



Rotary International District 7780

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The Rotary Club of Falmouth receives the District 7780 award for founding the Qarabagh School for Girls in Qarabagh, Afghanistan

The Last Word from Governor Liz-

What a year we have had! Like graduating seniors all over our district, this is my valedictorian message. Congratulations to you, the clubs of 7780 for all that you have done this year to save and change lives!

President Wilf asked us a year ago to focus on membership and on six emphases: Water, Literacy, Health and Hunger, Public Relations, The Family of Rotary and Service to Youth. That seemed like a daunting task, but you rose to the occasion. Throughout the District you have supported daycare centers, elementary schools high schools, colleges and libraries. You have donated time and funds to food pantries, fuel assistance programs, homeless shelters, hospitals and even a jail. You have brought Meals on Wheels to senior citizens. You have built ramps for the handicapped and playgrounds for children. You have cleaned parks, trails and roads. You have read to children and the elderly as well. You have held blood drives and immunization clinics. You have given thousands of dollars in scholarships which meant, on some occasions that a needy student could stay in, or go back to, school.

Your generosity has extended beyond Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. You have brought clean water, food, education, clothing, hearing aids, glasses, eye surgery, hospital equipment, immunizations, vitamins, books and school supplies to at least seventeen countries throughout the world including Mexico, Honduras, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Peru, Brazil, Cuba, Haiti, The Dominican Republic, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, India and Afghanistan.

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You have shared your friendship and fellowship at lobster fests, pot luck suppers, dessert parties, auctions, road races, car rallies, golf tournaments, chicken barbeques, dog shows and softball games. I think that it is safe to say that we have had a blast! Even Rotary International President Wilf Wilkinson and Vice President Mike McGovern came to our party to celebrate World Understanding and Peace last February 23!

The list of your accomplishments is virtually endless but time and space are limited here. Perhaps I will write them all down in a book next year! In the mean time, please accept my sincere thanks for the tremendous support, warm welcomes and generous hospitality that you have extended to me this year.

Ave atque vale.

Liz

This and That

DGE Brad has appointed PDG Joe Hahn from the Rotary club of Bath to the recreated position of District Historian. Please go through your archives and send your club histories, stories and anecdotes to Joe at: www.JosephHahn@aol.com. Maybe I'll send him the '07-'08 edition of the History of District 7780! We are hoping to make the New York Times bestseller list—nonfiction, of course.

I have bad news in the fact that the Rotary Club of South Berwick voted to turn in their charter. The Board of Directors of Rotary International has declared that club closed. There is good news, however, in that we now have a provisional club, The Rotary Club of South Berwick-Eliot, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Kittery. They have thirty members and expect to receive their charter within the next few weeks. They meet on Thursday mornings at 7:15 at the Community Center in South Berwick. We wish them every success!

Twenty-nine clubs from our district have qualified for the Presidential Citation! The criteria were to have netted at least one new member (a challenge indeed) and to have completed a minimum of six service projects along the lines of President Wilf's emphases. Congratulations!

SAVE THE DATE

Our District Changeover Dinner will be held on Tuesday, June 24 at The Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland. Details and the registration form are on the district website. Please join us in celebrating the accomplishments of this year and the bright future of the year ahead!



Kennebunk Portside Rotary Play Pumps Water Project

Kennebunk Portside Rotary Play Pumps Water Project Greytown, South Africa, South Africa, March May, 2008: Access to clean drinking water is the critical first step for addressing a wide range of health, education, gender and economic issues.

Invented by Trevor Field of South Africa, the Play Pumps system has been very successful in providing water with over 1,000 installed to date. This unique device consists of a well, a children's merry-go-round, which drives a pump and a 2,500 liter water tank. While children have fun spinning on the play pump merry-go-round, clean water is pumped from underground into the tank, standing seven meters above the ground. No electricity or other power source will be needed other than the power of children at play.

Having seen first-hand the need for water in South Africa during prior Rotary-sponsored visits, Berri Kramer of the Kennebunk Portside Rotary Club took a chance and sent an email to Trevor. To her astonishment he replied within a day and promised three Play Pumps to our project. The Greytown Rotary Club and Tony Dutton were ready to suggest sites, arrange for well drilling and test the water, prepare the sites for Play Pumps. With \$5,400 of club funds, and \$1,100 from the Brunswick Coast and Greytown Rotary Clubs, District 7780 and the Rotary Foundation provided matching funds of \$5,000 and \$8,250, respectively. This supported the drilling of three wells with surveys, tests and all other related work, making the sites ready for the Play Pumps.

In addition, our club contributed travel funds to supplement a Rotary Volunteer Service Travel Grant.

allowing Berri to spend a month in South Africa observing the project in development. Finally, Mbali, a foundation set up by Berri to support child-headed households, contributed \$2,200 to related activities. All told, including the value of the Play Pumps, the project budget was nearly \$68,000, a remarkable factor of 10 leveraging of our club funds. During Berri's visit in March-April, the three wells were successfully drilled and made ready for the Pumps which were installed in May. Berri realized how this means to the children when they held such a celebration over a simple well borehole that school was cancelled for the day!

