



Rotary District 7980 *The Beacon*



Winter 2010

<http://www.rotary7980.org>



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Since the fall, I have been very busy around the District. I have completed my initial visits to all the clubs in the district and I have visited many of them a second time. During the past six months I have been continually amazed at the work our Rotarians do in their local and global communities we do *save and change lives* each day, everywhere in our incredible district.

During a recent visit to the Meriden Club, I had the honor of presenting a Paul Harris Fellow recognition award to a middle-school student named Lex, who decided to ask those who would normally give gifts to him for his birthday instead to make donations to Polio Plus. He raised \$700.00!

Millicent and I attended a PolioPlus fundraiser sponsored by the Hamden Rotary club at the Playwright Irish Pub, where the owner donated a portion of the profits for the entire day in support of our efforts to eradicate polio worldwide.

I had the pleasure of presenting a charter to the Laurelton Hall Interact Club which has been sponsored by the Rotary Club of Devon. Congratulations!

I made a third visit to the Beacon Falls Rotary Club (provisional), which now has over 20 members. In early December, Millicent and I attended the first fundraiser held by the Black Rock Rotary Club (provisional), which also has over 20 members. Held at the Black Rock branch of the Bridgeport Public Library System, the event raised nearly \$15,000 for the benefit of the branch, which reopened last summer. The applications for the chartering of both clubs are in the process of being prepared. Congratulations to Chuck Beebe of Beacon Falls and Robert Medvey of Black Rock for their tremendous leadership. My thanks also to PDG Rick Benson for his invaluable assistance.

On behalf of District 7980 I would like to extend our sincere appreciation and well wishes to Rotarians Herb Hicks and Darlene May for their commitment to the AmberAlert Program in our district. Herb was especially instrumental in all aspects of the behind-the-scenes operations of the program. He worked diligently with the CT Legislature to bring into this Service program a "Silver Alert." That aspect of the program will serve elderly citizens with dementia, Alzheimer's victims, and others deemed appropriate. Herb and Darlene will be moving to Hartwell, Georgia.

Congratulations to DGE Julie Reppenhagen who held an excellent pre-PETS seminar for the incoming club presidents on January 30th at the Race Brook Country Club in Orange.

Congratulations to Brian Amey of the Rotary Club of Newtown who has been selected by the Nominating Committee for RI District 7980 Governor (2012-13).

The Four-way Test Speech Contest was held on January 30th. I would like to extend my congratulations to the top three winners: First Place, Mary Schulman, sponsored by the Fairfield Rotary Club; Second Place, Austin Smith, sponsored by the Wallingford Rotary Club; and Third Place, Carly Lindgren, sponsored by the West Haven Rotary Club. All participants gave excellent presentations and certainly made their parents and sponsoring clubs very proud.

When I became your District Governor, I had been a Rotarian for 28 years, and felt I had acquired a rather broad understanding of Rotary and Rotarians in general. This last six months has shown me just how much more I have to learn. The piece which all of the seminars, literature or reviewing Rotary websites can not convey is the inner heart and soul of Rotarians. Our district certainly has both. I would like to thank each and everyone of you for opening your hearts in response to the cries from the Haitian people for life-saving help. I am a Rotarian and so very proud of the difference we make... *One Earth...One Humanity.*

Colin

CALENDAR

Mar	11-13	PETS: Mandatory for Club Presidents, Nashua, NH
	27	Rotary Leadership Institute
Apr	17	District Assembly & Project Fair - Sheraton Four Points in Meriden
April 30-2 May		District Conference -Burlington, VT
June	20-23	RI Conference - Montreal, Canada



The number of cases of wild polio in endemic countries (India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria) as of October 20, 2009 is 930 versus 1,317 in 2008. It's better but not good



Rotary District 7980 District Conference



Sheraton Burlington Hotel & Conference
Center

April 30 - May 2, 2010

Enjoy the scenic beauty of the surrounding Green Mountains while touring Ben & Jerry's factory, Vermont Teddy Bear Factory, Shelburne Farms & Museum.

Fees include hotel rooms, 5 meals & conference registration.

Double Occupancy/2 persons \$775.00

Single Occupancy/1 person \$545.00

Friday Evening "All Things Vermont," at University of Vermont Davis Center

Saturday Evening filled with fun, fellowship & great entertainment.

Optional: **Thursday April 29** includes hotel & dinner at the The Essex, Vermont's Culinary Resort & Spa. Additional costs are:

Double Occupancy/2 persons \$295.00

Single Occupancy/1 person \$220.00

Attention Rotarians: March 15th, 2010 is the last day to get guarantee room reservations for our 2010 Rotary District Conference in Vermont. After this date, all last minute reservations will depend on first come first serve basis and room availability of the hotel.

Haiti Earthquake Relief Response and Update

Submitted by: DG Colin Gershon and Lynda Hammond, District International Service Chair

The massive 7.3 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti during the early evening of 12 January 2010, with its epicenter 15 miles southwest of Port-au-Prince, a region with greater than 22% or 2,000,000 people. This number does not take into account the volunteers and personal from governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Considered the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, the Haitian people were already dealing with issues of extremely poverty, lack of healthcare, hunger, unsafe water, poor sanitation and literacy. Furthermore, the lack of building regulations, simply added to the massive devastation as buildings had no earthquake reinforcement, allowing them simply to topple and crumble, trapping some many beneath its rubble.

During the days that followed powerful after shocks caused extremely dangerous conditions for refusers, searching tirelessly for survivors, as we viewed from the safety of our homes. The Haitian people in shock and terrified began to flee the city of Port-au-Prince to the rural high grounds of the countryside by the thousands. Rural communities quickly became overwhelmed by the sudden increase in their populations, such as Arisonite 150,000, Leogne 80,000 and Jacmel 30,000.



Several Rotarians in our district who have worked in the Caribbean region for many years with Rotary clubs from Haiti's district 7020 and the Dominican Republic District 4060, permitting early communications with trusted Rotarians and friends. These relationships permitted the leadership of District 7980 to acted swiftly and effectively working in concert with the Rotary Disaster Response team in District 7020 and 4060.

In times of disaster, our district accepts donations through Rotary District 7980 Foundation, Inc., which was founded in September, 2001 as a respect to the loss of life on 9/11. Subsequently, the District Foundation has channeled Rotary donations for the relief efforts in the 2004 Tsunami and Hurricane Katrina. The foundation is administered by volunteers - Assistant Governors of our District and several Rotarians in district leadership positions.

At the mid-January meeting of the Foundation, the Board agreed that any donations received would be transmitted in full to the Haitian Relief Fund of Rotary District 4060 (Dominican Republic). As of this writing, the outpouring of monetary donations has exceeded \$20,000 and has been wire transferred. These funds have been and will be used to purchase medical supplies, medications, food and water in the Dominican Republic and transported to Haiti, as directed by Rotarian Claude Surena, MD of the Rotary Club of Petion-ville, and President of the Haitian Medical Association. On 12 January, Dr. Surena was appointed by Haiti's President Preval as the National Coordinator of the Health Commission.

Of course, we are well aware of other well-known non-profits which have strong Rotary connections, such as Shelter Box, (www.shelterbox.org), which has already provided 10,000 tents to the homeless in Port-au-Prince, and the Haitian Health Foundation (www.haitianhealthfoundation.org), which is treating many refugees arriving from Port-au-Prince. Individual Rotarians and Clubs may decide to contribute directly to these and other non-governmental organizations.

