

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## Rotary Club Calendar

January 14 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm  
Bob Grill, District Rotaract Chair, PDG  
"All About Rotaract"

Last week our club voted to start a Rotaract Club at Georgetown University with Nabil Bedewi as the faculty advisor. District Rotaract Chair Bob Grill has graciously agreed to come and share what Rotaract is all about and how best to proceed. Rotaract is a Rotary-sponsored service club for young men and women ages 18 to 30. Rotaract clubs are either community or university based, and they're sponsored by a local Rotary club. This makes them true "partners in service" and key members of the family of Rotary. As one of Rotary's most significant and fastest-growing service programs, with more than 7,000 clubs in about 163 countries and geographical areas, Rotaract has become a worldwide phenomenon. All Rotaract efforts begin at the local, grassroots level, with members addressing their communities' physical and social needs while promoting international understanding and peace through a framework of friendship and service.

January 14 – 8pm - Board of Directors Meeting

Final Decision on International Night Plans

January 21 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

January 28 – 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

Alex Siegel - Georgetown University- Microfinance



## In Memoriam: Jane Gordon



On January 12, Jane Gordon, beloved wife of Dick Gordon for nearly 60 years passed away at Shady Grove Hospital after several weeks of hospitalization. Our sympathy goes out to Dick and his family at this time of loss. The viewing is on Friday, January 15, from 3-5pm and 7-9pm at Pumphrey Funeral Home, 300 W. Montgomery Ave., Rockville 20850. The funeral will be held at 10am on Saturday, January 16, at Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, 14139 Seneca Road, Darnestown 20874. A reception immediately follows at 11am. Donations in Jane's memory may be made to the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Foundation for the project in Haiti.

Dick Gordon's experience as a Rotarian pre-dates the life of our Club since he first served in three Rotary Clubs in Southeast Asia, beginning in January 1955. Those memberships totaling about seven years were most interesting and gratifying, and helped Dick tremendously in his public relations work for the U.S. Information Agency's overseas program. Before joining our Club, Dick and his wife, Jane, were found on the cover of *Life Magazine* as a result of a harrowing experience when their airplane ditched in the Pacific Ocean. Their experiences were retold in the news just last year when another airplane safely ditched in the Hudson River in New York City. Dick responded to a newspaper ad inviting former Rotarians to join this Club while it was being formed and Joe Jennette was his sponsor. Dick has been a generous and active contributor to the Club. He and his wife, Jane, have hosted a number of Rotary Scholars and other exchange visitors from around the world. They have graciously hosted club social gatherings at their custom-built home overlooking a lake in Darnestown. Dick won the Alaska Trip raffle so that he, Jane, and a son could explore the shores of Alaska. [Photos p.2]



[Above left] President Elect Jason Hamel is invited to stand up at the training program held in Laurel on January 9 by District Membership Chair Darrell Nevin.

[Above right] Bob Nelson wrapped up the morning of presentations with a discussion of how to build a better district conference, inviting Rotarians to provide their input and involvement. He presented an overall vision for DisCon 2011, the first conference to be held inside the district since 2008.

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

January 14, 2010 - Page 1



# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## January 7 Meeting Report

Rotarian Nabil Bedewi announced an exciting opportunity to extend Rotary's reach into Georgetown



University through the formation of a Rotaract Club. Rotaractors are 18 to 30 years old and perform service projects similar to a Rotary Club. With their experience in Rotaract, they are often great candidates for

Rotary Club membership. After a brief discussion and with Nabil being able to be the Georgetown University faculty advisor for the new Rotaract Club, the club voted it's strong support for his proposal. Our January 14 speaker, PDG Bob Grill, will bring more information about Rotaract and the steps to be taken to start the club at Georgetown University.

President Noel reported that Treasurer Alan Cookson is unfortunately not doing as well following his two back surgeries last year. Other Rotarians on the injured list included Phil Meade who was sporting a black eye and Bob Nelson who has two fractured ribs.

