Kittery in 2004-05 and again in 2005-06. He is currently serving as program chair for the 2007 Rotary District Conference. He is going to be an Assistant District Governor in Area Two in 2007-2008 for DGE Liz Cullen.

A twenty year law enforcement veteran, currently he and his wife, Julia, along with an outstanding staff, own and operate the J.S. Pelkey Funeral Home in Kittery, ME, serving the Seacoast of Maine, New Hampshire and beyond. He is also a volunteer firefighter with the Kittery Fire Department. They live in Eliot with their son, Justin. Jeff is a Paul Harris Fellow.



## **Dover Rotary Club Arts Pavilion Leads the Way in Community Service!**

Over ten years ago, the leadership of the Dover Club became concerned that we were becoming a "checkwriting" Club where our service to the community did not make a noticeable difference. The membership didn't know much about the many little checks we wrote and there was little involvement of the club in the community projects and services that we did support.

Under the leadership of then President Malcolm McNeill, the Club developed a funding philosophy that would put the primary emphasis on "major projects" that would make a lasting difference in our community. Also, at least one "hands on" projects each year that would involve significant numbers of members actually doing the work. We decided that our focus would be on the infrastructure of our Town center where projects could be of benefit to the community as a whole. We knew that some major projects could take several years to identify, plan and accomplish and were prepared to stick at them through multiple administrations. The "Rotary Arts Pavilion" stretched even our expectations.

We had earlier constructed a "Rotary Garden" in the center of Town as part of Henry Law Park, part of the old mill complex in downtown Dover. A "band shell" had existed nearby but had fallen into disrepair and been little used for a decade or more. The Club's Major Projects subcommittee discussed a number of alternatives prior to settling on rebuilding the band shell as our goal. Our first cost and design estimates were rejected as costing least twice what we thought could be managed. New plans were simplified and we decided to seek a three way partnership with the town, private donors and the Rotary leading the way and taking major responsibility for the effort. In the end, after almost two years delay as support of the Town Council was carefully cultivated and private donor prospects were explored, a plan was approved and a division of labor agreed upon with the Town. Ultimately even our earliest estimate proved to be insufficient but the continuing generosity of the Club, a very supportive Town government and vital gifts and grants from individuals and businesses made a fine facility possible.

The superstructure of the old shell had been condemned and removed by the Town. The old foundation was incorporated into the new construction even though the footprint was almost twice as large as the original. In the excavations and construction of the new footings we discovered that the rubble from the old mill had been buried after fire destroyed the building and this find required much extra excavation and disposal of buried history.

Our design included a brick exterior to blend in with the indoor swimming pool building. The newly dubbed "Rotary Arts Pavilion stage was about twice the old size and small storage and utility rooms were provided on each side. We consulted with music, dance and theater groups and tried to make the stage suitable for as wide a range of community use as feasible. Entrance doors were provided on each side the rear of the stage and on each side of the front of the stage. Every effort was made to make the project vandal resistant including a consideration of ease of repair if problems arose. To date this effort has been quite successful with only minor incidents.

Seating was terraced into the park area in front of the stage after leaving enough room for spontaneous dancing. An unexpected plus was that the final grading from the fixed terrace seating allows close to a thousand spectators to lounge on the grass at the edges and behind the seating but the seated area remains contained and intimate enough for small crowds of a hundred or so. Each year the Chamber of Commerce puts together an Arts Festival which goes for most of the summer. That series of events was moved to the new Pavilion as soon as it was available and has proven to be a big hit for the summer arts scene.



The Pavilion has appropriate signage to recognize the public-private partnership that brought it into being and the leadership role played by the Dover Rotary Club as well as recognizing the private Donors, many of them Rotarians. After almost a decade of effort spanning ten different Club administrations and many Rotary volunteers, all members are proud of their contribution and the lasting impact that it is having on the quality of cultural life and entertainment on our Town.

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### News from Area 8 from AG Patty Rice

The Rotary Club of **Bethel** is having a Rotary Foundation Day on 2/6 where District Foundation Chair Peter Johnson will assist in presenting Paul Harris Fellow awards to 6 Rotarians in their club. PDG Bob Laux and President Cynthia Moran-Laux will be doing a community presentation on their recent trip to Vietnam. And they have inducted a new member recently.

The **Oxford Hills** Rotary Club will be putting together a team to Bowl for Kids Sake to help raise money for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. They will also be celebrating their 23rd anniversary with a celebration dinner and program planned for 2/10.