The Board will review on a monthly basis to review the current status and begin to formulate long term, sustainable efforts together with our partners.





LOGISTICS - GETTING THE MOST FROM OUR DONATED DOLLARS

Rotarian Charles F. Adams

International Coordinator
Haiti Disaster Relief Committee
District 4060 - Dominican Republic

We are fortunate that the business of one of our most respected Rotarians in one of the clubs in Santo Domingo is as a medical supplies wholesaler. Therefore, we are able to buy medical supplies at the best wholesale prices without commissions or markups. We buy the medical supplies in the Dominican Republic and ship them to Haiti. So far all of our purchased medical supplies have been flown in by donated aircraft. The shipments are delivered to the Rotary warehouse

and distribution system in Port-au-Prince (PAP), although their route is often circuitous since we have no slot in the PAP airport. This means that sometimes we fly them into a northern airstrip, unload, then fly them by a Missionary Air Flights craft to PAP. The supplies are allocated and distributed under the direction of Rotarian Claude Surena, MD. Claude is a dear friend, is a senior Rotarian, is the president of the Haitian Medical Association, and is the person President Preval appointed to supervise all medical supplies and services from all sources coming into Haiti during this emergency. The Rotary disaster management team is headed by PDG Dick McCombe, whom I regard as "a real Rotarian's Rotarian" and PRID Barry Rassin, head of RI's disaster relief initiatives.

Update 7 February 2010

Rotary will be focusing on intermediate-term redevelopment strategies (which have not yet been formulated). In the meantime, we have to keep these people alive until redevelopment can make some progress. So....it's **food, food, food**. Rotary, itself, will distribute most of what we send them. However, if Rotary needs to use other organizations to help, that distribution can be responsibly supervised by Rotary to insure that there is no waste, hoarding, or black marketing – as you see on TV.

We try to stay carefully in sync with the management team. Accordingly, we will be using District 7980 funds to purchase and ship food and related life-sustaining needs to Haiti. We will send you invoices for everything spent.

Rotary District 7020 Disaster Relief Team - Status Report 5 February 2010

PDG Richard (Dick) McCombe

Dear All,

I have just concluded our assessment of the situation in Haiti, and have just finished making a number of lengthy calls with the team on the ground in Haiti. Based on this I wanted to share with you the situation as I understand it today.

The position we took last week in which we said to hold off on further deliveries of medical supplies not already in route was the correct one. Currently in the Port au Prince area there is no shortage of these medical supplies. In fact the challenge is now the sorting and the distribution of these items. This is at a critical stage because of the volume of random medical inventory received and specific needs that may currently be outstanding. As far as medical supplies are concerned the advice from the team is not send anything else unless it is specific in terms of the location and the product". We need to be sure we coordinate this so we do not duplicate the supply chain and add to the problem.



There are a number of private Hospitals in the rural areas that are in need of some specific things, but there are also others that have an excess of supplies. We are in the process of balancing this as best we can now. After that specific orders will be processed as they come in. I am told that most of the Government Hospitals are getting the supplies they need with the exception of a few specifics which we are trying to address on their behalf through the Rotary Leadership in that area. That seems to be more equipment related than medical supplies.

The food and shelter needs are still very high on the priority list. The challenge we have on the ground now is the storage and distribution logistics of the food and shelter items. In Port au Prince, in particular there are numerous International Organizations that are distributing food in the quake region. For the most part their capabilities for this are better than ours so most of those efforts should be left to them. Our Rotarians on the ground are doing some food and shelter distribution as well from the supplies Rotary has sent. It is important that they continue to do this and that we continue to supply them. Not only is it helping the most needy, but it seems to be providing our Rotarians a purpose on the ground in their respective communities. Keeping the Rotarian alive in spirit is essential at this difficult time and it must be rewarding for our Rotarians to be able to help their neighbors and their communities through this. I will try to get further specifics to you on what we should continue to supply, but bulk rice, beans, flour, proteins, vegetable oil etc and Tents are a safe bet for now.



There are in excess of **10,000 Shelter Boxes** in Haiti and most of them set up or in the process of being set up. The distribution is being done through a number of international organizations. Rotary has had an allocation of them for the use of Rotarians and their families in need. As of today there are about 45 in our possession still not distributed but they will be sent out in the next couple of days.

There has been a great response with Water Boxes, Purification Systems and water supply. In many instances these resources have been sent directly to Rotary in Haiti for distribution. In my discussions with the team on the ground it appears that the distribution of these assets would be best handled by the Haiti Water Commission and the selected agency it is working with for the distribution. They are better equipped to know where the camps are set and what the needs are. They also know what supplies are available to each of them from the organizations currently on the ground. My advice to Claude was to help train the group doing the distribution on the use of the equipment before they deliver these units to families and groups. And then assist by providing the assets to them for distribution.

The rural situation remains the same. The need is for shelter, food, school supplies and the support for secondary medical, education etc. The bulk food supply is still available in most areas in the country. Our best help there is to fund the purchase of the basics while it lasts. This is what we have been doing and will continue although this can be very expensive and a little more difficult to manage.

I am expecting a specific request from our leaders for their regions that will identify the exact number of Schools, families and students we are talking about. The consensus is the rural areas have each grown by in excess of 20% since the earthquake.

The response to this has varied from funding bulk shelter and feeding camps, providing international NGO's that provide food and shelter with bulk food, to each Rotary family committing to look after a specific number of displaced families.

There is the potential for hoarding and other issues with this, but we are taking all precautions practical and possible at this time. Long term we will need to be better at this if we want to continue with it.





The long term response to this disaster is going to be an enormous drain on our human and financial resources for some time to come. I believe that we

should begin discussing our role in the long term recovery and rebuild effort right away. I think our response going forward should be more and more in line with what we ultimately identify as our long term sustainable strategy. To do this we will need to get a sense very soon of where we are going to fit in the grand scheme of things in Haiti. Will it be an emphasis area, will it be communities, will it be in the planning? Who knows! I have approached a well respected international investor and business man who has developed a sustainable settlement tradition in The Bahamas. He has

a concept and some ideas that I believe could well be at the core of our response to the future development of Haiti. His concept addresses the creation of a sustainable settlement that takes into account social, financial, cultural, health, and environmental elements. I believe this is an opportunity that needs to be explored as a possible Rotary solution in its long term response. I will keep you posted on the progress of this idea when I hear back from those I have sent it to.



There are some immediate needs that will come up that we must still fulfill but we must also begin to recognize that response must move from the immediate to the medium and long term.

PDG Dick

ROTARY 2010 WINNER OF THE TOURNAMENT VOLUNTEERS TROPHY FOR BEST FLORAL DESIGN



Dear Fellow Rotarians and Visitors,

The Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee's 31st consecutive entry in the Tournament of Roses Parade truly celebrates the work of Rotarians worldwide. The theme of the 2010 parade is "A Cut Above the Rest" and the theme of our float is "Service Above the Rest".

The float is not a project of Rotary International, and no Ro-

tary International funds are used. Our ability to enter a float is dependent solely on the generosity of Rotarians. Traditionally the Rotary International President will attend the New Years Day festivities and this year we are honored to have President John Kenny join us as we celebrate "Service Above the Rest".

Leading up to January 1st, as in past years, we will have hundreds of volunteers, who will donate thousands of hours in preparing the decorations and applying them to the float. Many Rotarians work on the float, but Rotaract and Interact members do most of the work. They enjoy the challenge and pride of ownership in the working on the float. The entire float must be covered with natural materials: flowers, seeds, husks, etc.

The Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee appreciates continued support from across the United States and Canada, and we look forward to this year's participation in the annual Tournament of Roses. What better way to promote Rotary than by a beautiful float in the 121st Tournament of Roses Parade seen worldwide by about 300 million people from over 200 countries on New Years Day.

We thank you in advance for your support and your help!

Yours in Rotary service,

William H. Peloquin, M.D., 2010 Chair
PDG, District 5320, 2005 -2006

Colin's GREEN MOMENT

Tips for the home! Cleaning

Don't buy expensive chemical cleaners, use baking soda instead; it's great for scouring bathroom surfaces. Need to clean the windows or any mirrors in the house? Why not use

white vinegar and water mixed together to do a great job and instead of using kitchen towel, use a newspaper (just make sure everyone has finished reading it first.)

Reference: www.environmentalism.suite101.com

COUNCIL OF PAST DISTRICT GOVERNORS

Submitted by: PDG Ernie Luise



The Council of Past District Governors met in December for their semi-annual meeting. The PDGs meet at least twice a year to discuss Rotary issues and policies. DG Colin presented his District report, followed by input from those present.

In addition to business and fellowship, the Past District Governors made a financial donation to The Rotary Foundation in support of Polio Plus.

Photograph -Beginning with first row right: DG Colin Gershon, PDGs Paul Falcigno, Abe Gordon, Ernie Luise, Rick Benson, Dick Benson, Mac Leask, Henry Scopp, Bob Vossler, Win Allen, Paul Burns, Alan Hurst, DGE Julianne Reppenhagen, PDGs Chip Lewis, Bob Knapp and John Annick.

PDG RICHARD (DICK) MILLER CELEBRATES HIS 97TH BIRTHDAY!



Richard (Dick) joined the Rotary Club of Cheshire on June 1st, 1953. In his 57 years of membership he has held many positions and involved in many, many projects.

PDG Dick served as District Governor from July 1, 1970 to June 20, 1971, and continues to be a mem-

ber of the College of Governors and his club's Historian.

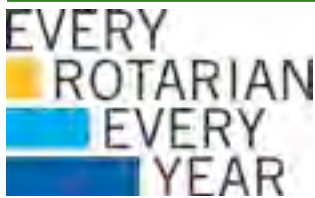
Richard was Cheshire's first Paul Harris Fellow in 1971 and is our most recent as of 2008. During those years he has been awarded SEVEN Paul Harris Fellows.

When he was a teenager, his family mover to Toronto, Canada where they lived for several years. After high school, Richard attended the University of Toronto. He tells the story that while there he played varsity football. Apparently he had perfected the forward pass and was quite good. In 1933 the Toronto Argonauts offered to pay for his college if he would play as

backup quarterback. He agreed and they played as part of the Canadian Football League (CFL) which had begun in 1909. Dick explained that during WWII, because of the shortages, they used to practice with a wooden football. At a recent Rotary Club meeting he wore his Argonauts sweat shirt and passed around a replica of the wooden ball which his son had given him one Christmas.

In 1981 Dick retired from Platt Brothers (zinc) of Waterbury, Connecticut, after working there for 25 years.

Happy Birthday!



Are YOU a sustaining member?

I invite to YOU to join us NOW!

Contribute **ONLY \$100.00 PER YEAR** or less than \$2.00 per week, that's all you need to do!

Contributions to the Annual Programs Fund through the Every Rotarian, Every Year (EREY) initiative are the primary source of funding for Foundation programs, which cover more than 160 countries and geographical areas on seven continents. From digging water wells for villages in Africa to teaching basic literacy skills to children in Latin America, during any given moment, thousands of Rotarians volunteer their time and expertise. All contributions to the Annual Programs Fund are spent wisely on quality Rotary projects.

Donations can be made to your Club's Treasurer!

Colin

Contributions to The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund provided funding for projects in OUR District.

Chester

YMCA Mini Bus

Fairfield

Musical Instructions for Student Play Participants

Branford

Community TV

Bridgeport Sunrise

Supplies for Elementary School

Colchester

Senior Food Pantry

Guilford

Amber Alert

West Haven

Food Pantry

East Haven

Amber Alert

East Hampton

Amber Alert

Madison

Junior Achievement

Branford

Hole in the Wall Gang

Fairfield

Defibrillators

Health & Hunger

Resource Group

Lynda Hammond, Chuck & Carol Beebe, Ernie Luise & Chuck Seeman



HEALTHCARE IN RURAL CONNECTICUT

United Community & Family Services

Submitted by: Pamela Allen Kinder, MS, MA
Director of Marketing & Development, Montville Rotary Club

Turn your imagination back in time to Norwich over one hundred years ago, to that city “nestling in the hills of southeastern Connecticut at the confluence of the Yantic and Shetucket rivers,” secure in its heritage, wealthy from its textile mills, and proud.

Picture an early fall afternoon in 1876 and see two of the pastor’s wives of our city meeting on the way to a temperance meeting. Listen, if you will, as they tell one another that there must be some way to better the conditions of life for families of those who suffer.

Throughout the past 133 years, United Community & Family Services (UCFS) has embraced life and faced challenges that are a reflection of the community we serve. We have focused our resources on areas of greatest need; built partnerships when demand was beyond our capacity to fulfill alone; and have had a lasting impact on thousands of lives that entrusted us to provide quality and compassionate care.

UCFS has witnessed the rhythm of change in southeastern Connecticut multiple times in our 133 year history. As a result, we are an organization designed to change, adjust and meet the needs of our shifting community. Long gone are the textile mills. In their place are service industry jobs and a transient population drawn to our community in hopes of securing employment. As the unemployment rate increases the face of the population we serve is changing. A middle income family who might not have accessed our programs in the past now need the services offered at UCFS as they are faced with challenges that they have never experienced before.

For many people, navigating the healthcare maze can be a daunting task. In an effort to assist our clients, UCFS has an Access to Care Specialist on site to screen uninsured clients and determine their eligibility for insurance programs. Clients are assisted with the application process from start to finish. UCFS has also partnered with Thames Valley Council for Community Action and has a Case Manager on site at our Norwich Health Center to assist our clients with Energy Assistance, WIC, transportation to work, housing assistance and other programs. Both programs are intended to minimize the stress often felt by our clients when trying to navigate the system.

For many of the people we serve, transportation is a major barrier in receiving care. In 2003, realizing that the current method of providing dental services to children was not effective, UCFS developed the Smiles on the Move, In School Dental program. Fiscal year ending 2009, three dental hygienists traveled to 64 local schools and provided dental hygiene services, sealants, x-rays and education to 1,383 children. By eliminating transportation and work/time off issues, children received much needed dental care and can smile with confidence. In another attempt to eliminate the transportation barrier, UCFS opened a second health center in Jewett City in February 2008. For many who live in this town, being able to walk to a health center and receive medical and behavioral health services is a welcome opportunity. Last year in this location alone, UCFS provided 4,086 visits to 966 clients.

UCFS recognizes that our actions impact the clients, patients and residents we serve and are proud of the fact that our endeavors will continue to resonate throughout the community for many years to come. Despite the heated debate over healthcare reform, policy makers agree that we must increase access to preventive care for the uninsured. Individuals who utilize the hospital emergency department for primary care are a financial drain on the system and they should have a more cost effective alternative source of care. Community Health Centers like UCFS are well positioned to meet that need. The infrastructure is in place, we have the expertise, and we have the desire to resolve that piece of the health care puzzle. We have the support of the community – all that we need are the additional resources to expand. The result would be better care, a healthier community, and cost reductions in the long term.



