

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

- June 10 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
June 10 - 8pm - Board of Directors Meeting
June 12 - 9:30am - Jewish Group Homes Project
Fix-up, Painting and Garden Work
13632 North Gate Drive, Silver Spring
Come join Arthur Blitz, Jerry Gross, Tom Leuchtenburg,
Alex Naron, Bob Nelson and Fernando Solis for the
annual renovation project. Location of house on map
is indicated by "A" in the BelPre/Layhill Roads area.
June 17 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
June 24 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
Installation of 2010-2011 Rotary Club Officers
Spouses and Guests Welcome
June 28 - 6pm - District Governor Installation
Howard Community College
See Invitation on Page 3.
July 1 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
July 8 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
July 13 - 7pm - Manna Food Center-Need volunteers
9311 Gaither Road, Gaithersburg
July 15 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
July 22 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

Manna Food Center Packing Team on June 8



Come bring the whole family and join Alex Naron for the next food packing night on July 13 at 7pm at 9311 Gaither Road, Gaithersburg. It'll be the kickoff night of our club's 25th year serving our community through the Manna Food Center.

June 3 Meeting Report

Our guest speakers were Larry and Jenn Chloupek from Special Love for Children with Cancer. Special Love is a nonprofit organization that provides cancer



families a network of support, made up of other patients and families who know and understand the trials and triumphs of the cancer experience. Larry had osteo sarcoma bone cancer in 1968 and lost his leg. Special Love is one of the charities endorsed by the National Institutes of Health where Larry and Jenn work.



Camp Fantastic is rooted in Rotary. The one-week adventure for children with cancer was founded in 1983 by Winchester Rotarian Tom Baker. He says he "wanted to give these kids a chance to feel normal" after he lost his 13-year old daughter, Julie, to lymphoma in 1976. He and his wife, Sheila, also started Special Love, Inc., the Winchester non-profit that sponsors Camp Fantastic and more than a dozen other programs for young cancer patients. Baker

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turned to his fellow Rotarians for help in raising the necessary funds to get Special Love and Camp Fantastic off the ground and several Rotary Clubs, including Winchester, Front Royal and Culpepper, as well as Olney, MD, continue to provide dinners during the week of camp. Winchester Rotarian Nick Nerangis also brings his McDonald's franchise to the last full day of camp for our campers' most anticipated lunch of the week.

The Rotary Connection to Camp Fantastic doesn't end there, either - the director of Camp Fantastic, and Special Love - is Dave Smith, a Winchester Rotarian who inherited the camp leadership role from former Front Royal Rotarian John Dooley, now a Vice-Provost at Virginia Tech. The list of Rotary District 7570 dignitaries who have visited Camp Fantastic includes current District Governor Ron Napier and Past District Governors Byron Brill and Dave Moreman, not to mention Rotary's International Vice President, Eric Adamson. As Dave Smith is fond of saying, "Camp Fantastic is rooted in Rotary. They were there for us in the beginning and they've been a consistent source of support ever since. In fact, Rotary's involvement in Camp Fantastic was the primary reason why I decided to join Rotary myself."



Camp Fantastic and Special Love are well known in the Winchester/Frederick Co. area and have been highlighted in the District Governor's newsletter and twice in Rotary International's magazine, *The Rotarian*. Special Love means:

- * children with cancer have an organization that strives to bring them together with other children like them for fellowship, friendship and fun;
- * families of children with cancer have an ally during and after the cancer experience;
- * hospitals have a place to refer the families of children with cancer.

For more information on how you can participate or support Camp Fantastic, contact Special Love at 888-930-2707 or visit their website at www.speciallove.org.

Art Blitz reminded everyone of the annual renovation project for the Jewish Foundation Group Homes on Saturday, June 12, at 9:30am. This year the location is 13632 North Gate Drive, Silver Spring.



President Noel Howard had a tasty treat for everyone - pralines that he brought back from his recent trip to New Orleans.



Chinyere Amaefule was the speaker at the Metro Washington Rotaract Club meeting. A Rotary fundraiser

for polio is being planned for August 25 at the Washington Nationals baseball game. With all the buzz about the new pitcher, this event should be a sellout. Alan Grant announced that Bob Nelson had been recognized in the Rotary District Newsletter for his service.



