



Rotary International District 7780

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A Word From Governor Liz-

In the Rotary world, the month of February celebrates world understanding and peace and District 7780 is going to celebrate in style! On Saturday 23, Rotary International President Wilf Wilkinson and his wife, Joan will join us at our annual World Understanding and Peace Dinner at Sable Oaks in Portland. Rotary International Vice President Mike McGovern will join us as well. It is a special honor for our district to enjoy the company of the President of Rotary International and the Vice President at the same event. Registration forms are available from your club president, on the district website, <http://www.rotary7780.org/> on the World Community Service page. You can contact co-chairmen George Rice PDG or Patty Rice AG as well. Please come and join us!

FOOD DRIVE

In honor of President Wilf's visit, which is being held in South Portland, The Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth has agreed to organize a food drive to help a food pantry in South Portland. There will be a truck at Sable Oaks waiting to receive donations and you can help in two ways. When you come to the dinner, please bring a one or more non-perishable items and bring them to the truck. The second way is for your club to collect canned goods at your meetings over the next two weeks and bring them all with you on the 23rd. If you have any questions, please let me know. We plan to have media coverage to let the public know how Rotary Shares. Wouldn't it be wonderful to fill the entire truck? Even if it is an eighteen-wheeler!

The District Calendar

In the spirit of sharing Rotary, we have taken the district calendar on <http://www.rotary7780.org/> to a new level. You can now post your events, including fundraisers on the website. Road races, auctions, dog shows, fishing tournaments, wine tastings, -- whatever your club is up to. Just send me the information and I will post it. This is a great way for us all to visit other clubs to share fun, fellowship and ideas.

The District Conference

It is not too early to register for our district conference. It will be held from May 2 to May 4 at The Grand Hotel in North Conway. Forms are available on the district website. Please plan to come—it will be a blast!

District 7780 Interact Conference

On Saturday, January 26th I had the pleasure of attending our district's annual Interact Conference hosted by the Interact Club of Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School. It was a great success! More than eighty people from twelve Interact Clubs from all over the district journeyed to Oxford Hills on a beautiful winter morning to join in the fun. Many thanks to Oxford Hills' gracious hosts: Advisor Lynne Schott, Interact Students and Rotarians who cooked and served both breakfast and lunch. Students from every club reported on their local and international projects and the list is wonderful! Clubs all over the district are involved with food drives, tutoring, walks for hunger, and providing food and clothing for needy families just to name a few. They have held fashion shows, skating parties, talent shows, bake sales, dances and manned phone banks for club auctions. The day ended with students and advisors braving the ropes course in the school gym! Interact students are a great asset to Rotary. They bring youth, enthusiasm and energy to our clubs and these students are to be admired and commended because in the midst of classes, essays, exams, lessons, sports and social lives, they give their time to make their communities and the world a better place.

See you on February 23rd!

Liz

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“News Flash”

Rotary Leadership Institute

March 8, 2008

York Community College
Wells, Maine

Sessions 1,2,and 3
Graduate Course

7:45 AM – Close

Registration starts 7:45 AM

[Register on line HERE](#)



Lara Croft:Tomb Raider aka PP Karen Wendell and associate took part in Portsmouth's annual Polar Bear Swim on Saturday, January 12. The Swim raises funds for the Portsmouth Club's local charities.

Notes from Area 5

Portland

The Portland Rotary Club has, as usual, a very busy holiday season. The day before Thanksgiving, the Club

spearheaded an effort to serve over 150 homeless people hot turkey dinner at the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen. Over 30 club members took time out of their own holiday preparations to serve these needy and thankful folks. Soon after Thanksgiving, the Club took over two locations in Portland to man the bells and kettles on behalf of the Salvation Army. The weather was better than in years past (when it had sleeted or snowed) and the Club helped make the Army Kettle Drive another great success. Just before Christmas, the Portland Rotary Club was once again working with the local Salvation Army, this time to help feed over 100 elderly a nice holiday meal and provide musical entertainment with festive carols. On Christmas morning, several of the Club members served "meals on wheels" to area shut-ins that could not attend the gala a few days before. For their efforts, the Portland Rotary Club was treated to a brass quintet from the Portland Symphony Orchestra for their meeting of December 21st. All in all, it was a holiday season filled with the joyous spirit of giving and caring for the members of the Portland Rotary Club.