President Noel has negotiated an attractive proposal from the University Club in DC to host the



Dennis. MCCF has 43 member civic associations across the county. Peggy was originally a foreign service officer and was spurred on to become a community activist because of her Potomac street not being publically maintained and some high-density development proposals that

were heading for her neighborhood. She described herself as the "Erin Brockovich" of "orphan roads", those roads that have never been adopted in to the county-maintained system. She spent three months driving around the county to develop a report on over 100

roads county roads "maintained by others." This report would have cost \$250,000 if the county had contracted for it. She has also been active in ensuring that the site at Falls Road and Macarthur Blvd across from the entrance to Great Falls Park be appropriate for the neighborhood. Over many years she successfully fought off proposals for high-density development of the parcel with townhouses and a senior living center, resulting in the construction of houses that are in keeping with the community. One of the more recent fights has been to reverse the decision for closing Poolesville Elementary, one of the schools at which our club distributes dictionaries to third graders. Peggy was thanked for her civic activism and her enthusiastic presentation.

## Nigeria The 2009 Leader In Progress Toward Ending Polio

By Dan Nixon RI News -  
- 8 January

*A Rotarian records that a household's children have been vaccinated against polio during Immunization Plus Days in Nigeria. Rotary Images/Joseph Lorenzo*



The incidence of polio in Nigeria dropped by more than 50 percent in 2009 to 388 cases as of 22

Rotary International Night on March 27. Caesar Kavadoy's good friend John Hardesty is our sponsor at the University Club. Steve Naron has taken a poll of the Rotary Ambassadorial scholars, and March 27 looks like a good date for them as well as not being in conflict with



Passover. The Potomac

-Bethesda Rotary Club Board of Directors will make the final decision on the international night plans at the meeting on January 14.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Montgomery County Civic Federation (MCCF) President Peggy

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

December, compared with 783 cases for the same period in 2008.

Most dramatic was the decline in the transmission of the type 1 wild poliovirus, to 74 cases from 707. Also, the proportion of unimmunized children in Nigeria's highest-risk states fell below 10 percent for the first time.

The World Health Organization's Advisory Committee on Polio Eradication attributes 95 percent of the world's progress against the disease in 2009 to Nigeria's success. Rotarians are playing a key role in their country's gains by

- \* Immunizing children and helping to overcome resistance from families initially opposed to vaccination
- \* Airing public service announcements on state radio and sponsoring town criers to urge mothers to bring their children to immunization posts
- \* Monitoring National Immunization Days and Immunization Plus Days, and handing out soap, school supplies, and other items to children who were vaccinated
- \* Advocating with government, religious, and traditional leaders to step up support for ending polio
- \* Conducting a national workshop in September to train local Rotary leaders in polio eradication

"There is a big momentum, much more than ever before, of the federal government, more state governments, and traditional leaders, as well as some local governments, to mobilize all the needed forces," says Busuyi Onabolu, chair of the Nigeria PolioPlus Committee. The effort aims to ensure "that the required quality of the campaigns is regularly implemented and every child is immunized with the potent OPV [oral polio vaccine] drops."

Supplementary Immunization Plus Days in November "witnessed a massive support from traditional leaders," says Onabolu. "There is no doubt that the traditional and religious institutions have added a new and positive dynamic to the polio eradication campaign."

Dr. Muhammad Ali Pate, executive director of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency, the government entity responsible for polio immunization activities in Nigeria, pointed to "an enormous responsiveness on the part of parents in many states" as key to the success of Immunization Plus

Days in October that reached more than 30 million children.

Other allies in Nigeria's drive to end the disease include Journalists Against Polio and the Forum of Muslim Women of Nigeria, both with networks in the country's high-risk northern states. Organizations like these are working in partnership with the media and communities to help coordinate the promotion of polio eradication.

A bivalent vaccine, already in use in Afghanistan, has been developed to stop the transmission of the type 1 and type 3 wild polioviruses simultaneously. According to WHO, the vaccine is intended for introduction in India and Nigeria by late January and is expected to be "a critical new tool" in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

## **Spoon Project A Measure Of Success**

By Ryan Hyland RI News - 11 January 2010



*A child at a health care clinic in East Cape, South Africa, holds on to his rehydration spoon which was designed by Rotarian Helen Batting. Photo courtesy of Batting*

Past RI President Dong Kurn Lee asked Rotarians in 2008-09 to Make Dreams Real.