For more information on UCFS and volunteer opportunities, please contact Pam Kinder at 860.822.4146 or visit our website at ucfs.org.

- Fiscal year end 2009 UCFS provided 59,823 visits to 11,459 clients
- Mission: UCFS improves the health and well-being of the community
- Vision: UCFS will be the premier community based organization providing health and human services to individuals and families in eastern Connecticut

International Service

Lynda Hammond, Chairperson

Email: lynda.hammond1@sbcglobal.net



PROJECT AMIGO

Submitted by: Rotarian
Ted Rose

Noé Hernandez Rodriquez

History was made in Cofradía de Suchitlán on Sunday December 6th, when a 22-year-old won the election to serve as the village's *Comisario**.

Noé Hernandez was born in Cofradía. He has been a Project Amigo scholarship recipient for the last eight years, and will graduate from the University of Colima's School of Law this month.

Noé has been the recipient of the Clark Palmer Memorial Scholarship for law scholars who also demonstrate abilities in the arts. Noé was a first string dancer in the University's Folkloric Ballet team during his first two years there.

In his acceptance speech, Noé recognized several key people who have helped him along the way: his "family" at Project Amigo, his university sponsor Joyce Palmer, and his high school sponsor and friend Lionel Van Peteghen. Lionel taught him to be a professional clown – which increased his self-confidence; and arranged his visit to Alberta, Canada a few years ago – a trip that "changed the way [he] saw the world."

"The entire community is proud of Noé" said his campaign manager, Mireya Rincon. "He is a worker and the community knew it and they wanted someone who would work for the community and its many needs". Noé won with more than 65% of the votes in a four-candidate race!

*A *Comisario* in Mexico serves a village as its chief government official, sheriff, and as the village's representative in county affairs.

Anyone who wants to communicate with Noe can reach him at: Noe@ProjectAmigo.org

ROTARY DISTRICT 7980 GIFT OF LIFE FOUNDATION

A large group photo of children and adults in front of the Hospital Infantil Regional Universitario Dr. Arturo Grullon. The photo is framed by two large, decorated Christmas trees. Above the photo are logos for Corazones del Cibao, Latido por Niños, and the Rotary District 7980 logo. The text on the photo reads: "Hospital Infantil Regional Universitario DR. ARTURO GRULLON".

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY 2010 FULL OF HEALTH AND PROSPERITY WISH YOU A 134 HEARTS OPERATED KIDS THIS YEAR AT THE DR. ARTURO GRULLON INFANTS HOSPITAL AND CORAZONES DEL CIBAO WE KNOW THAT YOUR SUPPORT HAS BEEN FUNDAMENTAL FOR US TO BE HEALTHY KIDS TODAY

THANKS AND GOD BLESS YOU

ROTARY AIDS CAIRO'S "GARBAGE PEOPLE"

By Finn Olander & Dennis Wong, Sunrise Rotary of Westport

With no official sanitation services, Cairo's 18 million residents rely on "garbage people" – mostly student-age kids – to collect their garbage.



Two Sunrise Clubs, one in Westport and the other in Cairo, Egypt worked together on two Matching Grant projects to assist these youths in a poor community just outside of Cairo.

For our first project our Clubs provided funding for machinery to expand the operation of the Boys' Recycling School in Muqattum, Cairo. The School derives its sustaining income from used plastic containers collected and sorted by the students and then recycled by them.

The Muqattum district is particularly impoverished and the school provides a real opportunity for some local youths to be involved in a constructive and educational activity.

Our club contributed \$2,500, which was matched by our District 7980 and The Rotary Foundation together with the contribution from the Cairo Sunrise club and the Cairo District for a total project cost of \$12,200.

As a result of a successful first partnership, our two Sunrise Clubs have initiated a follow-up Matching Grant project that provides educational materials and supplies to these kids.

In the last few months, two documentaries about the "garbage people" have opened and been reviewed by the New York Times. The movies "Marina of Zabbaleen" and "Garbage Dreams," were produced, directed and filmed by photographer Mai Iskander. Zabbaleen is Arabic for "garbage people."

We are particularly pleased that this project is one in which Rotarians in the US can be seen to be actively helping Arab youths to be involved in a positive and continuing experience.



THE STRUGGLES OF CAIRO'S 'GARBAGE PEOPLE,' BUT NO WHINING

By JEANNETTE CATSOULIS – THE NEW YORK TIMES

Published: January 6, 2010



Following on the grimy heels of "Marina of the Zabbaleen" (released here in September) comes "Garbage Dreams," a second documentary about a poor community of trash recyclers on the outskirts of Cairo. But in the hands of the director and photographer Mai Iskander, this new film digs deeper into the politics of a life that few would choose but many depend on.

With no official sanitation services, Cairo's 18 million residents have for decades relied on zabbaleen (Arabic for "garbage people") to collect their waste, which the zabbaleen do with enviable thoroughness — and an 80 percent recycling rate. Filming over four years, Ms. Iskander highlights three charismatic youths as they face competition from foreign companies with more mechanized, if significantly less green, methods.

Expertly weaving personal fears, family tensions and political action (the zabbaleen don't whine; they strive to modernize), "Garbage Dreams" records the tremblings of a culture at a crossroads. At no point is this more evident than when two of the young men, sponsored by a Welsh recycling group, travel to a sleek recycling plant in Wales. One moment they're on a mound of rubbish in Cairo, picking through plastic and shards of glass, the next they're surrounded by Welsh pastures and humming conveyor belts.

Nabil, 18, is unimpressed. "Here there's technology but no precision," he snorts, appalled at the plant's recycling rate of around 20 percent. To the zabbaleen, machines are useful, but ancient knowledge is priceless.

GARBAGE DREAMS

Opens on Wednesday in Manhattan. Produced and directed by Mai Iskander; director of photography, Ms. Iskander; edited by Kate Hirson; music by Raz Mesinai; released by Wynne Films. At the IFC Center, 323 Avenue of the Americas, at Third Street, Greenwich Village. In Arabic, with English subtitles. Running time: 1 hour 19 minutes. This film is not rated.



RC WESTPORT, INTERNATIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE PROJECT UPDATE

Submitted by: Paul Spiekermann, M.D., Chairperson

Benin (western Africa)

A matching grant from the Rotary International Foundation in partnership with the RC of Westport and the RC Cotonou Palmier provided necessary funding to increase the supply of potable water for a school system and two hamlets in the township of Houegamay, in the Couffo province, with a population of approximately 15,000 people. To provide a steady flow of water using a fuel-driving pumping for the school, drilling of a deep well was needed in order to reach a water table with an adequate aquifer. The hamlets were provided with human-powered pumps for pre-existing wells.

The total budget this project was \$35,458. The RC Cotonou Palmier provided a considerable portion of the funding and project management. The project was completed on June 29, 2009.

Haiti

The RC of Westport as its International Sponsor collaborated with NGO Save the Children, RC Petion-Ville and five cosponsoring clubs of District 7980 (Milford, Madison, Devon, Norwich, New London) to secure matching grant funding from The Rotary International Foundation to provide Lending Libraries for the impoverished school system of the Petionville municipality.

