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THIS ARTICLE IS LONG OVERDUE...



If you've seen this fella traipsing around the club on Monday nights (don't be alarmed ☺), it's none other than our newest member Sean Duffy.

Sean is the Department Chair of the Political Science department at Quinnipiac University, but is well regarded in the university community for his extraordinary service to the university.

In addition to teaching Political Science and International Affairs, Sean played a lead role in developing an undergraduate seminar series specifically to help all matriculated students explore their role in the community at an individual, national, and global scale.

In his spare time ☺, Sean also advises several student clubs including Student Government, the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, both the QU Democrats and Republicans, and several others. Sean also sits on a number of faculty committees including those of the Schweitzer Institute.



Sean's current service interests have taken him to Israel and Palestine to explore ways a peaceful existence can be brought about between the two governments. Sean also frequents Nicaragua to promote the Schweitzer Institute programs there.

We're very fortunate to have him as a member of our club, and well all wish him welcome.

HAITI UPDATE FROM COLIN GERSHON

Thank you for all the support for our Haitian Relief Initiative. We have raised almost \$30,000 so far. You can check the list of donors on the district website. We have another meeting of the Board of Directors of the District 7980 Foundation, Inc. will take place next Wednesday evening to review the situation. We have already wired \$20,000 to the Haiti Relief Committee of Rotary District 4060 for medical supplies and food and shelter in the Port-au-Prince area.

IMPORTANT MEETING REMINDER

Please keep in mind that next week's meeting will be held at the Turkish Cultural Center in West Haven.

[727 Campbell Ave, West Haven CT 06516](#)

TAG SALE UPDATE

We're beginning to make progress on the tag sale. I took some time Saturday afternoon to visit with Ms. Jackie over at [The Lamp Shoppe](#) and brought a few things along with me. I'm sure this will be the first of several trips for me. LinKa beat me to it, as she herself was the first member of the club to drop off tag sale items.

There's still a tremendous amount of organizing to do, but there are several things I'd like the club to be thinking about over the next several weeks.

- ☞ What's in your basement or attic that you really need to get rid of, but is too good to throw away? Please consider donating these kinds of things to the club. Whatever we don't sell gets donated to the Salvation Army.
- ☞ For those folks who love to participate in Amber Alert ID sessions, this tag sale will be a wonderful way to show off your best to the rest of the club, and get a bunch of kids registered at the same time.
- ☞ Did you know we're also having a silent auction during the tag sale? Tom Hylinski already put his infamous Yankees tickets in the mix. (Bid high folks.) Is there something of value to you that would be a real winner in our silent auction?

I'm getting really excited for this event. It's a great way to raise money for the club, and simultaneously expose the community to a very worthwhile local service project.

We need your stuff, and we need your support!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.
Eric.Lind@electricity.com or 203.315.0295

CALGARY CLUB DELIVERS KIDS' OLYMPIC WISH

By Ryan Hyland Rotary International News -- 11 February 2010

A Rotary club chartered during the last Winter Olympics in Canada has teamed up with a charity to make wishes come true for six children with life-threatening illnesses.



As the Olympic Games return to the country this month, The Rotary Club of Calgary Olympic, Alberta, is working with the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada to provide accommodations for the children, ages 4-14, so they can attend.

"Our club wanted to do something special since the Olympics are back in Canada," says Tamara McCarron, club member and project chair. "We are thrilled to make a difference in these children's lives. It's a dream come true for them and for me."

This year's games will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia. With most of the area's hotels booked, McCarron found Home for the Games, a website that matches visitors with Vancouver hosts for short-term homestays. The club spent US\$30,000 for lodging for the six families. Home for the Games funnels 50 percent of the housing fees to charities that help the homeless in Vancouver.

"I was lucky enough to come across an ad in *The Rotarian* magazine for Home for the Games. It's a win, win, win for our club, the Children's Wish Foundation, and local charities of Vancouver," says McCarron, who joined the club last year. "It's a huge effort, but having the resources of Rotary made things a lot smoother."

