



KALYAN BANERJEE
Rotary International President

ROTARY CLUB OF HAMDEN EST. 1937

THE CHARM

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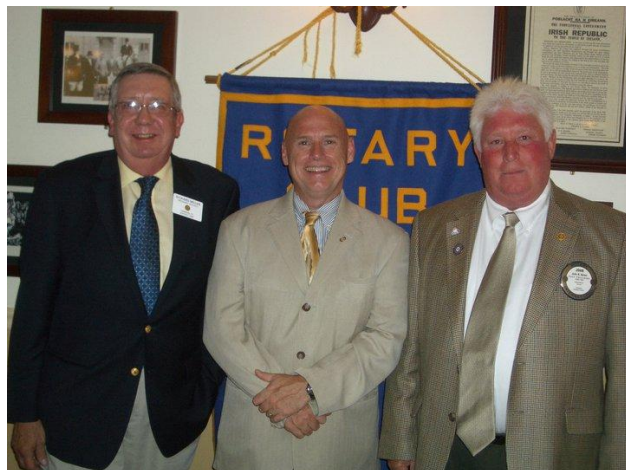
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CLUB INAUGURATES NEW PRESIDENT

At its meeting on June 27th, 2011, the Hamden Rotary Club inaugurated its president for the 2011-12 year, John Nolan. Nolan takes over from Richard Miller; it will



be his second time serving the club as president. ADG Rick Bassett (North Haven) Presided over the transition.

MEETING & EVENTS SCHEDULE

- July 18th – Official Visit from District Governor Rupi, Board Meeting to follow.
- August 1st – Speaker: Giana Gleeson, *Service Above Self* scholarship recipient, 2010-11.
- August 8th – Board Meeting following regular meeting.
- September 12th – Board Meeting following regular meeting.

LETTER FROM RI PRESIDENT BANERJEE

Reprinted from Rotary International News, June 29, 2011.

My dear brothers and sisters in Rotary!

All of us in Rotary are looking to change the world – why else would we be Rotarians? We believe that our world can be happier, healthier, and more peaceful, and that we can create that better world through our service.



In 2011-12, I will ask Rotarians to *Reach Within to Embrace Humanity*. I will ask you to search first within yourselves, to understand that all of us, everywhere, have the same

dreams, the same hopes, the same aspirations, and similar dilemmas. When we understand, and truly feel, that others' needs are the same as our own, we begin to understand how important our work is. In the year ahead, we will have three emphases in our Rotary service.

Our first emphasis in this Rotary year will be the family. The family and the home are at the core of all our work – all our service begins here. And through the family, we approach all of our community and indeed, all of humanity, as an extended family, in which all members care for each other. In times of joy and in times of need, no one is ever alone.

Our second emphasis will be continuity – finding the things we do well and taking them to the next level. We must build on our successes, expand on them, and strive to do even more. Of course, our greatest obligation is to PolioPlus, where success is now so close.

And our third emphasis will be change. We must understand that true change can only begin with each of us, and start within us. We cannot share peace with others if we do not have it to give. We cannot look after the whole world without first looking after those closest to us: our families, our clubs, and our communities.

Mohandas K. Gandhi said, “You must be the change you wish to see in the world.” In Rotary, we endeavor to live ethically and honestly, to share friendship and fellowship, to see equal worth in every human being. We are not



interested in the lowest common denominator, for Rotary is anything but common. Instead, we work to elevate ourselves, elevate others, and thereby embrace the world.

Together, we will **Reach Within to Embrace Humanity**. And in peace, harmony, and friendship, we will bring change – and a more joyful world.

Kalyan Banerjee
President, Rotary International

CLUB HONORS SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD WINNERS

The Hamden Rotary Club recently honored a member of each athletic team at Hamden High School. The honoree was selected by members of his/her team as the best representative of good sportsmanship among the group.



This criteria is in line with the Rotary Club's motto of Service Above Self. The banquet and award ceremony have been celebrated for many years and organized by Reverend Owen Sanderson. Jean Cooper from Hamden High School helped to plan this year's event as well. Coaches were present to tell the audience about the generous traits displayed by the athletes. The group consists of: Mareesa Graf, Thomas Rapini, Gabriella Benitez, Samantha Eberg (in two sports), Joshua Flores-Vitti, Carolyn Williams, Bridget O'Neill, Michael Gonzalez, Abigail Davidson, James Burt, Jennifer Morgan, Reginald Mayo, Justin Ahn, Amber Kountz, Matthew Dinnan, Mara Lieberman, Abdul-Aziz Bunyaminu, Sarah Vaughan, Tanner Givens, Aimee Mirto, Sarah Baker, Alexander Winnick, Patrick Lynch and Michael Diaz.