The **Bridgton-Lake Region** Club will be holding a winter fundraiser, a Wine Tasting/Taste of Italy Party on 3/3. Club members will be making the hors d'oeuvres and will have special music and art items for sale during the evening. Also, as part of the dictionary project, classroom editions were distributed in January to 3rd grade classrooms in their school district. And they're excited one of the Club "couples" will be hosting an exchange student and another Club member's daughter will be on exchange in France through Rotary.

The **Fryeburg Area** Club is busy making plans for next year along with finding committees and chairs for their projects. The Club is also working on their Bowl-A-Thon fundraiser with committee meetings getting underway.

The Rotary Club of **Rumford** will be presenting dictionaries to the 5 different schools in their area to help promote literacy. They will also be having their first Lobster Lunch in February.



**International Fellowship between York, ME and York, England!**

We often think that World Understanding and Peace only has to do with international projects - drilling wells, literacy, providing health care and food. We don't always remember that it can be an International Fellowship event. The York, Maine Rotary Club hosted members from the York, England Club back in September. This international club visit was a resounding success. Despite having heard the York, Maine club "sing" happy birthday, they have invited them to visit their club in England sometime next year or the year after. Here are some pictures of the York, England Club enjoying Maine Lobsters.



### **The Rotary Club of Damariscotta-Newcastle President "Dresses for Success"**

The Rotary Club of Damariscotta-Newcastle sponsored club president Gary Speers in the Youth Promise 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Guys in Gowns" Mr. "Ms". Midcoast Maine Beauty Pageant. Speers, a thirty year Law Enforcement veteran, donned the traditional garb of a British Woman Police Constable and conducted a "Crime Scene Inquiry" at the charity pageant to raise funds for "at risk kids" in the area. Speers, A.K.A. "W.P.C. Ann Rotary" won the "Best

Dressed" category while conducting a very thorough investigation into the strange events going on in the colony the evening of January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Great Salt Bay School in Damariscotta. The evening was a fun and fund raising success.

British Woman Police Constable "W.P.C. Ann Rotary" A.K.A. Gary Speers, Rotary Club of Damariscotta-Newcastle



### District 7780 Club Attendance, December 2006

ClubName	06/30/06 Club Size	12/31/06 Club Size	12/31/06 Attendance % for Month	Year to date Change
Bath	46	46	62.08%	0
Bath Sunrise	21	19	94.70%	-2
Bethel	36			-36
Biddeford-Saco	57			-57
Boothbay Harbor	38	41	59.49%	3
Breakwater Daybreak	14	10	86.00%	-4
Bridgton-Lake Region	23	28	80.00%	5
Brunswick	80	81	69.40%	1
Brunswick Coastal	21	17	74.00%	-4
Casco Bay Sunrise	29	24	60.00%	-5
Damariscotta-Newcastle	61	59	92.78%	-2
Dover	85	86	58.23%	1
Durham-Great Bay	52	51	76.00%	-1
Exeter	34	41	90.00%	7
Falmouth	18	24	74.60%	6
Freeport	23	22	81.50%	-1
Fryeburg Area	35	39	84.00%	4
Hampton	69	71	82.00%	2
Kennebunk	71	69	76.83%	-2
Kennebunk Portside	37	38	89.11%	1
Kittery	23	24	72.00%	1
Newburyport	77	74	48.00%	-3
Ogunquit	28	30	80.00%	2
Oxford Hills	42	43	79.65%	1
Portland	151	159	50.00%	8
Portsmouth	239	227	70.52%	-12

Portsmouth Sunrise	36	34	64.00%	-2
Rochester	83	86	73.60%	3
Rumford	25	25	91.00%	0
Saco Bay	70	71	68.08%	1
Sanford-Springvale	42	54	75.00%	12
Scarborough	34	32	72.00%	-2
Sebago Lake	32			-32
Somersworth	18			-18
South Berwick	32	32	72.41%	0
South Portland-Cape Elizabeth	51	50	85.60%	-1
Topsham Expresso	20	17	90.00%	-3
Wells	37	37	85.00%	0
Westbrook-Gorham	38			-38
Yarmouth	34	29	66.24%	-5
York	58	57	81.14%	-1
Totals	2020	1847	75.42%	-173



Rotarian and Rochester Schools Superintendent Mike Hopkins and Tiffany Todd

## Rochester Rotary Presents Rising Star Award

The Rochester Rotary Club selected Tiffany Todd to receive their Rising Star Award for January 2007. The Rising Star Award is given monthly to a Spaulding High School student who has displayed strong effort scholastically.

