

Rotary District 7780

Carolyn Johnson, District Governor

February 17, 2014

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World Peace and Understanding Starts in Our Own Backyards

It's sometimes easy to think that we need to get on an aircraft and fly to a developing nation to provide service, but of course that's not true. So many examples of world understanding are right here in our own District, and a few will be highlighted at the District-wide "Frugal Feast" to be held this Saturday, February 22, at the Woodfords Congregational Church in Portland.

The theme of the evening is food insecurity, and the evening's speakers will be sharing both the extent of the problem right here in New Hampshire and Maine — and also what can be done to combat the situation. And in keeping with the evening's theme, the dinner will once again be catered by "A Fine Kettle of Fish" and the kitchen overseen by our own Governor-nominee Sheila Rollins. The \$25 cost will include a small donation to The Rotary Foundation. Ask anyone who came last year — the meal may be "frugal," but plentiful and delicious. Last call — please sign up on the District website right away.

The Frugal Feast is only part of the District's celebration of "World Peace and Understanding Day." That Saturday morning, clubs around the District are "stuffing the bus" at their local supermarket to raise food and funds for their local food banks. Food banks are typically in need of more food after the Holidays, and this year's severe winter weather has forced many families to choose between rent and heat and food. These are choices no family in our neighborhoods should be forced to make.

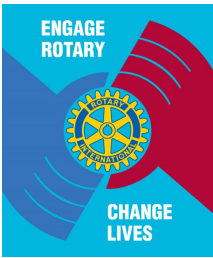
Sometimes a problem overseas can be solved without leaving home. Ask Wells president-elect Terry Hodskins. Back in 2001, just a few weeks after 9/11, she decided to send beautiful, hand-made quilts to children undergoing Rotaplast cleft lip/cleft palate surgeries. Today, 13 years later, Terry and Wrap-a-Smile, the organization she founded, have sent a whopping 19,471 quilts overseas, all created and donated by Rotarians and friends from across the US and beyond, and all given to children who have benefited from Rotary-sponsored surgeries abroad. All this love — yet Terry's own health keeps her from traveling overseas to check on the incredible work she and the quilters she has energized have made possible.



District Rotarians Prepare for Cultural Exchange With Uganda



The six Rotary musicians who are participating in the District's Rotary Foundation cultural exchange with Uganda have been spending their weekends practicing and working up a program of American music. The District 7780 team will spend two weeks in Uganda, their travel expenses partially underwritten by a Rotary Foundation District Grant. They will be hosted by Rotarians, visit projects and interact with a youth group of musicians from Kampala. They will return with ideas to expand our District's humanitarian work in Uganda. Then, the teen musicians — who come from disparate tribes — will visit us via a Rotary Foundation Global Grant. They will perform at the District Conference and will participate in a Friends Forever program to develop leadership and conflict resolution skills.



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High School Video Contest Underway

Calling all high school videographers and story tellers! The District is debuting its first-ever video Four-Way contest. Content of the video should illustrate The Rotary Four Way Test, and answer the question: "How can I use the 4-Way Test to make good decisions in my life?" The situation can be anything that teens deal with: Social situations, bullying, substance use, academic pressure -- anything that's real. FMI, deadlines and specifics, go to the District website.



Damariscotta-Newcastle Turns 90!

The **Damariscotta-Newcastle** club is celebrating its 90th anniversary with an evening of fun and festivities at St. Patrick's church in Newcastle on Saturday, April 5. All past members, honorary members, and family members are invited. FMI: Judy Speers, judyspeers@aol.com or 207 586-5898 .



Sign Up to Learn More About Rotary



Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is a marvelous opportunity to learn more about Rotary. Through a series of Saturday all-day workshops, Rotarians (both newbies and more experienced members) enjoy interactive sessions led by seasoned Rotary facilitators. Whether your goal is club leadership or just to know more about how Rotarians do the great humanitarian work we do, RLI

is a great way to learn more and make new friends at the same time. The spring calendar includes an RLI session on March 1 in Wells, ME. DEADLINE to sign up for this session is this Thursday, February 22: go to the RLI website: www.rlinea.org

Join Women's Ride and Fight Polio



South Portland Sunrise Rotarian Ilse Yanis is organizing an "End Polio Now" team of bikers — Rotarians, friends, family — to bike the Maine Women's Ride on Sunday, June 1. Bikers can select route options as short as 10 or as long as 70 miles, and no fundraising is necessary! Buy your "End Polio Now" jersey and join the fun. FMI: Ilse Yanis; ilseyanis@mac.com, 207-799-2314.

Sebago Lake Hosts Successful Ice Derby



If you wonder why **Sebago Lake** Rotarians are grinning while the rest of us are complaining about the continuing brisk weather, it's because the weatherman has finally smiled on the club's annual Ice Fishing Derby after several years of tepid temperatures. Last Saturday, while the fish were being caught and weighed, all hands were on deck to enjoy, as it were, the Polar Plunge, which raised copious cash for the Maine Children's Cancer program.

Know Before You Go

The **Brunswick Club** continues its weekly travels this winter, while its regular meeting place undergoes emergency plumbing repairs set off by January's cold weather. And **Portland** is frequently on the road, traveling between the Holiday Inn and the Clarion.

Both situations serve as good reminders to always check the website or Facebook page of any club that you want to visit, before you visit! One of the great things about Rotary is that we are always welcome to attend any of the 33,000 meetings that take place worldwide each week. Your welcome is assured, but it's still smart to double-check before you go.

Not only might the club have changed its location for a few weeks or permanently, but it also might have planned a special function or off-site on the week that you drop by. There's nothing worse than traveling to visit another club, only to discover that the club you hoped to visit is not at its regular meeting site.

