



The Backwash



The Rotary Club of Edmonds

Sunday, February 10, 2008

Editor: Kirk Greiner
If you have any comments or questions, email the editor.

Polio Plus
by Kirk Greiner

We are all familiar with the matching grant of \$100 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to help complete our Global Polio Eradication Program. "Matching" means just that - we have to put up \$100 million to receive the Gates grant.

I will proposed to the club's Foundation that we undertake a campaign to solicit charitable donations from the public - non-Rotarians - to help Rotary reach this goal.

RI has furnished a 15 minute video of the polio program. In addition, they are furnishing a video of the presentation made by William Gates Sr. and the UN Secretary to the RI Foundation announcing the Gates grant. Putting the two together with a suitable lead-in hopefully by Caroline Douglas will provide us with a wonderful marketing tool.

Donations will be passed through our Foundation to the RI Foundation. Where contributions exceed \$1000, it will be proposed that donors receive a Paul Harris award with \$1000 of their donation being passed through Kathy who will make the presentations at a suitable time.

None of the donations will be kept by the Foundation or the Club. This will be exclusively a project to obtain matching funds to support the Polio Plus program.

Elizabeth has suggested that if we go forward with this project, that the district be contacted to see if they want to join us, or have other club's join us in this fund raising effort.

Solicitations will be done by mail and will require help from Foundation members in preparing it.

Rotary District 5030 Conference
by Greiner, Kirk

The annual District Conference will be held May 16th - 18th in Kennewick, WA. Click >>HERE<< to learn more and to register.

Various Thoughts from your Editor
by Kirk Greiner

Aloha from the Big Island of Hawaii. It's remarkable what one can do with technology such as writing your newsletter while basking in the sun of Hawaii [only it's raining].

President Staser Holcolm and I agreed that I would attend Club Board meetings as a representative of the Edmonds Rotary Foundation. The purpose was to keep the board aware of Foundation activities and to seek input of future Foundation activities.

The board meeting held last Wednesday was the first that I had intended to go to. I wanted to seek input for a proposed fund raising

Future Speakers

Feb 12 2008

Unk
""Skate America" Ice Championships Come to Everett"

Feb 19 2008

Boy Scout Troop 301
"This is the troop we have sponsored for 10 years"

Feb 26 2008

Belete Gebre
"His school construction project Ethiopia"

Upcoming Events

District 5030 Conference

May 16 2008 - May 18 2008

News

Edmonds Waterfront Festival

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activity for matching funds for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant to complete Rotary's Polio Plus project, which I then intended to submit to the Foundation Board. Unfortunately, at the last moment, I was unable to attend. However, this delay will allow me to obtain additional information for my proposal.

Hopefully this interplay of information and ideas in the future will allow all members to understand how we can support each other towards a common goal of selected charitable projects.

On a different subject, your newsletter will attempt to publish condensed biographies of our new members. The full biographies can be found in the ANNEX.

Ambassadorial Scholar Monika

by Greiner, Kirk



Monica, our Ambassadorial Scholar sends her Christmas greeting:

Happy holidays from Budapest Hungary! It was great to make a presentation to your club last August. I've settled into a fabulous full-time job with a media company and so I'm working lots. It's been great so far (3 mo, & counting), but doesn't beat my year as an Ambassadorial Scholar - truly the best year of my life. Thanks again Rotary!! I hope you all have a wonderful 2008 & I'll be in touch (The photo is with my parents & sister. I'm on the right) Best regards, Monica

Biographies of Members

by Kirk Greiner

Last year we started collecting biographies of all members. The response was less than overwhelming. New members should be given the opportunity to know who the older members are, what their professions are or were, and a little of their personal background. The bios which were received are posted in the ANNEX to the web site.

Where we get new members bios, an excerpt of them will be placed in the newsletter, and the full bio will be placed in the ANNEX.

Help us learn a little more about who we are as members. Write a short bio of yourself today and email it to me

kirk@maritimeconsultant.com

Joel Phillipps, a new member

by Joel Phillipps



Born April 22nd, 1970, I grew up in the Meadowdale area and attended Meadowdale Elementary, Middle, and High Schools.

August 25th, 1986. I was riding my bicycle with a friend when I struck a car and was almost killed. That experience taught me to cherish every moment as it could be my last. I went on to attend the University of Washington where I graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics. I spent the final year of college at the University of Tubingen in Germany. I then traveled to Japan where I taught English for 5 years.

I married my wonderful Japanese wife, Akiko Kosugi on December 3rd, 1994

On January 17th, 1995 at 5:46 a.m., my wife and I awoke to a violent shaking. A large earthquake destroyed the nearby city of Kobe and

also the school where I worked. I saw first-hand how in the face of government inaction, individuals and groups (probably Rotarians) provided relief and comfort for their fellow citizens in Kobe.

After the earthquake, we relocated to the city of Kyoto, which was the ancient capital of Japan for 1200 years.

In 1998, we moved back to the U.S. and settled into a home in Shoreline. I started working at a large national bank as a Teller and then moved up to Personal Banker for five years.

Last June, I left the big bank and joined Shoreline Bank, a local community bank as a Community Banker.

Joel's full biography is in the ANNEX of our web site.

Nataliya Semez, a new member

by Nataliya V. Semez

I was born and raised in the Ukraine. I moved to the US in the fall of 1996. My daughter was only two and half years old at that time and we learned English together through watching Sesame Street and other educational programs for children that not only explained what words mean, but also many things about American history and culture. I never stopped learning since then.



Today I am a single mother of a 13-year old daughter.

