**District Newsletter October, 2009**

**District Governor, Errol Alberga, travels to Turks and Caicos**
District 7020 Governor – Errol C. Alberga Jr. (Jamaica)

*The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands*

**October–Rotary Vocational Services month**

Newsletter Editor – Kitty Bucsko (RC of Anguilla)

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**News of District interest first...**

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**Club News follows**

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District 7020 theme for 2009-2010

District website (www.7020.org)

District Governor Errol travelled to Turks and Caicos

...submitted by Karen Biker

DG Errol inducted two new members and also chaired the chartering ceremony for the new Rotaract Club of Grand Turk when 26 new members were inducted. A red-letter evening for Grand Turk which was devastated last year after Hurricane Ike.

We are all hoping this new injection of new blood will help the growth of Rotary on Grand Turk. At left - Denise Bovie one of the new members of the RC of GT along with DG Errol and his wife, Leonie.
At left - DG Errol addressing the Rotary Club and Rotaract club of Grand Turk. Shown with DG Errol is President of Rotary Club of Grand Turk, Cheryl Ann Jones. At right - DG Errol offering words of wisdom.

While in Provo, DG Errol toured the island, saw various service projects, attended Bingo, Club and Board of Directors' meetings, and hosted a cocktail reception for Rotarians and Rotaractors.

While in Grand Turk, he attended club meetings and board meetings, toured projects, including hurricane repair projects that earned Provo and Grand Turk clubs special recognition from RI, and helped charter a new Rotaract club there at a special Friday night event.

At left above - AG Karen Biker, Providenciales Club President Mike Sottak, DG Errol and Leonie, Past President Alge Dean meet at Providenciales Airport. At right – DG Errol addresses Provo Club with President Mike in the background.
At left above - DG Errol inducts new member Jonathan Steers at Provo Club Meeting. President Mike Sottak (centre) is Jonathan’s sponsor. At right above - DG Errol and his wife, Leonie, and President-Elect of Provo Club Arthur Forbes at Bingo, our club’s main fundraiser and an island institution on Sunday nights!

“Do a little more each day than you think you possibly can”

-- Lowell Thomas

**District Governor Errol’s Tentative Travel Schedule**

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<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 13 to 20</td>
<td>Haiti</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 5 to 13</td>
<td>St. Maarten, St. Martin, St. Barth’s, Anguilla</td>
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<td>October 13 to 17</td>
<td>St. Croix</td>
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<td>October 26 to November 1</td>
<td>British Virgin Islands</td>
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<td>November 1 to 6</td>
<td>St. Thomas, USVI</td>
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<td>November 12 to 19</td>
<td>Haiti</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2 to 6</td>
<td>Zone Institute in Virginia</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 6 to 8</td>
<td>Council of Governors’ Meeting in Miami</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
District Governor Errol travelled
To Jamaica at the end of August
Kingston Club

At left – Past President William “Bill” Lawrence, Past President Mike Hemmings, DG Errol. Centre – President Noel Osbourne, DG Errol. Right – Christopher Burgess, DG Errol.

At left – PAG Ken Wilson, Leonie Alberga (wife of DG Errol). Centre – President Noel Osbourne, PP Neville Henry. At right – DG Errol addresses the Rotary Club of Kingston. In the background, President Noel Osbourne.

At left – DG Errol presenting a wheelchair. At right, the group includes Rotarians DG Errol, President Noel Osbourne, and District Membership Chair, Andre Hylton.
At left – The Alberga family with daughter Stacy (2nd from left and husband, left), son Brian (third right) and relatives, also Leonie Alberga, and DG Errol. At right – Rotarian Garth Moodie (RC Kingston), PAG Paul Brown (RC Spanish Town), Rotarian Desmond Hutchinson (RC Spanish Town) preparing to board the Cruise.

Above, the boat cruise. All Rotary Clubs of Jamaica East (13 clubs) were represented here.

At left – Ahoy Captain Errol! At right – Rotarian Winsome Gordon (RC Kingston East and Port Royal), President Elect, Marcia Barned (RC Kingston East and Port Royal) and DG Errol.
At left – Rotarian Dr. Kathryn Brodber, VP, and DG Errol. At right – Standing, Rotarian Desmond Lawson, PE Patrick Harris, Rotarian Gaynor Downer, Rotarian Elvis Hamilton, Rotarian Dr. Kathryn Brodber, IPP Steven Lynch, Rotarian Herbert Garriques, Rotarian Harris Scott, Rotarian Devon Smith. Seated, ADG Dennis Chong, DG Errol, President Bev Miller.

Joint Meeting – Morgans Harbour Hotel, Port Royal – Rotary Clubs of Kingston East, Port Royal, and St. Andrew North

At left – AG Clarence Clarke, President Donovan G. Brown (St. Andrew North), Leonie Alberga, DG Errol, President Earl Barrett (RC Kingston East and Port Royal), AG Dennis Chong. At right – DG Errol, inducting new member Rotarian Micheal Johnson with President Earl Barrett (RC Kingston East and Port Royal) in the background.

I am not young enough to know everything.

-- Oscar Wilde
SPOTLIGHT ON ROTARACT

1. The Rotaract Club of Grand Turk is now the newest member of the District 7020 family, having been chartered last month in a ceremony performed by DG Errol on his visit to TCI. Let’s welcome them and congratulate their sponsoring club, the Rotary Club of Grand Turk, on a job well done!

2. The Rotaractors in Jamaica conducted their first fundraiser for the year – a club party - to raise funds for the District Haiti Project and the District Rotaract Conference in June 2010. With over 400 tickets sold, the event is expected to net over US$4,000.00. Big thanks to all Rotarians who supported the event!

3. Rotary Club of Savanna-la-mar has joined the growing list of clubs taking steps to start a Rotaract club! This is in addition to their existing Rotaract Club of Montego Bay Community College – Frome Campus. Great work by President Kenneth, Rotarian Naptalli and the Savlamar family!

4. Not to be left out, Rotary Club of Falmouth is also embarking on a mission to form a Rotaract Club and will have had their first meeting by the time of this newsletter’s publishing. Good job Pres Clara!

5. And last but by no means least, Rotary Club of Ocho Rios is actively setting about reviving its Rotaract Club. Kudos to Pres Melissa and team!

Rotaract Reminders

- We’re happy to see that several clubs have been including their Rotaractors in the activities surrounding DG Errol’s visits, including the Rotary Clubs of South East Nassau, Grand Turk and St Andrew North. All clubs are encouraged to do the same.

- Remember Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) training is now open to Rotaractors. Encourage your Rotaractors to register for the next RLI in your territory.
# DISTRICT PROJECT - HAITI FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND
## APRIL 8-11, 2010

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>PLAN</th>
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| Thursday, April 8 | Fellowship  
Visiting Rotarians arrive in Port au Prince. Visitors will be met at the airport and transported by bus to their hotel. Evening fellowship with Rotarians from clubs in Port au Prince area. Visiting Rotarians spend the night in hotels in Port au Prince. |
| Friday, April 9  | School Visit  
Visiting Rotarians will be collected from their hotel in the morning and transported by bus to the airport and flown by charter flights from Port au Prince to Les Cayes. Bus transport to hotels in Cayes followed by lunch. Afternoon visit to Lycee Philippe Guerrier to meet faculty and students. Evening fellowship with Rotarians in the Cayes area. Visiting Rotarians spend the night in hotels in Les Cayes. |
| Saturday, April 10 | Project Work Day  
In the morning, transport by bus back to Lycee Philippe Guerrier for the work day which will probably be wall painting. Lunch will be provided and work is planned to finish early afternoon. Rotarians will return to their hotels. Evening fellowship and cultural event with Rotarians in the Cayes area. |
| Sunday, April 11 | Depart  
Visiting Rotarians will be collected from their hotels in the morning and transported by bus to the airport and flown by charter flights back to Port au Prince. Transport by bus from internal Port au Prince airport to the International airport and departure of visiting Rotarians during the afternoon |

**NOTE:** A reservation form will be available shortly and included in the next update.

- Please be aware that there is limited hotel accommodation in Les Cayes, and it is possible that not everyone who wishes to go will be able to attend.
- We hope to have the widest possible representation from across the district.
- We anticipate the per-person cost within Haiti -- to cover accommodation, meals, and internal transportation – will be approximately $650 U.S. per person.
- Please note that this is also subject to change.

