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A MEETING NOT TO MISS

In case you haven't been paying close attention to the calendar, Sonny Ryan (owner of the Playwright) is coming to speak to us this week about some of the many things he does for the Irish-American community locally.

Word on the street is there's going to be a very special surprise involved.

I don't think you want to miss this meeting folks.

TAG SALE UPDATE

Things are starting to come together for the tag sale.

I was at Jackie's shop yesterday pricing things that haven't been priced, and there's a lot I haven't gotten to yet, but we still need more items.

Jackie is beginning to run out of room to store things, so I think we'll say one more week of this and then anything left to bring to the tag sale should probably be brought directly there on the day of the event, or the day before. If you're planning to wait until then, please take a little time and stick a price tag on your things. I know both Rich and Mohammad have some things they're going to bring over to the event themselves.

I'll be taking the 22nd and 23rd off from work to prep for the event. On the 22nd I'll be at Jackie's shop pricing anything else that needs pricing. On the 23rd, I'll move everything over to Owen's church. If anyone is able, I'd very much appreciate some help on either day.

I also had a very nice conversation with Chuck Beebe the other day. Both he and his wife Carol are planning to come to the event to help, and they may well bring some of the Beacon Falls club with them. He wanted me to make sure I told you all hello.

And while I'm on the subject of people planning to come, several of our friends from the Turkish Cultural Center are planning to come and help, as well as some of the Rotaractors. Linka has also been in touch with the Interactors, and I think some of them may join us as well.

Needless to say, there's a tremendous amount happening. I have to extend my sincere thanks to a number of the members for facilitating my sanity. This is both for past services, and advance gratitude. ☺

Ms. Jackie – For keeping all of our stuff! Thank goodness for you and your warehouse!

Owen – For the space and the great ideas!

Cathy – For managing multiple emails per day from me; despite being smack in the middle of Tax Season.

Betsy & Al – For all the wonderful things you've brought, and priced.

Linka & Chip – For all the wonderful things you've brought (many of which will end up in the Silent Auction), and your help in contacting the Interact club.

Joena – For asking really smart questions, making signs, and helping me keep my head straight.

Rich for such great work with the gas raffle.

And many many more of you...

This event is really going to be a wonderful way to show off the best of Rotary, and it's due to all your efforts.



ROTARACT ELECTS NEXT YEAR'S OFFICERS

I'm very pleased to announce the officer slate for next year's Rotaract Club:

President	Dave Marsteller	A young Rotarian from Pennsylvania.
Vice President	CarolAnn Kinnaw	An Editor for QUADNews.net , a student owned and run online newspaper.
Past President	Kristin Gabriel	Continuing on to her 5 th year for an MHA.
Secretary	Francesca Faretta	
Treasurer	Meryl Dweck	

PAKISTAN IN HIGH GEAR AGAINST POLIO

By Dan Nixon Rotary International News -- 9 April 2010

At the Inayat Foundation Academy for the Deaf in Lahore, Pakistan, children watch attentively as a teacher uses sign language to explain what polio is and the need to be immunized against it.

Afterward, members of the Rotary Club of Lahore Sharqi (East), Punjab, give the children pencils, badges, and other items bearing the words *Polio-Free Pakistan*.



The presentation, arranged by the club during Pakistan's National Immunization Days (NIDs) 15-17 February, illustrates the country's determination to reach every segment of society in the drive to eradicate the disease.

An estimated two million people on 90,000 immunization teams took part in the NIDs, vaccinating about 35 million children against polio. The effort marked the debut of the new bivalent oral polio vaccine in Pakistan, also in use in the other three remaining polio-endemic countries of Afghanistan, India, and Nigeria.

Pakistan PolioPlus Committee Chair Aziz Memon described the massive campaign as "trying to cover every nook and corner of the country," adding that "we are committed to a polio-free Pakistan."

