

# THE EYE OPENER



Breakfast Rotary—Jefferson City, MO

[www.jeffcityrotary.org](http://www.jeffcityrotary.org)

August 2003

Every Wednesday 7:00 a.m. Capitol Plaza Hotel 415 W. McCarty St. Jefferson City, MO

## DAN'S DISSERTATION

(WORDS FROM OUR ROTARY CLUB  
PRESIDENT)



Our Rotary year is off to a good start. We inducted two new members in July and will be inducting a third in August. Ryan Burson organized a collection of items for Camp Wonderland and delivered those materials to the camp after participating in the morning trash pick-up along Missouri Boulevard that was organized by Stanford Nyatanga and which drew about a dozen people out early on a Saturday morning. Al Laffoon is overseeing our Meals on Wheels deliveries the fourth Monday of each month and we had a good turnout of Rotarians and spouses to do the deliveries in July. Kit Freudenberg is putting together a collection of back to school supplies that will be distributed to needy families by the Samaritan Center. I know we will have a good participation in that. The Board has also decided to participate in a Matching Grants program to help a food bank in Monterrey, Mexico purchase a truck to deliver food to rural areas. District 6080 will be matching the funds our club puts into the project.

Also on the international front, our new exchange student, Artur, will be arriving from Brazil in the middle of August. He will be staying with Nancy and Bill Gratz, then with Murphy and Linda Tetley. We are still in need of a third host family. Anyone interested in this opportunity (and it is just that, an opportunity to build a beneficial and long lasting relationship) should contact David Luther as soon as possible.

Our program committee of Jeff Pennock, Rob Hess and Tony Porter put together some interesting and informative programs for July and we are looking forward to more of the same throughout the year. I want to thank everyone for their

participation and their ideas. You make my job much easier and if this first month is any indication we should be in for a great Rotary year!

### Recent Service Activities

#### \* Missouri Blvd Trash Pick-up -July 26

Stanford Nyatanga - Organizer  
Don Alberti                      Ryan Burson  
Jim Cook                         Ken Fryer  
Dudley Galloway               Rob Hess  
Bob Sfredo                       Stephen Stark  
Reg Turnbull  
Tony Hiesberger - Special Guest

#### \* Meals on Wheels - July 28

A big THANK YOU from the club, President Dan and many Jefferson City residents for you volunteers that delivered fresh, hot meals on the 28th. In the spot light this month for helping take those hot meals are:

Bob Sfredo                       Robert Hess  
Jo and Jerry Moore             Ryan Burson  
Ron and Marlene Medin  
Jim and Willadean Jackson  
Sue Laffoon

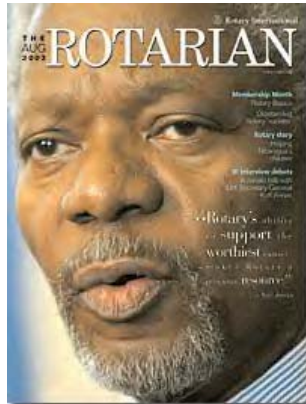
A special thanks to Sue Laffoon for working with very short notice after an emergency cancellation.

You too can help deliver these meals. It's easy, it takes about an hour and it's very satisfying. Just get a partner and sign up for our one time per month obligation. You can even do it without a partner but it takes a little longer. Don't worry about not knowing how the system works because Al Laffoon will be there to guide you on your way. Let's all get behind President Dan and our commitment to "Meals on Wheels".

## Interview - Kofi Annan

*"We all have a common interest in maintaining the peace in this day and age."*

The secretary-general of the United Nations describes how the UN, with Rotary's help, strives to overcome the most serious challenges facing humanity today.



This interview with Kofi Annan, Secretary-general of the United Nations, launches a series of question-and-answer sessions with some of the world's most influential figures. Each interview will elicit insights and opinions from men and women who are leaders and experts in areas of intense interest to Rotarians, such as international relations, conflict resolution, philanthropy, and humanitarian service. As head of the most recognizable peace and humanitarian organization in the world – and given the current state of world affairs – Annan is the perfect choice to begin the series. Rotary has ties with the UN that stretch back to the organization's beginnings in 1945, and to this day both entities often serve the same constituencies and purposes.

