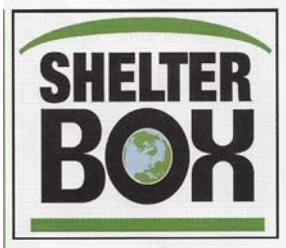


the Rotary Smile

Allentown, Pennsylvania

www.AllentownRotary.org

Jan-Feb 2009



U P D A T E

Two of the Shelter Boxes purchased by the Allentown Rotary Club have gone to Goma, the regional capital of North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Since September, more than 250,000 civilians have been displaced there by fighting blamed on rebel leader Laurent Nkunda. Nkunda claims to be protecting ethnic Congolese Tutsis from various pro-government groups, including Hutu militias responsible for the 1994 Rwandan genocide. He threatened to take over the whole country if DRC President Joseph Kabila refuses to negotiate with him.

The UN peacekeeping mission, MUNOC, is struggling to assist the Congolese Army in keeping warring factions apart.

Our two boxes (numbers 5296 and 5297) are part of a 400 box shipment that will provide temporary food and shelter for 4,000 of the displaced civilians. *(See related photo and thank-you note on page three.)*

Mayor's State of the City Address

January 9 – Mayor Ed Pawlowski presented an upbeat and spirited State of the City address to a standing room only crowd of approximately 135 members and guests at the January 9 meeting. The mayor said it was no accident this address was delivered to a Rotary club because Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self" is closely aligned to the administration's approach to governing the last several years. The City focused its energies on service and worked through partnerships with city council, the County of Lehigh, businesses and the community to make tremendous progress.



Since taking office in 2006, Mayor Pawlowski has tackled problems common to larger cities, such as economics, crime and infrastructure. However, Allentown is transforming itself and he's confident Allentown will again be a great city. Although 2009 will bring many challenges, Allentown has the momentum and foundation to continue its upward path.

Achievements of the past few years include:

- Financial stability - in three years the City went from an \$8 million deficit to a \$14 million surplus without raising taxes. The mayor pledged to continue to adhere to strict fiscal discipline and look for ways to decrease the cost of government.
- Rebuilding Allentown's public safety network - the City increased the police force, revamped the police department and its strategies, partnered with other law enforcement agencies and businesses, and engaged the community. As a result, crime in the last year alone has dropped dramatically.
- Economic Development - "the renaissance is in our midst" with \$488 million dollars of new development, with projects occurring in every section of the city.
- Increased funding for the Allentown School District (ASD) - the mayor worked closely with the ASD and other partners to receive \$12.3 million for the school district for initiatives such as the summer reading program.
- Rebuilding efforts in neighborhoods and parks - programs such as new home ownership, rehabbing parks and ending homelessness were highlights.

The Rotary Club of Allentown

• in our 95th year of service •

610-794-4101

www.AllentownRotary.org

~ A Member of Rotary International ~

Club No. 121, District 7430

www.rotarydistrict7430.org

**Meeting Fridays at noon at the Holiday Inn
9th & Hamilton Streets, Allentown**

Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to 31,000 Rotary clubs located in 200 countries.

Club Officers

President	Pete Smith	610-395-7700
President-Elect	Judy Barberich	610-282-1100 x1478
Secretary	Don DeLorenzo	610-967-3380
Treasurer	Tom Christman	610-434-9645
Past President	Ibolya Balog	610-433-3220

Board of Directors	Committee	Phone
Theresa Podguski	Program	610-778-3303
Mark E. Emswiler	Scholarship	610-967-2141
Ibolya Balog	Paul Harris/ Iobst awards	610-434-3995
Richard Daugherty	International	610-437-3700
Christine Bauder	Fellowship & Communication	610-821-0311
Larry Campbell	Community Service	610-391-9805
Judith A. Barberich	Membership	610-282-1100 x1478
Cynthia A. Lambert	Badge Board/Hospitality	610-776-3323
William C. Hacker	Youth	610-437-3340
Platte B. Moring III	By-laws & Parliamentarian	610-435-8414

Foundation Board Members

Ibolya Balog	610-433-3220
Judith Barberich	610-282-1100 x1478
Barbara Bigelow	610-437-0795
Albert Bova	610-395-5910
Larry Campbell	610-391-9805
Wallace Eldridge	610-366-0843
Mark Emswiler	610-967-2141
Suzanne Goodell	610-799-1204
Carl Henzleman	610-758-5520
Janet Roth	610-434-9645
Pete Smith	610-395-7700
Richard Snyder	610-434-3970
John Toner	610-433-8903 x 206

From the President



Pete Smith

Between the calendar and the weather, we “flew” through December and “blew” into January. Fortunately, we managed to celebrate the holidays with a dinner party at the Baum School of Art. Many thanks to Rose Ackerman and Christine Bauder for a wonderful dinner party which included a “fun auction” that raised almost \$600 for our Allentown Rotary Foundation. Sadly, the new year brought the sudden and unexpected passing of Bill Hacker Jr’s wife Sue. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bill, his children and their family.