The Rising Star Award is a new program instituted by the Rochester Rotary Club during the fall of 2006. The idea for the award was "borrowed" from a Club on Cape Cod who shared the idea at the 2006 multi-district PETS in Nashua. President Lisa Stanley was so impressed with the simple yet meaningful program that she brought it to Rochester.

The idea behind the award is to select a high school student, usually a junior, who has or is overcoming adversity and succeeding scholastically. January's recipient, Tiffany Todd, comes from a home in which two of her older siblings are high school drop-outs. Despite this, she has improved her own scholastic performance and raised her GPA by over one full point from her freshman to

sophomore year. She then made the High Honor Roll during the first quarter of her junior year. In addition, she has found her niche and is taking advantage of graphics arts courses in hopes of pursuing a college education and career in graphic design.

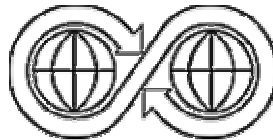
Each recipient of the Rising Star Award attends a Rotary luncheon to accept a certificate signed by Rotary President Lisa Stanley and Superintendent of Schools Mike Hopkins (also a Rochester Rotarian), as well as a gift certificate to a local book store. The Club also prepares a press release that runs along with a photo in the local newspapers.



### GSE Hosting by Steve Wight

The Outbound GSE Team to Lucerne, Switzerland is busy training and preparing for their adventure. They will depart on March 31 and return on April 28. Come meet the team and wish them well at the District World Peace and Understanding Dinner on Feb. 23.

The Inbound team will arrive on May 5 and tour our district until June 2, including a day at the District Conference in Kennebunkport on May 19. So far, eight clubs or groups of clubs have indicated an interest in hosting them while they are here. If your club is interested and has not yet said so, please contact me, GSE Chair Steve Wight at 207-824-2410 as soon as possible. The schedule for the team will be set in mid February.



### **World Community Service: Rotarians Committed to Sustainability of Safe Passage Following Tragic Death of Founder**

Hanley Denning, founder and chief inspiration of Safe Passage, the project that has provided hope, schooling and a future for 600 children and their families who live on the Guatemala City garbage dump, died in a car accident on January 18 in Guatemala.

Hanley's death, at age 36, leaves a gaping wound. The loss is personal not only to her family and those volunteers who were fortunate enough to know her and work with her, but also to the hundreds of children whom she loved and for whom she dedicated her life. Her death is also a personal tragedy to many, many District 7780 Rotarians.

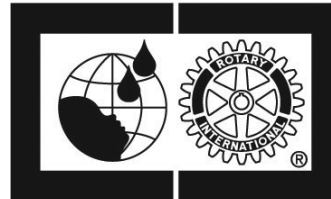
Rotarians from numerous clubs in our District have volunteered at the program, fundraised for it, and sponsored three Rotary Foundation Matching Grants which have purchased two passenger vans and two pickup trucks for Safe Passage. Last year, the Yarmouth Rotary Club made Hanley Denning a Paul Harris Fellow and presented her with a special international award. This year, Wrap-a-Smile, sponsored by the Wells Rotary Club, presented 120 quilts to the children who visit the medical staff at the Safe Passage infirmary. At the same time, friends of the Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club, augmented by the Fellowship of Rotary Quilters, created 125 more quiltlets for the toddlers in the just-opened day care center at Safe Passage.





As news of Hanley Denning's death spread through the District, friends of the Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club were packing the quilts they and members of the Fellowship of Rotary Quilters had created for Safe Passage toddlers. Here, they stand in front of 125 quilts, all gifts to the youngest children of Safe Passage, who have so little, and who now have lost their best friend.

## PolioPlus



## Rotary International

### Four District 7780 Rotarians on NIDS

We have four Rotarians from District 7780 traveling to India this month to participate in the NID activities starting on February 11th.

PDG Elias Thomas is the team leader for the trip that leaves on February 9th and returns on February 25th. He has two District 7780 Rotarians going along - Joan Nickel from the Portsmouth Sunrise Club and Jayne Britton from the Fryeburg Area Club plus 7 other Rotarians from around the United States. They will meet up with a team of Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Delhi-West India for the NID on February 11, 2007.

During the week following the NID, the team will work hands-on as construction labor on the construction of a community washing platform with the provision for non-polluting water disposal in the Muslim village of Chahalka, which lies fifty kilometers west of Delhi.

At present, the women of the village wash their laundry and eating utensils by dipping into the main water reservoir. The run-off from the washing, done on the platform on top of the water reservoir, heavily pollutes the water in the reservoir, as well as the entire area. This has caused the surrounding area to become a dirty and stinking breeding ground for water-borne diseases, as well as mosquitoes that carry and transmit these diseases to humans. In addition, the polluted water heads directly into the playground of the adjoining village school.