After getting married and having a baby we lived in a house on the outskirts of a small town where we did not have running water or an indoor plumbing. I have a unique opportunity not to only have a job that I love, but to give back to those who did not have the chance I did and now can only hope for a miracle.

I work for a non-profit organization called The Max Foundation. Our mission is to improve the lives of patients with blood cancer in the resource poor countries. I personally work with patients and their families from countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and also am a "one person" development department that focuses on fundraising and public relations. I feel like becoming a member of the Edmonds Rotary Club is also a very unique opportunity for me and the foundation to connect to the community we live and work in, because together we can make a difference.

Interests: outdoors, water sports, snowboarding, movies, music, and art. Fluent in English, Russian and Ukrainian languages.

Education:

Vinnitsa Medical College (Ukraine): Honors Diploma in Laboratory Science (1996)

Renton Technical College: Certificate in Surgical Technology (1998)

University of Washington: BA in International Studies (Political Economy Track) (2004)

University Of Washington Extension: Certificate in Project Management (2007)

Professional:

Regional Medical Hospital, (Voronovitsa, Ukraine): *Executive Administrative Assistant* for the Chief of Hospital (1990-1992)

Group Health Cooperative Hospital, OR: *Surgical Technologist* (1999-2003)

The Max Foundation: *Development Officer* (2004 - present): Joined the team as a GIPAP Program Officer in 2004, overlooking the program in Eastern Europe and part of the Asia Pacific regions. Additional responsibilities: managing editor of The Max Foundation newsletter

and website content, fundraising.

Contributions to our Foundation in 2007-2008

by Kirk Greiner

This past year was a banner year for our Foundation. This was not only because we had the highest Auction net ever thanks to many people who contributed their time, but also because of the donations of items to auction.

The Auction netted about about \$27,000 of which approximately \$16,000 was paid for scholarships in August.

Cash donations to the Foundation totaled \$3441 were received from the following people in alphabetical order.

Ruth Beckett	LOT Design Group
Vern Chase	Thomas Poyneer
Elizabeth Crouch	Sharalyn Ramm
Janice Freeman	Debbie Rice
Kirk Greiner	Donald Schultz
Pauline Gubbles	Oliver Schultz
Brent Hagen	Carl Swenson
Staser Holcomb	David Zhou (Allstate)
Alex Hopkins	

The donors specified their donations as follows:

General unrestricted fund	\$742
Scholarship fund	\$1200
Endowment fund	\$1433

The Gambia Water and Vegetable Garden Project

by Lamin Manneh

The Gambia, the smallest in Africa, sustains about a million and a half people in a long, very thin area of land, totally surrounded by much larger Senegal. The Gambia's borders are never more than fifteen miles away from its river, and yet access to adequate water and irrigation is a constant battle for the 85% of the population who farm the land.

Salt from the river ruins crops and soil fertility is low. Most of Gambia's GDP comes from agriculture, not tourism. 71% of the agricultural workers are women, producing 99% of upland rice. They do it without any mechanization.

Statistics prove half the rural population cannot maintain an adequate diet. The three months when the rain does fall, June-September are in fact the hungriest. Women struggle to grow the rice and also vegetables. Men concentrate on groundnut production, and millet growing, sheep and goat production. By August people's grain stores are often empty; food is generally scarce and expensive. Almost half of Gambia's annual food requirement is imported, and beyond the reach of the poor.

I reflected on these statistics as I live in Gambia for 25 years and my mother worked in vegetable garden and rice fields to feed the entire family and pay my school fees. She was able to be an independent and successful woman through hard work in the farms. She now runs her own small business with my sister.

In their ardent strive to break the cycle of dependency (women depending entirely on their husbands for basic necessities of life),

reduce poverty and enhance food security, 700 women from Alkali Kunda, Kachang and Illiassa, in the upper Badibou District of The Gambia, have developed the idea of agricultural enterprise such as vegetable production with little help from the Methodist Agricultural Mission. They have completed digging three 30 foot wells and erected a fence against wandering animals using local conventional materials in a 9-hectare vegetable garden.

These women are unable to meet their productivity target and attain food security due to acute shortage of water. They usually line in long cues and laboriously fetch muddy water from the 3 wells to water their fruits and vegetables. They don't have any pumping or sprinkler devices.

The Edmonds Rotary Club (lunch club) recently approved \$2000.00 to help alleviate the plight of these women by providing 15 additional wells in the garden. The project is seeking another \$3000.00 from interested Rotary clubs (who would like to partner with Edmonds) or individual Rotarians in order to apply for \$20,000.00 matching grant from the international Rotary Foundation.

A successful funding and implementation of this project will go a long way in alleviating poverty, improve the nutritional status of women and children, and increase household income. This is the way forward in the empowerment of rural women and the girl child.

If you would like to help raise the much needed \$3000.00 or want to know more about this project or provide support in anyway, feel free to contact Lamin Manneh at laminm@provail.org . or 206 604 8473

[Editors note: Individuals who wish to make tax deductible contributions to assist this project may make them through the Edmonds Rotary Foundation by designating their contribution for the "Gambia Project". The money will be routed to the Rotary Club of Banjul to assist with this project.]

Club News - Web Site Annex

by Kirk Greiner

If you are interested in what your directors are doing, our finances, what the Foundation is doing or its finances, or more, go to the Club's web site, log on and you will find yourself in the Admin tab (the tabs are on the top bar). In the upper left of the screen is a yellow box. Click on "View Club Documents" at the bottom of the yellow frame. In the next screen, then click of "Click Here to View Documents." You are now in the Annex section which contains lots of Club and Foundation information - Board Minute, Treasurer's Reports, back issues of the Backwash, Club History and more.

Having trouble with the web site. Call Kirk - 425-640-3048.