Circumstances were aggravated by hurricane disasters with severe flooding. By mid 2009, the budgeted 30,000 books and their lockable storage cabinets had been supplied and installed. Because of generous discounts by local publishers, \$9000 of the \$32,811 budget was saved and will be used for additional library facilities in the new school year.

Indonesia

Our fourth matching grant for Indonesia was approved. The project areas are slums around the city of Sukakarta in central Java and our Host Partner club is RC Solo Kartini. Failure of chil-



dren to pass early grades had been traced to lack of eyesight correction. The project budget of \$17,600 allows transportation of 1250 handicapped children to eye testing centers, individual fitting by eye specialists and a supply of glasses. Also, 250 teachers are to be fitted with corrective glasses.

Thailand

Our third matching grant is for the northern region of Chiang Mai, Thailand, collaborating with RC Sarapee as the Host Partner, to establish libraries in three schools for a total budget of \$12,025. The grant included: furniture, mobile electrical fans, computers and books. For sustainability of the libraries beyond the duration of this project, The Rotary club will involve their community service committees for donations and fundraisers.

Tanzania

With prospects for a first major pilot program in Tanzania for 2010, RC Westport received DSG

approval on Oct 14, 2009 for a project in Kilolo (southwestern highlands), in cooperation with NGO Amani Children's Village. This

smaller initial project with a total budget of \$6000 is to familiarize RC Westport International Service with conditions in the country. The local Rotary Club of Iringa is not involved, but will be fully informed and will hopefully be our host partner in next year's pilot project.



The project object is to furnish a classroom in a secondary school to teach English, mathematics and natural sciences. Furniture and reading material in English and Swaheli, as well as blackboards and other school supplies are to be produced in the project country.

The way Rotary has refined the grants program, it reaches the poorest of the poor most efficiently and effectively with the least amount of funds wasted. It is the heart and soul of Rotary service in developing countries, notwithstanding all additional benefits delivered by the Foundation. To be sure, our efforts in eradicating poliomyelitis have a similar magnitude of impact worldwide.

Julie's Corner

Julianne Reppenhagen,
DGE

2010-2011



January 16 to 24, 2010, Charlie and I attended the Rotary International Assembly in San Diego, CA. It is the annual training session for 530+ incoming District Governors from all around the world. Attendees included present and past RI officers and Trustees of the Foundation, plus RI staff and trainers. There were 430+ spouses who joined us at some meetings and then had separate sessions of their own.

My first 2 ½ days were spent with Mac Leask as we attended the Future Visions Pilot District Training program with 99 other districts chose to be pilots. At this intense session we learned about why The Rotary Foundation is trying to

change and update how they award and distribute Foundation grant money. This will mean an exciting and challenging year for us as we try new things and evaluate what we have done. And for our clubs, it will mean additional District Grants, scholarships and matching grant money. Keep watching and listening for what's new...like Vocational Training Teams and Service above Self scholarship.

For the remaining time at the Assembly, we had sessions on Membership (looking at younger members) and Youth Programs (Youth Exchange, RYLA, Interact and Rotoract). We heard an increase emphasis on an old service, Vocational service, with an emphasis on Ethics, high standards and the use of our occupations as education, mentoring and training. We had a fund evening provided by DGE's from different countries (Australia, Brazil, Germany, etc), who sang and danced to music from their home countries. And of course we ate...several times with assigned hosts, but often with new made friends from around the world.

It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, never to be forgotten. Hopefully we will be better at our jobs as District Governors. But what we'll value the most is the wonderful new Rotarian friends we have now all around the world.
DGE Julie

NEW

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY 1ST PROJECT FAIR

Purpose: To give the district and ALL of the clubs an opportunity to showcase new and on-going projects in which they seek support from other Rotary Clubs.

When: Saturday, April 17, 2010

Cost: Your attendance at the 2010 District Assembly.

How it works: Table-top exhibit showcasing your project and the support you are seeking. Table size 6-foot. Space is limited and will be assigned on a first come basis.

Where: Sheraton Four Points, Meriden. We have set aside two rooms for exhibit space. Space is limited to reserve your spot as soon as possible.

For Information contact

Lynda Hammond, District Service Chairperson at
lynda.hammond1@sbcglobal.net.

Space reservation is strongly recommended!



Congratulations!

Brian Amey
District Governor 2012-13

A member of the Rotary Club of Newtown. Brian has served as Assistant Governor, Chairs the Significant Achievement Awards Committee, and is a member of the District Finance Committee. A retail banker with a career that started in the UK transferring to Connecticut in 1995, Brian has been a trustee for the Royal Association in Aid of Deaf People. His community activities include; the local Chamber, treasurer of the Newton Labor Day Parade, Committee and International Club of Newtown.

Born in Southampton, England, Brian moved to the USA in 1995 and resides in Newtown with his wife Margret. They have two sons, Andrea and Tony and one daughter, Joanne.

CORRECTION!

LITERACY AWARDS 2008-09

Both the District and Zone 31 offered awards to clubs for their efforts to promote literacy during this Rotary Year. Their support of literacy has helped to strengthen individual dignity and self-worth, thereby promoting RI's mission of goodwill, understanding, and peace.

District Literacy Awards for completing at least 5 literacy projects were presented to:

Bridgeport, Clinton, Derby-Shelton, Middletown, Milford, Woodbury-Southbury-Middlebury, and Newtown.

Community Service

Linda Beavers, Chairperson

ljbeavers@snet.net

WOODBRIIDGE ROTARIANS CELEBRATED IN A SEASON OF GIVING

Submitted by: Mary Ellen LaRocca



The Woodbridge Rotary Club sponsored several projects this holiday season. We distributed Thanksgiving baskets to the needy in Bethany, Woodbridge, and Westville, volunteered at the Easter Seals Goodwill Industries Fantasy of Lights, sent poinsettias to homebound elderly, sponsored a holiday Christmas party for residents of one cottage at the Southbury Training School, and hosted a holiday party for 90 seniors and a group of special needs students from Amity High School.

Photo: Rotarians Michael Lohne and Jan V. Day serving seniors at the holiday party hosted by Woodbridge Rotary Club.

WEST HAVEN DONATES \$7,000 TO FEED WEST HAVEN HUNGRY

Submitted by: Raffaele Aschetino



The West Haven Rotary Club held its annual Taste of West Haven

November 13th at the Savin Rock Conference Center. The event features local restaurants showcasing their menu specialties, and raises funds for area service agencies. Taste of West Haven raised \$7,000, which was donated to three West Haven food banks; Alex's Kitchen, Project Hope and WHEAT. One hundred percent of all proceeds from Rotary Club fund raising events are donated to those in need, both locally and internationally. The next West Haven Rotary Club fund raising event is the Yearly Auction on May 1, 2010.

OPERATION WARM

Submitted by: PDG Ernie Luise

Derby-Shelton Rotary Club has found that Operation Warm offers an opportunity to provide warm winter coats to children in the Early Education programs of TEAM, Inc, a local community action agency. All recipi-



ents were from families living at or below poverty level.

Once the club established a goal of 114, the committee did fund raising that provided a great platform for community outreach and club publicity, ordered coats from Operation Warm, who ships the coats directly to the service agency. Derby-Shelton members then participated in a coat distribution event at the Early Educa-

tion facility. The committee sold paper cut-out coats and hung them on poster boards to display and watch progress. Each cut-out was \$15 and the name of the donor was written across the cut-out. Because of the incredible response to this program, the club was able to extend their outreach and, working with the high school nurse and the Interact Advisor, were able to provide some coats to older students in need.

