

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## Rotary Club Calendar

**March 31 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm  
Paul Cormier, Soleil Foundation Founder and President,  
Operation Jericho, Haiti School Reconstruction Project**



Paul is a serving U.S. Coast Guard reservist, at the rank of Chief. Phase 1 of Operation Jericho is complete. The picture below was taken on March 15 and shows the rubble-cleared school site with re-laid foundations and - if you look closely - the wired steel reinforcing that will make a quake-resistant "cage" which will sit inside the poured concrete pillars of the refurbished building.

The next move will be Phase 2, during which the walls will be reassembled and refurbished. This phase will include the installation of vertical steel reinforcing posts and concrete forming, resulting in a strong and cool tropical structure with a naturally-lit interior and high windows. This will be very similar to the old construction - just much more solid - and is the ideal design for the Haitian environment.



As the refurbished school takes shape, classes continue in a borrowed tent about a mile's walk away amid the rubble in quake-flattened Leogane.

- April 7 – 6:30pm – Service Project**
- April 12 – Manna Food Center Packing Night**
- April 14 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm  
Evgeniya Kazazaeva, Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar**
- April 21 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm  
Chris Puttock, Adj Prof UofMD, "Oyster Reefs"**
- April 28 – 6:30pm Social - Normandie Farm**
- April 29-May 1 – DisCon 2011 Turf Valley Resort  
Register by April 8 at [rotary7620.org](http://rotary7620.org)**
- May 5 – 6:30pm – Service Project**
- May 12 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm  
Stella Koch, Audubon Naturalist Society**
- May 19 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm  
Corkey Hay DeSimone, Author**
- May 26 – 6:30pm Social - Normandie Farm**
- June 2 – 6:30pm – Service Project**
- June 9 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm  
Joy Hachette, Maryland Insurance Administration**
- June 16 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm  
"Outlook for Energy" by the ExxonMobil Coalition**
- June 23 – 6:30pm Social - Normandie Farm**

## March 17 Meeting Report

Our guest speaker was Rotary District Governor for 2013-2014

Peter Kyle who spoke about the "Cadillac" of Rotary Foundation programs, the Rotary Peace Fellows. Fellows are leaders



promoting national and international cooperation, peace, and the successful resolution of conflict throughout their lives, in their careers, and through service activities. Fellows can earn either a master's degree in international relations, public administration, sustainable development, peace studies, conflict



resolution, or a related field, or a professional development certificate in peace and conflict resolution. Each year 50 fellowships averaging \$25,000 each are awarded for degree study and 60 for certificate study. Since 2002, 537 fellows from 75 countries have been selected at a cost of \$26M.

Since 2008 six out of seven submissions by the Capitol Hill Rotary Club have received awards and four members of the club are peace fellows. Rotary Peace Centers are located at six universities around the world.

## 31<sup>st</sup> Annual International Night

Six scholars from Japan, South Korea, Germany and Denmark were featured at this year's International Night Program on March 26 hosted at the University Club in Washington. Special guests included Governor Jay Kumar and his wife Geetha and Scholar Counselor District Chair Conrad Fleck and his wife Diane. Pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter feature photos by Marilyn Nelson.



Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club's 31st Annual International Night  
March 26, 2011



Photos by Marilyn Nelson



*Photos by Marilyn Nelson*

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## **Letter From RI Director John Smarge Regarding The Rotary Foundation Haiti Donor Advised Fund**

Dear Rotarians,

It has been sixty-three (63) weeks since the largest natural disaster occurred in Zones 33-34; the earthquake in Haiti.

As the world's attention has shifted to the numerous other disasters that have since occurred, Rotary continues to do what Rotary does best...rebuild communities.

The Rotary Foundation Haiti Donor Advised Fund raised \$2,040,000 and has approved 69 projects for a total financial impact of more than \$5,500,000. We are giving the people of Haiti a glimpse of hope by building and renovating schools, assisting in health initiatives, providing prosthetic limbs and more.

There is so much more to do...so much more that we can do. So much more that we must do!

As I travel our zones I hear from club presidents who say "I want to contribute-how can I help?"

We have posted on the Zone 33-34 website a complete list of all the projects that we are undertaking. Many of them need additional funding. Additionally, as the Rotary clubs of Haiti continue to evaluate their challenges, we are getting additional requests.