With an idea, a spoon, and an eager young club, Helen Batting did just that. Literally.

About two years ago, Batting, president of the Rotary Club of East London Sunrise, South Africa, woke up in the middle of the night with an amazing idea. She had dreamed of a simple spoon design that would save the lives of children in South Africa who were dehydrated because of diarrhea.

"As a child, I remember my mother telling me about a spoon she created that saved hundreds of children's lives," says Batting. "I never saw the spoon, but I dreamed of them one night, woke up, and knew exactly what they should look like."

Batting designed a double-ended spoon that measures the exact amount of sugar and salt to be added to a cup of boiling water to create a rehydration fluid.

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Clinics currently instruct mothers to pour 8 teaspoons of sugar and 1/2 teaspoon of salt into about a quart of boiling water to create a rehydration solution known as Darrow's fluid, which also combats potassium deficiency. But the method requires a certain level of literacy and mathematical skills.

"Many mothers, especially in rural communities, are functionally illiterate, which means they may not be able to count or do fractions," Batting says. "If mixed incorrectly, it actually exacerbates the problem. We aren't changing the method, just simplifying it. One and one into one, and it's done!"

Only nine months after its charter in 2008, the East London Sunrise club used Batting's spoon design, now under patent, and launched the East London Sunrise Spoon of Hope initiative.

The project, recognized last year with an RI Significant Achievement Award, has produced and distributed more than 60,000 spoons to families in rural communities and medical clinics in Eastern Cape, South Africa. A large shipment of spoons has been sent to Zimbabwe as well.

Club members have helped manufacture, market, and promote the spoons.

Because her club was so new, the support of District 9320 (Lesotho; South Africa) and local clubs became an invaluable asset to the project's early success, says Batting. Fifteen clubs donated more than US\$125 to get the project started. Each spoon costs less than 50 cents to purchase.

The spoon has garnered praise from many health care professionals, including Trudy Thomas, a children's advocate and former member of the Executive Council of the Legislature for Health in the Eastern Cape, as a simple, practical, and effective medical intervention.

"The beauty of this is that it only requires ingredients which are available even in the poorest communities and which can be administered by people with little or no education," says Thomas.

Batting is grateful for the project's widespread support. "So many people recognized the project's potential. We received an enormous amount of encouragement, energy, and help from fellow clubs and district leaders," she says. "It has been an exhilarating experience for me to have been picked up and carried along by an amazing Rotary movement."

## **Rotary International President-Elect to Keynote Northern Virginia Gathering**

Over the past 20 years, efforts of Rotary International, in concert with the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, have all but eliminated polio from the earth. Only four countries - Afghanistan, Nigeria, India and Pakistan - have current polio outbreaks (in October, there were 1008 cases worldwide, down from 350,000 cases in 1985, when Rotary joined the fight).

Rotary International has 1.2 million members in 33,000 clubs worldwide. Members are volunteers who work in their own communities, in their region and internationally to help combat polio through a \$355 million matching grant from the Gates Foundation and fundraisers supporting immunization drives. With the motto of "Service Above Self," Rotarians also work to improve health and sanitation, promote peace, and provide education and job training through projects which often partner with club members from other countries.

Ray Klinginsmith of Kirksville, MO, who has been elected to lead Rotary International in 2010-2011, will be keynote speaker March 4 at a Westfields Marriott banquet. A Rotarian since 1961, Klinginsmith was a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar to the University of Cape Town, South Africa. He is a lawyer in private practice in Kirksville.

The banquet is open to the public and kicks off a regional training for area Rotary presidents-elect. Rotary leaders from over 200 clubs in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware will spend two days at the Marriott learning about goals and programs slated for the coming year. The four-district conference will be led by Ron Marion of Fairfax Station, a member of the Crystal City-Pentagon Rotary Club, and his peers from three other Rotary districts. Marion will be 2010-2011 District Governor for 53 clubs in Northern and Central Virginia and the Northern Neck.

Tickets for the Klinginsmith dinner, which are \$65 per person, may be obtained by mailing a check to Channing Zucker, 4640 Hoylake Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23462 or contacting him at [chanz@cox.net](mailto:chanz@cox.net).

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

January 14, 2010 - Page 5