Breakwater Daybreak

The Breakwater Daybreak Club together with the South Portland Cape Elizabeth Club is again gearing up for our 4th International Food Festival. It will be held on April 26, 2008.

This year as last, the South Portland Cape Elizabeth Club is working with us and the chairman will be Kathy Cotter from that club. SMCC with Chef Will coordinating is also on board. We have begun weekly meeting with all 3 entities.

Remember the date – April 16, 2008



Group Study Exchange participants learned a great deal about what to expect in Quezon City/Manila from AQUI and Chet Alamo, Filipinos who are now New England residents. Shown here from left: team member Catherine Hedberg, Rotarian team leader Marty Peak Helman, Chet Alamo, AQUI Alamo, and team members Juliette Coombs and Evelyn Andrews

GSE Team Makes Final Preparations for Philippines

The District 7780 GSE team is preparing for its Manila/Quezon City adventure! We have been learning about Filipino customs and expectations, and even rehearsing the Philippine National Anthem (in Tagalog, of course).

We have been acquiring gifts for our hosts, and we are extremely pleased that the gift for D-3780 DG Danny will be pottery stoneware designed and thrown by Ann Hedgcock, wife of Boothbay Harbor Rotarian Seth Hedgcock, and that the tourmaline pendant for his wife is designed and created by Linda Sorenson, wife of Fryeburg president Dave Sorenson. "Family of Rotary" at its finest!

Meanwhile, we have paired two elementary schools - in our District and in Quezon City - to join in our exchange. We are excited that 1st and 4th graders from each District will have a chance to learn about our two countries and even become "penpals" with their pint-sized counterparts.

We have started a blog and invite all District Rotarians to participate in our trip, at least electronically. You can check out the blog: <http://rotarygse2008.wordpress.com/>, and if you wish to add a comment, as we hope you will, please email it to our blogmistress Christin Walth: cwalth@comcast.net. She will "approve" you and you will be on your way!

None of this could have been accomplished without the wonderful support of District GSE rep Karen Wendell of the Portsmouth club. Time is moving quickly: We leave mid-March. Our next report will be from the road!"

--Marty Peak Helman, GSE Team Leader

Dear all:

The GSE team and I would like to ask all 7780 Rotarians to involve themselves in the Filipino adventure, at least electronically. Our blog is up and "populated," and we hope that you and your clubs will join us in our planning and in the big adventure. Also, if you or any children have any questions or would like a "penpal" half-way across the world, we can make it happen!

Please ask your club members to add comments or posts, share with friends – and especially share with educators. Let's see if we can get some teachers/classes to follow our adventure!

<http://RotaryGSE2008.wordpress.com/>

To add a comment, or to respond to one already posted, please email it our blogmistress, Christin Walth:

cwalth@comcast.net. She will "approve" you and you will be on your way!
Thanks!

Marty Peak Helman
D-7780 GSE Team Leader 2007-08



Rotary Shares! From Maine to Maui to Guatemala

Several D-7780 clubs joined forces this year to support a Rotary Foundation matching grant to establish a sports program at Safe Passage in Guatemala. Rumford, Boothbay Harbor and Bath Sunrise -- joined by clubs in Saratoga Springs, NY, Traverse City, MI, and Maui, Hawaii -- have raised the funds to build a playing field and buy sports equipment. The goal is to develop a weekend sports program that will help the children learn teamwork, have fun, and combat gangs. Here, Rotarian Marty Peak Helman (left) looks on as Cecilia Vasquez, World Community Service chair of Host Club Metropoli in Guatemala City, signs the grant application paperwork.