On a happier note, Larry Campbell and the Community Service Committee selected Meals on Wheels and the Center For Independent Living to each receive \$5,000 grants from our foundation. Given the distressed economy and breadth of community need, one wishes every applicant could be accommodated.

Sincere thanks to those who provided financial assistance to the Dictionary Project. Our application for a Rotary matching grant was denied on the premise that this was

(Continued on page seven.)

Welcome New Members



Robert Konowitz

Bob is a financial advisor with Wachovia Securities.

Work: 1602 Union Blvd.
Allentown, Pa. 18109
610-439-4228
610-709-9725
robert.konowitz@wachovia.com
Home: 271 Big Ridge Drive
E. Stroudsburg, Pa. 18302
570-223-0639
drbobf@earthlink.net
Spouse: Martha



Julian Lewis

Julian is President of Lewis Consulting Services.

Work: 919 Jordan Drive
Whitehall, Pa. 18052
610-434-0300
610-264-6293 (f)
jbl_1101@yahoo.com
Home: 919 Jordan Drive
Whitehall, Pa. 18052
610-745-1514
jbl_1101@yahoo.com
Spouse: Ann



Kati LaBuda

Kati is a financial advisor with Raymond James & Associates.

Work: 3773 Corporate Pkwy,
Suite 180
Center Valley, Pa 18034
610-709-9715
610-709-9725 (f)
KatiLaBuda@raymondjames.com
Home: 2495 E. Swamp Rd.
Quakertown, Pa. 18951
610-533-7195
KatiLaBuda@hotmail.com

Thank You for the Shelter Boxes

Dear ShelterBox USA Representatives,

I want to take the opportunity to thank you for your service and hard work on behalf of ShelterBox. You are the heart and driving force behind our organization, enabling us to provide shelter, warmth, and comfort throughout the world.

We have just received the latest images from our Congo and Pakistan deployments. As usual, the photos are arresting, and they remind us of why we do what we do. U.S. donors really helped make both of these deployments a success, sponsoring over 200 boxes deployed to Pakistan, and over 100 boxes deployed to Congo. This is the result of your efforts in “the field,” advocating for ShelterBox and fundraising. Thank you!





November 7 - Once again, Fellow Rotarian and Chair of the Veteran’s Day Program, Warren Armstrong introduced a phenomenal guest speaker to remind us why all Americans should respect and revere our military service personnel and veterans.



A graduate of Lehigh University, United States Air Force, Lt. Col. Jim Evanko, Retired, is

currently working as a pilot for FedEx and residing with his family in Nazareth, Pennsylvania. Colonel Evanko served in the premier demonstration squadron of the elite air and space force called the United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, better known as The Thunderbirds – America’s Ambassadors in Blue.

“They are the best of the best,” as described on www.thunderbirds.airforce.com. “U.S. Air Force professionals

teamed together to present precision aerial maneuvers that exhibit the capabilities of modern, high performance aircraft and the high degree of professional skill required to operate those aircraft.”

Col. Evanko shared his enthusiasm and pride from his service in the military stating that every single service person is doing something valuable and involved. The Thunderbirds are welcome everywhere because they are thrilling. However, while The Thunderbirds are captivating and fun to watch, they serve an essential purpose: recruitment and retention of Air Force members.

Rotarians were treated to two exciting videos of The Thunderbirds featuring Col. Evanko’s Team. When flying in formation, Col. Evanko was the number four slot pilot. That means he flew in the back which is considered to be the most difficult because the commander in the lead slot speaks commands seconds before moving.

To maintain the planes and equipment, 140 service personnel are needed to serve on a team, only six of whom are demonstration pilots.

Col. Evanko finished his presentation by citing the motto of the Thunderbirds: Integrity First, Service before Self, and Excellence in All We Do. All of which are

amazingly aligned with the Rotarian motto and philosophy.