New winter coats provide more than just warmth to these children. They allow children to attend school regularly, arriving on time and ready to learn. A new coat can improve a child's self-esteem (for many, this is the first item of new clothing they have ever received), enable them to attend school and participate in breakfast and lunch programs... thus being properly nourished and educated.

This is the second year that the Derby-Shelton Rotary Club participated in this community service project and the club plans to continue to respond to the ever-increasing needs in our society.

Photographer: Jack Walsh. Top: PDG Ernie Luise, Dave Grant, Club President, & Al Patuzzi



Rotary Clubs can now sponsor an access terminal at your local Police Headquarters for

missing children, providing local police direct access to the National AMBER database at IDI in a 'missing child' emergency. [May also be used for Silver Alert patients once they are registered.]

The costs only \$200/year and requires a secure Windows PC at the local station. Systems are now in operation at Clinton and in Danbury. Contact Jack Eagan jackeagan@comcast.net or Bob Vetter sales@cdscorp.us for more information.

DERBY-SHELTON DOES A HOME MAKEOVER FOR HISTORY!

Submitted by: PDG Ernie Luise
Photographer: Jack Walsh



The Derby Historical Society is the latest organization to benefit from a Derby/Shelton Rotary Community Project as a group of members along with three members of the Shelton Interact Club descended on the Society's new administrative headquarters to give it a complete makeover as the Society moves its records and history collections into the new building.

The Society purchased the building a year ago in hopes of creating an administrative center that will also be used to house much of the Society's collection of historical artifacts freeing up the historic David Humphreys House as a living history center and classroom. The new building (Axon House) but needed to add additional lighting and electrical outlets and completely paint the interior rooms before the staff can begin to move in.

The idea of working with the Historic Society came from Rotary President Dave Grant. Rotary members Jack Walsh, Bill Miller and Dave Grant, Jr. are all members of the Society's Board of Directors. Walsh is President of the Derby Historical Society. All three spent the entire day as part of the Rotary work crew.

The Derby-Shelton Rotary Club and the Shelton High School Interact Club are proud to support their important work.

GUILFORD ROTARY'S ANNUAL SENIOR HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

In December Guilford Rotarians continued their 28-year tradition by feasting

the seniors in their town with a free traditional holiday dinner with music and gift bags for all. Numbers grow each year almost 200 guests enjoyed the festive 2009 event. A prestigious Rotarian kitchen crew in pink T-shirts prepares the complete turkey dinner, guided by a non-Rotary professional chef; a local DJ and the high school choral group provide the music; several businesses donate hors d'oeuvres, pies, flowers, as well as gifts such as books, tote bags, umbrellas and various sundries; and Bill "Santa Claus" Fatula makes the party complete.

Coordinator Al Jacobs, who runs the show, solicits gifts, coordinates the 70 members who cook, set up, serve and clean up as well as arranging the entertainment and other logistics. For many of the attendees the luncheon is their only holiday event and they receive no other gifts than the ones from the Rotarians.

ROTARY GRANT HELPS AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

Submitted by: Deb Denette

Members Charley Hnilicka, Holly Coleman, Deb Denette and Ken Klein look on as members of the East Haddam Ambulance Association display their new EMS Emergency Response Uniforms. The East Haddam Rotary Club partnered in the purchase of six of the uniforms with the help of a Rotary District Managed grant.



The grant came about after Chief Dean Anderson and Assistant Chief Frank Glowski spoke at a Rotary Meeting and identified the need for OSHA approved protective clothing when responding to dangerous situations such as car rollovers. Ken Klein,

immediate past president chaired a team that submitted the proposal.

NIANTIC LIGHT PARADE FLOAT

Submitted by: Susan Wheeler



Two of the main events in East Lyme at Wintertime are the Holiday Stroll on the Saturday night after Thanksgiving and the amazing Niantic Light Parade in mid-December.

Niantic Rotarians participated in the stroll by serving hot chocolate to the throngs of folks who were out to greet Santa and do a little early shopping. To the great pride of the club, the Light Parade Float, designed by member Neil Frisch and completed by Neil and his hard-working club team, was awarded Second Place in the Non-Profit Organization Category. The float featured an enormous globe of the world which rotated atop a bed of lighted "snow." On each side were panels proclaiming, "Making a Difference since 1960," and the slogan, "Serving Our Community and the World." A crowd of more than 20,000 viewed the one and a half hour parade. Thanks to the Granite Group for their contributions to the construction.

Also during December, club members went out to deliver donations to various local charities including the Submarine Veterans, New London Community Meal Center, The Women's Center of SECT and, in conjunction with Liberty Bank, Care and Share of East Lyme.

Club Chatter

NORTH HAVEN ROTARY CLUB FINDS NEW HOME

Submitted by: David Marchesseault

Due to the closing of Demir's Restaurant in the fall, the North Haven Ro-



tary Club had to find new headquarters. The club has selected The Breakfast Nook, known for its fine cuisine, is located at 448 Washington Avenue, a short distance from their former quarters near the entrance to Glenn Road.

Chef Nolan C. Kowaleski, the family oriented owner who took over the business several months ago, packs the house for breakfast and lunch. Mr. Kowaleski, a civic minded businessman offered the North Haven Rotary Club private use of his restaurant on Tuesday mornings from 7:00 to 8:30.

Photo: Chef Nolan Kowaleski of The Breakfast Nook (L) with Nick Casella, President of the North Haven Rotary Club.

BRANFORD ROTARY RUNS ROAD RACE

Submitted by: Alpha Coiro

The Rotary Club of Branford is pleased to announce that it has netted \$16,258 from its Thanksgiving Day Walk/Run.

Douglas Shaw, executive director of the Soundview Family YMCA was presented with a check from the Branford Rotary toward construction of its new facility under construction on East Main Street. Rotary has committed to raising \$100,000 for a teen/senior center within the complex. This is its third year in sponsoring the Y-Walk. A larger fundraiser entitled Under the Big Top was previously held which yielded about \$50,000.



Amy Koch chaired this year's committee. Other Rotarians figuring prominently in the fundraiser this year included Pat Andriole, Ray Figlewski, Ed Vescovi, Jim Carpenter, Richard Shanahan, and Alpha Coiro.

Photo by: Tricia Bohan [L to R], Bill Van Wilgen (Rotary Foundation chair), Robert Gill (Rotary president), Amy Koch (project chair), Doug Shaw, director Soundview YMCA

PLAYWRIGHT IRISH PUB HOSTS POLIO FUNDRAISER

Submitted by: Lynda Hammond



PolioPlus fundraiser sponsored by the Hamden Rotary club and hosted the Playwright Irish Pub, where the owner, Eamonn (Sonny) Ryan donated a portion of the days profits to Rotary's efforts to eradicate Polio. The event was chaired by Rotarian Tom Hylinski. Thank you.

Vocational Service

Alan Clavette, Chairperson

Email: ajclavette@msn.com

HAMDEN ROTARY CLUB RECOGNIZES STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Top: Mr. Ayala, Helen Street School Principal Lynn Kelleher, Trystan's teacher Karen Franklin, Mrs. Ayala **Bottom:** Jacob Ayala, **Trystan Ayala**

Trystan is not only our Student of the Month for being a really great kid with a heart for helping others, but his poetry was also recently selected to be one of twelve pieces in the entire school district to be printed in the school district's calendar.