PR Corner: "If You Could See It Through My Eyes"

A funny thing happened at Rotary Leadership Institute: I sat next to a Rotarian (not from D-7780, of course!) who talked about her club's membership concerns. She said that a lot of first-timers visited the meetings, but they seldom came back a second time. "And it's no surprise, because we make a point of embarrassing our visitors," she said. "Huh?" I asked in my usual intelligent fashion, and she explained that it is a time-honored tradition in her club to ask visitors to stand to be recognized and then to serenade them in loud and strenuous fashion.

Sounds like a lovely club tradition, of course, but it does sort of self-select the kind of person who would be willing to return to the club for a second round.

I'm also a member of a singing club, and we're as proud of that fact as we are off-key. We don't serenade visitors, however: Our idea of a good time is to sing oldie moldy songs dating from World War I (or earlier). There's something endearing about community leaders letting loose in an old-fashioned sing-along, or so I thought until the day we invited the high school graduates to our meeting ... and the song leader had us all warbling away, "she'll be your tootsie-wootsie in the good old town tonight." From a PR perspective, if you are going to sing lyrics like that in front of teens, you might as well just paste a sign to your forehead that labels you a "geezer" and be done with it.

Ever been in a room where everyone seemed to know what was going on except for you? When I became club president, my Rotarian husband trained me to announce, "Please join me in the salute to the flag," before plunging into the Pledge each week. It's only fair to first-timers, he explained, to let them know what's happening. For the same reason, we now give our non-Rotarian guests an abbreviated agenda-- including asterisks that show when to stand and sit -- so that they will feel comfortable with what's taking place and, for example, not think they have entered a Moonie convention when someone called the sergeant-at-arms jumps up and starts demanding dollars.

In a previous column I suggested the importance of asking a new member or spouse to assess your website to judge how informative it really is. The same holds true for the content of your meetings and those traditions that mean so much to the greybeards of your membership. Is the club's culture welcoming, or confusing? Are traditions truly meaningful, or the result of some insider joke that grew stale ages ago? Are they acceptable to baby-boomers, but embarrassing to gen-Xers?

It's never too late for New Years' resolutions: Let's keep those traditions that are welcoming and make sense, and boot out the ones that get in the way of membership goals!

--Marty Peak Helman, District PR Coordinator



Rotarians Wayne Goodrich, Alan Hawkins and Tony Wagner

South Portland-Cape Elizabeth Rotary Tree Sale

We are working part of 800 hours of retail sales on the Mill Creek, S. Portland tree lot. This year we raise over \$35,000 by selling some 2300 Christmas Trees. We work this day and night, with rain, snow, sleet and yes sometimes sunshine. Many of our customers have been buying from us since 1962 when this started, and consider this part of their Christmas season.

The money goes to the usual mix of Rotary activities.

Tony

Anton G. Wagner



Salvation Army Representative Greg Latimer and Damariscotta-Newcastle Rotary Bell Ringing Chair Larry Townley "Share the Good News"

Rotary Cub of Damariscotta – Newcastle "Shares" in a successful fund raising effort

Rotary Bell Ringing Campaign Chair Larry Townley hosted Salvation Army representatives Greg Latimer of Damariscotta and Portland Rotarian Doug Fair at a late January meeting where they announced that this year's local Red Kettle Bell Ringing campaign was another wonderful success. Our two local kettle sites raised \$ 9,360.54 of which a major portion goes to assist with emergency calls for food, clothing, and heating assistance from individuals in need in the Mid-Coast Region. Local Rotarians put in over 60 volunteer hours and were joined by other community volunteers in this annual "Shared" effort.