CHANGES TO KNOW ABOUT FOR THE NEW YEAR

Excerpted from Rotary International News, June 29, 2011.

A new Rotary year is set to begin, and with it several programs aimed at supporting and strengthening clubs and districts. In addition, a fresh slate of leaders will take over at the club, district, and international level.

Kalyan Banerjee, of the Rotary Club of Vapi, Gujarat, India, will become Rotary's 101st president, and the third from India, on 1 July. William B. Boyd, of the Rotary Club of Pakuranga, Auckland, New Zealand, will take over as Rotary Foundation trustee chair.

John Hewko will become Rotary International's 12th general secretary on 1 July. He has said his priorities include improving Rotarians' connections with the Secretariat and increasing awareness about what the Secretariat can offer.

Other changes include:

- Four pilot programs will begin 1 July, designed to improve recruitment and retention, allow for flexibility in club operations and structure, and give clubs an opportunity to explore new and innovative ways to promote member diversity -- all goals of the RI Strategic Plan. For each of three pilot programs -- corporate member, associate member, and innovative and flexible Rotary club -- 200 clubs have been selected to participate, and about 125 will take part in a satellite club pilot program. [Learn more.](#)
- The Changemaker Award will accompany the Presidential Citation during the 2011-12 Rotary year. The award will encourage Rotarians to focus on change and will recognize clubs that make an extraordinary impact through their work in the Avenues of Service. [Learn more.](#)
- The World Community Service and Rotary Volunteers programs will be phased out as of 30 June, replaced by a new model designed to expand the resources available to clubs for connecting and partnering with one another. The RI Board approved a shift to a resource and support model for RI programs to reinforce the priorities and goals of the RI Strategic Plan.
- Efforts to enhance Rotary's public image will be undertaken by 49 Rotary public image coordinators (RPICs) working in partnership with their zone's RI



director, regional Rotary Foundation coordinator, Rotary coordinator, and district governors. RPICs, who are selected by the RI president or Rotary Foundation trustee chair, have professional expertise in public relations, journalism, or communications and will help support the RI Strategic Plan by conveying effective public relations practices to district leaders.

- **The Rotarian** magazine launches its digital edition with the July issue. Subscribers can now choose to receive either the print or digital edition, or both. This would be a good time to buy a subscription for your Interact or Rotaract club, to inspire them with Rotary's breadth. [Learn more.](#)
- Rotary clubs' annual per capita dues to Rotary International will increase to US\$51 in 2011-12. The 2010 Council on Legislation also set dues at \$52 for 2012-13 and \$53 for 2013-14.

The RI Board of Directors will seat nine new directors in July, along with RI President-elect Sakuji Tanaka, of the Rotary Club of Yashio, Saitama, Japan. The new directors for 2011-13 are: José Antonio F. Antiório, of the Rotary Club of Osasco, São Paulo, Brazil; Kenneth R. Boyd, of the Rotary Club of Kerman, California, USA; Yash Pal Das, of the Rotary Club of Ambala, Haryana, India; Elizabeth S. Demaray, of the Rotary Club of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, USA; Allan O. Jagger, of the Rotary Club of Elland, West Yorkshire, England; Paul Knyff, of the Rotary Club of Weesp (Vechtstreek-Noord), The Netherlands; Shekhar Mehta, of the Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar, West Bengal, India; Juin Park, of the Rotary Club of Suncheon, Jeonnam, Korea; and Kenneth M. Schuppert Jr., of the Rotary Club of Decatur, Alabama, USA.

ROTARY DISTRICT 7980 HAS NEW WEBSITE

Our district has inaugurated a new website this month; find it at www.rotarydistrict7980.org.

