



Rotary International District 7780

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President Ben Lowry of the Rotary Club of Portland gave the invocation at the World Peace and Understanding Dinner. Here he is with President Wif Wilkinon and Joan Wilkinon.

A Word from Governor Liz--

RI President visits District 7780

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On Saturday, February 23, our district had the honor of hosting Rotary International President Wilf Wilkinson, his wife, Joan and Rotary International Vice President Mike McGovern at our annual World Understanding and Peace Dinner in South Portland. PDG George Rice and AG Patty Rice organized the event and the party atmosphere was enhanced by the attendance of more than three hundred and thirty guests from thirty-nine clubs. That is nearly every club in the district!

After dinner, President Wilf and Vice President Mike recognized twenty one Rotarians for their outstanding service to their clubs. President Wilf then spoke about Rotary's role in promoting world understanding as well as the fact that heads of nations from all over the world recognize Rotary International as a force for peace.

In honor of Wilf's visit, the Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth organized a food drive for the Food Cupboard in South Portland under the leadership of Joe Conroy. As guests arrived with bags, boxes and cases of food the Interact Club of South Portland High School loaded everything onto a truck parked outside of the hotel. On Monday morning the SP-CE Club delivered two hundred dollars in cash and close to 3500 lbs of food—over one and a half tons of food! Thank you, everyone!

District Conference, May 2-4

If you thought that the World Understanding and Peace Dinner was a party, just wait until the District Conference at The Grand Hotel in North Conway! We will kick off with a cocktail party on Friday evening followed by dinner, a welcoming address from the Rotary International President's Representative and relaxing time for friendship and fellowship. Saturday will include workshops and breakout sessions about our clubs' favorite projects both at home and abroad and a wine tasting session. Saturday evening the Rotary Club of Newburyport will host a cocktail party for the entire district followed by a gala evening of awards for the STARS—you. Black tie preferred!

It's not too early to register and all of the information is on the district website: <http://www.rotary7780.org/>. We hope to see you there!

Please Save the Dates

The District Assembly: Wednesday, April 23, York County Community College, Wells

The District Conference: May 2-4, The Grand Hotel, North Conway

The District Changeover Dinner, Tuesday, June 24, Portland
District Nominating Committee Report

On Saturday, February 16, the District Nominating Committee met in Portland.

The committee selected:

David Reid PP, Rotary Club of Kennebunkport to serve on the District Budget and Finance Committee for the term 2008-2011

Ann Lee Hussey PP, Rotary Club of South Berwick, to serve as District Governor for the year 2010-2011.



Passing it On

If there's one thing all D-7780 Rotarians learn at PETS, at RLI, and whenever a speaker discourses on Polio Plus, it's that it was Filipino Rotarians who first conquered polio in their own country, and who led the way for RI to take on the fight against polio on a global basis. At the time, about 38 years ago, "everyone knew" that polio couldn't be exterminated from the Philippines, because this is a tropical country, because the serum has to be kept refrigerated, and because if one child missed the inoculation, that child could return to reinfect the entire village.

But the Filipino Rotarians persisted, and in a rapid six years they wiped out polio in their own country. RI took notice, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Fast forward to a few weeks ago, when I arrived here to lead the GSE team., and was completely dumbfounded to learn that very few Rotarians here in the Philippines -- including club presidents and assistant governors -- have any idea of the part they played in this incredible story.

So I've taken notice. Now, each of my talks begins by telling my Filipino Rotarian audience what I have just shared with you. But the lesson for D-7780 Rotarians is just as critical: We can't share our successes too often. It's all too easy to take for granted that "everyone knows" the local Rotary club started the scholarship program, or supports the food pantry, or gives money for home heating oil every year. Maybe "everyone" does know, but everyone frequently doesn't include the newbies ... and eventually it's the newbies who will need to pass the story on.

So let's sing our successes. Big and small. And let's never forget that it's up to us to make all the difference.

Marty Peak Helman,
District PR chair





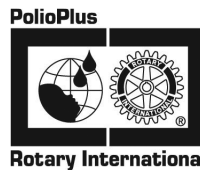
RI President Wilf and RI Vice President Mike recognize Susan Massey for her service to the Rotary Club of Kennebunk.