Trystan received an award certificate in recognition of being selected as student of the month, but will also have a brick placed at the Hamden Rotary Pavilion with his name on it and the date he was recognized; January 11th 2010.

FOUR-WAY TEST SPEECH CONTEST

Submitted by: Andrew Brophy, Dave Matlow, Mark Mathis & Dennis Wong

Jacob Meisel, a freshman at Staples High School took top honors in the first Rotary Four-Way Test Speech Contest Thursday afternoon in Westport Town Hall.

On December 17 the Westport Rotary Clubs and the Westport Sunrise Rotary Club jointly sponsored the local finals of the Four-Way Test speech contest in the auditorium of Westport's Town Hall. This event marked the first time that Westport Rotary Clubs have participated in this event in the 85-year presence of Rotary in the Westport community. Jacob Meisel, a 14-year old ninth grader at Westport's Staples High School won the \$500 award with a speech focused on the challenges of global warming and the application of Carbon Cap and Trade. Seniors Maddie Kurtz and Catherine Coughlin also won runner-up cash awards. Each speech integrated the Rotary values which ask: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? Meisel will compete at the District Championship at Fairfield University on January 24th. Westport Rotarians Dennis Wong, Maggie Fezcko and Rob Reeves led the project.



Pres. John Hendrickson-Westport Sunrise, Maddie Kurtz, Jacob Meisel, Catherine Coughlin, and Pres. Robin Hammond - Westport



Submitted by: John Ralbovsky, Chair



The first of District 7980's two annual RYLA Conferences took place on November 13-14-15, 2009 at the Garden Inn in Shelton, CT. The RYLA Conference is District 7980's leadership training program for young men and women ages 16, 17, & 18 in grades 10, 11 and 12. These talented young people are selected by their local Rotary clubs, from area high schools, to attend an all expenses paid weekend conference designed to increase their leadership skills and commitment to community service.

RYLA was attended by 28 young men and women from the following 20 area high schools: Fitch, Old Saybrook, Guilford, Mark Sheehan, Foran, Law, West Haven, Central (Bpt), Derby, Branford, Wilton, Ledyard, Shelton, North Haven, Westbrook, Sacred Heart Academy, Lyme-Old Lyme, Pomperaug, Ansonia, and Ridgefield.

The Theme for this RYLA Conference was Leadership: Success for You. The students began their RYLA Conference

with a welcome from Governor Colin and introduction of Team RYLA. Team RYLA member are; John & Starlene Ralbovsky, Dave Ullman, Sid Madwed, Walt Cicocki, Tracy Leclair, Eddie Blue, and Shirley Valentine. They were also chaperones for the entire weekend.

Special guest workshop presenters included Wakefield, RI Rotarian Ed McLaughlin (Listening and Communication), Sgt Jim Smith, CT State Police (Your Internet Safety), Wallingford Rotarian John Power (Dominican Republic Water Project), Lynda Hammond, Chair International Service and Alan Hurst, Chair Youth Exchange.

This year's RYLA Conference included workshops on male-female relationships entitled 'Women are from Venus and Men are from Mars.' Dave Ullman always gets rave reviews from the students through the conference evaluations. For example, "the workshop opened my eyes to additional stereotypes that have defined women and men throughout history." Other workshops were on Time Management, Skills for Success, Relationships: Myth-Perception-Truth, Leadership's Role, Do you Mean What you Say? Do you Say What you Mean? and Health and Happiness Are Keys to Success.

Some of the RYLA participants comments are:

"It was very helpful to learn about ways to stay on task and stop procrastination."

"Such a fantastic course that I wish we had more time." Of course the most often used comments by our RYLA students were words such as 'Awesome,' 'Entertaining,' 'Fun' and 'I Loved it.'

The RYLA Conference concluded on Sunday with our Graduation Ceremony. This year's ceremony was presided over by (hold on- this is a long list of who's who) Governor Colin, Governor Elect Julie Reppenhagen, Past District Governors Ernie Luise, Alan Hurst and International Service Chm, Lynda Hammond. A very special thank you goes out to all our guests and presenters who helped make this RYLA Conference such a memorable weekend for the students.

NORTH HAVEN ROTARY CLUB RECOGNIZES TWINS AS STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Submitted by: David Marchesseault



The latest two students to be recognized by the North Haven Rotary Club are fraternal twins, Lisa and Kevin Novinski. The two members of the junior class at North Haven High School who were selected by the teaching staff for November and December were honored this past week with their parents, Thomas and Elaine Novinski at the service club's new headquarters on Washington Avenue known as the Breakfast Nook. Also participating in offering this special recognition was Assistant Principal Andrew Pettola.

Miss Novinski opened her acceptance speech saying, "It is such an honor to be presented with this award," and then she proceeded to tell a very humorous story of her inadvertent "missing in action" status when the administration attempted to notify her of the coveted recognition. It seems that she had been scheduled to pursue her first "love," working on the painting of a landscape for the Scholastic Art Competition, but no one could find her.

As a second year co-editor of the yearbook, Lisa fulfills her interest in art and design through such projects as the cover layout for the fall booklet for the town's Adult Education programs, as well as the cover for the program published for the school's winter concerts. She also came in second in the logo contest sponsored by the Friends of the North Haven Library. In keeping with the theme of the Arts, she added

that she hopes to pursue a career in Culinary Arts with a major in Nutrition and Dietetics.

Other accomplishments include her appointment as a Project Adventure Facilitator last year and participating in People-to-People and SCC Student Leadership Conferences. In addition, she received the 2007 Scholar Leader Award from the Connecticut Association of Schools. Under personal interests she lists performing community service at the Children's Library, packing meals at the town's Food Pantry, coaching the youth volleyball clinic, and volunteering at her church.

In another amusing twist, she told the audience that she had received the high school's prestigious recognition as a Super CAPT Scholar last year only one week after suffering a mild concussion. Consequently, she'll actually get a brief break during the upcoming midterm exams. She closed her address offering thanks to a number of people, not the least of whom were her parents who she said were "my constant support system" and her brother, described by her as "the best competition I've ever had."

When Kevin Novinski finally got the opportunity to stand before the assembly of fascinated Rotarians, he knew it was a tough act to follow, but opened with the words, "Like you, I am also someone who is active in our community." He immediately had his listeners' attention as he proceeded to describe his own impressive record of community service, including providing assistance to the local Rotary Club's support of the Kids for Kids dance competition for charity which is held at the high school each April.

Declaring that each of his volunteer experiences "have made me a better person and more aware of the community," he spelled out several of which he was proud. Some of his volunteerism included work at Clintonville Manor, participation in the Summer Reading Program at the Town Library, backstage work in support of the productions by the North Haven Drama

Co-op, and umpiring baseball games for the Max Sinoway Little League.

He, too, had received the CAS Scholar Leader Award among other awards for his leadership abilities, but he explained that his personal career focus is in the field of music, especially as it relates to a college education in music technology. Mentioning that he was "involved in many clubs and hold ranking positions in them," he listed becoming Vice President of the Computer Club and Sports Editor of the yearbook as two examples.

The young Mr. Novinski added that he had been working with Rotarian Debbie Volain on the musical productions for both the middle school and high school since he was in the sixth grade. He proudly added that he is the Assistant Stage Manager along with Tom Sullivan, a student who was recognized by the Rotary Club last year in this same manner. In his closing remarks, he had many people to whom to extend his gratitude and thanked everyone who had helped him throughout his young life whose actions "have helped mold me as the student and the person I have become today."