We look forward to hearing from you soon and to joining you in Haiti in April!

*Roger White – District Project Co-ordinator for Haiti*
The resource group provides information and support to Rotary clubs and districts to encourage participation in programs and projects that promote universal literacy and educational opportunities for all. The resource group encourages clubs to undertake projects in each of Rotary's Four Avenues of Service and plan projects supportive of the RI Strategic Plan. The Literacy Resource Group promotes the connection of literacy projects to those involving health, hunger and water through those particular resource groups.

Almost 800 million people worldwide are unable to read or write, a lack of skills that makes them especially vulnerable to hunger, disease, and extreme poverty.

Nearly two-thirds of these -- 500 million -- are women. Without literacy and access to a basic education, these women are poorly equipped to access resources and make decisions that improve the lives of their children and families. Today, 72 million children of primary school age are not in school.

The Literacy Resource Group connects Rotarians with the information and tools they need to actively promote literacy at home and abroad. It asks Rotary clubs to learn about literacy and education issues in their communities and help increase access to quality learning opportunities for those in need. Clubs are also encouraged to work with the International Reading Association, and the Dollywood Foundation's Imagination Library to conduct literacy projects worldwide.

**Suggested Literacy Goals for All Clubs**

- Conduct an International Literacy Day project during the week of 8 September
- Conduct a Literacy Month project during Rotary Literacy Month in March
- Conduct a dictionary project or other book project
- Share information about your club's literacy projects with your district literacy chair and/or district governor
- Earn a district literacy award
- Conduct a Vocational Service literacy project
Literacy Project Ideas

Club Service

- Recruit a new club member with a literacy classification
- Promote International Literacy Day and/or Literacy Month
- Invite a literacy speaker to a club meeting
- Devote a club meeting to creating awareness of literacy project opportunities
- Conduct Rotary theme of the month projects creating awareness of the literacy aspects of theme of the month, e.g. in December, Family Literacy
- Send club members to a district literacy seminar or conference and devote a subsequent club meeting to their report from the seminar.

Vocational Service

- Conduct a Four Way Test project or make the test part of other projects such as book gifts or of other character literacy projects
- Conduct a character literacy project such as Who Is Nobody?, Laws of Life, BrainWise, or gift of books, such as, Eimer and Andy's Apple Dumpling Adventure
- Recognize a community leader who is a vocational service role model; use the occasion to create public awareness of Rotary's vocational service values
- Sponsor, perhaps in partnership with an Interact club, a high school workshop which teaches vocational literacy as exemplified in The Four Way Test, the second part of the Object of Rotary, and Rotary’s two mottos.

International Service

- Participate in an international book donation project, a mini-library project, or book, supplies, or equipment project.
- Participate in a literacy and education-focused international project that is connected to health, hunger, and water concerns.
- Find an international partner and support their proposed project. Visit ProjectLINK, www.rotary.org/projectlink, to find a partner.

Community Service

- Support a Concentrated Language Encounter (CLE) or similar program (such as Yo Puedo)
- Support a Computer Assisted Literacy Solution (CALS) or similar program.
- Do an Imagination Library, www.imaginationlibrary.com, project or other reading readiness program such as SOUNDS, Books for Babies, and Sandparents.
- Partner with the International Reading Association, www.reading.org, or its equivalent in your community, on a literacy project. Use the Every School a Star tool kit.
- Join or support a local project to raise funds for a school or other literacy organization.
- Engage in a school partnership such as providing reading mentors, financial support, gifts in kind, scholarships or other needs identified by the school.

Contact the District Literacy coordinator, Corinne Van Rensselaer, for guidance on how your club can get involved in a literacy project.

What word is the same when viewed upside down and backwards?

*Hint – He does this at the lake*
As a new Club President, what should I be doing in October?

October – Rotary Vocational Services month

☐ Plan and conduct monthly board meeting.
☐ Promote attendance at the district conference.
☐ Send monthly membership and attendance report to the district governor or district secretary no later than 15 days after the last meeting of the month.
☐ Conduct vocation-related activities and programs.
☐ Monitor membership development initiatives and goals.
☐ Based on the club’s contributions to The Rotary Foundation, submit a timely request for Paul Harris Fellow recognition items, for presentation at a club ceremony during November, “Rotary Foundation” Month.
☐ Ask the PR chair to promote club as planned – including any service projects that may be highlighted by the local media in the upcoming holidays.

The change of the second Rotarian motto in 2004, from "He profits most who serves best" to "They profit most who serve best", 99 years after its foundation, illustrates the move to general acceptance of women members in Rotary.

Every Rotarian Every Year

EREY stands for Every Rotarian Every Year and asks each one of us to support The Rotary Foundation (TRF) with a contribution of at least $100.

This is probably the most worthwhile contribution you can make all year. It's the perfect time to get started with your contribution for this new Rotary Year.

Go to www.rotary.org, click on Contribute, continue to the Online Forms and click on "I am a Rotarian". You will be asked to login. If you have never done so before, register with your District number 7020, Club number, and your RI number (found on the mailing label of your Rotarian Magazine).

Every amount contributed to The Rotary Foundation is spent in support of humanitarian, educational, and cultural programs and their operations. Clubs and districts apply for and receive Foundation grants to carry out worthy projects worldwide.

Answer? SWIMS
Rotary Leadership Institute

The Rotary Leadership Institute, which is the training arm associated with Rotary International, recently sent five of their facilitators to Grand Cayman to conduct leadership courses for the four Rotary clubs and two Rotaract clubs in the Cayman Islands.

This group from the Cayman Islands enjoyed the weekend! Great learning and great fellowship!

The work was intensive and held on Saturday and Sunday at the University College of the Cayman Islands. Previous courses have always been held in America.

Facilitators Haresh Ramchandani, Diana White, Michael Levitt and Anton Zellman with Catherine Chesnut and Eric Bush.

All the local clubs were represented and enjoyed the experience immensely.

"A very useful experience and one that we will repeat on a regular basis - Rotary is strong on the Cayman Islands and becoming much stronger" said Winston Connolly, President of Rotary Sunrise.

NEW RLI DIRECTOR FOR DISTRICT 7020

...from DGE Diana White

I am delighted to advise all Rotarians in District 7020 that PAG Haresh Ramchandani will take over from me as RLI Director for our District with immediate effect.

Haresh moves into this role having successfully been the Coordinator for RLI Seminars in the Western part of our District and is an experienced and skillful Discussion Leader. He has a strong commitment to RLI and I hope all RLI Graduates will follow his lead and continue to encourage their fellow Rotarians to take the course.

Haresh was in attendance at the recent Annual Meeting of the Rotary Leadership Institute Sunshine Division.
and is fully conversant with the strategic plans of the Division.