Rotarians and other members of the family of Rotary teamed up with government agencies and businesses to support the NIDs in several ways:

- ℞ Local TV stations ran an End Polio Now message to help boost public awareness.
- ℞ Mobilink and Warid Telecom sent text messages to millions of subscribers, urging them to call a toll-free number to report areas not reached by immunization teams.
- ℞ Pakistan Postal Services, the National Highways and Motorway Police, and the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority provided immunization sites to vaccinate children who otherwise would have been missed.
- ℞ Rotarians organized a conference for Pakistan's Muslim leaders, who declared their full support for polio eradication. Announcements were made in all mosques and Islamic schools, urging that every child be immunized.
- ℞ The Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication in Pakistan, which has received significant funding from Rotary, was recently awarded a certificate of appreciation by the World Health Organization for high-quality diagnostic services to Pakistan and Afghanistan. The lab has achieved a 100 percent proficiency rating for several years and never scored below 99 percent.
- ℞ Rotary and Coca-Cola Pakistan joined in promoting polio immunization on 20 prominent billboards across the country. Waqas Advertisers provided an additional 20 billboards in Karachi.
- ℞ More than 100 journalists were given background training on health issues in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas to encourage coverage of these topics, especially polio.

Rehana Baray, president of the Lahore Sharqi (East) club, was part of a team that immunized 2,000 children during the NIDs.

"Next time you serve the drops, please do look into the eyes of the child," she says. "Then thank God that you belong to a great and rare organization."

ROTARIANS IN KOREA ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By Antoinette Tuscano Rotary International News -- 8 April 2010
Excerpted from the 2010 English edition of *The Rotary Korea*

Korean Rotarians were active in a wide range of projects last year that helped advance the mission of The Rotary Foundation, including helping to turn remnants of the Korean War into a lasting symbol of peace.

Several Korean clubs collected empty gun cartridges to be melted down and used to make a 37.5-ton bell that is now the central feature of the World Peace Bell Park in Hwacheon-gun. Cartridges from conflicts in 29 other countries, including Ethiopia, Israel, and the Philippines, were also used in the bell.

The park, near the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea, was dedicated during a ceremony in May attended by former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

With the help of Rotary Foundation [Matching Grants](#), Koreans in District 3640 also funded heart surgeries for 240 children through Gift of Life International. Districts 3630 and 3650 funded heart surgeries for 134 children from Mongolia. Gift of Life is run through the efforts of Rotary clubs worldwide.

Other projects that Rotarians in Korea participated in last year contributing to The Foundation's mission of advancing world understanding, goodwill and peace included:

- ℞ Sending a 19-member team organized by District 3690 on a National Immunization Day in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, India, to vaccinate children against [polio](#).
- ℞ Organizing a festival on 24 October in Seoul City Hall Square to promote Rotary and its programs. Rotaractors handed out [What's Rotary?](#) wallet cards and information about the End Polio Now campaign during the event, which drew more than 10,000 people and raised almost US\$1,000.
- ℞ Providing medical equipment and an ambulance to Cagayan de Oro City Hospital in the Philippines through a \$48,000 [Matching Grant](#) project between the Rotary clubs of Daegu-Dongshin, Daegu, and West Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental.
- ℞ Cleaning up the Keumgang River with the help of 120 volunteers from the Rotary Club of Ogcheon, Chungcheongbug. The Rotarians removed about 2 tons of garbage from the river.



KIDS RAISING PENNIES TO FIGHT POLIO

By Peter Schmidtke Rotary International News -- 5 April 2010

With the help of friends, 11-year-old Tyler Dorsey is collecting thousands of pennies to help in Rotary's effort to eradicate polio.

After Tyler heard about a man in Alabama, USA, who had cashed in 1.3 million pennies in 2005 for \$13,000 in paper bills, he set out to surpass that feat and give the money to PolioPlus.