<http://rizon33-34.org/haiti.html>

Please contact your clubs!!! Please direct them to the website. Please encourage them to adopt a project and fund any part of it. Please help us help Haiti.

Contributions can be sent to:

The Donor Advised Fund for Haiti Earthquake Relief at  
The Rotary Foundation, or  
The Caribbean Partnership  
c/o PDG Phil Lustig  
9937 Majorca Pl.

Boca Raton, Florida 33434

(Please specify the purpose of the funds)

THANK YOU!!!!

Yours in Rotary Service,

John C Smarge

Email: [johnsmarge@raythemover.com](mailto:johnsmarge@raythemover.com)

HPhone: 239-566-8861

OPhone: 239-643-4100

## **Rotarians Respond To Japan Earthquake, Tsunami**

By Ryan Hyland and Dan Nixon

Rotary International News – 25 March 2011



*The Rotaract Club of Tokyo is encouraging Rotaractors around the world to post messages of support on Twitter for survivors of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami.*

*Photo courtesy of Rotaract Club of Tokyo*

Rotarians have been finding a number of ways to help victims of the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan that killed thousands and left hundreds of thousands more homeless.

In response to the disasters, The Rotary Foundation established the Rotary Japan Disaster Recovery Fund, which will support long-term recovery projects in the affected areas. More than US\$500,000 has been donated since the fund opened on 11 March.

"It is encouraging to know that our overseas Rotary friends care about us," says Yuzaburo Mogi, president of the Rotary Club of Tokyo. "I am confident that the people of Japan will overcome this great disaster, and we are hopeful that we can get over the various difficulties soon."

District governors in Japan are running a fundraising campaign to send money to the governors in affected areas. Mogi says that Rotarians who wish to help Japan should contribute to the Foundation's recovery fund. (Rotarians and non-Rotarians can donate online).

The first Matching Grant project to receive support from the fund was approved a week after the disaster. Clubs in districts 3350 (Cambodia and Thailand) and 2820 (Japan) are using a total of \$65,650 to help provide food and drinking water for 15,000 people at an evacuation center in Ibaraki.

**Other responses have included:**

\* Three Rotary districts in Japan are using district funds to help. District 2610 (Ishikawa and Toyama) has developed an emergency relief project to provide public housing for up to 500 families evacuated from

[www.pb-rotary.org](http://www.pb-rotary.org) [www.rotary7620.org](http://www.rotary7620.org) [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

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the disaster areas. District 2840 (Gunma) shortened its presidents-elect training seminars from two days to half a day and donated the remaining funds earmarked for the seminars to relief efforts. And District 2680 (Hyogo) set up a contribution box during its district conference, raising about \$7,500 for recovery efforts.

\* The Rotaract Club of Tokyo launched the Cheer Tohoku project to rally the support of Rotaractors around the world, asking them to use Twitter to send messages of support to survivors in northeast Japan. The club is also using Twitter to post photos of Rotaractors holding up short messages they've written. "We thought we could make use of the worldwide Rotaract network to show people in the stricken area that we care," says club president Ai Takahashi.

\* The Rotary Club of Akashi, Hyogo, sent a private airplane carrying a load of medical supplies to the Rotary Club of Sukagawa, Fukushima, which delivered them to a hospital near Fukushima Airport. The governor of District 2640 (Wakayama and parts of Osaka) and six Rotarians also brought 1,000 blankets to Rotarians in the Fukushima region.

## **Rotary Foundation alumni respond**

Alumni of Rotary Foundation programs are also supporting Japan's recovery efforts:

\* Rotarians and friends of Rotary in District 3330 (Thailand), an area extensively damaged by the 2004 tsunami, are among those who have felt especially moved to respond. The district's Rotary Foundation alumni association worked with local Rotary clubs to raise \$15,000 in contributions.

\* A Group Study Exchange (GSE) team from District 6450 (Illinois, USA) was in Tokyo when the earthquake struck on 11 March. Japanese Rotarians "provided our team with unbelievable kindness and generosity" throughout the exchange, says team leader Bob Blackburn. He adds that they "cared for our well-being during and after the earthquake," including ensuring that the team didn't miss its flight home to Chicago. "My wife and I offered the Westmont Rotary club [Illinois] an opportunity to match our \$500 contribution to District 2750 [part of Tokyo and Pacific Islands] for disaster relief efforts, and they responded with an additional \$4,500. Plus, our GSE team members have pledged an additional \$425, for a total of \$5,425.