Beaming with pride as he introduced each of the twins, the assistant principal added later that both were honor students who belonged to a group called Future Problem Solvers, and that the siblings had actually participated in activities only mentioned by one or the other in their presentations.

Andrew Pettola had earlier told the audience that, "Lisa and Kevin were chosen to be Rotary Students of the Month because they exemplify all the best qualities of North Haven students." Describing the staff's decision to support their nominations as simply "overwhelming," he concluded, "They embody the values and principles that we teach every day, and they exhibit leadership, excellent academics, and a commitment to servicing the community."

CHOATE STUDENTS PRESENT CHECK TO DG COLIN GERSON

Submitted by: Carlene Lepre-Roche



From left – Peam Chiaravanond, of Thailand, Stephen (Kobby) Lartey from Ghana, Craig Fishbein, President, Wallingford Rotary, Nicole Adler from Greenwich, CT, Colin Gershon, Rotary District Governor & Mary Pashley, Director of Community Service, Choate.

Students from the Interact Club of Choate in Wallingford and a club officer for the Choate International and Global Assistance (CIGA) Club presented checks on Wednesday in the amount of \$2780.00 to District Governor Colin Gershon at the recent Wallingford Rotary meeting.

Junior, Kobby Lartey from Ghana spoke of the Interact Assembly held at

Choate on January 9th. Interact is the High School counterpart of a Rotary Club. Dick Benson, a Madison Rotarian and Past District Governor spoke to the students about his loves – His KIDS (baby goats) that are bought by Rotarians and then raised by families in Haiti to provide milk and food, the Happy Houses (latrines) and Water Filters built by Rotarians in an effort to provide clean water and sanitation. Kobby stated “Haiti got onto my personal radar that day. The following Tuesday the devastating 7.0 earthquake hit Haiti and suddenly Haiti was on the world’s radar, not just mine.”

When Rotary’s District Governor, Mr. Colin Gershon put out the call to Rotarians, Mr. Benson challenged all Interact Clubs to answer that call. The Choate students immediately set up a donation table in the dining hall and collected funds all over school. The funds collected are being divided among many agencies, including Rotary District 7980, Save The Children Foundation and **THE** Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Haiti. The hospital was founded by Dr. William Larimer Mellon, Choate class of 1928.

Junior, Peemapon Chiaravanond from Thailand and President of the Choate International and Global Assistance Club (CIGA) in conjunction with the Interact Club, held a fundraiser for Haiti relief efforts. CIGA held a food fair in our dining hall and fed over 500 people. Peemapon’s parents flew in from Thailand to help prepare the meal and the club donated \$2530 to Rotary’s Haitian relief efforts. The remainder of the funds raised will be donated to the Sunrise Academy in Rwanda.

In addition to the monetary donations, the Interact Club is sponsoring another collection of canned Spam. “We are calling it spam-a-lot,” Junior, Nicole Adler from Greenwich, CT told us. “All the proceeds will go directly to the Haitian Health Foundation through Norwich Rotarian, Dr. Jerry Lowney for distribution in Port –au-Prince. We hope to collect between 400 - 500 cans of spam by the end of this month.”

The Choate students also presented the Wallingford Rotary Club a check in the amount of \$400.00 to support the End Polio Now program.

Literacy

Literacy or illiteracy – what is it?

Why is Rotary willing to expend the effort to address literacy? In 1985, Rotary International saw literacy as a path to peace. Thus, Rotary has sought to bring an understanding of what is needed to overcome illiteracy throughout the world as well as what it can mean to achieving peace.

Rotarians are accustomed to hands on project, which you can see and feel the activity. However, illiteracy is hard to see, touch or feel! Maybe this is why it’s more difficult to motivate a club or a Rotarian to seek out a literacy project.

Let’s first describe what literacy can mean for a Rotarian. Rotary notes that there are three types of literacy, namely BASIC Literacy. This is the ability to read, write and compute at the level achieved by a primary school

education. Next, is FUNCTIONAL Literacy, the skills and knowledge, which an adult needs in order to function successfully as a worker, a citizen and a parent. Last, is CHARACTER Literacy. These are the skills and knowledge that an adult needs in order to get along with others. A simple example may be, can one understand the Four-Way Test and its meaning to our own lifestyle?

Each club president has been provided with the Rotary International Literacy Awards brochure. This document describes suggested activities that qualify for the Literacy awards, but more than that it indicates specific types of projects that a club can choose to begin. Most Rotarians are familiar with the dictionary project or a Town Read-A-Loud day. However, have you thought of just reading on some periodic basis in

PDG John Annick, Chairperson

Email: jaedj@aol.com

your local schools? Have you asked your Town Librarian what they do with surplus books as this may be GOLD for some person or group? What about conducting literacy lessons in a prison? I’m sure you can find where the need exists.

There are many people in Connecticut who lack one or more literacy skill. Think about it as you perform your daily routine. Can your club reach out to identify a need and set a project? It only takes 5 projects to qualify for a District award and only 10 activities to qualify for a Zone award. The need is great and your assistance is of major value. I look forward to your application for a District and/or Zone award and especially to the individuals who will benefit from your literacy involvement.

ROTARY CLUB OF WATERBURY'S COMMUNITY LITERACY PROJECT"STORY TIME"

Submitted by: Ralph Richards

The Waterbury Rotary Club will be having our 2nd installment of our community Literacy Project called "Story Time"

The date will be Thursday February 18th, at 5:15 at the Children's Community School here in Waterbury, CT

The Waterbury Rotary Club and Literacy Volunteers of Waterbury will be working together again in a joint effort on the event.

Our first "Story Time" was a great success and it occurred on 11-10-09.

The Waterbury Rotary Club, through a District Managed Grant purchased 50 Books entitled "Leaves".

The book was chosen by Tina Agati, the Director of Literacy Volunteers of Waterbury and by Dr. Barbara Ruggiero the Director of the Children's Community School. WRC paid for the books, and to get more of a turnout from the families of the school we provided a ziti dinner. There were approximately 20 families in attendance.

The books were read to the children by Literacy Volunteers, while the Waterbury Rotary Club provided the ziti dinner. Afterwards we were able to

hand out 50 books and 30 dictionaries to be used by the entire school.

The event was very successful, and it was agreed upon by all to have a 2nd and 3rd "Story Time" night, the 2nd occurring 2/18 and the 3rd scheduled for May 2010.

The Waterbury Republican had a picture in the paper. "Reading's a family affair". The caption shows Lakeshia and Anthony Chapman of Waterbury reading the Leaves book with their daughter Aisa, 6 years old. It indicated the literacy event was sponsored by Waterbury Rotary Club and Literacy Volunteers of Greater Waterbury.

2009-10 LITERACY RESOURCE GROUP

Guide to Literacy Service Projects

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, Elmer and Andy's Apple Dumping 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 vocation a 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 SOUNs, 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.

Beacon Submissions

How...When and deadlines ...to submit your material:

How: Email please in a .doc (word) format with all photographs sent as an attachment in a .jpeg format.

When: Anytime... the sooner the better!

Deadlines are firm.

Deadlines for material submission:

Spring Issue

Deadline: 5/15/2010 Publish date: 6/15/2010

CHANGE...CHANGE...CHANGE.....

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Special thank you to Rotarian Susan Wheeler for her incredible proof reading skills!

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