But we are just beginning... Trevor has 3,000 more Play Pumps to install!

David Jourdan, The Rotary Club of Kennebunk Portside



Rotary Club of South Portland/Cape Elizabeth Collects Equipment for Wheels of the World

Here is a photo of Committee Chairs David Lourie and Anne Swift-Kayatta, standing by some of our collected handicap equipment, at the S. Portland Armory this past Saturday, May 17th. The Rotary Club of S. Portland/Cape Elizabeth, conducted a collection and coordination day to receive crutches, wall wheel chairs, safety seats, etc. The equipment will be transferred to Wheels for the World in MA. for refurbishment work by State Prisoners, and eventual distribution to those in need in INDIA. Bernade Josemaria (from Maine WFTW) and her daughter, along with Club President, Tony Wagner assisted. The Rotary Club plans to continue this program via contact with a group donation list, of area hospital special care and nursing home facilities. Individual equipment donations can be made by contacting Club members.



Photo includes: Lisa Coughlan, Portside Rotary Club; David Clough, Kennebunk Rotary Club; Ron Stephan, owner Ricettas; Brian Mesley, Manager Ricettas Kennebunk location; Kevin Mahoney, VP/Business Development Ricettas; David Creech, MSAD71; Sandy Bisson, Portside Rotary Club; Kar Schlegel, Portside Rotary Club. PHOTO taken by Don Curry, Portside Rotary Club

Kennebunk and Portside Rotary Collects Funds for Schools

Kennebunk's newest restaurant hosted two VIP parties on May 8th and 9th prior to their opening on Monday May 12 and donated monies raised over the two nights to Kennebunk and Portside Rotary Clubs' fundraising effort for emergency communications equipment needs in the MSAD71 schools. management of Ricetta's presented a check to David Creech in the amount of \$1,659! Thanks to all contributed to the effort and a special thanks to Berri Kramer, Portside Rotary Club, for taking photographs the evening of the party.



A PAUL HARRIS FELLOW—Leigh M. Dickinson received a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow award May 3 at the District Conference in North Carolina from her husband, Bethel Rotarian W. K. Read Dickinson. The award was a complete surprise to her, despite many Rotarians being at the plan. At right is RVP Michael McGovern.
(Photo by Bob Laux)

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

The **Bethel** Club members are busy rounding up teams for their upcoming Golf Tourney on 6/28 in addition to collecting items for their auction and flea market on 6/28. They recently made a donation to REACH and are sponsoring 3 students to RYLA.

The **Rumford** Club recently hosted and honored the top ten students from both Mountain Valley and Dirigo High Schools. They are sponsoring students to attend RYLA and are anticipating delivery of dictionaries to their area schools along with home-schooled students.

The **Fryeburg Area** Club assisted their Interact Club in a successful Memorial Day event including sponsoring the 5K Road race and walk. They also held their Interact induction ceremony for the 2008-09 officers and welcomed guest speaker PDG Elias Thomas who gave a great motivational speech that was enjoyed by all who attended.

The Rotary Club of **Oxford Hills** presented five \$625 scholarships to the graduating class of 2008 along with providing food aboard the Senior Cruise for the graduates. They recently held a joint meeting with the Kiwanis Club to kick off their annual auction and flea market event to be held on July 11 & 12th. It sends a great message to their community that these 2 service organizations can work together for the common good of the Oxford Hills.

The **Bridgton-Lake Region** Club held a very successful Taste of the Lakes Dinner and Auction and the proceeds raised will help with fuel assistance to needy members of their community. A great time was had by all attending! PDG George and AG Patty Rice were the winning bidder on a week-long stay at a cottage in Denmark (Maine), donated by President Mike and Faye Daley. A true example of Rotary Shares!



Here Oxford Hills Club members assemble flower vases at a weekly meeting, to be delivered to local nursing home residents to say 'Happy Spring from Rotary' as a community service project for the elderly.



GSE-3780-7780 in Montauk, EastHampton, Long Island, New York!

Hi folks!

Just to let you know that even though I am enjoying bonding with my 98 yr young mother, Eden, in Montauk, I still have the GSE 3780-7780 spirit in me, thanks to the excelent hosting of Rotarians in D-7780!

Keep the faith! Go Red Sox!:-)

Joe Baradi



South Portland-Cape Elizabeth Visits Honduras

Liz, the picture showed one of the many opportunities we had to share with local indians in the Honduras mountains. In this village the only way to reach it is by hiking or mule. Guess how I got there. It was a great opportunity for the kids. They did a fabulous job in representing their school, the club, the US. I hope you enjoy these. -Marge Barker



Falmouth Rotary is pleased to report that the Qala Bibi School for Girls in Afghanistan opened in May 2008. The Club raised over \$90,000 for construction of this school, which now serves 418 students in 13 area villages, including some boys. The land was donated by village elders, and a playground was provided by the non-profit International Childhood Enrichment Program of Scarborough. Falmouth Rotary also provided desks. Falmouth Rotary is now raising money for school supplies and a computer lab and will seek matching grants from Rotary. Anne Payson, International Committee Chair, would be pleased to speak to Clubs about this project.

