



# Rotary District 7780

Carolyn Johnson, District Governor

February 10, 2014

[www.rotary7780.org](http://www.rotary7780.org)

## February Celebrates Rotarians' Commitment to World Understanding and Peace

As Rotarians, we have made a commitment to service – to helping neighbors near and far. I believe that, in reaching out to others and offering to lend a hand, we each play a part in creating understanding and making peace. Rotarians build peace by living our Four Way Test, acting and speaking in ways that are truthful, fair, beneficial, and build friendship. We build peace by helping neighbors, as evidenced by supporting local food pantries and mentoring students so they can achieve a good education. It is said that “charity begins at home.” Similarly, peace and understanding begins with our neighbors.

Each Rotarian has an opportunity to be a peace builder. In this newsletter, stories illustrate peace building by Rotarians who mentor refugees and Rotarians who extend the hand of friendship in Kabul. Rotarians make quilts to comfort children recovering from surgery and Rotarians providing tools for students learning a trade. As many of you know, I spend much time helping teachers in Guatemala improve their how they teach reading – because I believe that through education, by developing strong literacy skills children will grow up to make informed choices rather than blindly following a path of exploitation and poverty.

Not all of us can travel to far away parts of the world, but each of us can reach out to a neighbor, near or far, to show them that we care. It may seem strange to celebrate World Understanding and Peace with a Frugal Feast ending a day of supporting local food pantries. We will do so because helping our neighbors, lending a hand is something every Rotarian can do, how every Rotarian can make a difference. World understanding begins at home and begins with the decisions each of us make in how we treat our neighbors. Celebrate Peace through Rotary – by being engaged with your neighbors at home and far away.

*Carolyn Johnson, District Governor*

**Portland Rotarians** Jack Carr and Glenn Nerbak recently attended Kimara Nzamubona's naturalization ceremony at the Federal Court House. Kimara is a Portland Rotary Club mentee through the Mentoring Alliance at Portland High School. Portland Rotary arranged a full scholarship at Colby College for Kimara where our newest US citizen will graduate this spring with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry. Kimara expressed his thanks to Rotarians for his new future after surviving the conflict in Congo.



## ShelterBox Contributions Make a Difference!

Clubs throughout the District really responded after Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines three months ago. As a result of Rotary generosity, ShelterBox has raised their commitment to the Philippines to 1,685 Boxes, 4,607 tents and 1,516 midi tents, to help 7,808 families. A midi tent is a smaller version of the standard tent...more mobile both in original deployment and easier to move once already deployed. Most of this aid has already arrived; the remainder is on its way.

**Have you made your reservation to join us for our Frugal Feast?  
Saturday evening, February 22  
\$25 Great food, great fellowship, and a good cause!**

**Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) – Saturday, March 1, Wells, ME  
Learn more about Rotary & effective strategies for your club.  
Register today**

# Rotary District 7780

Carolyn Johnson, District Governor

[www.rotary7780.org](http://www.rotary7780.org)

February 10, 2014

## Brunswick Rotarian Committed to Work in Kabul

Sue Chadima, a Brunswick Rotarian, is doing veterinary work in Afghanistan this year. A Community Grant from our Districts' Foundation funds is helping her improve the veterinary teaching clinic in Kabul. The work is demanding - and dangerous. Recently, Sue wrote:

*I am sure you have all heard about the horrific attack at the Lebanese restaurant in Kabul on Friday night. 21 were killed including Afghans and Westerners. Conducted by the Taliban - perhaps, partially as retaliation in Parwan province a couple of days before that killed civilians, including children and also some Taliban fighters. One thing seems increasingly clear - military and terrorist actions are not going to win this war for either side, but are certainly continuing to destroy the country.*

*I am fine. The attack occurred around 7 pm, and I was in my kitchen making soup when I heard the explosion. It took time to get accurate information about what, where and how bad. Sadly, the restaurant could not have been a better choice from the Taliban perspective, and is a huge loss for the rest of the world. La Taverna had been an oasis of civility for over 10 years. It's owner, Kamel - from Beirut, and kind, capable, fair and true gentleman who had been able to withstand the vagaries of time and fortune in a war torn country. He treated everyone with kindness and respect, was well respected, served delicious food, understood the realities of where he was living and working, he was scrappy and canny - very much a realist and survivor, yet had created a unique sanctuary and haven. I had known him for over 7 years, he had become a friend, and I had helped take care of his cat and dog over the years. He loved animals as well as people. He was killed after the attack started while helping defend his patrons.*

*This attack, more than any other, will change the way everyone, Afghans and Westerners will continue to live and work in Kabul, and I do not know what the future will bring.*

*The question for many of you - some clearly stated to me, perhaps others only in your mind, is "why do I stay, what am I doing here, and why don't I come home to Maine?" I can only answer that I am aware of the situation, am paying close attention to security advice and especially the advice of my friends and colleagues. But somehow Afghanistan speaks to me on a real and deep level. I have wonderful friends and colleagues, find my work challenging, rewarding, meaningful, and hope that maybe my work, and DCA's work does make a small difference in the greater scheme of things.*

*So please don't worry, don't nag, do stay in touch, and I will stay in touch with you. Thanks for your thoughts and support - even if it doesn't make complete sense to you.*

Warmest regards, Sue

## Save the Date!

February 15-16: **Sebago Lakes** welcomes the National Geographic Channel to its annual **Ice Fishing Derby** this year!

Volunteer: Toby Pennels at [tobypenn@maine.rr.com](mailto:tobypenn@maine.rr.com) More info: [www.icefishingderby.com](http://www.icefishingderby.com)

### Saturday, February 22

- **Stuff the Bus** Clubs are invited to collect food and funds for their local food pantry.
- **Frugal Feast** 5:00 - 8:30 pm Woodfords Congregational Church, Portland \$25 (includes donation to The Rotary Foundation) FMI: Marge Barker, [mbarker173@yahoo.com](mailto:mbarker173@yahoo.com)

March 1: **Damariscotta-Newcastle Karl's Kids Ski Race and Silent Auction** at Sugarloaf. FMI: Lorraine Faherty, [townsend13@aol.com](mailto:townsend13@aol.com)

March 1: **Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI)** York County Community College, Wells. FMI: [www.rlinea.org](http://www.rlinea.org)

March 8: **Bethel Rotary 7th Annual Wine Tasting**, White Cap Lodge, Sunday River, 6-8pm \$30

March 6-8: **Presidents-elect Training Seminar** in Framingham, MA. All 2014-15 Club Presidents should attend. FMI: [www.rotarynePETS.org](http://www.rotarynePETS.org)

### Grants Management and Foundation Seminars:

- March 12: Portsmouth, NH Country Club 5 - 8:30 PM
- March 29: Westbrook, ME Middle School, 8 - 11:30 AM
- April 3: MidCoast Red Cross Chapter in Topsham (16 Community Way) 5 - 8:30 PM

April 12: **District Assembly**, Westbrook Middle School

March 29: **New Generations Conference**, York HS, Maine. FMI: [kevin.raymond@peoples.com](mailto:kevin.raymond@peoples.com)

May 16-17: **District Conference** at the Westin Portland Harborview, Portland, ME