Rotary 2010 Ambassadorial Scholars Needing Host Counselors

Every year our District 7620 receives about eight Ambassadorial Scholars, each of whom needs a Rotarian Host Counselor. This year we will have scholars attending Universities both in Baltimore and Washington. Please review the following list of inbound scholars who do not yet have a Host Counselor. If you can serve as a host counselor for one of these, please contact me immediately. If you cannot, I request that you consider a member of your Rotary Club to serve as a counselor for a scholar.

Conrad L. Fleck, cfleck11@verizon.net,
410 461-0558 (home), 301 498-4950 (day),
647-A Main Street, Laurel, MD 20707

Berardo, Fiammetta, Italy, George Washington Univ Cho, Minjung, Korea, Johns Hopkins Univ Fosgaard, Signe, Denmark, Johns Hopkins Univ Frappa, Giorgio, Italy, Johns Hopkins Univ Matsushita, Yoshihisa, Japan, Johns Hopkins Univ Orita, Naho, Japan, Univ of MD College Park

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*Please join us for the
Installation of District
Governor Jay Kumar*

Monday, June 28, 2010

6-8 p.m.

Howard Community College

10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia, MD 21044

The Rouse Company Foundation
Student Services Hall, Room 400

Dinner, fellowship and installation: \$50 per person
Cash bar for beer and wine

Dress: International/Ethnic attire
Black Tie optional • Business attire

For reservations (by June 24 please), go to: www.rotary7620.org

or contact:

Sherry Whitworth • 301-829-2010 • rotary@district7620.org

or mail check to:

District 7620 of Rotary International
4064 Lomar Drive
Mount Airy, MD 21771

The Rotary Foundation has approved the first grant under the Future Vision pilot, set to begin on 1 July.

District 3330 (Thailand) will be using the US\$39,500 district grant to fund a variety of local projects, including buying books, computers, and sports equipment for schools; providing clean water for students; and adding patient beds at a hospital.

One of the projects will create a computer room at a primary school in Samut Prakan Province, giving 755 students access to computers and the Internet. Eight Rotary clubs in the province; a club in District 3350 (Cambodia; Thailand), not in the pilot; and a club in Korea are cooperating on the \$15,900 effort.

Another project will add beds to the province's main public hospital so it can serve an increasing number of patients.

"It is very exciting that we are the first grant approved," says Wichai Maneewacharakiet, the District 3330 Rotary Foundation Committee chair. "We will encourage clubs to start working soon after receiving the grant funds. Our Rotarians are thrilled to learn more on the Future Vision Plan, as can be seen by the number of Rotarians who participated in a grant management seminar immediately after our district assembly."

One hundred districts are participating in the Future Vision pilot, a three-year test of the new grant structure offered in the Foundation's Future Vision Plan. The Foundation began accepting applications for district grants in mid-April and has received five. An application from District 1970 (Portugal) has also been approved, and three others are under review.

District grants, one of two types of grants under the Future Vision Plan, are block grants made to districts for up to 50 percent of their District Designated Fund. Pilot districts can apply for one district grant a year, which may be used for a wide variety of activities, including projects with local clubs or clubs in other countries and with nonpilot districts.

Pilot districts submit a spending plan as part of the application process for district grants. All the activities included within District 3330's

Foundation Approves Future Vision's First District Grant

By Arnold R. Grahl RI News - 4 June 2010

The first district grant under the Future Vision pilot will fund a variety of projects including a new computer lab for school children (top) in Samut Prakan Province, Thailand. (Bottom) another project will add beds to the province's main public hospital. Photos courtesy of District 3330



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spending plan fall within an area of focus, even though they are not required to do so for a district grant.

Districts have until 15 May 2011 to apply for their 2010-11 district grant and receive payment during the Rotary year that ends 30 June 2011. Districts must submit a final report to the Foundation within 12 months of payment of the grant.

Small Club Scores Big With End Polio Effort

By Dan Nixon RI News – 8 June 2010

Past RI President Clem Renouf (left) receives an A\$20,000 (US\$16,600) check for Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge from Bribie Island Rotarians, joined by Jenny Horton (right), of the Kenmore club. Photo courtesy of Barry Clark



In the past nine months, the residents of Bribie Island, Queensland, Australia, have learned a lot about polio and the global effort to eradicate the disease.

Led by the town's Rotarians, they've also given a lot back.

In September, the Rotary Club of Bribie Island embarked on Project Eradication, aimed at raising A\$1 (about US\$0.80) for each one of the community's 19,490 residents.