Though the children have not reached the million-penny mark yet, Tyler, Aida Alonso, Lindsey Hutchinson, and Connor Smith presented a check in February for \$1,008.04 to Shane Burr, governor of District 6910 (Georgia), and Gary Moore, district PolioPlus subcommittee chair. They will turn another check over to the district after 30 June and plan on continuing to raise funds for polio eradication after that.

The foursome started collecting pennies in July in memory of Wilford Ash, a local educator who had contracted polio as a child. The friends, members of the Better Home Town Junior Board in Cleveland, Georgia, also plan on selling jigsaw puzzles with historic scenes of Cleveland and donating a portion of the proceeds to PolioPlus.

"I've just always wanted to help people," says Tyler, who said he is excited the pennies are helping more than 1,000 children. It costs as little as 60 cents to protect a child against polio.

"Just thinking about people not being able to walk is a very sad situation," says Aida.

To collect the pennies, the children distributed 20 jars and three plastic tubs among downtown businesses. The White County Fire Department donated a 5-gallon bucket of pennies, and White County Rotarians made contributions and picked up some of the containers.

Tyler learned about Rotary through Maria Jurado-Flynn, president of the Rotary Club of White County and executive director of Cleveland Better Home Town. Tyler's father, a police officer, had introduced him to Jurado-Flynn after Tyler expressed an interest in historic preservation. In addition to revitalizing downtown, Cleveland Better Home Town organizes community events, so Jurado-Flynn asked Tyler, then age nine, to chair an autumn festival. He later received permission to create his own junior board and attended several Rotary club meetings.

On his own initiative, Tyler hosted a food drive last year that netted two truckloads of items and \$1,800, including donations from Rotarians.

"He's really fallen in love with what Rotary does, and I really think it's helped shape who he is becoming," says Jurado-Flynn. "It's going to shape what these kids do for the rest of their lives."

INTERACT CLUB COOKS UP A TASTY FUNDRAISER

By Arnold R. Grahl Rotary International News -- 31 March 2010

Interactors in Oregon, USA, have found a tasty way to raise money for local and international service projects.

With the help of the sponsor Rotary Club of Bay Area Sunrise (Coos Bay-North Bend-Charleston), the Interactors at North Bend High School recently held their third annual Iron Chef competition, raising thousands of dollars to send their club president to Spain on a short-term Rotary Youth Exchange, support Shoes for Africa, and renovate a school study lounge.

Lynda Kristoffersen, liaison to the club and the district's Interact chair, came up with the idea after reading an article in the *New York Times* about similar contests held at dinner parties. The club's first try pitted a chef from the Oregon Coast Culinary Institute against a chef from a local restaurant in the basement of Kristoffersen's church.

"It was really low scale because if I was going to fall, I wanted to fall small," says Kristoffersen of the event, for which all 50 tickets sold out at \$40 each. The next year, the competition moved to the culinary institute, allowing for an expanded schedule of events. It also sold out, with all 100 tickets selling in 10 days.

"This year due to the economic times, we only sold 72 of our 100 tickets, but it was the best one ever," Kristoffersen says. "We instituted closed-circuit TV in all the rooms so if people were listening to the band or having a glass of wine or eating appetizers, they could still follow the competition."

Secret ingredient

For the contest, the two chefs create three entrees using two proteins the Interact club selects ahead of time, along with a bread, dessert, and salad. A secret ingredient -- this year's was Greek yogurt -- is revealed right before the competition "to shake things up a bit," says Kristoffersen.

Interactors and Rotarians help in the kitchen as sous-chefs cutting, dicing, and chopping as needed. While the main chefs are at work, sous-chefs perform a series of mini-contests, or "quick fires," such as guessing the ingredients in a dish or racing to be the first to shuck and clean oysters for a sauce.

A panel of judges scores the entrees to determine the year's Iron Chef. The audience is assured plenty of samples.

"There's tons of food," Kristoffersen says. "It's a full meal plus some."

The event serves as the main fundraiser for the Interact club. This year, in addition to revamping the school lounge, the club is giving some of the money to Shoes for Africa, the Interact district's international project. Half the money raised each year is used to send the club president-elect on a Youth Exchange.