Kofi Atta Annan was born in 1938 in Kumasi, Ghana. He completed his undergraduate work in economics at Macalester University, St. Paul, Minn., USA, in 1961 and earned a master's degree in management from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1972.

Annan joined the United Nations in 1962 as a budget officer with the World Health Organization. He rose through the ranks and was named under-secretary-general in 1993. In 1997 he became the UN's seventh secretary-general and the first staff member to assume the post. Annan has worked to strengthen the UN's peace and development efforts, protect human rights, and "bring the United Nations closer to the people." In 2001 Annan and the UN received the Nobel Peace Prize (above). Annan is fluent in English, French, and several African languages. He and his wife, Swedish lawyer Nane Annan, live in New York. This interview took place in mid-June.

*Who were your early influences, in terms of developing your philosophy of service to others? Who influenced you the most and in what ways?*

I suppose I'd answer more in terms of an event than a person. When I was growing up, Ghana was struggling to free itself from colonialism. But our colonial masters had been there for so long, it didn't seem possible that change could come. But it did. When I experienced such fundamental change in my country, it left me with the feeling that change, large change, is possible. And that's been important to me in my work. After all, we are in this business because we do want to change the world. Did the events of 11 September 2001 alter your approach to your job or your thoughts on the role of the United Nations?

I was shaken, as indeed we all were, by what happened that day. It was an assault on our common humanity. It demonstrated to me the need to forge a united front against terrorism. It convinced me that all states, working together through the United Nations, can and must ensure that terrorists can find no support – financially, politically, or otherwise – for their murderous acts.

*What can the UN do to help prevent similar tragedies?*

The United Nations has already taken steps to prevent future tragedies, with nations ratifying a series of treaties to end support for terrorist entities and the Security Council taking the lead in placing sanctions on al-Qaida and related organizations and making sure, through the work of its Counter-terrorism Committee, that such sanctions are enforced by all nations.

*What was your personal reaction when you learned what happened?*

The attack hit home to me because New York has been my home, as it is home to people from all around the world, and also because all communities were represented in the World Trade Center. That is why I see the events of September 11 as an attack not on any particular people or belief system, but on all of us.

*The fact that the major loss of life that day occurred so close to UN Headquarters must have had a profound impact on you. Were you at the UN that morning?*

I was not in the office when the attack happened, but I was expecting to attend a ceremony that morning on the lawn outside the

United Nations. Believe it or not, it was the annual day that I ring the Peace Bell at UN Headquarters to mark the beginning of a new session of the General Assembly. It still strikes me as a sad irony. One of the people who appeared for the event was in fact a worker at the World Trade Center, and he was coming because his daughter was participating in the Peace Bell ceremony. So he was fortunate to be at the UN when the planes struck.

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### **July Programs**

July 2<sup>nd</sup> - Shannon Cave  
Lewis and Clark  
(Introduced by Jeff Pennock)

July 9<sup>th</sup> - Chris Thompson  
University Extension  
(Introduced by Jeff Pennock)

July 16<sup>th</sup> - Kelly Tannehill  
Special Olympics  
(Introduced by Rob Hess)

July 23<sup>rd</sup> - TBA

July 30<sup>th</sup> - Matt Reiske  
Japan Exchange  
(Introduced by Jeff Pennock)

*Some people continue to view the United Nations with skepticism. Why does the world need the United Nations?*

I am tempted to say that the world needs the United Nations for the same reason that the organization was set up six decades ago: to provide a venue where the governments of the world can collectively resolve political crises and conflicts and cooperate on international problems ranging from disease to global poverty. And to a great extent that is true. But in fact the world needs the United Nations *more* than ever before. We are, more than ever, one world. And that means we have common problems and common interests. Whether it is the destruction of the environment or the proliferation of deadly weapons or fallout from state failure, we are all affected. States must therefore address these issues together. And when they disagree or when their interests diverge, states must find a way to manage their differences peacefully because we all have a common interest in maintaining the peace in this day and age.

From <http://www.rotary.org>, to be cont'd