

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## Rotary Club Calendar

April 1 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

**Steve Naron: Overwintering in Florida**



Steven Naron is retired after 35 years as a technology and business consultant, 22 years with IBM as architect, project manager, and principle.

During his professional career he helped design and manage the development of major innovative industry solutions that have become standards in the healthcare, insurance, research, and financial industries. He has an MS in computer science and MBA

in operations analysis. He is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) by the Project Management Institute (PMI). He has a number of publications and a patent. He has been a Rotarian since 2001 and is a past president of our club. He is our club's webmaster and co-chair for Rotary District 7620's incoming Ambassadorial Scholarship program. He is an active Toastmaster and runs youth speaking programs. He is helping to establish an organization named, Club Projects, to provide project management support to project managers of service clubs. He is past president of the Johns Hopkins DC area alumni and continues active on various Hopkins boards and committees. He is on the board of the Nast-Naron fund that provides scholarships for internships in cancer research. He is a serious bicyclist and kayaker and a volunteer for the C&O Canal. He has started producing multimedia materials including videos and podcasts for his various non-profit ventures. He is starting an education program to introduce appropriate technologies that can make life better, easier, or more fun.

April 8 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

**Arthur Woods: Compass Partners**

April 10 - 9am - Four-Way Test Speech Finals

**Glen Burnie High School**

April 15 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

April 22 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

April 22 - 25 - DisCon 2010 Gettysburg, PA

April 29 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

May 6 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

May 13 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

May 20 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

May 27 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

June 3 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

June 10 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

June 17 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

June 24 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

June 28 - 6pm - District Governor Installation

**Howard Community College**

## 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Rotary International Night

The 30th Annual International Night Program of the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club was held on March 27 at the University Club in Washington, DC. A tradition since the chartering of the club thirty years ago, the club invites Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars studying in



our district to come and share their experiences. Earlier venues included many embassies and several universities in Washington.

President Noel Howard and District Governor Paul



Frey welcomed attendees and District Governor Elect Jay Kumar invited the scholars to join Rotary



when they return to their home countries. Assistant Governor Edco Bailey gave the invocation. Past President and Master of Ceremonies Art Blitz asked scholars questions with several humorously seeking "lifelines" and assistance



from the audience. Many thanks for the exceptional evening go to the International Night Committee chaired by Nabil Bedewi.

The Rotary Foundation sponsors one of the largest international scholarship programs in the world. Since 1947, almost 40,000 scholars from over 130 countries have received scholarships at a cost of more than \$517 million. In 2008-09, 651 scholars from 71 countries studied in 87 countries. Program awards were \$13.2 million.

*[See Photo Collage on Pages 2 and 3]*

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**30<sup>th</sup> Potomac-Bethesda  
Rotary International  
Night - March 27, 2010**





# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## Message from RI President John Kenny

My fellow Rotarians,

At any given time, every one of Rotary's 33,000-plus clubs is carrying out some form of vital service in its local community and often internationally as well. Under Rotary's structure, each club works autonomously within a broader network that supports and inspires our efforts. An important piece of that network is the Rotary World Magazine Press, made up of *The Rotarian* and 31 regional magazines in 25 languages.

That is why a subscription to either *The Rotarian* or one of the regional magazines is mandatory for all Rotary club members. These publications bring us news of other clubs and districts, offer ideas for our own projects, and help us feel a greater bond with our fellow Rotarians. And the RI-mandated content printed in each issue creates a direct connection between our headquarters in Evanston and every Rotarian, everywhere in the world.

Your experience at this moment – of simply reading this message in a Rotary publication – is one that is common to every one of your fellow Rotarians, wherever they may be. RI-mandated content is consistent in every publication. It is a single, shared message – a single, shared experience. That is invaluable and irreplaceable.

When I sit down to write a monthly president's message, destined for the pages of all of Rotary's magazines, I know that I have an opportunity that will come only once a month, for only the one year that I will be in office. It is an opportunity to speak directly, in my own words, to every one of our 1.2 million members. No matter how much I travel, or how often I speak, or how hard I work to bring my message to clubs and districts, nothing I can do will have the reach of the 400 words I am privileged to put on this page. Because I know that every Rotary magazine, everywhere in the world, carries forth that message just as I wrote it, or in its own local language.

I value that opportunity tremendously, as I value the publications that make it possible. April is Magazine Month, a good time to consider how this important member benefit can help your club's service efforts and to share the useful information in its pages with others.

## Time Is Right To End Polio

By Arnold R. Grahl, RI News, 30 March 2010



*Robert S. Scott (left), chair of the International PolioPlus Committee, joins Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari (center) and other government officials on 10 October in Islamabad to launch National Immunization Days. Photo courtesy of Usman Masud Khan*

New tools, new tactics, and increased support from political leaders have put Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in the best position ever to finish the job of ridding the world of polio.

Dr. Bruce Aylward, director of the initiative at the World Health Organization, said 2009 was a watershed year in the fight against polio. For the first time, eradication workers discovered a chink in the armor of the disease "that has been tormenting mankind for thousands of years," he said.