RLI International has recently reviewed the course material and each class has been improved. The new syllabus will take effect early in 2010. Also new to RLI is the Graduate Membership Course. This course was offered to RLI Graduates in Cayman in August and it is planned to be run in Montego Bay in November and St. Thomas in January.

For those of you who have already taken Parts 1, 2 and 3, I would encourage you to participate in this thought-provoking Membership class. For more information on the calendar of events for RLI, please visit the website at www.rlitraining.org

Yours in Rotary Service,
Diana White
DGE District 7020

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**POLIO CHALLENGE UPDATE**

...Submitted by Trevor Heaven

Polio Challenge Chair for the District, Trevor, has asked clubs to let him know what's being done to fulfill the individual Club’s promise to the $200M challenge. It is most interesting to know some of the innovative ways that clubs are using to raise these funds.

Here are a few:

**Dear Trevor**

Just to inform you we are on for the fundraising - 24.10. Pot Luck Cook Party in Negril, Jamaica, and in each meeting we sell some raffle tickets - so we are working on it. Thanks for reminding us.

YIR, Sabine Bolenius

**Dear Polio Challenge Chair Trevor,**

Please note that the Rotary Club Sunrise of Road Town has indeed started our fund-raising initiatives to raise the required $2,000 to donate to the Polio Challenge.

- We have started a “loose change drive.” (Each week our members are encouraged to bring their loose change and drop in the bucket.)
- We have “An Evening of Wine & Art” planned for September 25 (funds from this event are specifically earmarked for Polio challenge).
- Our Foundation Director’s husband has a Spa and during the month of October he will be donating $5 from each massage to our Polio Challenge

We believe that with these initiatives we will have our $2,000 to send to RI in November during Foundation.

YIR, President Monica
Hi Trevor,

We have started our fundraising. Each Rotarian has a huge can (We have distributed 70) to collect coins in over the months and this should help us greatly.

Yours in Rotary, Anna DeGregory, Club President - Rotary Club of Southeast Nassau

Hi Trevor

Rotary Club St. Thomas Sunrise will be sponsoring Rock-a-way Polio - a 1950's rock & roll party on World Polio Day. We will also be showing The Final Inch at the party.

Jeni Smith, President

Hi Trevor

We had planned to raffle a motor scooter at an annual Agriculture Show held in Cayman Brac every February. Unfortunately, the Agriculture Show is being cancelled for the second year in a row due to a Category 4 hurricane we had last November.

We have a Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at the beginning of December, so we might sell raffle tickets for a scooter in November and announce the winner at the tree Lighting Ceremony. We would do A LOT of publicity about the matching grant challenge during the time period that tickets are sold.

YIR, Andrea L. Stevens, President, Rotary Club of Cayman Brac

Take a look at the ideas below. Maybe this is something you can do. Other clubs are doing things like:

- Selling T-shirts - "I contributed to the Polio Challenge", or "I helped Eradicate Polio"
- Selling - "End Polio Now" pins @US$10.00 each
- Selling "Good-Bye Polio - Thanks Rotary" bumper stickers - US$5.00 each
- Premiere of a movie at the local cinema - family movie
- Divide your membership into 4 groups - Each group is charged to execute a fund raiser - the winning group is rewarded with a gift and recognition from the president.

"It is our daily actions, and our daily decisions, that determine the course of Rotary for us all.

The Future of Rotary Is in Your Hands."

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Club Charter Celebrations

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance Report Due</td>
<td>October 3, 2009</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Club Charter Celebrations</th>
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<tr>
<td>St. Thomas, USVI</td>
<td>October 2, 1957</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Thomas East, USVI</td>
<td>October 22, 1986</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Croix, USVI</td>
<td>October 25, 1958</td>
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<td>Cap-Haitien, Haiti</td>
<td>October 26, 1979</td>
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<td>Grand Cayman Central</td>
<td>October 30, 1986</td>
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<td>St. Thomas Sunrise, USVI</td>
<td>November 3, 2003</td>
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<td>Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands</td>
<td>November 8, 1965</td>
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<td>Ocho Rios, Jamaica</td>
<td>November 20, 1968</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Turk, Turks &amp; Caicos</td>
<td>November 22, 2005</td>
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The 4-way Test of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?
October 12 –
Happy Birthday, DG Errol!

World Food Day
October 16, 2009

World Polio Day
Saturday, October 24, 2009

November
Rotary Foundation Month

World Interact Week
November 2-9, 2009

RLI Training
St. Thomas
Part I, Part III - January 9, 2010
Part II, Graduate Course - January 10, 2010
(Contact: AG Don Chandler – dchandler@islandtechnicalsolutions.com)

World Rotaract Week
March 8-14, 2010

District Project in Haiti
April 8 to 11, 2010

The 65th Annual District Conference
PETS, Assembly and Conference
May 4-8, 2010
Jamaica Pegasus Hotel
Kingston, Jamaica

Rotary International Convention
June 20-23, 2010
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Register online
In The News!

Rotary Membership increases during 2008-09 Rotary year

By Jennifer Lee Atkin
Rotary International News -- 20 August 2009

At the RI Convention in Birmingham, England, 2008-09 RI President Dong Kurn Lee honored Rotary districts that achieved outstanding membership results. In a year of economic havoc that rocked global markets and shook consumer confidence, Rotary International’s most important asset – its members – steadily grew.

As of 30 June, the end of the 2008-09 RI year, there were 1,234,527 members in 33,790 Rotary clubs. That’s an increase of 3,044 members and 520 clubs from the previous year.
Some Rotary Questions for you

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<td>Where and when did Rotary begin?</td>
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<td>When did Rotary become international?</td>
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<td>What was the first Spanish-speaking club?</td>
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<td>Who is Big Jim Davidson</td>
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<td>In what year was the millionth member inducted to Rotary?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is Rotary a political or religious organization?</td>
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<td>Who established the Rotary Foundation?</td>
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<td>In what year was the Rotary Foundation established?</td>
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<td>Who is/was Arch Klumph?</td>
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<td>The TRF was formally named in what year?</td>
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<td>In what year was the first TRF grant awarded?</td>
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<td>How much and to whom was the first TRF grant awarded?</td>
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<tr>
<td>In what year was the Western Hemisphere declared polio free?</td>
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Here are the answers!

- Rotary began in Chicago, February 23, 1905.
- Rotary became international in 1911.
- The first Spanish-speaking club was Cuba, 1916.
- Big Jim Davidson joined the Rotary Club of Calgary in 1914 at the age of 42. He was a “consummate adventurer” according to David Forward, in *A Century of Service*. “Davidson had established a reputation at Rotary International… For several years he served on international extension committees, but remained, at heart, a ‘doer’ rather than a ‘discusser.’ In 1928, the RI Board appointed Davidson honorary general commissioner, with the mandate to add the missing links in the chain of Rotary clubs between Europe and Asia.”

  “The 1920s was the greatest decade in international expansion in Rotary’s history; the movement had spread to 50 new countries on six continents in less than 10 years – thanks to Big Jim Davidson – Rotary’s ‘missionary extraordinaire.’ ”

- In 1986, the millionth member was inducted.
- Rotary is not a political or religious organization.
- Arch Klumph established the Rotary Foundation in 1917.
- Arch Klumph was the 6th Rotary International President.
- The Rotary Foundation was formally named in 1928.
- The first TRF grant was $500, awarded in 1929, to the Crippled Children’s Foundation.
The Rotary Clubs of the Virgin Islands North, consisting of the Rotary Club of St. Thomas, Rotary Club of St. Thomas II, Rotary East, Rotary Charlotte Amalie, Rotary Sunrise, Rotary Club of St. John and Inner Wheel, are joining once again with the Virgin Islands National Guard to provide elementary school students throughout the St. Thomas-St. John district with the Coole School Planners. The planners which were first distributed last year, will once again be delivered to local schools prior to the beginning of the new school year.

