



Rotary International District 7780

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Judy Speers, Wilt Jones, Gary Speers, Liz Cullen and Will Fiske celebrate the lighting ceremony at the Damariscotta-Newcastle bridge on Saturday, December 8. The installation of the lights marks the completion of the centennial project for the Rotary Club of Damariscotta-Newcastle

A Word From Governor Liz-

Can you believe it? We have already embarked on the second half of this Rotary year! In November and December the presidents, the assistant governors and I got together to review where we have been and where we are going. By all reports, the presidents and clubs of District 7780 are doing a great job!

The past six months have been packed with projects and parties and with fundraisers and fellowship. Blane Grants, District Simplified Grants and Matching Grants have been awarded and projects are going ahead at full speed. Each club is not only hard at work sharing Rotary through dozens of community projects but every club is also reaching out to the rest of the world by taking part in international water, literacy and health programs.

The months from January to July promise to be equally exciting! In fact, January is "Rotary Awareness Month" and we are all asked to help expand awareness of Rotary's local and global humanitarian efforts. Several newspapers in our district, The Forecaster and the Newburyport Daily News, for example, have already given clubs great press this month. Building public relations is an enormous challenge but it seems to be paying off. Let's keep trying!

Throughout the district we are planning the Interact Conference, The Future Presidents' Dinner, The World Understanding and Peace Dinner, PETS and the District Conference. Locally, clubs are gearing up for charter nights, wine tasting, polar swims, road races and any number of fundraising and fellowship activities. Please send me the dates of your events and I will put them on the district calendar.

Membership Tools

Resources

Health & Hunger
Public Relations
Water

Youth Programs

Interact
RYLA
Youth Exchange

Service Above Self
Forms & Documents
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Contact Us

Internationally, teams of Rotarians from many clubs are getting ready to travel to Central and South America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia to share the resources and blessings of District 7780 with the poorest of the world's poor. We wish them all a safe journey!

Finally, I wish you and your families a healthy and happy new year filled with lots of Rotary and lots and lots of fun!

DG Liz

Please Save the Dates!

Saturday, January 26	Interact Conference Oxford Hills High School Chairman, Lynne Schott: lynneschott@hotmail.com
Sunday, January 28	Deadline for clubs to submit forms for candidates for District Governor 2010-2011. Submit to DG Liz
Saturday, February 23	World Understanding and Peace Dinner Guest Speaker: RI President Wilf Wilkinson Chairmen: PDG George and AG Patty Rice gwrice@verizon.net and price@austinpa.net
May 2-4, 2008	District Conference. The Grand Hotel, North Conway Chairman: PP Gerry Hirsch dghirsch@hotmail.com



Please come to the

Rotary District 7780 Annual World Understanding and Peace Dinner

When: Saturday, February 23, 2008
Where: The Marriott at Sable Oaks
 200 Sable Oaks Drive
 Portland, Maine
Guest Speaker: Rotary International President Wilf Wilkinson
Social Hour: 6:00-7:00 pm
Dinner: 7:00 pm
RSVP: Chairmen PDG George and AG Patty Rice

Registration Form is on the World Community Service page. **Please feel free to make copies of the form and invite as many people as possible.**



Steph Wagner recognizes Rotary's global impact with this sculpture in Hong Kong. Steph is the daughter of President Tony Wagner of the Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth.



1st January 2008

Dear Rtn Don McClure and Rtn Gary Speers.

Happy New Year and warm Greetings from Bangladesh.

Your humanitarians support for the "SIDAR" affected people has been recognized by the people and as well as by the government of Bangladesh.. We the Rotarians also appreciate your timely act upon for the pure drinking water which was very much essential at that time.

After receiving your invoice from Fed Ex I have to take permission from different government agencies to clear the parcels from customs and excise departments of Zia International Airport. We handed over the materials to the Armed disaster Task team and they have distributed the tablets among the Sidar affected people.

Once again we like to express our gratitude. Please accept our appreciation for your assistance and help.

Rtn Shahana Mohiuddin is the name of our Club President. She is first lady president of our club.

Yours in Rotary,
Iqbal Ahmad

IQBAL AHMAD
Institute of Business Administration(IBA)
University of Dhaka , Dhaka-1000 ,Bangladesh



Caroling with Interact Students

News from Bridgton Lake-Region Rotary Club

In December we enjoyed baking cookies and assembling tins for local shut-ins. These were delivered with holiday greetings from all our Club Members.

