Rotary District 7620
Newsletter
FEBRUARY 2017

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ROTARY INITIATIVE TO STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

By Governor Anna-Mae Kobbe

During my installation address as Governor, I announced plans to host a forum on human trafficking. Unfortunately, sex and labor trafficking are happening in District 7620. We also have some of the most exciting programs and interventions in place in our communities to address this critical issue.

Learn more about trafficking and what is being done to combat this crime in Maryland and Washington, DC on Saturday, March 11 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. If you know someone in your community working on this issue or with a keen interest in the topic, invite them to attend with you. The forum will be held at the College Park Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. Pre-registration is required. To register go to www.rotary7620.org.

The Forum will feature Jeanne Allert, Founder and Executive Director of The Samaritan Women, Baltimore and Maryland State Trooper Sgt. Debbie Flory. Both are outstanding speakers who will help participants understand the scope of trafficking. Hear from key leaders working to stop trafficking: Maryland Senator Susan Lee (invited), Michael Lyles, Executive Director of the Prince George’s County Human Rights Commission, Laura Ardito, Deputy Director of the University of Maryland Baltimore and College Park campuses SAFE (Support, Advocacy, Freedom, & Empowerment) Center for Human Trafficking Survivors, and a representative of the Frederick County Human Trafficking Task Force. Everyone has a role to play in ending human trafficking. Forum participants will explore ways to partner with those working to make a difference in Central Maryland and Washington, DC.

Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked worldwide. Eighty percent are female and half are children according to US State Department statistics.

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GOVERNOR’S REPORT

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Our district will be joining other Rotarians who are educating themselves and exploring ways to respond. Rotary members in over 65 countries are members of the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery. For more information, check out http://ragas.online/.

At the 2014 Rotary Zone 33/34 Institute, several us from District 7620 attended a session that made us aware of the magnitude of this problem and highlighted programs being put in place to stop trafficking and to assist survivors that escape slavery.

During the 2017 Rotary International Convention in Atlanta, Rotarians can participate in a candlelight vigil to bring awareness to what Rotarians can do to help end trafficking and slavery and join in a moment of silence for victims. The vigil will be held Saturday, June 10. The event is free but registration is required at www.rotaryconvention2017.org.

CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

You are invited:
March 8, 2017
8:30 to 11:30 am
World Bank Headquarters
1818 H. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433
Preston Auditorium
Coordinated by Rotary International in partnership with the World Bank Staff Association, Oppenheimer, and District 7620. The session will feature a panel of women whose work is making a difference in the world.

Rotarians and friends of Rotary are invited to attend this free event. Registration will be required. Space is limited. Details on how to register will be shared via email, Facebook, and the Rotary District web site as soon as it is available.

ROUNIVERSITY INSTITUTES (RLI) ON FEBRUARY 25 AND APRIL 28

By PDG Bob Parkinson, District RLI Chair

Save the Date! Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) Seminars 25 February in Towson and 28 April in LaPlata.

What is RLI? Organized and run by Rotarians independently of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation, we provide a series of seminars that encourage and develop your personal skills related to what we do in Rotary as well as your business and personal life. They are an opportunity for you to expand your knowledge of Rotary to its worldwide implications of Service above Self.

The purpose of the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is to strengthen you and your club in what we do, locally and globally. RLI provides a learning experience in the areas of leadership,
team building, planning, marketing, communication and organization, not just for Rotary, but for you in your personal and business lives. RLI provides an opportunity to enrich that learning through sharing experiences and ideas with other Rotarians throughout the region.

Who are the faculty for your experience? Bob Nelson, Pam Kreis, Peter Kyle, Mark Milby, Bruce Fowler, Ken Montville, Barton Goldenberg, Tom Neff, Diane Marsden, Jay Kumar, Paul Mahata, Suzanne Green, Ronnie Davis, Rodney Boudreaux and Bob Parkinson from 7620. Recognize any of these folks? They are the core of the lively discourse in our seminars.