Boothbay Harbor Rotary Supports Fuel Assistance Fund

With fuel costs rising, and many people in Maine unable to afford their heating expenses, the Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club was proud this month to support a fundraiser for the emergency fuel assistance fund of the Boothbay Region Community Resource Group.

State representative Bruce MacDonald organized and hosted a fundraising dinner on February 23, which was attended by more than 90 people and raised more than \$1,200 in donations from individuals and local businesses. But Rotarians Debbie and Darren Graves were among those in attendance, and carried with them a surprise: a \$2,000 donation from the Club. This helped bring the total amount raised to \$3,243. The money will be distributed to needy families throughout the region.



District 7780 Well Represented at N.I.D. in India

On February 6, PDG Elias Thomas of Acton led fifty-four Rotarians and Friends of Rotary from six countries (United Kingdom, Sweden, France, Canada, Australia and the United States) to India to participate in a National Immunization Day (N.I.D.) against polio. Three other members of the Sanford-Springvale Rotary Club were among the team members. On February 9, the team met with the Chief Medical Officer of the area near Gurgaon and Sohna, and was provided with the latest statistics regarding new cases of polio (types 1 and 3), which have been diagnosed recently in Uttar Pradesh. Following this meeting, the team members joined some one hundred students from the Rotary Public School of Gurgaon and participated in a rally, as well as a march through the city of Sohna, helping to publicize the NID for the following day.

On February 10, members of Elias' team were dispersed throughout several small villages surrounding Sohna and Gurgaon, and dispensed oral polio vaccine to literally hundreds and hundreds of children younger than five years of age. In all of India, some 250,000 volunteers, including Rotarians, representatives from the W.H.O. and the United Nations were successful in immunizing nearly 172 Million children! Despite these efforts, a few new cases of polio have been diagnosed, originating in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar regions.

Polio eradication remains the singular corporate project for Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation. With your help and the extraordinary matching grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, we can reach this awesome

goal.

The above report from our own Elias Thomas' 2008 NID experience reminds us again of what a contribution to PolioPlus can do. Read his blog at: <http://rotarydreamteam-india2008.blogspot.com/>

Please contact me if I can be of any assistance in this endeavor.
Joan Correll, PolioPlus Sub Committee chair
joanc@correllassociates.com.



ROTARIANS HELP SOUTH PORTLAND FOOD CUPBOARD

South Portland -- At a Rotary District 7780 World Peace and Understanding dinner Feb. 23, Rotarians from Maine, New Hampshire and Mass. collected and donated cash and thousands of pounds of food to the South Portland Food Cupboard.

The President of Rotary International, Wilf Wilkinson (left), was on hand to help present the donations to Sybil Riemensnider (right), director of the Food Cupboard.

Looking on is Michael McGovern (center); McGovern, the town manager of Cape Elizabeth, is the current Vice President of Rotary International and has been a Rotary District Governor and past president of the South Portland/Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club.

Rotarian Joe Conroy from the South Portland/Cape Elizabeth Club was the coordinator of the food collection effort. The club's president this year is Tony Wagner.

Wilkinson spoke to the group about "Making Peace Possible" worldwide. There are about 1.2 million Rotarians in 170 countries. Wilkinson said, "I salute you for your work."



ROTARIAN WARREN SIMPSON HONORED BY PRESIDENT OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

South Portland -- Warren Simpson (center) of South Portland, charter member of the South Portland/Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club, was presented a Paul Harris Fellow by Wilf Wilkinson (left), the president of Rotary International, at a Rotary World Peace and Understanding dinner Feb. 23 at the Marriott Hotel.

Simpson has been an active member of the Rotary Club for 46 years ... and has 46 years of perfect attendance. He lists his age as "in the 90s."

Michael McGovern looks on (right); McGovern is the current vice president of Rotary International, a past Rotary District Governor, past president of the SP/CE Rotary Club, and town manager of Cape Elizabeth.



Damariscotta Rotarians and extended Family of Rotary members enjoy the meal and company.