We went caroling at the Bridgton Health Care Center and appreciated the lovely voices of the Interact Students who made us sound very good! The residents seemed to appreciate the festivities.

On January 19th we will hold our 2nd annual Wine Tasting event in Harrison at "The Ballroom". We are currently selling tickets for this fun event.



RINGING THE BELLS TO HELP KIDS—Ellie Andrews was one of many members of the Bethel Rotary Club who took a turn ringing sleigh bells outside the Bethel Foodliner store to collect money for the club's annual Christmas for Children project. Funds donated at the food store, at Sunday River Ski Resort and by mail go toward purchasing presents for children in the area whose families might not otherwise be able to afford gifts for them.

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

The **Rumford Area** Rotary and Interact Club had a very busy month. They completed another successful lobster lunch. They participated in the River Valley Chamber of Commerce, Christmas in the Valley Parade, with a pickup displaying a lit Rotary wheel and Rotarians handing out brochures about their club. Rotary member, Arthur Meader, hosted their annual Christmas Party which raised \$190 to purchase 19 "Fund-a-Feast" food bags from Hannaford to be donated to the food bank located in the Green Church in Mexico. Their Interact club participated in the Christmas in the Valley

Craft fair. They also performed the reading of "Tails are Not for Pulling," in the area schools. These kids are great!

The **Oxford Hills** Club had another successful Holiday 300 Club fundraiser where they sell 300 tickets at \$25 and draw off 20 weekly winners and 10 final winners of various amounts, and raised around \$3,700 to support club projects. The Interact Club is busy making plans to host the District Interact Conference on January 26th and will include their high ropes course as part of the day's events.

The Rotary Club of **Bethel** had a busy December, hosting their annual Senior Citizen Luncheon with a huge turnout and a great time of fellowship with members, guests and AG Patty Rice all working together. Many members of the Club who took a turn ringing sleigh bells outside the Bethel Foodliner store to collect money for the club's annual Christmas for Children project. Funds donated at the food store, at Sunday River Ski Resort and by mail go toward purchasing presents for children in the area whose families might not otherwise be able to afford gifts for them.

The **Fryeburg Area** Club is holding their annual Scholarship fund raiser on Sunday, January 27 at the lovely Stone Mountain Arts Center in Brownfield, Maine. They're also taking over their local community dinner 3 times over the next few months. The dinner feeds 100-150 people every Wednesday night totally put on by volunteers. Their club comes in to take over to give those volunteers a bit of a break during the winter months. The Interact club helps once a month, every month, what a great group of kids. When they heard about the Haitian water project the club/district were helping to fund, they wanted to know if they could contribute too. So they have donated \$1,000 to the project! On a sad note, Phil Spurr, beloved member and Past President of the **Fryeburg Area** Club passed away in December after a brief but valiant struggle with kidney cancer. Phil was awarded the Paul Harris award shortly before his untimely death. Phil will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

The **Bridgton-Lake Region** Club had a busy December where they enjoyed baking cookies and assembling tins for local shut-ins. These were delivered with holiday greetings from all their Club Members. They also went caroling at the Bridgton Health Care Center and appreciated the lovely voices of the Interact Students who made them sound very good! The residents seemed to appreciate the festivities. On January 19th they will hold their 2nd annual Wine Tasting event in Harrison at "The Ballroom". They are currently selling tickets for this fun event.



Casco Bay Sunrise Rotary spent the day on December 14 at Shaw's Westgate Supermarket ringing the Salvation Army bell and trying to keep warm while doing so. On December 18 we helped wrap gifts for the residents of The Barron Center in Portland. There are hundreds of gifts to wrap and with the system we've developed over the years it was done in less than 2 hours!

We are busy now working on the 10th annual Rotary Wine, Beer Tasting & Silent Auction to benefit the Maine Children's Cancer Program. The event will take place on Wednesday February 6, 5:30-8:30 at DiMillo's Floating Restaurant in Portland. For more information, including the opportunity to register on line, go to www.mcc.org/mccp.



Group Study Exchange Team Selected

The 2007-08 Group Study Exchange (GSE) team which will represent District 7780 in Quezon City/Manila, the Philippines, has been selected!

- Team leader: Marty Peak Helman, member of **Boothbay Harbor** Rotary Club. Classification: Non-profit Manager

Team members:

- Evelyn Andrews, sponsored by **Boothbay Harbor**. Classification: HR Manager.
- Juliette Coombs, sponsored by **Boothbay Harbor**. Classification: Geriatric Nurse.
- Caroline Hedberg, sponsored by **Casco Bay Sunrise**. Classification: Music Teacher.
- Christin Walth, sponsored by **Newburyport**. Classification: School Administrator.