We are also enhanced by many facilitators from our adjoining Rotary districts, 7610 and 7630. This is a fun group and we invite you to sign up and challenge us in our seminars. Our next scheduled seminar is 25 February 2017, at Goucher College in Towson. Fantastic way to get the personal understanding of what Rotary is about from other Rotarian’s perspective.

Our schedule and venues are posted on www.rli33.org. The remaining two seminars in 7620 are:

**February 25, 2017 Towson MD (Saturday)**

**April 28, 2017 La Plata MD (Friday)**

On the registration website there are the postings for the seminars in 7610 and 7630 that may be closer or on a date that is more compatible with your busy schedule. Go there and check us out!

Any questions or comments – please contact Bob Parkinson at 301-751-2114 or bobparkinson@hughes.net

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at one of these seminars in the Winter and Spring.
DYNAMIC DISTRICT CONFERENCE SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED

By Governor Anna-Mae Kobbe

Dynamic speakers will headline the 2017 Rotary District Conference May 5-7, 2017. Dr. Sylvia Whitlock of La Verne, California will share her journey in Rotary. Dr. Whitlock joined Rotary before women were eligible for membership. She became the first woman to serve as a Rotary club president once women were admitted to Rotary International and became District Governor of District 5300 2012-2013. She will share her story and a piece of Rotary’s history that changed Rotary for all.

Susan ZW (Zachensky-Walthall) is the District Governor Nominee in District 7600. Susan’s Rotary career began in California where she was a ten-year member of the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa. After moving to Virginia, she became a member of the Rotary Club of Lawrenceville. She has served as Club President, Area Governor, and will serve as District Governor in 2018-2019. She was the kickoff speaker at the 2014 Rotary Zone 33-34 training sharing her inspirational speech entitled, “My Rotary Story.” Since then, she has been a frequent speaker at Rotary clubs and conferences throughout the East Coast.

Rotary International President John Germ will send his representative to the conference. As soon as he names what is commonly referred to as “the RI Rep” we will publish the speaker’s name.

ANNAPOLIS CHEERS FOR CHRISTMAS COMPOST

By Mary Felter

For about five years the Rotary Club of Annapolis and Annapolis Green Inc., an environmental group, have worked together to recycle and/or compost all the refuge and trash from the annual Rotary Club Crab Feast held each August. The crab feast has more than 2,000 people eating more than 300 bushels of crabs and more – a lot of waste! But the challenging goal of making the event a Zero Waste project has succeeded.

Annapolis Green (and Rotary) enjoyed some Compost Fame this past December – the co-founders, Lynne Forsman and Elvia Thompson, had the clever idea of selling the compost created from the crab feast as a unique holiday gift.

First, the Capital newspaper in Annapolis published the news about the holiday gift idea, and then second, WBAL – TV Channel 11 in Baltimore visited and interviewed the organizers. The coverage was aired at least four days by the station, and compost sales rocketed. On the previous Thursday, the environmentalists had sold six buckets (they are about five gallons and weigh about 25 pounds). Suddenly the sales jumped to more than 120 buckets. Each bag and bucket had a card attached that tells the story of the crab feast going to Zero Waste.

“Truly, we thought we’d sell about 30 to 40,” said Ms. Forsman. “At every opportunity, we’ve promoted our terrific relationship and partnership with the Annapolis Rotary.”

The WBAL video can be found at http://www.wbaltv.com/article/video-crabby-dirt-makes-for-a-unique-christmas-idea/8481110. The 72nd annual crab feast will be held August 4 at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. Visit www.annapolisrotary.org for ticket information by early June. Rotary Club of Annapolis usually raises about $70,000, which is granted to about 30 community charitable organizations. For more information on Annapolis Green Inc., visit www.annapolisgreen.com.
By Ian Riseley, 2017-18 President, Rotary International

In 2017-18, we will answer the question “What is Rotary?” with the theme **Rotary: Making a Difference**. However each of us chooses to serve, we do it because we know our service makes a difference in the lives of others. Whether we are building a new playground or a new school, improving medical care or sanitation, training conflict mediators or midwives, we know that the work we do will change people’s lives — in ways large and small — for the better. Whatever motivation each of us had for joining Rotary, it is the satisfaction we find in Rotary that causes us to remain, the satisfaction of knowing that week by week, year by year, we are part of **Rotary: Making a Difference**.
YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM’S BIGGEST YEAR YET

