

THE EYE OPENER



Breakfast Rotary—Jefferson City, MO

www.jeffcityrotary.org

June 2003

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

ROB'S RHETORIC

(WORDS FROM OUR ROTARY CLUB PRESIDENT)



This Rotary year is quickly dissolving away with the passing of each day. The year has flown by, but our club's achievements this year truly lived up to Rotary International President Bhichai Rattakul's

request that we sow the seeds of love.

From another successful chicken dinner fund raiser to the enormously successful *PolioPlus* campaign, and from a wonderful Christmas party at the Freudenberg residence to the summer barbecue coming up on June 18th at the Willibrand Ranch, our club has had a terrific year of doing exactly what Paul Harris intended for our club to do: enjoy each other's fellowship, place service above self and have fun combining the two.

Brazilian Artur de Souza will be joining our club soon, and Claudia will be returning home to share her year of midwestern Americana with her fellow Germans. Nancy and Bill Gratz have committed to hosting Artur for the first third of the next Rotary year, while Murphy and Linda Tetley have graciously agreed to be our second host family. Please let me or David Luther know if your family is interested in sharing the last three months of next year with Artur.

We continued to deliver the Meals-On-Wheels lunches on the fourth Monday of each month this past year. We will be doing so on June 23rd of this month, as well. Thank you's go to several "regulars" who have continued to sign up for this very worthy project each month. As I have mentioned in the past, it is incredibly rewarding to see

how upbeat and positive those homebound folks are when you arrive at their front door.

Finally, as mentioned previously, our summer barbecue and installation ceremony has been scheduled for June 18, 2003, at the Willibrand Ranch. We will plan on everyone arriving around 6 p.m. with the meal served around 6:45 p.m. and the installation ceremony to follow immediately thereafter. Members whose last names begin with A-K should plan to bring a dessert; names beginning with L-R should bring vegetables; and names beginning with S-Z should bring a salad. Please sign-up on the sign-up sheet or let me know if you plan to attend so we can get an accurate count for purposes of purchasing meat.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President this past year; thank you for all the generous help everyone has given me along the way; and please continue to sow the seeds of love into the next Rotary year!

Hong Kong Rotarians join fight against SARS

Since it broke out in Guangdong Province, China, in mid-November 2002, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, better known by its acronym SARS, has hop scotched its way along major airline routes into 28 countries across the world. According to the latest World Health Organization (WHO) update, the epidemic has infected 8,221 people and caused 735 deaths. The Rotarians of District 3450, Hong Kong, have found themselves on the frontlines of the effort to stop the spread of SARS, which is described by the WHO as "the first severe and readily transmissible new disease to emerge in the 21st century."

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At the end of February, the region became an epicenter of the epidemic after two infected travelers from mainland China carried the SARS virus to Hong Kong. Because there was so little that the medical establishment knew about SARS, the public reacted with panic to the news of the new disease.

"Citizens are living in fear because nobody can guarantee when or who will be infected, even the family members living under the same shelter," says Herbert Lau, deputy information coordinator for District 3450. "What we can do now, as Rotarians, is to help the government to rebuild the confidence of the people."

District 3450 has set up a special committee to do that and more. It supports Rotarian and non-Rotarian SARS projects through re-allocating unused DDF and making various fundraising appeals. In addition, the district is running video ads throughout May on giant outdoor screens, to provide SARS information and messages of support to medical workers.

The flagship of the district's effort is a Web site at www.rotary3450.org/news/sars/ that documents SARS-related club activities such as the following:

To honor the memory of member Dr. James Lau, who died after contracting SARS from a patient, the Rotary Club of Kowloon East is raising funds to support further SARS research at the University of Hong Kong. So far, HK\$5 million (US\$641,000) has been raised.

Teaming up with the Macau Flying Eagle Club, the Rotary Club of Hou Kuong, Macao, raised MOP 102,200 (approximately US\$12,800) to purchase and distribute to low-income families 1,500 packs of protective accessories consisting of a bottle of liquid household bleach, face masks, a thermometer, and SARS information leaflets.

The Rotary Club of Kowloon North donated US\$10,000 to Project Shield, run by the South China Morning Post newspaper to provide protective clothing and equipment for medical staff. It also supplied 100 floor fans to improve ventilation in the homes of elderly people who cannot afford them.

June Programs

June 4th - Ms. Paula Diller,
The Use of Mediation
(Introduced by Stephen J. Stark)

June 11th - Pres. Andrew Jackson
Chautauqua Re-enactor
(Introduced by Stephen J. Stark)

June 18th - OFF-SITE evening
Installation of New Officers
Willibrand Ranch

June 25th - Mr. Jack Ryan
River Valley Development Committee
(Introduced by Stephen J. Stark)

With the support of medical faculty from two Hong Kong universities, the Rotary Club of Channel Islands hosted a well-attended SARS information session. The club then initiated a district-wide fundraising campaign to help raise HK\$200,000 (approximately US\$25,641) to provide protective gear for medical students and faculty at both universities.

Members of the Rotary Club of Tolo Harbour sponsored a "Fear-busters Workshop" aimed at providing accurate information about the disease. The Rotary Club of Hong Kong Bayview distributed 20,000 facemasks and 100 boxes of liquid soap to needy residents and other members of the public.

Moved by the heroic deaths of two medical workers on the SARS frontlines, district Interact leaders collected 300 letters of appreciation from Interactors in Hong Kong and posted them on a notice board in the lobby of the Hong Kong Hospital Authority. With the support of the Rotary Club of Kingspark Hong Kong, they published a letter in two local newspapers, encouraging young Hong Kong residents to acknowledge and emulate the selflessness of medical workers fighting the SARS epidemic.

from www.rotary.org