THE CHARM



"Our president-elect will go to Spain for 30 days and then the person she stays with will come here to her house and stay 30 days," says Kristoffersen. "It is intended to build awareness of other people's cultures and beliefs and to learn diversity and tolerance and spread that."

"It's a great way to do international goodwill, friendship, understanding, and peace," says Tashina Stillmaker, the Interact club's president-elect. "I am looking forward to coming back with a good service project for our club."

Kristoffersen says the event would be easy to replicate. "Even if you do not have a culinary school in your area, you can tweak it to work," she says. "You can have an outdoor competition where they have to barbecue everything. There are so many ways you can do it."

INTERACTORS BUILD HOMES FOR MEXICO'S POOR

By Ryan Hyland Rotary International News -- 29 March 2010

The Interact Club of La Jolla High School, California, USA, is making a difference by helping to build new homes for some of the poorest residents of Tijuana, Mexico.

Interactors and the sponsor Rotary Club of La Jolla have collaborated with Project Mercy, a San Diego-based nonprofit that brings groups to Mexico for a day to build simple single-family houses.

"This is a unique opportunity for the students to understand the incredible difference they can make in communities in need," says Rotarian Calvin Mann, the La Jolla club's youth service committee chair. "It's a universally good experience."

Through Project Mercy, Interactors have built 11 homes for families in the last three years. A group of about 15 to 20 Interactors, parents, and Rotarians can build a home in one day. Interactors raise \$3,500 per home through school fundraising activities and Rotarian contributions.

Project Mercy works with communities to identify needy families, many of whom live in flimsy shacks with dirt floors and tarp roofs. The organization hires local construction workers to pour concrete foundations, then brings in volunteers to build the homes.

The project is just one of five stories highlighted on the new Interact promotional DVD, [Interact: Make a Difference](#), designed to inspire young people to join Interact and to motivate Rotarians to sponsor a club in their community. [Watch the video.](#)

In the series, Interactors and Rotarians explain the effect Interact has had on their lives and how the program is making a difference in their communities and around the world. The four remaining stories will be posted on the RI website in the coming months.

The videos also will be available on RI's YouTube channel so club members can embed them on their own social networking pages, sharing the Interact message with a broader audience.

The DVD comes with a CD-ROM that includes the Interact brochure, handbook, poster, faculty adviser guide, and more.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Event
Mon	Apr 12 th	Eamonn "Sonny" Ryan (Owner of The Playwright) - Ireland in America Student of the Month
Sat	Apr 17 th	District Assembly – Meriden
Mon	Apr 19 th	Tag Sale Planning
Sat	Apr 24 th	Community Tag Sale Fundraiser with Amber Alert Registrations and the Gas Card Raffle drawing Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church @ 600 Shepard Ave.
Mon	Apr 26 th	Kyle Torres, Student @ St. Martin's de Porres Academy - Community Service Project to Address the needs of kids in foster care.
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

CAN'T MAKE THE MONDAY MEETING?

Town	Day	Time	Location	Address
Branford	Mon	12:15 PM	Italian-American Club	40 Hamre Lane
Hamden	Mon	05:45 PM	The Playwright	1232 Whitney Ave
North Haven	Tue	07:15 AM	Breakfast Nook	448 Washington Ave
New Haven	Tue	12:15 PM	Graduate Club	155 Elm St
West Haven	Wed	12:15 PM	App's Ristorante	283 Capt. Thomas Blvd
Orange	Fri	12:15 PM	Race Brook Ctry Club	246 Derby Ave
Woodbridge	Fri	12:15 PM	Coachman Square	21 Bradley Rd
E-Club (Dist. 7890)			http://www.rotaryclub7890.org/	

"In truth, people can generally make time for what they choose to do; it is not really the time but the will that is lacking."

~Sir John Lubbock 1834 – 1913 British Statesman, Banker, Naturalist

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