~ Barbara Stauffer

From the District Governor

A Word to the Wise



An email and petition has been making the rounds regarding Immigration and Social Security issues. This email has been received by an unknown number of Rotarians who have, unfortunately, elected to send it on to other Rotarians on their contact list. This is definitely an unapproved and inappropriate use of Rotarians confidential contact information. Rotary IS NOT a platform for ANY political, personal, business or legislative issues. PLEASE use the good common sense that you are recognized for and use your Rotary contact information for Rotary issues only.

Bill Weber,
District Governor



In case of inclement weather, meeting cancellations will be announced on the club answering machine. Call 610-794-4101 to find out if the meeting has been canceled.



Rotarians Learn About Islam

December 12 – Rizwan Butte, the president of the Easton- Phillipsburg Muslim Association and a member of the outreach committee at the Muslin Association of the Lehigh Valley, gave an informative presentation about Islam.

The word “Islam”literally means peace, and followers submit their will to the will of God. Their core value is to look for the greater good of mankind.

The five major Islamic beliefs are one omnipotent God, His angels, His scriptures, His messengers and the day of reckoning.

God is viewed as neither man nor woman, but a higher being that transcends gender. Muslims have simple beliefs and practices, and celebrate two main holidays: Eid al Fitr and Eid al Adha.

Eid al Fitr is the breaking of the fast and occurs the day after Ramadan ends. The

faithful fast from dawn to sunset, attend a prayer service, show charity to the poor, and give gifts to children and family.

Eid al Adha signifies the end of the sacrifice, commemorating Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice his son. Prayer services are held, sacrificial meats and gifts are distributed.

Muslims pray five times per day, orienting themselves toward Mecca, and, if able bodied, go on a pilgrimage to Hajj at least once in their lifetime. The Islamic core tradition is found in Qur’an, 049.013:

“O mankind! We created you from a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know one another. Verily the most honorable of you in the sight of God is the most righteous of you. Verily. God is All-knowing. All-Aware.” ~ Kathy Frazier

Pool Pals



Thank you to all who helped with our Allentown Rotary Pool Pals program:

- Hester Bade
- Judy Barberich
- Marc Basist
- Chris Bauder
- Jim Bova
- Don DeLorenzo
- Budd DiStefano
- Roger Duperree
- Jonathan Epstein
- Kathy Frazier
- V Grant Fox
- Janet Gross
- Bill & Sue Hacker
- Ken Kirshner
- Debra Lamb
- Don Marron
- Vicki Mayk
- Heather Strencosky
- Arthur Weinrach



Christine Nelson and Grayson McNair settle back to listen.

Allentown Rotary Foundation Elects New Members

Dec. 5 – The annual Allentown Rotary Foundation meeting was conducted by Barbara Bigelow. President Pete Smith explained the role of the Foundation, a charitable 501(c)(3) organization separate from the Rotary Club. Pete introduced the members currently serving on the Foundation Board and presented nominations for four members who were nominated by the board to continue their terms into 2008-2009:

Barbara Bigelow
Al Bova
Dick Snyder
John Toner

Pete presented nominations for one new member, Janet Roth, who was elected by the membership to replace Platte Moring, who resigned from the Board.

The nominations were accepted and closed with the requisite motions and votes. The five nominees were unanimously approved by the membership.

Pete indicated that Barbara Bigelow will serve as the President of the Rotary Foundation for the coming year, and turned the gavel over to her. Barbara recognized Tom Christman who

has served as treasurer for nearly as long as we can remember, having succeeded Al Bova, who is now a foundation member. Tom has also provided the meeting space for the Foundation at the Harry C. Trexler Trust office.

Barbara then provided highlights of the Foundation's Annual Financial Report.

The foundation closed the year with an excess in revenues over expenses of \$24,828. Total Net Assets of \$494,738.50 at June 30 decreased nearly \$43,000 from the previous year's \$537,704, due to market fluctuations. At November 17, 2008, that figure had declined to \$360,721, representing a 33% decrease over a 16-month period starting July 1, 2007.

Since 1998, 68 agencies that serve the public have received grants from Rotary totaling \$221,519.

Since 1998, 68 agencies that serve the public have received grants that total \$221,519. These agencies are primarily local and range from the Adult Literacy Center to Camp Neidig, the Repertory Dance Theatre to the YM-YWCA.

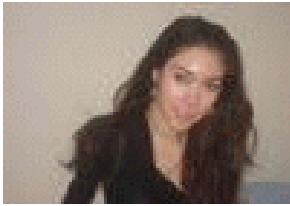


Barbara reviewed the following grants and distributions, totaling 28,109, distributed in the past year. Barbara noted that we will continue asking members to increase their support of our scholarship programs, and will introduce an estate planning option in the new year.