Rotary Club of Damariscotta – Newcastle Celebrates Family of Rotary Month

The Rotary Club of Damariscotta-Newcastle embraced the snowy weather with a “Beauty of Winter” themed celebration. The annual “Family of Rotary” winter party was held at the Jewell Lodge of Camp Wavus and well attended by over 60 hardy souls. Rotarians, as well spouses, friends and relatives of dearly departed Rotarians enjoyed the beautifully decorated facility and the handiwork of Chef Tom Swarz, supplemented by the culinary works of art brought by club members. Members, old and new were thanked for their Club support and service. Carol Ransom President, The Rotary Club of Damariscotta-Newcastle

What’s Happening in the Hills-March ’08 by AG Patty Rice

The **Bethel** Club held a very successful Wine-Tasting Fundraiser Feb. 23 at Sunday River Ski Resort. The event, which drew about 40 people, was held in cooperation with the mountain’s Black Diamond Club, and with the help of Rotarian Dave Nivus’ Good Food Store. Many of the club’s members helped with the World’s Tallest Snowwoman, [Olympia SnowWoman](http://www.bethelmainsnowwoman.com) that was dedicated on Friday, February 29th in Bethel. For an update go to www.bethelmainsnowwoman.com.

The **Rumford** Club is planning on the dictionaries for the 3rd graders as part of literacy month. They are also on the move again. The Boiler Room is closing its doors March 15th. Their last meeting there will be on the 10th. They’re in the process of finding a temporary/permanent location. An announcement will be made when they find a home. Good luck in their search!

The Rotary Club of **Bridgton-Lake Region** members are hosting an Afternoon Tea on March 29th for members of the community to learn more about Rotary. A presentation has been prepared for viewing and light desserts will be served. They are using this as a way to encourage new membership. The Club is also busy planning their 5th annual Taste of the Lakes Dinner and Auction to be held on May 30th. Lots of good food, entertainment and both a silent and live auction are on the agenda. For more info contact Cathy Fitzgerald at 207-674-4154.

The **Fryeburg Area** Club is recognizing March as literacy month, and will be giving \$150 dollars to all the area libraries...this will include Fryeburg, Chatham, Lovell, and Brownfield.....that’s 4 x \$150 = \$600!

The **Oxford Hills** Club held their 24th annual dinner with special guests, Governor Liz and Bernie, and Governor Elect Brad and his wife, Penny. Two Paul Harris Fellowships were given out--one to Steve Galvin, immediate Past President and one to Dawne Willton given by her husband, Paul Thornfeldt. The Club also named Joelle Corey as their 2007 Rotarian of the Year, and she also received a Paul Harris Fellow Award. Coming in March is the exchange student ski weekend hosted by Bob and Lynne Schott. Ten students are coming and will have many events including cross country skiing at Dave Carter’s and downhill at Shawnee Peak!!



The Rice's New Baby

Patty writes, "Our new baby heifer-- In honor of the winter we've had, her name is Snowball! Born 2/26 (after the WUPD, thank goodness) at 4:50 pm, weighing 115 pounds".

March is Literacy Month Rotary Shares by Creating a Culture for Reading

Rotarians are amazing people. Consider the Rotarians in our district who have provided thousands of dictionaries to elementary school children, providing access important resource materials to a whole generation of children. Think about Rotarians visiting classrooms reading to young children, sharing the joy of story and rhyme. Have you heard about the Rotarians who are leading book study groups for fourth graders, giving these children an opportunity to experience quality literature and discuss their ideas? Rotarians are giving books to children several times during the school year to read and enjoy, sometimes being the only book these children have owned (and yes, these kids are kids in our own communities, right here in northern New England). Teachers in several communities have additional resource materials and books to share with their students, expanding classroom reading opportunities, how? Thanks to Rotarians, District 7780 actively supports a culture of reading.

So many Rotarians are helping to support a culture for reading as evidenced by the many projects undertaken by clubs in our districts. Yet, as a nation, there is much evidence that children are not reading, do not read, and do not value reading. As your club considers how to Share Rotary, there is no more important means of supporting your community than to support projects (and get actively involved in projects) that encourage and support reading. Share a story with a young child, talk with a middle school student about a piece of classic literature, establish a process in which you can encourage young parents to read with their baby, or begin book talk groups with high school students. The options are limitless in how Rotarians can share the joy of reading.