The six families, who live in different parts of Canada, will attend several events at the games from 12 to 28 February, including the highly anticipated men's gold medal hockey game.

The Children's Wish Foundation worked with Olympic officials to allow one of the girls to pick up flowers thrown into the rink by spectators during a figure skating medal round.

"We're creating a legacy for these children and their families," says Tara Johnson, the club's community service chair. "This project is very symbolic of what Rotary does for people who live at a disadvantage."

"The assistance and support of Rotarians from across Canada, specifically those from the Rotary Club of Calgary Olympic, have made it possible to send the children to share an unforgettable Olympic experience with their families," says Lyanne Goulin, director of the foundation.

WHEELCHAIR RAMP PROJECT STRENGTHENS CLUB

By Antoinette Tuscano Rotary International News -- 9 February 2010

On a hot day about 13 years ago, as the mercury hit 100 degrees Fahrenheit, Rotarian Roy Gandy delivered an air conditioner to a polio survivor.

As Gandy was leaving, he saw the man crawl across his lawn to get to his truck and realized that without a wheelchair ramp, the man had no other way to leave his house on his own.

Moved by the sight, Gandy, a member of the Rotary Club of Madison County, Georgia, USA, returned a week later to build the man a 24-foot-long ramp that met [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) specifications. Since then, Gandy and other members of his Rotary club have built more than 400 wheelchair ramps.

"You can't imagine how some of these people are really hurting," says Gandy of the recipients, most of whom would be isolated without a ramp. Even if recipients have a spouse, the spouses are often elderly and are not strong enough to lift them out of the house on their own.

A wheelchair ramp can cost as much as \$1,500 to have a contractor build, and many of the people in Gandy's rural community can't afford that. In the United States, if someone is not a war veteran, that person may not be eligible for federal funds for a ramp. And Gandy said state and local funds are typically unavailable in the Madison area.

At a cost of just \$300 to \$600 for materials, Gandy and his fellow club members build ramps for those who don't qualify for federal funds. The recipient pays nothing, although some decide to make small donations.

At first, Gandy didn't think his club would be building so many ramps, because the community only has about 25,000 people. But as word spread and the local newspaper printed an article on the effort, Gandy's club received more and more requests.

By necessity, club members have become more efficient. What once was an all-day project now takes a crew of 20 members less than two hours. The club owns a trailer loaded with everything needed, including a generator.

"It's gotten so we've done enough of them that we pull the trailer up and everyone knows what to do," Gandy says. "I'm so pleased with the program. It's a wonderful way to serve the community."

But the program has done more than help the community: It has also strengthened the club by attracting younger members who want to be part of the ramp-building effort, Gandy says.

JOKE OF THE WEEK

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a grave side service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Kentucky back-country.

As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost; and being a typical man I didn't stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight.

There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place.



I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man.

And as I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low my heart was full.

As I was opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "Sweet Mother of Jesus, I never seen nothin' like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

MEETING SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Event
Mon	Feb 15 th	Members of the club will be discussing their religious backgrounds.
Sat	Feb 20 th	District Foundation Seminar – Four Points Sheraton in Meriden.
Mon	Feb 22nd	Rotary's 105 th Anniversary Meeting to be held at: The Turkish Cultural Center in West Haven 727 Campbell Ave, West Haven CT 06516 CLICK FOR DIRECTIONS
Sat	Feb 27 th	District Leadership Seminar
Sat	Mar 13 th	World Rotaract Day
Mon	Mar 15 th	Student of the Month
Mon	Apr 12 th	Student of the Month
Sat	Apr 17 th	District Assembly – Meriden
Sat	Apr 24th	Community Tag Sale Fundraiser with Amber Alert Registrations and the Gas Card Raffle drawing Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church @ 600 Shepard Ave.
Fri-Sun	Apr 30 th -May 2 nd	District Conference – Burlington VT
Mon	May 10 th	Student of the Month
Sun-Wed	Jun 20 th – 23 rd	International Convention Montreal

Of the things we think, say, or do...

