



Wednesday, May 14, 2008

**Editor:** Doug Ernst  
If you have any comments or questions, email the editor.

#### Future Speakers

**May 20 2008**

Roger Adams

"RYLA- Rotary Youth Leadership Academy"

**May 27 2008**

Steve Bhaerman

"Swami Beyondandana"

**Jun 3 2008**

Kent Gardelli

"If given a chance"

**Jun 10 2008**

Pete Reno

"Jr. Diabetes Research Foundation"

**Jun 17 2008**

Laurie Price, Sarah Cakebread

"St. Helena Girl Scouts"

**Jun 24 2008**

Carol Sobczak

"Debunking the Pres."

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#### Get Involved!

by Chuck Meibeyer

#### Remember these events coming up soon:

District Conference -- May 16-18

#### Meeting Report Apr 8 2008

by DeWitt Garlock

#### Rotarians hear about great work south of the border

In the town of Empalme de Boaco in Nicaragua a Rotarian housing project was started in 1999. It began with a baseball field and became a stadium with \$5,000.

In 2003, house construction began. Initially 10 houses were constructed on site without the benefit of the modern miracles of power or water! To date 60 homes have been completed but costs have exceeded donations. So the big issue is to raise enough funds to support the additional housing and to keep going with other pressing projects. So the question is what's next?

According to **Jake Scheideman** there will be fund raisers including cycle trips to raise money for the cafeteria and scholarships.

On the trips to Nicaragua the work is of course hard but so is the fun. A typical arrival begins with a great welcoming committee and party to greet the returning St Helena. Rotarians involved in the last trip included **Tim Doran, Steve Ebersole** and **Alan Fowler** along with 17 other Rotarians from various clubs. Jake has personally traveled to Nicaragua six times so far this year, which is an extraordinary commitment. In addition to building the houses, they have totally cleaned up a dilapidated school with 6 people in 2 days. The 60 houses are in the final phases of construction and the final inauguration of 269 people in 62 homes will occur in mid June of this year!

Another aspect in the building of the community support is vision planning: This is an effort to get higher learning and education for students to eventually support their own causes and provide and sustain their needs. The school attendance is now 100 percent and the infrastructure will be expanded to accommodate the increasing student population. He added that the primary school won the distinction of being the best school in Latin America which is a tremendous honor!

To help support the village's financial needs the leaders of the community have started a honey business for export and a seat cushion manufacturing business is soon to follow. Additionally a product called malanga is being exported. This is a food that is the same as poi.

A fund raising auction with more details to follow will be held on October 4, 2008.

#### Business of the day:

##### Guests and 1 visiting Rotarian

The club welcomed **Nancy Levenburg** who received her blue badge and **DeWitt Garlock**, who got the spell checked version (his name is now correctly spelled)! **Rudi** is not doing well; keep him in your thoughts.

#### Fines and bell ringers

**Joyce Beatty** got her hospital bill and survived it!

**Mike Thomas's** team won the March madness (Jayhawkers of course)

**Lydia Wilson** mentioned the official opening of bocce season  
Fines were assessed thanks to **Father Mac**.

### Meeting Report April 29 2008

by David Tierney

Rotarians learn how to help Ugandans

Helping reduce poverty in Uganda was the topic of the featured speaker, **Frank Mayhew**, from the Sebastopol Rotary Club, at St. Helena Rotary's April 29 luncheon. The speech was titled, "Ending Poverty, One Village at a Time." **Donn Black** introduced the speaker.

Frank began by sharing accounts of his original trips to Uganda where he decided to support the local efforts to implement projects that would help alleviate the extreme poverty in the sub-Saharan area of Africa.

He then went on to show slides of just what poverty is and what it looks like, in Uganda and other similar countries. Below are the core areas discussed:

- Poverty is living on less than a dollar a day. With \$2, one can sustain one's self barely, but 75 percent of sub-Saharan Africa is in poverty.
- Poverty is hunger. Frank personally surveyed the people in Uganda to see first hand what this looked like. He found that most people ate one meal a day of some basic carbohydrate, and that meat was eaten once a year.
- Poverty is poor health and early death. Many die from diseases that are easily prevented with basic help.
- Poverty is loss of childhood. Many children spend about 1,000 hours a year just getting water for their families.
- Poverty is lack of basic education. This is true for both children and adults, exemplified in a short story of a group of adults who could not answer a question about the number of adults in the village because they could not count.
- Poverty is vulnerability. Abuse and rape are not uncommon.

And yet their spirits were "huge" with dancing and expressions of joy. Why? Because a group of Rotarians had come to visit and help.

The UN Millenium Group hopes to cut extreme poverty by 50 percent.

But what about the other 50 percent? This is where we come in. Rotary can help in a more efficient and effective way than giving money to the governments to make changes. For example:

**Adopt a Village** is a project that focuses on three core areas to support one village at a time to stand up and help themselves. Health, Hunger and Education. Frank referred to these as the three legs of a stool. Two legs will not provide sufficient support to stand on, but three are enough.

How does it work? A club does a needs assessment, not of what we think they need, but of what they actually need.

Examples of supporting the first leg, health, are focusing on clean water and malaria prevention. Diarrhea is the biggest killer for kids under 5 years of age. Solutions include creating a protected water spring which costs about \$750; creating boreholes which cost more but can provide water closer to home; and rain water harvesting off school building roofs. For malaria prevention, which causes 150,000 deaths per month in sub-Saharan Africa, they provide treated mosquito nets, inexpensively. Examples of supporting the second leg, hunger, include providing poultry flocks that they can raise and re-produce for eggs to eat and sell for other needs. Also they provide cows, pigs, goats, fish farms, simple farming tools, and so on. Examples of the needs for education include school supplies, uniforms, and food. Education needs must be assessed and provided for both children and adults. Typical projects combine money from clubs, districts and the foundation. A club that provides less than \$5,000 can have that amount end up matching to provide \$35,000 for a project. They have 21-plus grants at this time being developed in four countries.

**Blue Badge:** **Paul Dean** received his blue badge.

**Calistoga Caberet:** Visiting Rotary member from Calistoga **Jim Flamson** announced the **Calistoga Caberet Auction Dinner** on May 9<sup>th</sup>, with a golf tournament the next day.

**Farmer's Market:** **Jim Haslip** made an announcement about collecting food at the Farmer's Market for the Food Pantry. I believe you can contact him to sign up for this. Food is collected and dropped off on Fridays between about 11:30am - noon.

**Nicaragua Trip:** On June 14<sup>th</sup>, keys will be handed out for many of the new homes recently built in Nicaragua. If you would like to attend this ceremony, there

is a trip from the 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>. You can get an air ticket right now for about \$550, and the rest costs an additional \$500. See **Jake Scheideman** if you are interested.