HAMDEN ROTARY SERVES BREAKFAST AT RELAY



Again, this year, Hamden Rotarians provided a free breakfast for participants in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Approximately 100 walkers were treated to pancakes, scrambled eggs, ham, orange juice, and coffee. Helping with the event were Jackie Kaywood, Ted Lipkin, John Nolan, Rich Miller, Rit Aszklar, Sean Duffy, Tom Hylinski, Greg Hylinski, Lee Davies and Cathy Forsberg. The event was held this year at the Hamden High School track.





ROTARIAN DISCUSSES WORK IN NICARAGUA

On June 20th, Hamden Rotarian Sean Duffy, who teaches political science at Quinnipiac University, presented the work he and his students have been doing with former combatants in Nicaragua's wars of the 1970s and 1980s. Duffy and his students have been supporting efforts of one group of veterans – the *Asociacion de los Combatientes Historicos* in Leon – in their efforts to tell their story, in the hopes that this will facilitate reconciliation more generally in Nicaraguan society. This past May, they painted the second portion of a three-panel mural at the *Asociacion* headquarters on the main square of Leon.



GIVERS HELPING GIVERS

Early this past spring, the Rotary Club of Hamden was pleased to be able to donate money to Hamden's Senior Wish Society for its good work in our community. Shown accepting the check from Rotarian Sean Duffy (second from right) are John Ardolino, Robbie Juliano and Andrew Clifford.



SERVICE ABOVE SELF SCHOLAR REPORTS

Giana Gleeson, Hamden Rotary's successful nominee for the District's 2010-2011 Service Above Self Scholarship, recently submitted her report to the district detailing the benefit she received from the scholarship. Excerpted here is the first of three installments (look for the others in upcoming issues of The Charm). Gleeson has just graduated from Quinnipiac University, and is currently teaching summer school in Philadelphia in preparation for next year, when she will be assigned to Hartford Public High School, at the Law and Government Academy, with Teach for America.

"Beyond Service, Above the Self"

"Sitting at the large wooden table, staring at the faces of the Rotary members, there was no doubt that this was something I wanted to be a part of. As the words rolled out of my mouth in response to the interview questions, I could feel my own passion almost tangibly, already anticipating the prospects of what this opportunity could bring to me. Two days later when I received the call that I had been granted the Service Above Self Scholarship, in that moment, my life changed drastically. This award presented me with the ability to take on new opportunities and challenges that would take my body and my mind to intricate the corners of the world to interact with the cultures and peoples that I so greatly desired to know; and otherwise, may have never experienced.

"The past year has been filled with unparalleled experiences. I have learned more about the world and myself over the past few months than I have in my entire life. For me, the award that I was given was far from just a monetary award to be used to travel. Rather, I used this award to carefully construct meaningful and monumental experiences that not only added value to me as a human and a young learner, but to other people as well. Each and every one of my journeys over the past year has been imagined, contoured, and executed with the highest degrees of learning, respect, service, and gratitude. Each adventure has been uniquely special and purposefully planned for specific reasons. From the shrines of Japan, to the sugar cane fields of Barbados, I have been able to discover new cultures, foods, climates, and most importantly, relationships.

"It was January of 2010, about a year and a half ago, when I received an email from David Ives asking me to accompany him to the World Summit for Nobel Peace Prize Laureates in Japan. The conference was entitled The Legacy of Hiroshima and would discuss, throughout a



six day window, the effects, dangers, and need for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons around the world. Even though I sprang up with joy and this offer, I knew that I wouldn't be able to afford to join him. So you can only imagine the rush of ecstatic excitement when I heard Mr. Hurst's voice through the phone. Four months later, I was boarding the Boeing 777 to Hiroshima. Seventeen hours, 2 flights, and a bus ride later, I had arrived. I had read many historical articles and documents on the ride over and was feeling very eerie to actually be standing in the city, that just a few decades ago was wiped off



the map because of a nuclear attack. We had three days before the conference began, so I decided to let these thoughts lay dormant while I concentrated on enjoying the revitalized culture and liveliness that the city now had to offer. The first day we took a boat over to a nearby island. The history of the island was so potent that I felt as though I was literally breathing it in. This island had survived most of the bombings during the war and therefore, the century-old edifices still stood with majestic harmony, welcoming visitors into their grace. I have traveled quite a bit, but I have never, still to this day, felt the way that I did on that island. We walked up the long, wooden steps of the Shinto shrine. Staring up at the paintings crafted over a thousand years ago, I peacefully walked through the wooded sanctuary. While others were taking pictures and chatting, I found a temporary home beside a thick pillar. As I looked out ahead of me, my eyes followed the lines of where the ocean met the base of the mountains and the trees of the hilltop met the foggy clouds of the sky. I sat in wonderment as I watched the birds fly at eye level and in this moment, perhaps for the first time in my life, I was experiencing true sanctity.