Rotarians always come to the aid of others in an emergency. Please help our friends in Japan any way that you can."

\* Former GSE team members and others in District 5450 (Colorado, USA) are also mobilizing support. "We were involved with the outbound and inbound teams to Japan's Sendai area last year and have been heartbroken to learn about the tragedies experienced by their friends," says Past District Governor Mike Oldham.

\* Miho Fukuhara, a former Rotary Peace Fellow from Japan, is temporarily leaving her post as a United Nations and intergovernmental affairs officer at UNICEF headquarters in New York City to join the Japan Committee for UNICEF for five weeks. "I never thought of myself being sent to Japan for emergency response work," says Fukuhara, who managed and coordinated reconstruction programs in Iraq for Peace Winds Japan earlier in her career. "It is really sad to see the situation, but I will do my best."

## **Indian Philanthropist Donates Another US\$1.12 Million To Polio Eradication**

**By Antoinette Tuscano**

**Rotary International News – 29 March 2011**



*Rajashree Birla has given a combined total of more than \$4.2 million to The Rotary Foundation for polio eradication. Rotary Images*

Rajashree Birla, of Mumbai, Maharashtra, India, has donated another US\$1.12

million to The Rotary Foundation in support of Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge.

Including this contribution, Birla has given a combined total of more than \$4.2 million to the Foundation for polio eradication.

Foundation Trustee Ashok M. Mahajan says that Birla's extraordinary generosity stems from her belief that giving to others is the best way to make a lasting change in the world. As a mother, she has compassion

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for the young victims of polio and wants to help Rotary achieve its goal of eradicating the disease, he says.

"Mrs. Rajashree Birla strongly believes that what we have done for ourselves dies with us. But what we do for others remains forever," he says. "Charity begins at home but should not end there."

Mahajan adds that Birla has confidence in the Foundation's ability to use the money wisely.

Birla's late husband, Aditya Birla, made the Aditya Birla Group into a Fortune 500 company and one of the largest in India, employing more than 100,000 people in over 20 countries. Her eldest son, Kumar Mangalam Birla, is chairman of the board, and she serves as a director.

The family has a longstanding commitment to business accountability and community service. Birla continues that legacy through her leadership in the Aditya Birla Centre for Community Initiatives and Rural Development, where she oversees projects that address education, health care, and other social issues.

Among her many awards and honors, Birla is an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Bombay, which presented her with the Citizen of Bombay Award in 2003. In 2004, she received the Pride of India Award from the Rotary Club of Mulund, where she is also an honorary member.

The Aditya Birla Centre has helped immunize about three million children against polio in 3,200 villages in India, one of the four remaining polio-endemic countries.

## **New Streamlined Format For Member Access Sign-Up Page**

### **Rotary International News – 30 March 2011**

Based on Rotarian feedback, the Member Access account creation and login process has been redesigned. Through a new streamlined page with a more intuitive format, Rotarians will be able to easily create a Member Access account or log into their existing account. Support elements such as the "forgot password" feature and frequently asked questions have also been improved. In addition, the new sign-up page offers announcements about Member Access features and tools.

## **April is Rotary Magazine Month**

### **Rotarian Magazine Goes Digital**

Beginning in July, *The Rotarian* will bring you the same print content you've enjoyed for years – in paperless form. If you switch to digital, a link to the new issue will be delivered to your e-mail inbox each month from Zinio, the world's largest digital newsstand. Plus download the Zinio app on your iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch, or Samsung Galaxy to take *The Rotarian* digital magazine with you wherever you go.

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Want to keep your print subscription and subscribe to the digital magazine? Check the RI website in the

coming months for details on how you'll be able to do that. E-mail [rotarian@rotary.org](mailto:rotarian@rotary.org) for help or more information.

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The *Rotarian* digital magazine debuts in July. But you can see a preview now at [http://www.zinio.com/reader.jsp?issue=416162402&RF=rotarian\\_may11&o=ext](http://www.zinio.com/reader.jsp?issue=416162402&RF=rotarian_may11&o=ext).

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