By Chris Perlick, Chair, District 7620 Youth Exchange

D7620 Youth Exchange Program is having a banner year. We currently have 4 Inbound students: They hail from Chile, Taiwan, Brazil and Germany. We will have a total of 7 students going outbound this coming August. Their destinations are: Croatia, Japan, Belgium, Chile, Bosnia, and 2 going to Denmark. That means that in August 2017, we will have 7 new Inbound students (countries TBD). The success needs to be attributed to the Clubs, Counselors, and YEP Committee Team in contributed valuable time with families and students to ensure a safe and vibrant program. We re-branded the program in 2017. It has been shaped into a Premier Scholarship recognition Program, whereby the students receive multiple recognitions from the YEP Leaders and their respective overseas counterparts. Prior students receiving this recognition have benefitted greatly in College acceptance and scholarship opportunities. The picture identifies those students recently selected to go abroad in August. These students represent both D7620 and our partner D7390 Outbounds (16 in total)!!! If you know families who have sons and daughters that might benefit from this program or who want to enrich their lives by hosting an inbound this coming school year - BE A PART OF CHANGING LIVES - CALL CHRIS PERLICK at 301-904-7721 or EMAIL cperlick@hotmail.com TO VOLUNTEER WITH THIS PROGRAM!!!

IN MEMORIAM: JUDGE LAWRENCE MARGOLIS, GOVERNOR 1991-92

Judge Lawrence S. Margolis, of the United States Court of Federal Claims, died Wednesday, January 18, 2017. The cause of death was acute cardiovascular illness. In 1971, he was appointed a Magistrate-Judge for U.S. District Court in Washington, DC. In 1982, President Ronald Reagan appointed Judge Margolis to the United States Court of Federal Claims, where he served as an active judge for 31 years and remained on recall through 2016. Judge Margolis was a member of Philadelphia’s Central High School Hall of Fame, and a Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award winner from both Drexel University, and George Washington University Law School, where he was instrumental in saving the night school. He held leadership positions at the Washington, DC Rotary Club and Rotary International, the American Bar Association, the DC Bar, the University Club, and many other organizations. His extraordinary service to Rotary earned him “Rotarian of the Decade.” He was a humanitarian and active volunteer at many local entities, including Center for Inspired Teaching, the Inspired Teaching Demonstration Public Charter School, Theodore Roosevelt High School, Washington Civic Opera, and Rotaract, and often sat as a Moot Court Judge for law students at a number of universities. He was a frequent speaker on the law, both in the U.S. and abroad. Judge Margolis was the son of the late Reuben and Mollie Margolis, and is survived by his wife Doris, their children: Paul and Jennifer Margolis, Aleta Margolis and Michael Brodsky, and grandchildren Isabel and Mira Margolis Brodsky. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Rotary Foundation of Washington, DC, Central High School in Philadelphia, PA, or Center for Inspired Teaching.
NINE ROTARY CLUBS START A CLEAN WATER PROJECT IN INDIA

By Paul Mahata, Ph.D., Past President, Rotary Club of Mount Airy

Currently, the majority of rural people in Purulia district (within the West Bengal state of India) must draw water from dug wells with rope, pulley and bucket and physically carry to their homes every day. The Rotary project will change this age-old practice by providing a pump and filtration system to deliver piped clean drinking water. For more information on this project, please visit www.MountAiryRotary.org, or contact Project Manager Paul Mahata, at Pmahata@verizon.net.

DONATED VEHICLE PROGRAM NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION

By Earl Copus, Jr.