The planners will be presented to students in Grades 4, 5 and 6 and all students on St. John will receive them courtesy of the St. John Club. Likewise the East End Rotary Club is providing planners to the 9th graders at their adopted school, Ivanna Eudora Kean High School, and the Charlotte Amalie Rotary Club is providing planners to all students at their adopted school Ulla, Muller Elementary.

Coole School planners keep students on track with their assignments and activities, as they help to build self-esteem and include healthy lifestyle, tobacco and substance prevention messages. Since the messages are delivered through age-appropriate, interactive games, puzzles, cartoons and thought-provoking articles that appeal to the students.

Reflecting on this past year’s experience with the Rotary Club/National Guard project, many students, parents and teachers remarked that the planners are an excellent learning tool which brings together students, parents and teachers in the learning process. Each student has a book in which they will write assignments, teachers make comments in and parents review and sign off. In addition the planners have a variety of hands-on activities for the students, parents and teachers in conjunction with one another.

This project is funded by a Rotary International District Simplified Grant which the local Rotary Clubs worked on as a joint Community Service project and resulted in approximately $6000 to purchase the planners. The members of the Virgin Islands National Guard Counter Drug Task Force will distribute the planners and mentor the students in Grades 5 & 6 in various ways to utilize the planners such as drug awareness, drug prevention, and developing positive character traits.

A long-awaited event took place with Jim Hunter being inducted as our newest member. His classification is Hotel & Resort Management, and his sponsor is Sal.

Jim was given the various regalia by Shelby and Sal, followed by his obligatory 5 minutes to tell about himself without being fined.

We learned of Jim's long and impressive career in hotel management, at
hotels from San Francisco to Virgin Gorda and Curacao before coming to St.Croix as manager of Divi Carina Bay Resort, following the passing of our beloved Pat Henry.

He told us he started his career in 1972 at the insistence of his father-in-law, a preacher. Jim has two daughters and two grandsons and is single now. (This did not go unnoticed by single women members.) We wish Jim all success in his work and as a Rotarian.

ROTOR CLUB OF ST. CROIX WEST

Senator Usie Richards Addressed Rotarians on Health Needs in the Caribbean especially in the Virgin Islands - Diabetes

On September 8, 2009 Senator Usie Richards spoke with members of the Rotary West Club on the subject of Diabetes - A Growing Threat to Mankind. Richards, in his presentation, said that he was pleased with the progress and actions that are currently being pursued nation-wide to focus on the growing problem of diabetes.

He spoke on the importance of what the Rotary Club can do to become advocate in the march for quality care, patient education, and community understanding of diabetes. He pointed out that while diabetes may be ranked as the seventh (7th) leading cause of death in the United States; here in the Virgin Islands it is the fourth (4th) leading cause of death.

According to the Senator, the progress of education truly begins at home and we must first educate ourselves, those persons, those entities, those agencies, and those departments that have statutory mandate to educate our community about diabetes and all other life-threatening diseases.

We need to face reality and first conduct an inventory to actually know what services are available, who is
responsible for service, how does one access these services, are these services of the quality that our community deserves.

According to the Senator, it is now time to take up the mantle of advocacy. He added that we must become the drum majors for the education and services necessary for our survival. We must make sure that educational campaigns are conducted in our homes, our schools, our churches, our work-places, and our communities.

According to the Senator, "We must advocate the use of all types of media to educate our communities". He emphasized that we need to utilize these communication efforts through the print, electronic or the World Wide Web. Furthermore, he added, we cannot afford to leave any table unturned.

As part of his conclusion, the Senator emphatically stated that we need to make sure that our Delegate - The Honorable Donna M., Christensen -- ensures that our Virgin Islands are adequately addressed in the federal laws regarding the prevention of diabetes. He concluded, "I don't care if we get tagged or put your face on Facebook, the fact of the matter is we have to get busy."

**READING IS FUNDAMENTAL**

Rotarians of the Rotary Club of St. Croix West conducted a "Read Out" on International Literacy Day, September 8, 2009. Rotarians read aloud to Kindergarten and First grade students at the Alexander Henderson and Claude O. Markoe Elementary Schools.

The sessions were interactive and enhanced the school’s curriculum. The children were asked questions to assess comprehension, and the Rotarians stimulated dialogue by telling the children a little about Rotary. The Rotarians participating were enthusiastic about the knowledge level of the children, as well as their eagerness to learn and their thirst for knowledge.

At left - Lula Parris at Claude O. Markoe School. At right – PDG Rupert Ross at Claude O. Markoe.
Also assisting – shown above – Rotarians Maurice Illidge and Edgar Iles at Alexandre Henderson School.

Above - Clifford Christian and Tyrone Seales at Alexander Henderson School. Also, a thank-you card presented to Rotarians from Alexander School.

**ROTARY CLUB OF ST. JOHN**

Jose Penn was one of the charter members of our Rotary Club of St. John. His Service above self continued for ten consecutive years as club treasurer. Jose established our accounts, submitted our club for non-profit status and kept us fiscally ordered for all those years. It was a monumental task. Thanks Jose!

At left - five of the charter members of the Rotary Club of St. John. They are, from left to right, Ronnie Lockhart, Miles Stair, Doug White, Jose Penn, and Patrick Pearson
Recycle your phones and help our troops call home!

The Rotary Club of St. Thomas Sunrise and AT&T of the Virgin Islands, in conjunction with the non-profit Cell Phones for Soldiers, are pleased to announce an exciting community partnership. The project, “Cell Phones for Soldiers,” encourages Virgin Islands businesses and residents to recycle their unused or outdated cell phones and other portable communication devices. Collected equipment will be sold to ReCellular and the proceeds are used by Cell Phones for Soldiers (www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com) to purchase calling cards that are given to U.S. military personnel serving around the world.

More than 150,000 troops are serving overseas and are away from their families. “Our goal is to help make it possible for them to stay in touch with loved ones by donating our old cell phones,” said Jeni Smith, President of the Rotary Club of St. Thomas Sunrise. “It’s an easy and meaningful way to support our troops.”

The goal is to deliver at least 1,000 hours of free calling time. Rotary Sunrise will collect phones from their members and member businesses. Virgin Islands residents can support the collection drive anytime through November 11, Veterans Day, by donating their old phones and equipment at AT&T or any Virgin Islands donation location, where there will be specially marked boxes (See: www.cellphoneforsoldiers.com for a list of donation centers). People who can’t get to a donation center can contribute their phones by printing a mailing label from the website.

“Besides supporting our troops,” says Jeni Smith, “recycling these devices this way protects our environment by keeping the toxic metals they contain out of our Bovoni Landfill.” Approximately half of the phones ReCellular processes are reconditioned and resold to wholesale companies in over 40 countries around the world. Phones and components that cannot be refurbished are dismantled and recycled to reclaim materials, including gold, silver and platinum from circuit boards; copper wiring from phone chargers; nickel, iron, cadmium and lead from battery packs; and plastic from phone cases and accessories. For more information, see www.recellular.com

Once again, Guy Shoemaker cooked up awesome chili for the 25th Annual Chili Cook-off. Many Club members came by to help set up, serve and clean up. The Chili Cook Off is something we support. It’s the Virgin Islands Pod of the Texas Society of Chili Cook-offs. Erik Ackerson of the club is the Head Chili Pepper and organizer of the event. It’s a great fund-raiser!
Above, Governor John P. deJongh, Jr. (Governor of the US Virgin Islands), Tom Rathmann, Lawrence Aqui, Guy Shoemaker – Chili chef. Centre - Marston Winkles, President of the Rotary Club of St. Thomas. At right – Tom Moore.

