



Volume 28

THE HORIZON

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ROTARY CLUB OF PARKSVILLE DISTRICT 5020

Meets at the Quality Inn Oceanside Monday - 12 Noon. 240 Dogwood Street, Parksville

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Request for host families for the British Rotary Friendship Exchange team members who arrive here on June 2nd

Our club is hosting the team for four days. There will be six couples in the British team, mostly in their sixties.

We will be picking them up at the Departure Bay ferry terminal and, if current plans go through, they will be travelling to Duncan on the E & N train out of the Parksville depot on June 6th.

During their stay, we will arrange for them to spend a day on the MV Lady Rose sailing from Port Alberni to Bamfield and return. Host families are most welcome to accompany their guests on that trip.

We expect to hold a club barbecue for them at some point during their visit so that they can meet all of our members.

Host families should expect to show the visitors around the area, provide "bed & breakfast" and generally treat them as one would hope to be treated if we were visiting them in their homes.

At present, there is space for one couple on the outbound team from District 5020 going to District 1200 (South West of England including clubs in Wiltshire, Avon, Somerset and Dorset).

The outbound team leaves for England on September 6th, returning Sept. 21st. Participants may extend their visit to Britain or Europe either before or following the Exchange. There will be a meeting of the outbound team participants in Duncan on April 12th to finalize details.

What others are saying about Rotary...

"Through my contact with Rotary, I learned about the importance of community service. The Rotary motto of Service Above Self has left a deep impression and has guided me since. I would like to express my profound gratitude to The Rotary Foundation for having given me that unique opportunity and a solid foundation that eventually led me to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, a global service organization to protect those fleeing from armed conflict and persecution."

- Sadako Ogata, Japanese prime minister's special representative for assistance to Afghanistan

Looking Forward! Dates to remember

Feb 23 - 24

District Assembly, Victoria

ROTARY ABUSE PREVENTION TRAINING

The District is arranging an abuse prevention training session in Parksville. This training session is compulsory for all host families, persons working with the student, youth exchange team, as well as anyone who might be transporting the student to Rotary functions.

Please let me know if you are interested in attending.

This training session has now been postponed until late February or early March

May 29 - June 1, 2008

District Conference 2008

"Share the Celebration"

Parksville-Qualicum Beach

British Columbia

Oceanside Place

Register on the District Website

Look for related tours & events

www.rotary5020.org

June 15 - 18

RI International Convention Los Angeles, California



"Focus on Youth"



Understanding will make difference in ending world poverty

U.S. Rotarian Deepa Willingham, founder of PACE Universal, gives a keynote address during the spouses plenary session at the 2008 International Assembly.

A basic understanding of poverty is the inspiration Rotarians need to eradicate it, keynote speaker Deepa Willingham said during the second spouses plenary session at the International Assembly.

Willingham, a member of the Rotary Club of Santa Ynez Valley, California, USA, told the audience that 1.3 billion people around the world live on less than US\$1 a day and that 10 million children die each year before they reach their fifth birthday due to extreme poverty. "I find these numbers staggering and overwhelming. My heart aches with sadness," she said.

Figures like these led Willingham to form PACE Universal (Promise of Assurance to Children Everywhere) in 2003. The organization's mission is to nurture the education, nutrition, health, and social development of young girls in the slums of Kolkata (formerly Calcutta), India, and other areas around the world.

"I'm just a simple Rotarian from a small town in Southern California, but I believe that I can make a difference by doing my share, however small that may be," Willingham said.

Her club partnered with the Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan to build a permanent building for the Piyali Learning Center, which will eventually serve 1,200 girls and 500 boys from impoverished villages around Kolkata.

The center will also help provide clean water, sanitation, and solar ovens to the community of Piyali Junction. "The aim of the center will be to bring about sustainable changes to the lives of citizens," said Willingham.

Those living in extreme poverty "live with no hope in their hearts, they have no voice in their destiny or the ability to determine their future," Willingham told the audience.