Let’s start our Rotary Year, 2017, with every District Club making a resolution to have at least one vehicle donation. Look at the example what this would mean for the District Polio contribution, Club Community Projects and Melwood serving individuals with different abilities. Not to overlook Melwood’s respected therapy program for our Veterans dealing with post-traumatic stress. Based on Melwood’s historical vehicle “auction value” of $1,000, like the recent Lake Shore Rotary Club vehicle selling for $1,100, where we see the Club receiving $450(41%), the District $300(27%), Melwood $250(23%) and a towing-auction expense of $99(10%). With some 62 District 7620 Clubs, at an average of only ONE (1) vehicle per Club a gross earning of an estimated $62,000 would mean: Club Projects: $25,000; District Polio Contribution: $17,000; Melwood Project management and its programs: $14,000; and towing-auction $6,000. WE CAN DO IT by each Club making the resolution to remind Club members, their family, friends, and business associates of the good that comes from donating that no longer needed vehicle. It is so easy and simple with Melwood arranging the vehicle pick up, coordinating the auction sale, and, thereafter processing the IRS required paper work. Yes, there is so much good for so little effort. Just call 1-844-686-7620 or go online http://goo.gl/dl3Pji. Remember, when making a donation to inform Melwood the name of your club. May all have a prosperous New Year 2017. Rotarian Earl Copus, Jr. ecopus@live.com.

POST-SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

By Neil Fay

All clubs are invited to submit one candidate as a finalist for one of two competitive $5000 scholarships provided by District 7620. The deadline for candidate package submission is March 17, 2017. The application and instructions are posted on the District website under the headings of “Foundation” and then “Scholarships/Fellowships.” To be eligible, applicants must reside in our district, not be related to a Rotarian, and plan to start enrollment (First Year) in an accredited US college, university or technical school for AY2017-2018. Local Rotary Clubs will review their applicants and forward their finalist to the District Post-Secondary Scholarship Review Committee. Finalists will interview at the District level on April 29, 2017. Scholarship funds will be sent to the academic institution of winning scholars to cover tuition, room, board and books. District point of contact is Neil Fay at neilfay302@gmail.com.
“Hope is the expectation of better things — a polio-free world, a world without hunger, universal peace. It is the spark that keeps a man going, whatever his station. Without it, life is nothing more than existence in despair.”

-M.A.T. Caparas, 1986-1987 Rotary International President

February is Rotary Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month

IN MEMORIAM: PRINCE FREDERICK ROTARIAN DR. EUGENE KAROL

“It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. Eugene Karol. Dr. Eugene Karol, a leader, Statesman, Educator, mentor, quiet philanthropist, loving father, husband and friend—passed away with his family and the Lord at his side on January 26, 2017. Gene Karol was an institution in Calvert County. His life was one of total and complete service to others. Gene’s passion and drive to teach, mentor and seek equality for all children in and out of the classroom was his gift from God and his gift to others. Gene’s wisdom, leadership and selfless contributions to Calvert County changed the shape of the Calvert public schools, brought awareness to issues facing our citizens and impacted the business community in a personal way. He was a longtime member of the Chamber and a recipient of our most coveted award, the John C. Smith Public Service Award. Gene will be forever missed in our hearts and by many thousands in our County. Our collective prayers are with Vicky and his family.”


IN MEMORIAM: GAITHERSBURG ROTARIAN LINDA HANSON

“The members of the Rotary Club of Gaithersburg are in mourning for the loss of our member and Immediate Past President, Linda M. Hanson. In our meeting on January 17th, Linda was happy that she and her husband, John, were going to take a 30-day cruise to Australia and New Zealand. Linda fell ill after a few days at sea and died in a hospital in New Zealand. The couple’s children have flown there to accompany their father in these days of sadness and in completing the bureaucratic procedures that such an event involves. Our hearts go out to the entire Hanson family. Linda was our Immediate Past President, a member of the club’s Board of Directors, and active especially in our Memorial Day Flags fundraiser and in our club for students in Quince Orchard High School. Also she was the Executive Director of Gaithersburg Help and a long-time volunteer in the Adventist bookstore in Gaithersburg.”


LAPLATA ROTARY PROVIDES BOOKS THROUGH A “LITTLE FREE LIBRARY”

By Governor Anna-Mae Kobbe

Rotary Club of La Plata provides books through a “Little Free Library’. This library is located in a local restaurant in La Plata. The Little Free Library provides a way for people to give and receive books others no longer need. Love that Rotary logo on the library.