



CogNotes



The Rotary Club of Swarthmore
May 23, 2013

May is **Rotary Volunteer** Month

**Improving Lives in Communities
Locally and Around the World for over 75 Years**

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Assistant Governor

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Hillard Pouncy

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Ken Wright

Josh Twersky

Anne Hansen

/Ray Hopkins

Randy Winton

Ron Van Langeveld

Craig Fava

Steve Laxton

Brian Craig

Lisa Lee/Jim Leming

Today's Program:

Low Rinko, Swarthmore
author of *About the Unique
Childhood of a Hummer*

Table Grace

Thank you, Lord of the universe, for the promise of another season of growth and abundance in this fair land.

We receive so much from your bountiful hand. Make us faithful stewards of this good earth and watchful guardians of its plenty.

As we receive, now, the blessings of this hour, make us truly grateful. Amen.

The Rev. Dr. Frederick E. Christian

Coming Program & Events

May 30 Rick Lowe, Mayor of Swarthmore
"State of the Ville"

June 6 Laura Kiehner
"Papa Tortuga: One Man's Mission to Save the Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtles"

June 13 No Meeting

June 20 Kelly O'Connor and Lauren Schenkel
"Our Recent Rotary Group Study Exchange with Korea"

Know someone who might have interest in one of our upcoming topics? Invite them to the meeting that day! They might be a prospective member.



The Pledge of Allegiance

Four Way Test:

Of the things we think, say and do;

1. Is it the Truth?
2. Is it Fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



Last Week's Speakers: aFewSteps.org

By Lisa Lee

Last week Phil Coleman and David Director of aFewSteps.org gave club members an update on this 501(c)3 organization, whose mission is to reduce carbon emissions in four area communities by 2020.

Phil provided a background of business and home energy use and an overview of services offered by aFewSteps.org. David then focused on one particular area of services, the provision of a sustainability coach to local residents. A sustainability coach meets with individual residents to discuss their objectives, lifestyle and priorities, enabling to focus on a few concrete steps. The coach then conducts a home walkthrough and makes recommendations on the 3 most useful, cost-effective steps the homeowner could take to improve their energy efficiency. Coaches also provide ongoing support to the families.

Phil also described a new program from PECO called PECO Smart Business Solutions, which will provide incentives to small businesses to improve their energy efficiency. This program will start in June.



Guests Last Week

Beth Murray, Francesca Potter, Eric Brodsky, Lauren Iford, Renee Starehle, Elma Jones

Why You Should Worry about a Case of Polio in Somalia

By Christine Gorman | *Scientific American* –

Thu, May 16, 2013

(with thanks to Ann Hansen)



From Afghanistan to Somalia, the struggle to eradicate polio continues to lurch along in fits and starts. The past few days have brought a modicum of good news and some potentially quite bad news. On May 13, the Taliban issued a statement declaring that it would no longer target polio vaccine workers and is ordering its fighters to help in vaccination campaigns. The group had previously marked vaccine workers for death because of fears that they might be acting as spies for Western countries—fears that were further inflamed by a successful US effort to assassinate Osama bin Laden that included a sham hepatitis vaccine campaign by the CIA.

Just two days earlier, however, the World Health Organization reported that “wild-type” poliovirus was isolated in Somalia from a 32-month-old girl who suddenly became paralyzed, as well as from three other individuals with whom she was in contact. Genetic testing has since indicated that the virus in question is linked to polioviruses circulating in northern Nigeria, according to *Nature's* newsblog. The setback marks the first new case of naturally occurring polio in Somalia since March 2007. Emergency vaccination initiatives—and fund-raising to pay for them—are now underway.

As the accompanying map shows, this development is a concern not just for Somalia, but for a broad swath of Africa, where low vaccination rates leave children particularly vulnerable to infection with polio, most likely from Nigeria (particularly northern Nigeria), where the virus is still endemic. In our increasingly interconnected world, an uncontrolled outbreak in these countries could fuel polio's return around the globe—which would be particularly tragic considering that there had been only 26 cases of polio (before the Somalia news) reported worldwide so far in 2013, compared with 53 at this point last year.

Rotary Clubs Spring Into Action in Wake of Moore Tornado

Rotary District 6450 will connect local clubs to assist

“I know we are all devastated by the media images showing the loss of life and the pain and despair that the people of Moore, Oklahoma and Oklahoma City are experiencing,” wrote Pat Merryweather, Rotary District 6450 Governor, a member and past president of the Rotary Club of Naperville. Merryweather has reached out to the President of the Moore Rotary Club, Jerry Campbell, and the District Governor of District 5770, Phil Moss, to offer assistance—whether it be to provide financial, goods, hands-on service or help with all three.

Rotary District 5770 is comprised of 34 clubs in southwestern Oklahoma. Rotary International President-Elect Ron Burton is also from District 5770. Merryweather noted that currently Moore and other nearby communities in Oklahoma are in a search and rescue mode as they believe there are many people still buried under the rubble. First responders will be devoted to searching each and every structure in hopes of finding any child or adult still alive. At the same time, they are assessing their needs to aid those that have lost loved ones and the thousands that have lost their homes.

Merryweather expects to hear within the next few days what the needs are and how best Rotary clubs can assist them.



Rotary District
7450 Governor
Pat Merryweather

Happy Dollars Total for 2012-13:

\$1928



2011-12 Total: \$2311

2010-11 Total: \$1690

2009-10 Total: \$896

(11375 Children Immunized)

All Proceeds to Polio Eradication.

Service Quotation

“Always be a little kinder than necessary.”

- James Barrie (1860-1937), Scottish author and dramatist, best remembered today as the creator of Peter Pan

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Anniversaries

Birthday:

Lisa Lee

May 23

Maria Zissimos

May 24

Rotary

Linda Carpenter

May 24

1 yr



At the May 9th meeting of the Swarthmore Rotary Club, Steve Amabile and Maggie Keefer, Representatives from Springfield Ford, presented Betty Ann with an \$8000 check for the test drives done at the Fun Fair.