"Our tactics are better, the tools are better, and our support is stronger than ever," Aylward told regional Rotary Foundation coordinators (RRFCs) 18 March during a training event in Chicago. "You will be the Rotarians at the front in pushing forward this new strategy. I need you to make sure every Rotary club knows about this, because we will not get the job done without Rotary leading the charge."

The new strategic plan for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative involves mobilizing massive resources to reach more children in the areas where the virus remains endemic. For instance, a survey in the two endemic states of India, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, identified thousands of homes and children who had not been reached by health workers. The two states have been a challenge because of high population densities in areas of extreme poverty, where poor sanitation can contribute to the spread of the virus.

Support from leaders

[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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Another key element of the new strategy focuses on eliciting the support of political and traditional leaders, a move that is seen as critical to eradicating the disease in the remaining four endemic countries: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan. Aylward said Rotary has led the charge to gain the leaders' backing. International PolioPlus Committee Chair Robert S. Scott visited the president of Pakistan in October to present him with a Polio Eradication Champion Award, recognizing his contributions toward a polio-free world. Bill Gates visited India in November and met with Rotary leaders there to line up the support of the state governors.

Rotarians have had a hand in securing letters from Taliban and NATO forces encouraging full cooperation with immunization efforts in Afghanistan. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told attendees at the 2009 RI Convention in Birmingham, England, that he'd work for Days of Tranquility in conflict areas to remove impediments to immunizations.

To address the immediate financial needs of mass vaccination campaigns, The Rotary Foundation expedited US\$30 million in funding for a synchronized immunization drive 6-8 March, supported by leaders in 19 countries across Central and West Africa. Nine of the countries have had cases of polio within the last six months; the disease spread from Nigeria, where the virus has dug in its heels. A second drive is planned for 24 April, and the countries with active outbreaks of polio will receive a third sweep.

The new tool Aylward praised is the bivalent oral polio vaccine, first used in Afghanistan in December and since employed during immunization days in Nigeria and Pakistan. The bivalent vaccine has an advantage over monovalent vaccines because it is effective against both remaining types of wild poliovirus, types 1 and 3 – type 2 has already been eradicated – and was proved in clinical trials last year to be almost as effective as the monovalent vaccine.

The combination of new tactics and tools has been amazingly effective, Aylward said. In 2009, Nigeria had 388 cases of polio in 24 states. So far this year, there has been only one case in one state. In India, type 1 has been reduced to just one genetic lineage.

US\$200 Million Challenge

John F. Germ, vice chair of The Rotary Foundation Trustees and chair of the Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge Committee, told the RRFCs that Rotarians have raised \$115.6 million toward the challenge, and stressed that the fundraising effort is as important as ever. "The polio eradication campaign is the largest public health campaign the world has ever seen. We can do it, we must do it, because we have promised the children of the world that we would do it."

Germ said Foundation alumni and 11 Rotary fellowships have responded to the invitation to participate in the challenge, with alumni contributing \$260,000. Interact clubs have raised \$70,000, and Rotaract clubs \$41,000.

Penny LeGate, an independent producer and freelance journalist who spoke at the 2010 International Assembly in January, shared personal stories from her participation in immunization drives in Ethiopia and India.

"I just can't explain the feeling I have when I hold that baby in my arms and I know that child will not get polio," LeGate said. She also shared the heartbreak of finding a girl, Minakshi, in India who had contracted polio. Volunteers had to explain to the girl's mother that they did not have any medicine that could cure her.

LeGate encouraged the RRFCs to consider taking part in an immunization drive, adding that she hoped the drives would not be needed much longer as progress toward polio eradication continued. "You will see firsthand why eradication is the very heart and soul of Rotary."

## ***Interact Club Cooks Up A Tasty Fundraiser***

By Arnold R. Grahl, RI News, 31 March 2010

Interactors in Oregon, USA, have found a tasty way to raise money for local and international service projects. With the help of the sponsor Rotary Club of Bay Area Sunrise (Coos Bay-North Bend-Charleston), the Interactors at North Bend High School recently held their third annual Iron Chef competition, raising thousands of dollars to send their club president to Spain on a short-term Rotary Youth Exchange, support Shoes for Africa, and renovate a school study lounge.

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Lynda Kristoffersen, liaison to the club and the district's Interact chair, came up with the idea after reading an article in the New York Times about similar contests held at dinner parties. The club's first try pitted a chef from the Oregon Coast Culinary Institute against a chef from a local restaurant in the basement of Kristoffersen's church.

"It was really low scale because if I was going to fall, I wanted to fall small," says Kristoffersen of the event, for which all 50 tickets sold out at \$40 each. The next year, the competition moved to the culinary institute, allowing for an expanded schedule of events. It also sold out, with all 100 tickets selling in 10 days.

"This year due to the economic times, we only sold 72 of our 100 tickets, but it was the best one ever," Kristoffersen says. "We instituted closed-circuit TV in all the rooms so if people were listening to the band or having a glass of wine or eating appetizers, they could still follow the competition."