"In the following days we continued to sightsee, going from shrine to shrine, learning about the eccentric history and culture of each. These places were unlike anything else. Each was set in its own peaceful corner of the

country, inviting their visitors with their intricate beauty and profound honor. Spirituality is so very alive in Japan and I was fascinated by the way it seemed to flow throughout society. Especially when aligned with the context of the tragedies that have struck Japan with the respect to the war; it becomes evident that spirituality was a central factor in Japan's ability as a nation, to rejoin and overcome. One of the most profound experiences of my life happened the day before the conference began. We visited the Peace Museum in Hiroshima and it is an experience that so vividly remains in my mind. The museum is dedicated to the nuclear events that happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. From video footage to actual remains of human hair, nails, and clothing the entire experience almost seemed surreal. How is it that humans can cause so much harm to one another? How is it that a people is able to overcome such destruction, death, and pure devastation? I can't put in words what I learned from my visit to the museum; it is too deep to bring to the surface of verbiage.

"The conference began the next morning. A series of seminars given by some of the most influential humans on the planet including the Dalai Lama, F.W. Declerk, Jody Williams, and many more. There I sat, in the small conference room, seated three rows back from the tiny stage, soaking in more information that I knew what to do with. My hands never stopped writing, my eyes shifted hurriedly from my notebook to the speakers not wanting to miss even the smallest beat. I met so many new people from artists to policy writers, to the Dalai Lama himself- my world was enriched by relationships. I was standing



outside of the elevators when the Dalai Lama stepped out of the doors. I shot him a wide smile, and out of something like my imagination, he thought that smile to be inviting enough to grab my hand and walk with me. By this time, people hand lined up along the narrow walls



of the hallways leading into the conference room. But despite the security, the camera flashes, and his followers' calls, he held my hand firmly, politely ignoring the chaos surrounding us. I asked him what I could do to inspire members of the world's youth to become engaged and compassionate about the state of our world. Resonating in my heart was his response that stated: "Just live a life a purpose, of engagement, and of passion; this will be the inspiration for others. You cannot force it; you must be the example for them to follow." While this was one of the most amazing moments of my life, it was also the greatest motivation I could ever ask for.

"As the conference days came and went, my mind was exploding with ideas, thoughts, and questions. I had spoken with so many people, and being one of only 4 U.S. students at the conference, I was given many opportunities to ask questions and engage in provoking conversation. On the day before the final ceremony of the conference, I was asked, along with eight other members of the U.S. and Japanese conference representatives to write a Declaration on behalf of the



World's Youth. We called it the Call to Action. I delivered the speech at the final press conference in front of the Nobel Laureates and members of the public. Because the Laureates were so impressed with our work, they asked me to be a guest in a closed conference that that day, to once again, speak on behalf of the youth. Seated across from President F.W. Declerk, I told the committee how I had dedicated myself to helping to

improve youth engagement in our world. I gave them a list of things that I would like to do and things that they can do to help us achieve our goals.

"On the whole, the conference was incredible. I am still in disbelief at how much I learned and how much I was able to experience. I can now bring back this knowledge and experience to my local and national community. I have been working with the Summit Committee to help plan for next year's events and also working with other networks on different projects that promote peace throughout the world."

Tune in for another installment of Giana Gleeson's account of what opportunities the Service Above Self scholarship brought her way, in the next issue of The Charm.

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

"Service in the Rotarian sense is a mental process. It is an attitude of mind which relates persons and things with action. Thoughtfulness of others is in reality the basis of Rotary service." -- Frank L. Mulholland, 1914-15 Rotary president, in The Rotarian, September 1927



THE ROTARY CLUB OF HAMDEN MEMBERSHIP

The Rotary Club of Hamden consists of a group of professional, business and trades people who believe that service to the community, and the world, can be accomplished by each and every individual, one at a time. Please consider contacting any one of us to find out more about what we do and, perhaps, join us in service and friendship.

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