It's up to Rotary to make a difference in the existence of extreme poverty, Willingham added. "Rotarians' actions are a perfect example of how the power of one can work, changing the life of one child, one community, one village at a time."

Lee asks Rotarians to 'Make Dreams Real' for world's children

RI President-elect Dong Kurn Lee announces the 2008-09 RI theme, Make Dreams Real, to incoming district governors at the 2008 International Assembly.

Rotary International President-elect Dong Kurn Lee addressed incoming district governors today at the 2008 International Assembly, urging them to use their resources to help curb child mortality. Lee said he was in disbelief when he learned that 30,000 children under the age of five die every day from preventable diseases such as pneumonia, measles, and malaria.

"Once I understood the issues behind that terrible number, I knew what I needed to do," Lee said. He told the incoming governors that Rotary will keep the service emphases of recent years - water, health and hunger, and literacy - but asked them to focus their efforts in each of these areas on children.

"In 2008-09, I will ask you all to Make Dreams Real for the world's children," he said. "This will be our theme, and my challenge to all of you."

"Children are killed by illnesses that become deadly in combination with poor sanitation and malnutrition," Lee said. In addition, families stricken by extreme poverty are trapped in a cycle that only leads to more unnecessary deaths. "It's a cycle that is not interrupted because there is no access to education."

He challenged the audience to do their part to give children "hope and a chance at a future" by reducing the rate of child mortality in the world.

"We will bring clean water to their communities and create sanitation projects that keep children healthy," Lee said.

As the incoming governors begin preparing for the year ahead with the training and inspiration they receive at the International Assembly, Lee reminded them of Rotary's power and encouraged them to use their resources efficiently to maximize the good done around the world.

Governor-elect Geoffrey Mathis, of District 9930 in New Zealand, thinks the upcoming RI theme allows Rotary to dream big. "Make Dreams Real will be an easy theme to sell around the world. We all like challenges; Lee has allowed us to put our dreams to practice."

Rotarians can improve children's health, Lee said, even in small ways, such as delivering mosquito nets, rehydration salts, vitamins, and vaccines. "So much more can be done with just a little more: a trained birth attendant, a simple clinic, a school feeding program, a visiting nurse," he continued. "These are simple and direct ways to save children's lives."

In 2008-09, Rotarians will be asked to open their eyes to the needs of children in communities near and far, Lee said.

"Children die not because nobody can help them, but because too often, nobody does. But you and I, here in this room, are Rotarians, and helping is what we do best," he said, adding that "our job is to Make Dreams Real for children. If every one of us does this, at the end of our year, we will all have achieved something wonderful."

Area Make-up Possibilities

Monday:

Rotary Club of Qualicum Beach 18:15
Rotary House, Qualicum Beach

Tuesday:

Rotary Club of Qualicum Sunrise 07:00
Glengarry Golf Links, Qualicum Beach
Rotary Club of Arrowsmith Sunrise 07:15
Coast Hospitality Inn, Port Alberni
Rotary Club of Courtenay 12:00
Coast Westerly, Courtenay
Rotary Club of Nanaimo North 18:00
Nanaimo Golf & Country Club

Wednesday:

Rotary Club of Parksville AM 07:00
Bayside Oceanfront Inn
Rotary Club of Nanaimo Day Break 07:00
Swiss Chalet
Rotary Club of Strathcona Sunrise 07:00
Crown Isle, Courtenay
Rotary Club of Nanaimo Oceanside 16:00
Nanaimo Golf & country club

Thursday:

Rotary Club of Lantzville 07:00
ABC Restaurant, Nanaimo
Rotary Club of Port Alberni 12:15
Best Western Barclay Inn, Port Alberni

Friday:

Rotary Club of Nanaimo 12:15
Howard Johnson Island Inn

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Julie Chambers - Publisher
Fred Collins - Photo's
Bill McKinney - Web editor

Horizon Material

Club Members, if you have any items or photos you would like to include in a future newsletter, please email Julie directly at publisher@pqbnews.com