Congratulations to all these GSEers, and to the clubs that sponsored them!

Group Study Exchange is a Rotary Foundation program that encourages clubs to partner with schools and other local employers to nominate a young professional to participate in a month-long business and cultural exchange in another Rotary district, somewhere around the globe. This year, our outbound team will travel to District 3780 in the capital city of the Philippines in February-March, and the inbound team from D-3780 will visit our District in April-May.

In addition to nominating young professionals to travel on the exchange, all clubs in the district are invited to participate, voyeur style, by keeping up with the travelers' blog and by inviting the team to present to the club and share their experiences post-travel. Please contact Marty Peak Helman directly if you would like your club to learn more about how GSE can benefit your community.

Meanwhile, please join me in wishing our out-bound team bon voyage! Or as they say in the Philippines, Paalam! And stay tuned to hear from Karen Wendell, District GSE Committee Chair, how your club can help host the in-bounds!



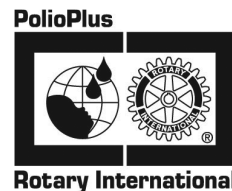
Volunteer Trips Epitomize Service Above Self

As Boothbay Harbor gears for a new calendar year, we reflect with satisfaction on the various volunteer trips our members made in 2007 that truly reflect "service above self."

Several of us traveled to Safe Passage in Guatemala this year (Rotarian Judy DeGraw wins a prize by doing so twice in calendar 2007!) and others of us found occasion to travel to the Gulf Coast to help rebuild lives and communities. Following these trips, we continue to work to create awareness and raise funds for matching grants to help our world community neighbors in these locales.

Here (from left), Boothbay Harbor Rotarians Skip Kreaehling, Foster Stroup and Vic Taylor pause with a new friend (kneeling) they met in Mississippi while working with a Rebuilding Together team. Their goal: To help the homeowner and her family return to the house that has stood uninhabitable for the two-plus years since Katrina. After a week's rehab, their goal was within reach: The home was very close to move-in ready!

THE FIGHT GOES ON... POLIOPLUS



Bringing Polio to an end; stamping out the last visage of this terrible virus; and completing Rotary's most well-known and ambitious project is not an easy task. Actually, it is sometimes a very dangerous one. Yongchai Surapanthanakorn, President of the Pathum Thani Rotary Club in Thailand was drowned recently, while delivering polio vaccine to communities along the Rangsit canal in Thailand. When the riverboat his club chartered capsized, Yongchai managed to get his two-year-old daughter to safety but drowned when he swam back to help his wife. This is a reminder of how Rotarians in developing countries constantly carry the burden of polio eradication. Rotarians have risked life and limb for years while they do most of the work in the field.

Pakistan, too, is still fighting the war against polio. A recent article in the Wall Street Journal (1/4/08) described some of the political antipathy for NGO's that Rotarians and their Partners have to overcome just to deliver the precious vaccine drops in their own country. Pakistan is one of the four remaining areas where polio is still endemic. The WSJ article portrays the fight to overcome prejudices in "A Door-to-Door Fight" with photos and with words in the accompanying article, "Islamist Politicians Emerge As Pakistan's Power Brokers" http://online.wsj.com/wsigate?subURI=%2Farticle%2FSB119940169119066109-email.html&nonsubURI=%2Farticle_email%2FSB119940169119066109-IMyQjAxMDE4OTE5MTQxMDExWj.html.

What we Rotarians need to do now is to contribute to PolioPlus Partners on RI's website. There you can find the link to the Open Projects List where you can direct your contribution to a specific social mobilization effort being funded during this Rotary year. This is our opportunity to help our fellow Rotarians end this fight once and forever and to make good on the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation matching grant challenge.

Joan Correll, PolioPlus Sub Committee chair
P.S. I would love to come to your Club and give a presentation on PolioPlus. You can reach me @ joanc@correllassociates.com.



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

DGE's Corner-

Stay tuned to next month's newsletter, as I will have much to share with you when Penny & I return from the International Assembly in San Diego. We're packed, excited, and ready to spend the entire week with 529 other District Governor- Elects from all over the world. I look forward upon my return to the evening of January 22nd, where DGN Jeff Pelkey and myself will meet with the future presidents of District 7780 for our official midyear gathering.

Till then – a happy & healthy new year to all.

Brad Jett, DGE

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