Following the work project in Chahalka, the team will travel to other parts of India. They will visit several tribal villages in the state of Rajasthan plus several matching grant sites, one of which is in Agra where corrective surgeries are done for children who had been afflicted with Polio and another just outside New Delhi, where teenagers are being trained at a vocational center.

You can follow their progress by checking out their BLOG site at <http://rotariansforhope-india2007.blogspot.com>. Readers and viewers of the BLOG are encouraged to send comments and questions for the members of the team.

Ann Lee Hussey is co-team leader with Dave Groner from Michigan. She left on February 3rd and returns on the 21st. They have 30 people from across the United States, Canada and Sweden with

them. Traveling with their team is a Senior Media Relations specialist from RI. They also have a reporter from The German National Press and one from the Wall Street Journal during the immunization activities.

They will do immunizations in the State of Uttaranchal (formerly part of Uttar Pradesh) in the north of India, near the China border. Once polio free, Uttaranchal has reported 13 cases of polio this year. This will be the first time that this area has hosted an NID team from outside India, giving local Rotarians and health workers the opportunity to experience the support that exists in other countries for India's polio eradication program. We will immunize and experience home stays in the cities/towns of Dehradun (the capital), Haridwar, Roorkee, Yamunanagar and Chandigarh from February 10-13th.

Their trip will include visits and follow ups with several Rotary Matching Grants, the World Health Organization office, the PolioPlus office, the Rotary International Office in Delhi, corrective surgery hospitals, schools for disabled children and orphanages. Each team member is taking a second suitcase filled with clothing, toys and school supplies for a large orphanage in Chandigarh run by the Sisters of Charity.

You can follow their trip progress by checking out Rotary International NID BLOG site at <http://rotarynid.blogspot.com/>.

Here are four potential speakers for your club when they return. If you haven't thought about making a donation to PolioPlus Partners yet this year, now is the time. Your donations will not help these four Rotarians from our District while they are on these two NIDS but it would certainly help out future NID trips. Think of the lives that are being changed because of these trips. Please consider making a donation to PolioPlus Partners. Every donation makes a difference – large or small. Donate to The Rotary Foundation today!



## DGE's Corner: 2007-2008- ROTARY SHARES

More than 520 District Governors-Elect from over one hundred countries met in balmy San Diego last week for Rotary's annual International Assembly. The focus of the assembly is on the 2007-2008 Rotary year and, amid thunderous applause, President-Elect Wilf Wilkinson unveiled his theme: ROTARY SHARES.

President Wilf asks all of us to share fellowship at our meetings, to share the family of Rotary, to bring water to the thirsty, food to the hungry and health to all. He asks us to share through service in literacy, through projects focusing on youth and to share our membership.

In Wilf's words, "Rotary Shares because Rotarians care. Rotary Shares because Rotarians know the needs. Rotary Shares because Rotarians provide Service Above Self."

Sharing ideas, concerns and success stories was the focus of the discussion groups and plenary sessions. DGEs were assigned seats on a rotating basis so that, in one session, one might sit between DGEs from Lebanon and The Ukraine, in another between DGEs from Japan and Swaziland and in another between DGEs from India and Brazil.

Being Rotarians, everyone had a lot to say, even if we could not always understand each other very well. For me, one of the high points was The International Dinner and Dance where hundreds of people in their native dress were all on the dance floor together. People in kimonos, kilts, saris, Punjabis, batik, flamenco attire, evening gowns and tuxedos were all dancing and singing, "YMCA".

In school we learned that math is the universal language and now music is universal as well. But

there is a symbol and a single word that reaches across countries and across cultures to bring us all together--Rotary.

Liz Cullen, DGE

**Remember on February 23, Rotary International will celebrate its 102nd Anniversary!**

Please help us celebrate this day in Rotary by joining us at District 7780's World Peace and Understanding Dinner to celebrate all the clubs in District and their involvement in international projects around the world. The dinner is being held at Keeley the Katerers in Portland, ME. See the registration form below. Your club president has been sent the information along with a registration form.



**World Peace & Understanding Dinner**

**Keeley the Katerer's  
178 Warren Avenue  
Portland, ME**

**February 23, 2007**

**5:00-6:00 PM Social Hour, 6:00 PM Dinner**

The Rotary Club of \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed:

Total Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ times \$32.50 Per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to District 7780 and return to George W. Rice, Past District Governor, 124 Cottage Street, South Paris, ME 04281 no later than February 15, 2007.

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