Since 1990, \$203,500 in scholarships has been granted to 50 students, for each of four years to support their undergraduate education.

There are currently 28 active Iobst fellows and 67 sustaining contributors. She acknowledged our new Iobst Fellows, individuals who have made cumulative contributions to the Foundation for scholarships of \$1,000 and more.

~ Marcella Moyer Schick
and Don Marron



Rotary Youth Exchange Program

December 5 – Sarah Rebeyrotte, 18 year-old exchange student from Veigy, France (just outside of Geneva, Switzerland), visited our club today. Sarah arrived in this country last August and will be staying till this coming July. She is spending her senior year of High School at Southern Lehigh and is a guest of the Katz family of Coopersburg. At school, Sarah ran Cross Country and planned to join the basketball team. She enjoys shopping and going to the movies and plays with her new friends. She meets with other exchange students at Camp Conrad Weiser in Sinking Springs, and has traveled with them to Hawk Mountain. They planned to have a Christmas party together. Sarah interviews prospective exchange students from this area and shares her experiences with them. The highlights of her stay so far have been trips to New York City and Atlantic City. She wants to see more of America, and plans to tour Washington D.C. next.

At home, Sarah lives with her mom. She has been influenced by her godfather who is a Rotarian, and her father who belongs to the Lions Club, so community service has become a way of life for her. (Photo courtesy of Rotary District 1780 - France.)

~ Don Marron

From the President

(Continued from page two.)

a “repeat project” and thus ineligible. So, we had to “go it alone.”

Mark Emswiler, chairman of the Scholarship Committee, recently submitted a report to your board detailing that some 50 students from the Allen, Central and Dieruff High schools have now received \$185,000 worth of scholarships made from the Roger and Louise Mullen Scholarship fund since its inception. A wonderful tribute to the generosity of this club, past and present!

Our Rotary Foundation President, Barbara Bigelow encourages us all to remember our Foundation as we begin a new year and review our respective financial affairs/planning.

Rick Daugherty, chairman of the International Service committee is working on the

Group Study Exchange (GSE) scheduled for late this Spring. While our own Ibi Baalog leads a group of young professionals from our Rotary district to Bosnia, Serbia, Croatia and Eastern Austria, a reciprocal group from that Rotary District will be guests of our District. Rick and his counterparts from other clubs in our District have planned an ambitious itinerary. Please contact Rick if you would like to host one of our guests.

Membership committee chairman, Judy Barberich and her committee have recruited several new members in recent weeks and has several more prospects in the “works.” We most recently welcomed Julian Lewis, Bob Konowitz and Phil Stein.

2009 brings with it some of the most formidable challenges the United States and the world have faced in

decades. Let us also remember that every challenge brings with it opportunity!! The year will be what we make of it and by all accounts we are up to the challenge!! The continuing mission: “Make Dreams Real.”

~ ~ ~



Visitors from the Eastern Europe Group Study Exchange will be with our club from April 26th to May 2nd. Rick Daugherty (610-437-3700) is looking for businesses for them to visit individually and also places they can tour as a group. Contact Rick ASAP.

Meals on Wheels



Contact Jay Geiger (610-437-6571) if you’d like to help one day a month.



January

1 Jennifer Marangos
2 Christine Bauder
5 Marc C. Solt
7 David Hornung
9 Deborah Kipp
16 Robert Konowitz
19 John Toner
29 Leonard Bloch

February

1 Warren Armstrong
15 Wallace Eldridge
18 Susanne Sheppard
20 Vicki C. Mayk
23 George Schermerhorn
27 Frank Concannon
Karen Angelo
28 Rodney Wells

Come to our Rotary St. Patrick's Party Saturday March 21 Applewood Club House, Fogelsville (at the intersection of Mohr Lane and Mulberry Road)



Only \$15 pp, includes wine/beer, food and frolicking! Bring your own liquor, we'll supply the mixers. Music by McElvis the Irishman. (No idea if this is a real person or not!) The food is being prepared by President Pete and Tom Christman. (No idea what's on the menu, it's a surprise!) More info to follow. Mark your calendar now!

February Coming Events

6th - Classification Talk:
Hester Bade

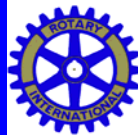
13th - Frank Whelan
The History of Hess's

20th - Carmen Twillie Ambar
Pres. Cedar Crest College

27th - Rolf Schlake on the
Hunley, the world's first
battle submarine

Coming in March

Mar 6th - Classification Talk:
Marc Solt



the Rotary Smile

Allentown Rotary Club
5540 German Road
Emmaus, PA 18049