Carol Ransom
President, The Rotary Club of Damariscotta-Newcastle

Looking for a Few Great Rotaplast Volunteer Travelers

It's official! The next Rotaplast mission for our district will be to La Oroya, Peru. It is scheduled for August 3-17, 2008 (exact dates subject to change to a few days earlier or later). This mission will require a large team, as four Operating Rooms will be made available to provide surgeries for many children needing cleft palate/cleft lip reconstruction. Our Rotaplast Committee's goal is to sponsor 1/3 of the cost of the trip, a target amount of \$25,000. Reaching this goal will require the support of many individual clubs in our district.

As a result of our financial commitment to this mission, three non-medical volunteers from our District will be able to assist with the mission to La Oroya. If you are interested in participating as a member of the non-medical team, you must complete an application form, found on the Rotaplast website (www.rotaplast.org), and return it to the District Rotaplast Committee by early March, 2008. This is an amazing opportunity to provide support for the medical teams who truly change the lives of children (and adults) by providing reconstructive surgery. You will meet dedicated Rotarians from several countries, tremendous medical volunteers, and the grateful families whom this mission will serve – and it may just change your life, as well!



Bob Mallon from the Fryeburg Area club serving up potatoes at a recent "Dinner Bell".

What's Happening in the Hills-February '08 by AG Patty Rice

The **Fryeburg Area** Club continues to present students from the Molly Ockett Middle School with the Rotary Good Citizen Award each month. Their club members continue to help with the area's "Dinner Bell", a free community dinner served every Wednesday night. They shop, cook, prepare, serve and clean up as needed for the meals. And they are also busy working to promote their upcoming "Bountiful Scholarship Dinner" to fund community projects and scholarships. The event will feature both a silent and live auction, good food, beverages and live jazz to listen to. Save the date of March 9th. For more info call 207-935-1225 or 207-935-3031.

BridgtonLakeRegion Rotary had a wonderful evening on January 19th hosting their 2nd annual Taste of the Mediterranean Wine Tasting. An assortment of wines, assorted gourmet appetizers and light desserts were served. Guests were treated to live music and an art show featuring local artists who had items for sale. We were thrilled to see our PDG George Rice and AG Patty Rice join us for the fun!

Oxford Hills recently hosted the District Interact Conference and it was a great success. Chair Lynne Schott

reported an estimated 55 students, from 8 clubs, along with 20 adults participated, shared info, time and talents together. The Club is also looking forward to celebrating their 24th year at their Annual Dinner coming up on February 16th.

The **Bethel Club** is gearing up for their next Spring Country Breakfast to be held on March 9th. Proceeds from the event will benefit their scholarships and community projects. The club members have enjoyed some interesting speakers lately including the Maine Commissioner of Economics and Community Development (a member of the Governor's cabinet) along with their new Sheriff Wayne Gallant. And if you're headed to Bethel, be sure to check out the progress of the newest challenge to build the world's largest snowwoman!

The **Rumford Club** is taking a breather from their busy holiday season and are focusing on bringing in a couple new members, and coordinating their dictionary project. They are also discussing other literacy projects to perform in the month of March.



DGE's Corner: 2008-2009 "Make Dreams Real"

The impact of meeting hundreds of Rotarians from the far reaches of the world, is still settling in on both Penny and myself. The International Assembly was an amazing experience. As District Governor-elects flew in from over two hundred countries to San Diego for their final week of education and training with their spouses/partners – we waited together with baited breath in anticipation for the unveiling of President-elect D.K. Lee's announcement of the 2008-2009 theme and his focus for his term. He hit a home run with us personally, and several of my classmates who have also lost a child of their own, as his focus is on reducing child mortality in the world.

We met new friends from around the globe, some English speaking, some not and shared ideas, concerns and stories with one another. It was a week that will be forever replayed in our minds in years to follow, but most importantly the international assembly provided the Governor-elects of 2008-2009, the education, the tools, the desire and the drive to "make dreams real" in the coming year.

Yours in Rotary,

Brad

DGE Brad Jett



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