Sad news from Sebago Lake

President Nicole Lajoie of the Rotary Club of Sebago Lake wrote with a "heavy heart" that "Past President Bruce Sawyer was involved in a car accident in May near Bangor and did not survive. Bruce was a true Rotarian in every sense. He served as SLRC President for the 2004-2005 year. Bruce will be truly missed."



Exchange of club banners between Brunswick Coastal Rotary Club and the Kajansi, Uganda Rotary Club. The two clubs have established a successful partnership.

Brunswick Coastal Rotarians Return From Uganda Trip

Margaret Lonsdale and Mary Tennant returned with many experiences to report from their three week trip to Uganda on a VSG. While in Uganda the two Rotarians, both of whom are Clinical Social Workers, worked with the Kampala Orphans Program, the Mbabaali School for AIDS Orphans and were guest lecturers at Makerere University on the topic of social program development in the U.S.

The trip was not all work: Margaret experienced eating her first grasshopper, they socialized with the many Ugandan friends and were regaled in true African fashion when they visited Jjongozoa, the site of Brunswick Coastal Rotary's current MG water project. When they arrived at the village, they were met by 200 villagers assembled under a canopy, following which they were entertained by singing, dancing and speeches as well as receiving many gifts. They also participated in the feast that the village women had prepared. Unfortunately Margaret and Mary arrived late, having had the adventure of spilling through the red African mud following a downpour that resulted in the car's getting hopelessly mired.



A Tribute to Scarborough Rotary's John Messer

John Philip Messer, who dedicated countless hours to youth and philanthropic groups while working diligently to help his family's business prosper, died on Sunday at the age of 61.

Mr. Messer was admired for his thoughtful, level-headed contributions to numerous boards and youth activities and the giving nature that made it hard for him to say no when asked to help out, said his wife Terri Messer.

"He enjoyed it very much, and he was sort of good at it," she said. "He was the voice of reason I think very level-headed, very practical." She said the couple complemented each other because she tended to be more outspoken, while he was more reserved.

"He quietly got things done. He never wanted to call attention to himself," she said. "I can't think of anyone he ever angered or got upset, which is very hard to do."

Mr. Messer took over the family's truck parts distributorship in Westbrook, a job that could be consuming. He also volunteered for groups in which his three children were active, including as a coach for Casco Bay Youth Hockey.

"He would get up at 4 in the morning, because sometimes they had a 5 a.m. practice," she said of their two sons, three years apart. "He would get up even on icy, snowy mornings, and he'd have to call for the weather report on the turnpike."

Mr. Messer got active in scouting, earning the Silver Beaver for his volunteer efforts with the Boy

Scouts.

He worked hard but he also enjoyed life's pleasures, whether it was sipping a glass of wine that he made himself while watching the sunset at the Woodlands in Falmouth, or cruising the Mediterranean with his wife. Mr. Messer died during a SCUBA certification dive in 10 feet of water off Two Lights in Cape Elizabeth.

He was in good shape, for years running three days a week before work and later riding a stationary bicycle. On Sunday, he apparently suffered a cardiac event that doctors were not able to fully explain.

Because of the selfless way Mr. Messer lived his life, his family decided he would have wanted to help others, even in death, so they donated his organs and other tissue to people who needed them.

"We were approached because he was a perfect candidate because he had no trauma to his body," Mrs. Messer said.

Donating his organs to those in need would save lives immediately, and his skin and other tissue could help burn victims and others.

"With his death he's saving so many other people or improving their quality of life," she said.



Damariscotta-Newcastle "Power Tool" Rehab crew

Rotary Cub of Damariscotta – Newcastle Breaks out the Power Tools for Senior Citizen Thrift Shop Rehab

A hearty group of Rotarians and "Family of Rotary" partners from The Rotary Club of Damariscotta-Newcastle donned work garb and charged up the power tools for a community service work day at 1

Sea Thrift Cottage at the Lincoln Home Assisted Living facility in Newcastle. The energetic crew built and installed shelving and then helped clean up and restock shelves for the spring reopening of the shop. All proceeds from the seasonal shop go to support the residents of the Lincoln Home. The shop stocks donated goods ranging from adult and children's clothing to light house wares and is a popular source of goods for many low income residents of the Mid-Coast area.

Carol Ransom
President, The Rotary Club of Damariscotta-Newcastle

I want to add my thanks to everyone in District 7780 who contributed such fine photos and articles this year—your inspiring stories made our Newsletter a joy to assemble!

I know that next year's team will continue to communicate the best that our corner of the Rotary world has to offer.

Signing off,

Trish Hunter
Newsletter Editor, 2007-2008

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