At left - Betsy, Friend of Rotary, Guy Shoemaker, Susan Chandler – member of RC St. Thomas Sunrise. Right - PP Terry Robinson and Heather Bonham

**ROTARY CLUB OF ST. THOMAS**

**BABY-THINK-IT-OVER PROGRAM**

Do you want to have a baby now? I think I need to think it over!

Under the chairmanship of past president Mary Gleason, the Rotary Club of St. Thomas has adopted, funded and sponsored the Baby Think It Over program in the Virgin Islands since 1996.

- Junior and High School students are learning what it is like to be a parent in the most real way possible.
- They are provided with real life virtual babies about the size of a three-month-old.

These state-of-the-art babies have a computerized chip that records exactly what kind of care they have received and the student has to figure out what the baby needs. When the need is met, the baby stops crying.

The program is designed to show teenagers how difficult it can be to raise a child and how much responsibility
is placed on the parent. It also allows the teens to experience the demands of childcare. The students are monitored and must have their parent’s permission for the program. The program was first introduced to Bertha C. Boschulte and then to Charlotte Amalie High School, Eudora Kean High School and Adelita Cancryn.

After spending a couple of days and nights with the Baby Think It Over infant simulator, many teens come to realize that they are not yet ready to take on the pressures and responsibilities of parenting.

More than one million teenage girls become pregnant each year in the U.S. -- 11% of all women aged 15-19 -- with over 40% of all females under 20 having at least one pregnancy. Over 3/4 of teen pregnancies are unplanned, accounting for about one-fourth of all accidental pregnancies each year.

About 55% of teen pregnancies end in birth, 31% in abortion, and 14% in miscarriages. Of those teenage women who choose to become mothers, one out of four will have a second child within two years of their first.

Each year in the United States, 20 percent of teenage girls who are sexually active become pregnant. The United States leads the developed nations in teen pregnancy, with twice the teen pregnancies of Canada and nine times the number of Japan.

The makers of Baby Think It Over want to help reverse those trends. Baby Think It Over is the centerpiece of many pregnancy prevention programs in high schools, middle schools, churches, and community centers. More than 40,000 Baby Think It Over dolls have now found homes across the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia and now, the Virgin Islands.

- Because of its success, The Rotary Club of St. Thomas has continued its sponsorship of this program and has purchased more babies to deliver to the schools.
- This program has been recognized as one of the reasons that teen pregnancies have been reduced in the Virgin Islands.
- It is the goal of the Rotary Club of St. Thomas to continue to make a difference in the community and to continue its goal to reduce teenage pregnancies with this wonderful program.

The Rotary Club of St. Thomas is in the process of delivering twenty new Babies to each of the four Schools in the coming week.

For more information on the Baby Think It Over program, or to assist in sponsorship or just to become involved in this worthy program, please contact Rotarian Mary Gleason at 340-776-1775.

Pronounced as one letter but written with three, only two different letters are used to make me.

*Hint: I can be crossed.*
President Leroy Moses presented a cheque for a total of $30,000 to Gerry Farara, Chairman of the Henry O. Creque Educational Trust on Thursday August 20.

Part of the proceeds raised at the Grand Affair was presented to the first recipients. Chairman Gerry Farara told the club at its weekly luncheon “I am very pleased to say that today the Rotary Club of Tortola will be presenting the H.O. Creque Educational Trust with the impressive sum of $30,000.00 – proceeds from past Grand Affairs. We all know that education is the key to opening doors to the future, and the Rotary Club of Tortola is very pleased to contribute to a scholarship fund which will help open doors to young people in the British Virgin Islands”.

Henry O. Creque was an avid reader gifted in many ways. He came from the core of the British Virgin Islands and was one of the BVIs giants. He was the first elected speaker of the legislative council in 1967.

At left - President Leroy Moses, PADG Gerry Farara, PP Mary Finley
(Photo by Jacqui Newton).

The Henry Osmond Creque Educational Trust is named in honour of a founding member and Past President of the Rotary Club of Tortola, whose vision was for a charitable trust that would promote the advancement of education of citizens and residents of the British Virgin Islands. The Trust is governed by three Trustees, Past President Michael Thomas, Past Acting District Governor Audley Maduro and Past Acting District Governor Gerry Farara, who is the chairman.

The Trust launched its first partial scholarship a few months ago in the amount of $6,000.00. Applications have been submitted to the newspapers so that citizens and residents have the opportunity to apply. In applying for this scholarship, applicants must submit an essay from a range of topics crafted from the committee.

In selecting a candidate for the scholarship, the committee will consider the need, the area of study and the potential contribution to the BVI on the whole in the development of the economy.

John and Sonia Williams pledged $50,000.00 towards the development of swimming and the launching of a competitive swimming program in the British Virgin Islands.
Hon. Dancia Penn, Minister, Ministry of Health and Social Development and Dr. Kristien van Acker, the Chair, International Diabetes Federation were two of the speakers for the evening, along with Dr. Fairfax and P Melvin.

At left Dr. Baker, Dr. van Acker and Dr. Rowan

The Footcare programme got started first in Tobago by Rotarian John Greedy who visited that island every year and became friends with the late Dr. Lloydan Joseph who saw the need to assist persons who were losing their limbs from Diabetes.

The Rotary Club of Tobago and Rotary Club of Ledbury in the UK twinned and raised funds and got a team of podiatrists from Canada to come into Tobago to give those services. The project became so successful that the Trinidad Health Authority asked them to go to Trinidad with the same programme and they in turn funded that programme there.

The Footcare Programme has been very successful and reduced the amputation rate considerably – so much that the Rotary Club of Ledbury realized that there was a need to extend the project to other islands in the Caribbean. They met with Dr. Karel Bakker of the International Diabetes Federation who was the one who really initiated the Step-By-Step Programme.

This program has been successful in India and other countries.

The programme was conceived with a common objective to improve diabetes footcare in the developing world. The goals of the project include the following:

- To create more awareness of diabetic foot problems;
- To provide sustainable training of health care professionals in the management of diabetic foot;
- To facilitate the cascading of information for health care professionals who have undergone training to other health care professionals and thus export expertise;
- To reduce the risk of lower limb complications in people with diabetes;
- To empower people with diabetes to care for their feet better, detect problems earlier and seek timely help when problems arise.

At left - Many turned out to a welcome reception held at Ginny’s at the Moorings last Thursday evening in honor of the three delegates who facilitated the training for the first ever Step-By-Step Diabetic Footcare Programme which took place on the 4th and 5th September 2009, at the Peebles Hospital Training Room.

In August 2008, the Rotary Club of Ledbury contacted five Rotary clubs in the Caribbean to ascertain whether their countries were experiencing any major problems with Diabetic Footcare. The Rotary Club of Road Town, under the leadership of Immediate Past President Stephanie Benn, contacted the health authorities here with a survey. From that survey, it was recognized that it would be worthwhile coming and introducing the programme to the Virgin Islands.
In January 2009, Dr. Karel Bakker, Dr. Kristien van Acker and Rotarian John Greedy came to the Virgin Islands and met with the Rotary Club of Road Town and gave a presentation of the programme to officials of the Ministry of Health and Social Development for the way forward.