March is Literacy Month for Rotarians. Take this time to emphasize the importance of reading and look ahead to developing new means to encourage and support reading. Let us tenderly and kindly cherish, therefore, the means of knowledge. Let us dare to read, think, speak, and write. (John Adams) Let us dare to share Rotary through literacy. Our communities, our children, and our future will benefit from Rotarians daring to create a culture for reading.

Carolyn Johnson
District 7780 Literacy Resource Coordinator
Cfj2@mac.com



DGE's Corner--

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23RD – DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

Set the date for Wednesday, April 23rd for our annual District Assembly to be held at York Community College. Please join myself, District Governor Liz and the 2008-2009 team of Rotarians who want to share their knowledge and experience of Rotary with all of District 7780.

Please encourage as many of your members to attend the District Assembly – this event is not just for the 2008-2009 incoming board, or the current board or past presidents, but open to each and every member of your club – remember, everyone in your club is a potential leader of your club & no better way to remind them than to personally ask him or her to attend each and every district event including the upcoming District Assembly. There is no better compliment to an individual than to be personally asked to join others, to acknowledge to them that their presence is needed to contribute to the growth of a healthy club. Don't just ask one, ask each and every one of them. Continuing education strengthens not only ourselves as leaders, but our clubs, our district and the entire Rotary organization.

We are working hard to provide to you a program of sessions that are interesting, informative, some familiar, some different and hopefully as you are returning home that afternoon, you will indeed be thankful that you attended the District Assembly of 2008.

There will be breakout sessions on: club treasurer, club secretary, introduction to Rotary (targeting your new members), literacy, TRF, membership, interact, GSE, youth exchange, public relations, service projects, water management, grants, the Gates challenge (polioplus), local projects to reduce child mortality and much more.

So, in closing I ask each of you to take time away from your busy schedule and invest it in the future of Rotary and attend the district assembly next month. In fact, I would like to challenge each and every club in this district to bring as many members as you can – the club with the most per capita members who attend this year's assembly will be given Paul Harris Fellow credits from the district which the winning club could honor one of their own members or perhaps to an individual in their community.

Registration and cost information will be forthcoming over the next few weeks. Hope to see many of you on April 23rd.

Yours in Rotary,

DGE Brad Jett



YES! Rotary Reads! Youth Book Club Received Rave Reviews

Twenty-five fourth graders from Yarmouth Elementary School were invited to participate in the pilot session of Yes! Rotary Reads, a Youth Book Club and twenty-five signed up. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Yarmouth, ME, the Youth Book Club met in three sessions recently with local Rotarians Sharon Bagalio, Ted Hall and Gary Howard and Linda Varrell to discuss their first book, *A Dog's Life: The Autobiography of a Stray* by Ann M. Martin.

Feedback from parents and educators was overwhelmingly positive, with hopes that that program continues. Yes! Rotary Reads! was started by Rotarian Carolyn Johnson, the club's literacy chair and former school principal.

"Recreational reading seems to be becoming a thing of the past," said Johnson, "we wanted to work with the students directly to generate enthusiasm in reading. The program gave the students the opportunity to discuss their thoughts and opinions in a structured environment with caring adults."

Working with Ellen Honan, the K-4 Language Arts Teacher, the program was designed to increase the students' interest in reading and improve comprehension. The discussion groups of five to eight students met three times and followed a typical book club format with open discussion and questions designed to gain insight into the author's thoughts and explore context, in this case, the world of abused and stray animals.

The planning for the next session is underway. Anyone interested in being involved in YES! Rotary Reads! should contact Carolyn Johnson at 846-6526 or Ellen Honan at Yarmouth Elementary at 846-5586.

Rotary International, a network of over 32,000 clubs is working to raise awareness of literacy issues and encourages Rotary clubs to undertake literacy projects. For more information about Literacy projects and resources through

Rotary International visit <http://www.rotary.org/en/AboutUs/RotaryLeadership/RIPresident/Pages/Literacy.asp>.

And finally.....

George Rice, Beth Abbott and Joelle Corey, members from Oxford Hills, getting ready for the World Peace and Understanding Dinner. Thanks, guys, for a great job!



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