"One club member had lost his brother to polio many years before, and several others had been touched by polio in their youth or through friends and family," said Bribie Island Rotarian Barry Clark, reflecting on the inspiration for the project.

Over the next several months, the 25-member club organized a raffle, a children's coloring competition, wine sales, monthly food markets, a movie night, an Australia Day Ball, a golf day, and a 10-kilometer fun run/walk. Local newspapers were briefed about the effort in advance and agreed to publish monthly feature articles about the events.

The club also obtained support from the town's polio survivors. One drew the winning tickets for the raffle and took part in the run/walk, pushed in a wheelchair by a Rotarian. Another gave an interview to area

newspapers and reinforced the message that some parents in Australia still weren't getting their children immunized. Yet another, who walked with a limp, began the dancing at the Australia Day Ball. A fourth spoke at a meeting of the Bribie Island club, inspiring members with his personal story of determination.

As the fundraisers unfolded, the project gained increasing visibility in the community and media. The club also sent out news releases about the work of Jenny Horton – a nurse and member of the Rotary Club of Kenmore, Queensland – in the polio immunization effort in India.

The publicity helped generate significant donations from residents and groups such as the Lions club, Bowls club, and community orchestra. The Bribie Island club also gained 12 new members.

On 13 May, Bribie Island Rotarians presented a check for A\$20,000 (about US\$16,600) for Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge to Past RI President Clem Renouf at a celebration in Nambour. Another US\$4,200 came from the Rotary Club of Toowong. Renouf and Past District Governor John Sever, former chief of the infectious diseases branch of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, were instrumental in laying the groundwork for PolioPlus.

Renouf offered high praise for Horton, who also attended the celebration. Horton has worked for the Stop Transmission of Polio program in Botswana, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan. The program was established in 1999 by the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and has received \$681,900 in grants from PolioPlus for volunteers' stipends.

"Someone once said, 'If you want to send a message, wrap it in a person,'" Renouf noted. "Jenny is the ideal wrapping for our story at this stage of the war [against polio], not from command headquarters but from the front line."

"It's amazing to be part of a program which will eradicate a disease from the world," Horton said.

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Documentary at Cannes Showcases Band Of Congolese Polio Survivors

Rotary International News – 2 June 2010

The band, which has a CD out called *Très Très Fort*, is made up of polio survivors and former street children.

A Congolese band whose lead singers are polio survivors is making its way onto the world music scene after a documentary on the group's origins received critical acclaim at the Cannes Film Festival in May.

Staff Benda Bilili, which means "look beyond appearances" in Lingala, is a band of eight former street musicians from Kinshasa. Five of them are polio survivors. Their song "Polio" speaks of the disease that changed their lives and urges parents to immunize their children.

The band's debut album, *Très Très Fort*, won the 2009 Womex Award for international music. French filmmakers Florent de la Tullaye and Renaud Barret decided to create a documentary on the band after falling in love with its music when they were in Kinshasa in 2004, working on a movie about the city's music scene. The film *Benda Bilili!* premiered 13 May during the festival.

Band members have also joined other musicians across Africa in lending their voices to the final push to rid the continent of polio. Through the Kick Polio Out of Africa campaign, a soccer ball signed by Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu and a growing number of public figures has been making its way through the continent to raise awareness for polio eradication before traveling to the RI Convention in Montréal, Québec, Canada. Follow the ball's progress on our interactive map. Show your support by signing a virtual ball online.

"Of course we're happy to be part of the campaign. After all, we're handicapped by polio, and we are the first group to sing about polio, so naturally we're ready to help," said bandleader Ricky Likabu. "Our song 'Polio' is simply to implore parents to take their

children to health clinics to be vaccinated, as the WHO [World Health Organization] recommends. Parents are responsible for their children, and they need to know how to avoid diseases."



Staff Benda Bilili's European tour began in April. The band will stop in Greece, Sweden, Poland, the Netherlands, Belgium, and France in June, before performing 5 July at the Montreal Jazz Festival.

Band Of Congolese Polio Survivors Wows Audiences

by Fred Robarts *The Rotarian* – June 2010

Montana Kinunu is conjuring a drum kit from a broom laid across a plastic beer crate and weighed down with a rock. He pulls off his shirt, picks up a pair of battered drumsticks, and is soon tapping a fast, skittering rhythm, slapping his bare feet on the dirt floor. Beside him, Roger Landu is putting together his satonge, a single-string instrument fashioned from an amplified tin can and a guitar string stretched on a bent stick.