The Rotary Club of Ledbury and the Rotary Club of Road Town twinned together to obtain a matching grant through the Rotary International to assist in offering this programme.

The Hon. Dancia Penn was the featured guest speaker and she has agreed that the Ministry of Health and Social Development to partner with the Rotary Club of Road Town in this very important and needed training.

The faculty consisted of Dr. Kristen Van Acker, Dr. Vilma Urbancic and Neil Baker from the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and Dr. Mitchele Penn and Els Block, local staff. The two-day training was intense; however, the presentations were “attention-grabbing” and delivered with much hilarity.

The 23 participants came from the public and private healthcare sector and the Diabetes Associations of Tortola and Virgin Gorda, and included lay persons, orderlies, Assistant nurses, registered nurses and Physicians. President Melvin Stoutt and Stephanie Benn were part of the group.

All the participants agreed that the training provided them with increased knowledge and skills to better care for the diabetics of the territory and therefore reduce the number of amputations in the near future.

**ROTARY CLUB SUNRISE OF ROAD TOWN**

**makes donation for Special Olympics**

...from [http://www.bvinews.com/](http://www.bvinews.com/)
...submitted by Monica Ramgeet

Colin Bramble, one of the Directors of the Centre, gave an impassioned presentation at the Club’s weekly breakfast meeting held at Maria’s By The Sea this morning.

The centre, a non-profit organization which officially opened at Manuel Reef Marina in 2005, is partially funded by government, but depends on the generosity of private sector donors to provide the resources to train special needs children and other youth to swim, sail and kayak during structured programmes.

*At left - Colin Bramble, Rotarian Ken Guiste and President Monica Ramgeet*

Speaking to Rotarians this morning, Bramble said the sailability programme demonstrates that these individuals have the ability to be integrated into the community. “In fact, one of our graduates started a full time job yesterday at Horizon Yacht Charters,” he proudly declared.

Bramble said the BVI Watersports Centre is operating at a negative profit of about $30,000. He underscored the importance of ensuring the sustainability of the programme and appealed to the three Rotary Clubs in the BVI...
to each adopt one of three small sail boats, aptly named Faith, Hope and Charity.

President Monica Ramgeet of the Rotary Club Sunrise of Road Town jumped at the opportunity and committed her club to adopting Hope. This spurred a series of pledges from members who came up with the $3,333 in just about 10 minutes.

An overwhelmed Bramble expressed gratitude to the Club for what turned out to be much more than just an invitation to breakfast, but the adoption of a new partner in the Rotary Club Sunrise of Road Town.

During his speech, he also spoke of the planned visit in December of fellow Rotarian Geoff Holt, a paraplegic, who will sail from the UK to Cane Garden Bay, where he sustained that life-changing accident.

In addition, Bramble outlined plans by Sailability BVI to enter teams into the Latin American Special Olympic Games in 2010 and the international Sailability Regatta in 2011.

Also during Tuesday’s meeting, the Rotary Club Sunrise of Road Town inducted its 7th member since its charter in April this year. Danielle Ellis received her Rotary pin and Rotary pack during a ceremony officiated by Assistant District Governor Vance Lewis and President Monica.

On Saturday September 12th, Rotarians will come out in their numbers to conduct a clean-up of the Road Town area, starting from the Central Administration Complex at 7am. The public is invited to join the Rotarians in this community effort to keep the capital beautiful and make this a better environment for us all.

The Rotary Club Sunrise of Road Town meets Tuesdays at 7:00 a.m. at Maria’s By The Sea Hotel.

Rotary Club of Road Town, British Virgin Islands

Who is your Tommy?

by Benn, Stephanie

Most Rotarians have a story about what first attracted them to Rotary.

For William D. Pollard Jr., 2008-09 governor of District 7600 (Virginia, USA), that story includes a retired banker named Tommy. Pollard recounted the details when he visited clubs in his district during his term to stump for recruitment and retention.

He shared his address with Rotary International News in honor of Membership and Extension Month and this is what he had to say:

When I think of why we should ask someone to join Rotary, I think of Tommy.

Two years after starting my banking career in Richmond, I was asked to work in my hometown of Petersburg. One of the first people to visit me was Tommy Adkins, a retired banker, who asked me to attend a Rotary club meeting.

While I was growing up in Petersburg, Tommy lived on the same street as my family. I even delivered his
newspaper. I had no idea what Rotary was but accepted Tommy's kind invitation to visit the Rotary Club of Petersburg.

Tommy passed away several years ago, and he probably never realized the impact he had on my professional and personal life:

- Because of Tommy, I have participated in many service projects helping others.
- Because of Tommy, I have tried to follow The Four-Way Test.
- Because of Tommy, I have supported The Rotary Foundation.
- Because of Tommy, I am going to help 2008-09 RI President Dong Kurn Lee reduce child mortality.
- Because of Tommy, my mother is a Rotarian.
- Because of Tommy, I stand before you today as our district governor.
- Because of Tommy, I have made so many new friendships through Rotary.

So I have three questions for each of you:

- Who is your Tommy?
- What impact has Rotary had on your life?
- Have you been or will you be someone else's Tommy?

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**ROTARY CLUB OF CAYMAN SUNRISE**

**ROTARY SUNRISE PROMOTES LITERACY**

by Ciara Neill

According to UNESCO, more than 800 million people worldwide are unable to read or write, a lack of skills that makes them especially vulnerable to hunger, disease and extreme poverty. In addition, about 137 million children are illiterate; a fact which is closely linked to child mortality. Locally, it is estimated that approximately two-thirds of our student population are reading at or below their expected level.

*At left – Rotarian Ciara Neill*

To address this problem locally, the Rotary Club of Grand Cayman Sunrise has carefully researched literacy programmes that could make a positive impact in our community. The Computer-Assisted Literacy Solution (CALS) programme incorporates two separate educational programmes by AutoSkill International: the Academy of READINGR and the Academy of MATHR. For over 15 years, these research-based programmes have helped at-risk students. CALS is a research based intervention system for at-risk learners and builds fluency in the foundation skills of reading and math.

CALS is self paced and individualised; motivational elements helps keep students engaged and the programme is self-paced and easy to use. In addition, CALS builds confidence and enthusiasm for participants, keeping them engaged. It provides immediate, measurable results and is the only software that measures accuracy, pace and consistency down to the millisecond.

In line with Rotary Sunrise's stated aim of Literacy in the Cayman Islands and in support of RI President DK Lee's motto of "Make Dreams Real", a pilot project using CALS was undertaken from July through to October...
In 2008 at one of the high schools in the Cayman Islands in partnership with Rotary Sunrise. The feedback that we received from participants was extremely positive. One of the students improved by 1 level in the post test after just 10 weeks and another student achieved an improvement of two grade levels upon completion of the course.

CALS is suitable for children and adults of all ages and Rotary Sunrise has assisted students from adult learners to children. All the students have felt and seen the benefits; they have all talked about the programme with enthusiasm and excitement and have made significant progress to date.

In 2007, school children in the Cayman Islands were tested using the TerraNova test. The results of these tests showed that in Year 2, students performed better than US national average however as students moved through in the school system, their performance steadily declined. Students in Years 3-10 declined in performance each year and students in Years 11-14 displayed the lowest level of performance.

Due to concerns regarding these low literacy levels, the Cayman Islands Literacy Strategy (CILS) was developed by the Department of Educational Services. With the introduction of the CILS from September 2009- all timetables will include literacy classes in addition to English classes.