*Rachele Summerville, of the Rotary Club of Bay Area Sunrise, serves as a sous-chef during the Iron Chef competition. Photo courtesy of Bay Area Sunrise Rotary Club*



## Secret ingredient

For the contest, the two chefs create three entrees using two proteins the Interact club selects ahead of time, along with a bread, dessert, and salad. A secret ingredient – this year's was Greek yogurt – is revealed right before the competition "to shake things up a bit," says Kristoffersen.

Interactors and Rotarians help in the kitchen as sous-chefs cutting, dicing, and chopping as needed. While the main chefs are at work, sous-chefs perform a series of mini-contests, or "quick fires," such as guessing the ingredients in a dish or racing to be the first to shuck and clean oysters for a sauce.

A panel of judges scores the entrees to determine the year's Iron Chef. The audience is assured plenty of samples.

"There's tons of food," Kristoffersen says. "It's a full meal plus some."

The event serves as the main fundraiser for the Interact club. This year, in addition to revamping the school lounge, the club is giving some of the money to Shoes for Africa, the Interact district's international project. Half the money raised each year is used to send the club president-elect on a Youth Exchange.

"Our president-elect will go to Spain for 30 days and then the person she stays with will come here to her house and stay 30 days," says Kristoffersen. "It is intended to build awareness of other people's cultures and beliefs and to learn diversity and tolerance and spread that."

"It's a great way to do international goodwill, friendship, understanding, and peace," says Tashina Stillmaker, the Interact club's president-elect. "I am looking forward to coming back with a good service project for our club."

Kristoffersen says the event would be easy to replicate. "Even if you do not have a culinary school in your area, you can tweak it to work," she says. "You can have an outdoor competition where they have to barbecue everything. There are so many ways you can do it."

She says clubs can contact her at [lynda.kris@gmail.com](mailto:lynda.kris@gmail.com)

## **Interactors Build Homes, Dreams For Mexico's Poor**

**By Ryan Hyland, RI News, 29 March 2010**

The Interact Club of La Jolla High School, California, USA, is making a difference by helping to build new homes for some of the poorest residents of Tijuana, Mexico.

Interactors and the sponsor Rotary Club of La Jolla have collaborated with Project Mercy, a San Diego-based nonprofit that brings groups to Mexico for a day to build simple single-family houses.

"This is a unique opportunity for the students to understand the incredible difference they can make in communities in need," says Rotarian Calvin Mann, the

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La Jolla club's youth service committee chair. "It's a universally good experience."

Through Project Mercy, Interactors have built 11 homes for families in the last three years. A group of about 15 to 20 Interactors, parents, and Rotarians can build a home in one day. Interactors raise \$3,500 per home through school fundraising activities and Rotarian contributions.

*Members of the Interact Club of La Jolla High School, San Diego, California, USA, work on a house in Tijuana, Mexico, as part of Project Mercy. Photo courtesy of La Jolla Interact club*

Project Mercy works with communities to identify needy families, many of whom live in flimsy shacks with dirt floors and tarp roofs. The organization hires local construction workers to pour concrete foundations, then brings in volunteers to build the homes.

The project is just one of five stories highlighted on the new Interact promotional DVD, *Interact: Make a Difference*, designed to inspire young people to join Interact and to motivate Rotarians to sponsor a club in their community. Watch the video.

In the series, Interactors and Rotarians explain the effect Interact has had on their lives and how the program is making a difference in their communities and around the world. The four remaining stories will be posted on the RI website in the coming months.

The videos also will be available on RI's YouTube channel so club members can embed them on their own social networking pages, sharing the Interact message with a broader audience.

The DVD comes with a CD-ROM that includes the Interact brochure, handbook, poster, faculty adviser guide, and more.

**Please send news articles and photos to  
[Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov](mailto:Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov)  
for inclusion in the newsletter**

## **Let's Keep Our Foundation Strong**

**By Glenn E. Estess Sr., The Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair**

According to one recent study, charitable giving is at its lowest level in 50 years when adjusted for inflation.

Eighty-six percent of nonprofits reported a decline in giving in 2009. At a time when humanitarian needs are escalating rapidly, the resources to meet those needs are diminishing.

Fortunately, Rotarians are by nature a very generous group. Despite a worldwide economic recession, donations to the Annual Programs Fund in 2008-09 were the third highest in our history.

Rotarians continue to support the Annual Programs Fund as well as the goal of meeting Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge to ensure polio eradication. In

addition, we are working to secure The Rotary Foundation's future by building up our Permanent Fund, and we are striving to strengthen our peace efforts through our Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution.

It may seem like a lot to ask, and I wish I could tell you that your contributions to these efforts will cure all the world's ills. What I can tell you is what will happen if our Foundation does not have sufficient resources to support your worthy projects: Polio will continue to cripple far too many children. Disease will spread more rapidly as fewer people have access to clean water and sanitation facilities. Countless women and girls will never learn how to read. And poverty, disease, and illiteracy will persist in undermining our work toward peace in the world.

The Rotary Foundation belongs to all of us. It is our greatest resource for doing good, and it is our responsibility to maintain its strength. I hope every Rotarian will join us by making a contribution to support the Foundation's programs this year.