The rehearsal space is an open-air bar, imperfectly shielded from the heat, dust, and commotion of a busy neighborhood in Kinshasa, capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It seems improbable, but Montana, Roger, and their bandmates have been touring European venues with this same improvised kit, testing the skills of sound engineers and winning rave reviews.

One by one, the band members arrive, several traveling on hand-cranked or motorized two-seater tricycles. Songwriter Coco Ngambali, who has the craggy features and upper-body strength of a retired wrestler, opens the proceedings with the band's rallying cry. His call "Staff!" is answered in unison: "Benda Bilili très très fort!"

Bandleader Ricky Likabu whistles a tune, and the group, Staff Benda Bilili, eases into a languid bolero intro. Ricky calls for a halt to reprimand the brass section for coming in late. When they restart, the music is a notch tighter. The rhythm steps up and is suddenly

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irresistible. A gaggle of young onlookers sings along with the chorus. A hardboiled-egg vendor pauses to watch. A passing shoe-polisher keeps time by clacking his wooden brushes.

"They had 10-dollar guitars and a lot of determination, and they just kept working until they were ready to perform."

Ricky and Coco, along with guitarist Theo Nsituvuidi, vocalist Djunana Tanga-Suele, and atalaku (rap-style vocalist) Kabamba Kabose Kasungu, had polio as children, and they've fended for themselves for five decades in a country wracked by conflict and corruption. They formed a cooperative to trade goods back and forth across the Congo River between Kinshasa and Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo, and though they weren't destitute, they often slept on the streets near the ports where they made their living.

The other band members are former street children, of whom there are an estimated 15,000 in Kinshasa. Roger, the youngest member, invented his satonge while living on the streets. Ask kids downtown about "Papa Ricky," and their faces light up. "People distrust street children," he explains. "They see them as sorcerers, beggars, and thieves. But we treated them as our own. And of course they helped us too." There are always kids on hand to carry the band's equipment or push the tricycles when the motors give out.

Ricky and his friends formed Staff Benda Bilili in 2003. Joseph Mpia, a fellow polio survivor and friend of the band, remembers the first rehearsals in Kinshasa's derelict zoo. "They went there because it was quiet, and free for us. They had 10-dollar guitars and a lot of determination, and they just kept working until they were ready to perform."

The fringe status of the Staff Benda Bilili collective - the name means "look beyond appearances" in Lingala - has limited the band's success at home but arguably has helped win the attention and respect of documentary filmmakers, audiences, and critics abroad. The band's album, *Très Très Fort* (which means "very, very strong"), was recorded at the zoo and released last spring, and in November, they won the Womex Award in Copenhagen, Denmark, for

international music. Next month, they'll play at the Montréal Jazz Festival.

The band calls its style "rumba blues." It's steeped in classic Cuban-influenced Congolese rumba and laced with plenty of other ingredients: funk, soul, afrobeat, reggae, and the intense rhyiming shouts of their atalaku, Kabose. Sung in Lingala with occasional forays into French, Swahili, Kikongo, and Kiteke (the dialect of Kinshasa's Pool region), their songs tell of friendship, love and lust, busking, missing a sister who lives across the river, sleeping on cardboard, and looking forward to better days.

The band has joined Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu and golf legend (and polio survivor) Jack Nicklaus as part of Rotary International's latest public relations campaign to remind the world how close polio eradication is. "We're handicapped by polio, and we are the first group to sing about polio, so naturally we're ready to help," says Ricky.

Staff Benda Bilili wrote and recorded the song "Polio," in which they urge parents to understand the importance of vaccinating their children. "I was born as a strong man, but polio crippled me," they sing. "Parents, please go to the vaccination center / Get your babies vaccinated against polio / Please save them from that curse ... The one who is disabled is no different from the others / Why should he be? / Treat all your children without discrimination / Don't throw anyone on the side."

As a result of vaccination campaigns involving negotiated cease-fires with armed groups and unprecedented coordination among regions, polio is no longer endemic in Congo. But the virus can easily cross borders. In response to imported outbreaks in Central and West Africa, 85 million children in 19 countries were vaccinated in a cross-border campaign in March and April.

"Parents are responsible for their children, and they need to know how to avoid diseases," Ricky says. "There are still too many who don't realize it's important."

***Please send news articles and photos to
Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov
for inclusion in the newsletter***

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