The strategy will provide three tiers which strategically introduce students to interventions based on response to previous interventions. Tier 1 is being implemented in September 2009 using SRA Corrective Reading Program. Tier 2 will commence in January 2010 for those who are not responding to Tier 1 and Rotary Sunrise will be working with the Department of Educational Services to provide CALS to those students. Tier 3 will commence in April 2010 and will target students who do not respond to Tiers 1 and 2.

Through CALS, we have the opportunity to help improve the lives of individuals within our community through literacy improvement. Rotary Sunrise is immensely proud to be involved in the CALS programme and to help tackle illiteracy in the Cayman Islands, one person at a time.

PHOTO BY GEOFF MATHEWS. Submitted by Geoff Mathews.

**ROTARY CENTRAL GRAND CAYMAN**

**Rotaract Blue members receive leadership training**

Three enthusiastic Rotaract Blue members recently became the first in the club to receive the renowned Rotary Leadership Institute training, which is designed to develop young people’s leadership skills.

*At left - Paul Byles, President of Rotary Central, Stephanie Scott and Yvette Cacho of Rotaract, and Alasdair Foster and Richard Ruffer of Walkers SPV.*

Rotaract Blue is a local club which is dedicated to encouraging young people’s involvement in professional development, leadership development and community service projects. The programme is sponsored by Rotary Central, which arranged for the training to take place.

Stephanie Scott, club Director of Service is one of the Rotaractors who benefitted from the recent training sessions on the 8th and 9th of August at the University College of the Cayman Islands. She said, “This was a great opportunity for us to improve our knowledge of Rotary and develop our leadership skills. We all found the experience very rewarding.” The course participants, who also included club president, Tricia Cacho, and club Vice President,
Yvette Cacho, completed levels one and two of the institute’s three-level training programme. Each course level requires about seven hours to complete.

Stephanie Scott and Yvette Cacho were both sponsored by local Management Services firm, Walkers SPV. Richard Ruffer, Senior Vice President of Walkers SPV Limited, commented, “Walkers SPV and the rest of the Walkers Management Services Group are delighted to sponsor Rotaract Blue's participation in this year's Rotary International Leadership Training Seminar.” He continued, “As an organisation and a responsible corporate citizen, we are always looking for ways that we can make a contribution to the local community and we have been very impressed with the work of Rotaract Blue and the commitment of its young professionals.”

Mr. Ruffer added, "We believe that organisations such as Rotaract Blue, which instill the ideals of community service and social obligation, present a unique opportunity to businesses such as ourselves, because the contributions that we can make are multiplied significantly by their hard work and dedication to the community." Walkers SPV plans to sponsor the participation of other Rotaractors on the Institute’s course in the future.

Rotary Central President, Paul Byles, was also enthusiastic about the training sessions. He commented, “Rotary Central is proud to be supporting leadership training for Rotaract Blue members. It is a great way for them to develop leadership skills and prepare them for future roles as community leaders.” Mr. Byles added, “We are very grateful to Walkers SPV for their support of Rotaract Blue.”

Rotaract Blue is a community service programme, which was formed in May 2007. It is one of the newest Rotaract initiatives in the Caribbean region. The club is for young people between the ages of 18 and 30, many of whom are aspiring professionals. The club’s objective is to help young adults improve their knowledge and skills whilst assisting local communities. The Rotaract program is an international network with more than 8,000 clubs comprising about 145,000 members in 163 countries. The club’s motto is, "Committed to making a positive difference." Rotaract Blue meets every Wednesday at 6:00 pm at the Fusion Bistro Restaurant located in the Mirco Centre in George Town.

If it is to be, It is up to me!

Answer? Eye
Dr. Knox Grandison was our guest speaker on a Wednesday in August at our regular Luncheon meeting. Dr. Grandison talked about the self induced diseases affecting our modern Society. He emphasized that diet and what we consume has a lot to do with sicknesses. Diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, etc.

He stressed the fact that vegetables, fibers and fruits are healthiest items to consume in our daily diets, along with regular exercise. What comes in a box or can, should be avoided.

Originally from the Bahamas, Dr. Grandison now works out of Jamaica. Rotarians appreciated his presentation immensely.

In the picture President Pierre presenting Dr. Grandison with a certificate of appreciation from our Club.


At right above - Past President Bert finally received his Paul Harris Award from Immediate Past President Bobby. President Bert could not attend the change of Board Dinner at the Westin Hotel when all the awards were presented
The Rotary Club of St. Martin Sunrise at its weekly member’s breakfast meeting at Air Lekker Bek on Tuesday August 25, 2009 presented to Mr. Donevan Froston (Founder) and Mr. Clinton Spring (member) of Foundation for Hope and Music Development a donation of a Yamaha Electronic Key Board towards its efforts of establishing a Music Academy for the youth of St. Maarten/St. Martin.

Donevan Froston a true son of St. Maarten’s soil shared his story at the Club Meeting, of how the unconditional love and perseverance of his now deceased mother provided the much needed will power that helped free him from the grips of substance abuse.

Today Mr. Froston has devoted his life through his personal testimony and musical abilities to help others, especially the youth, who are faced with similar addictions.

The Rotary Club of St. Martin Sunrise was pleased to be able to contribute this instrument to boost the Foundation for Hope and Music Development in its quest of providing a positive community environment for the people of St. Maarten/St. Martin. Classes for this Music Academy are scheduled to begin in September. Rotary is celebrating “New Generation Month” in September; therefore, the presentation to the Foundation is in keeping with Rotary’s aim.

The objectives of the Foundation for Hope and Music Development, established in 2008, are to:

- Train children, youth and adults to play one or more musical instruments;
- Develop and implement a program of music education that will cater to the development of the musical talents and abilities of any child, youth or adult on St. Martin (North & South);
- Recognize and honor identified persons in the St. Martin communities for outstanding contributions towards the growth and development of the community in particular and the island in general;

What word, when written in capital letters, is the same forward, backward, and upside down?

**Hint:** High _________
LITERACY DAY – SEPTEMBER 8
IN ST. MAARTEN

Rotarians in St. Martin planned to celebrate International Literacy Day by reading to children at the Philipsburg Jubilee Library for three hours.

Members of Rotaract Club of St. Martin Sunrise, Rotary Club of St. Martin Sunrise and St. Dominic Interact Club entertained the youngsters with stories at the Library.

AG Louis Wever reports that everybody had an educational and enjoyable day.

Rotary Profile - Mark Kerkhove - St. Maarten Sunrise Rotary Club

Mark was born in Frankfort, Germany, and moved to the US in 1950 to Long Island, NY. He came to St. Maarten in June, 1971, to oversee the construction of his parents’ house. He built a pool for them, and thus started his career in construction.

Mark is a widower with a 26-year-old daughter who plans to be married next April.

Mark joined the Sunrise Rotary Club three years ago for a chance to give something back to the community that supported him for the past 30 years.
Michele Rassin: “First Lady” of Rotary

After braving considerable opposition to become a member of the largest Rotary Club in the Bahamas, Michele Rassin has been elected its first female president.

She has been involved in Rotary since childhood, attending and volunteering for events through her father Barry Rassin, a past president, district governor and now one of 17 directors of Rotary International around the world.

As the first woman to join the Rotary Club of East Nassau seven years ago, Ms Rassin says she felt constantly compelled to prove her worth to both supporters and skeptics.

She therefore committed her time and energy to as many of the club's community projects as possible - a task that was also a pleasure, as it was the idea of being useful that first drew her to the club. Ms Rassin said that despite the controversy sparked by her decision to join - no less than three members formally objected and others threatened to quit - it was not an attempt to rock the boat, but rather an expression of her desire to help the less fortunate as effectively as possible.

She pointed out that while numerous charity groups were already accepting women at the time, Rotary was the only one she knew of that dedicated every cent it raised to charity, using none for administrative or other purposes.

"I really wanted to dedicate my time and my resources to give back 100 per cent, where I know where it was going to be used for the best," she said. Still, Ms Rassin was aware of the entrenched attitudes that provoked the hostile reaction of some members, and was determined to take them on.

"I don't think people should be judged based on their race, sex or religion; your work performance should stand for itself, and I have a passion for doing work within the community, and I didn't think politics should be the deciding factor on somebody who wants to help make things better for somebody else, to make a difference," she told The Tribune.

About 20 years ago, American branches of what was until then the archetypal boys club began taking female members - after a US Supreme Court ruling compelled them to - and eventually clubs around the world followed suit, including some in the Bahamas. There have been other female presidents of local club branches in the past, but not East Nassau, where many were keen to preserve what they saw as an important tradition.

But things have indeed changed, if the overwhelming support for Ms Rassin expressed at the handing-over dinner on Saturday, June 27, was any indication. The new president said she will not let her supporters down, and has ambitious plans for her one year term. These include the donation of hearing aids and eye glasses to
children of economically challenged families, the provision of wheelchairs to those who cannot afford them, the purchase of ventilators and incubators for the Princess Margaret Hospital, and the launch of the Bahamas’ first blood mobile.

This last project, which she has been working on for a year, will see the commissioning of a van fully equipped to conduct blood drives at businesses or other locations, in an effort to improve blood reserves. "We make it easier, by bringing the blood drive to you," she said.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the project, she explained, is that by taking advantage of the mail boat system, the vehicle can conduct the first blood drives on Family Islands.

All Rotary projects depend on charity, and no one would be surprised if businessmen have become more reluctant to give of late. But Ms. Rassin said she is determined not to let the world’s economic troubles get in the way of her plans. If anything, she said, Rotary members must try even harder, as the ranks of the needy will inevitably grow and other non-profit aid organizations will begin to struggle.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF TRAFALGAR, JAMAICA,
Teams Up with Grand Cayman Sunrise for Childhood Literacy

...Submitted by Leisha Chen-Young

In August, as part of their continued monthly initiative known as Roving Rotarians, the Rotary Club of Trafalgar, New Heights, focused on their drive for literacy, partnering with the Rotary Club of Grand Cayman Sunrise who donated almost 300 books for children up to eight years old.

The Rotary Club of Trafalgar made their first donation of over 50 books to the Trench Town Reading Centre in downtown Kingston, a library and after-school facility serving children ages six to 16. This was in fact the club’s second visit to the Trench Town Reading Centre. The club first visited the Reading Centre in January this year along with Jamaican radio host Paula-Ann Porter, and children’s book author Kellie Magnus.
At left - President Tayana Henry shares a moment with children of the Trench Town community who are regular users of the Reading Centre facility.

During a fun-filled afternoon celebrating the joy of reading, the children performed, club members read books out loud, and in addition to the books, a donation of bags, pencil cases and pencils—the perfect back-to-school gift—was delivered courtesy of Sagicor. “This donation has made an incredibly huge difference to the Reading Centre,” says Suzette Thomas, the senior librarian and assistant manager of the Centre. “Reading is a stepping stone to their future, and these books give them an opportunity they never had before. They really offer hope.”

The remaining books from Grand Cayman Sunrise will be donated to St. Michael’s primary school, Denham Town basic school and the Jamaica Library Service. “Promoting literacy is critical to developing leaders of the next generation. As young Rotarians we are eager and ready to do our part to provide an avenue for today’s youth to access the tools needed for a better quality of life,” says President Tayana Henry.

The Roving Rotarians initiative was started just under a year ago by the District’s newest and youngest club. It focuses on a different cause each month, with past projects including the painting of St. Michael’s primary school’s lunch room; a health fair in collaboration with the CHASE Fund; a jumble sale to help the St. Patrick’s Foundation raise money for their All Star Marching Band; and a Christmas treat for the children of Cassava Piece in Kingston’s inner city. The Roving Rotarians is just one way in which the club encourages their members to get involved in hands-on service.

Formed by a group of young professionals, the Rotary Club of Trafalgar is dedicated to injecting an innovative and vibrant energy to the world of service.

Answer? NOON

In the summer of 1928, Harris set off on a 10-week whirlwind tour of Britain, during which he visited more than 50 clubs. On 4 June in Birmingham, he made his first speech to a British Rotary club audience, which included the president-elect of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI).

In the speech, he set forth a theme that resonated throughout the remainder of his tour: “Friendship is not an anemic thing. It is capable of hurling itself over barriers, which have been building between each other through centuries of time.”

-- www.rotary.org
THE CAYMAN ROTARY CENTRAL

has asked me to publish this notice.

Obituary - Frederick Speirs

It is with deepest regret that Rotary Central announces the passing of our friend, colleague and past President, Frederick Speirs, on Monday 7th September.

Rotary Central was blessed with the pleasure of Fred’s inimitable grace, wit, and depth of character for three wonderful decades.

If ever there was a man who epitomised the club’s motto, Service Above Self, it was our beloved Fred. Fred consistently gave freely of himself, his time and his many talents in order to help others around him and serve the community to which he belonged and meant so much.

Time and again he persevered where others would have faltered and left his mark on our club, our island, and our district of 11 countries, in a way that few others could. Fred was a Paul Harris Fellow active contributor multiple times over for his financial contributions to the club. To us, and all who knew him, Fred was the indispensible resource, who was committed to sharing and caring each minute, each hour, each day and each year.

Fred was much more than a loyal and devout Rotarian – he was a loving father and husband, a committed educator, and a mentor. He was also a football referee, cook of no mean order and a lover of life. A man of multiple talents Fred was many things to many people. Perhaps above all, as anyone who knew him well would vouch without hesitation, Fred was an inspiration who lived three lifetimes of good.

No words can truly capture the essence of one who did so much for so many in so many countries, and never with a thought of self gain. The living embodiment of altruism whilst he was with us, Fred filled our hearts and minds with the memories of his service to others and contributions to society, and gave us all something to aspire to.

Fred Speirs left us all suddenly and far too soon. At this difficult time we circle his family, Bev, Lori, and Allison and offer our prayers as we share in their incalculable loss. Through Fred we are reminded what it means to be a part of the Rotary family, and pledge our commitment to be there for Fred’s family today, tomorrow and forever. We also give profound thanks for our good fortune of having been able to count Fred as a friend, colleague and constant source of inspiration.

“Past President Fred was an inspiration to our club and to this community. He is sadly missed by Rotary not only in the Cayman Islands but throughout the Rotary district and of course to our local community. We will continue to strive to serve our community at the very high standards and with the compassion and care displayed by him”, said Rotary Central President Paul Byles.

A Service of Celebration was held on Thursday September 17, 2009, at the Cayman Islands Baptist Church on Pedro Castle Road, to honour Frederick Speirs. Interment was at the Prospect Cemetery. We celebrate the remarkable life of an exceptional man and pay our respects and tributes to one whose beloved memory will endure forever in our hearts.
REFERENCES


Rotary International News. Online.

Submissions from District 7020 Clubs

*Please send Club News and photos (with appropriate IDs) to Kitty at ladykitt@sympatico.ca*

*For inclusion in the District Newsletter*