



District 6740 Rotary News

Rakesh Sachdeva, District Governor

January 2009 - Volume 1 Number 6



MERRY CHRISTMAS

and a

HAPPY NEW YEAR

from DG Rakesh, Seema,
Shilpa, Shikha, and Buster!

Dear Rotarian,

Because January is Rotary Awareness month, I would like you to think about our organization's history and its future. We must be prepared, as seasoned Rotarians, to share our knowledge and experience with potential new members. Prospective members will want to know all about the opportunities for service and the resources available to them if they do commit to joining a Rotary club. In addition, when we welcome new members, we should remember to focus on the traditions and the rich heritage of Rotary.



Past RI President Richard I. Evans (1966-67) once said, "A man may have great truth, he may produce a good product, he may make a great discovery, but if he dies and no one benefits, it is because he did not share." Rotarians have a proud history marked by growth and achievements. That history is so deep and varied that while most of us can name Rotary milestones, far fewer know the complete story of programs and opportunities.

The greater the understanding of Rotary's history and tradition of service, the better we are prepared to welcome new members and *Make Dreams Real* in our communities and around the world.

Yours in Rotary,

DG Rakesh Sachdeva

JANUARY is Rotary Awareness Month!

This is a perfect month to let your community know who you are and what you do. You might want to consider these tips:

- * Share your club's web site or blog link through an electronic news release.
- * Host a question and answer press conference during one of your meetings, inviting local media.
- * Invite a friend or co-worker to a meeting.
- * Write a letter to the editor of your local paper about your club's community and international humanitarian efforts.
- * Coordinate a community service project with another local organization.
- * Purchase or download the RI publications "This is Rotary", "What's Rotary?" or "Rotary Basics" and distribute them in your community.

(Reprinted from Rotary PR Tips Dec. 12, 2008)

Enjoy a Bit of Verse

This little poem by an unknown author was found on the Kitimat Club website. How would you have responded to such a question?

What Does a Rotary Club Do?

Someone asked that question once, and I stood there feeling like a dunce!

What do our Rotarians do? I hemmed and hawed a time or two,
Then said, "We usually gather for a meal and ask each other how we feel.
Get our food and have some fun, chattering 'til the meal is done.
We get club business out of the way and have the program of the day.
Some are good and some are great and some run on 'til fairly late."

But then my friend, he turned to go. "That wasn't what I wanted to know."
I've thought a lot about this since. What could I possibly say to convince?
Rotarians do more than meet and greet, more than just show up and eat.
Well, this is how I would make amends by explaining Rotary to my friends.

Two billion children are healthy today in lands both near and far away
Who otherwise might be lame or dead from polio, that childhood dread.
And hungry children are being fed through better ways to grow their bread.
Rotarians in many lands are teaching, and doctors of all kinds are reaching
Out to heal the sick and lame with little thought for wealth or fame.
Men and women are meeting the need to teach little children how to read.
Youth come here from every land in answer to our outstretched hand
To learn about us and our ways, bringing peace and friendship to all our days.

Clubs are formed in every nation, for fellowship and conversation.
For education and information, and practicing the cultivation
Of peace on earth, good will to all, and a speedy end to every wall
Which separates the folk on earth and keeps us from seeing each other's worth.
A hundred things there are to say about what Rotarians do each day
In every land and every town, to lift someone when they are down.
They help each other along the way - Service Above Self - what more can I say?

In the Spotlight with ADG Alex Kazunas

Meet Alex Kazunas, Assistant District Governor for Area 4, which covers Carlisle, Cynthiana, Falmouth, and Paris. A native Kentuckian, thirty-three year old Alex is a graduate of the University of Kentucky where he attended the College of Engineering and the College of Agriculture. He is also a KECI (Kentucky Entrepreneurial Coaches Institute) Fellow.

Alex is a member of the Carlisle Rotary Club, serving as president in 2004-05, and he is a Paul Harris Fellow. Alex is also proud to have been named a Kentucky Colonel.

In addition to his active involvement with Rotary, Alex is the Vice President of the Nicholas County Historical Society and serves on the board of the Carlisle Cemetery. He is also a member of the Courthouse Square Arts Guild in Carlisle. When he has the time, Alex likes to hike, read and fish.



Alex and his wife Susann are the proud parents of two beautiful girls, Amelia (age five) and Sophia (age two).

The Rest of the Story

My most humbling moment was the birth of my two wonderful children. This may seem contrite to some folks, but I can't think of anything that I would sacrifice as much for. To me, family is the most important thing.

A famous person I would like to meet would actually be the "not so famous" people! Those behind the scenes are the ones I am happy to meet. I don't want to minimize the accomplishments of those who have had great notoriety, but what would I have to say to them? When Bill Gates and the Gates Foundation decided to give to the Polio Plus project, that act should be commended, but is my handshake going to complete him? Would he even notice? It is said that Bill Gates was informed about Rotary International being dedicated to wiping out polio by his own father, a Rotarian. Now **he** would be the one I would like to meet!

My favorite club project is our annual Christmas party for underprivileged children from the community. Each year, twenty-four children, in the first through third grades, are selected by local elementary school teachers to attend a special visit with Santa. The children receive a few gifts from the Carlisle Rotary and get to visit with Santa personally. What the children receive pales in comparison to what the club members take away from the visits. A few years ago, a child, after receiving his gifts and treats, asked me if he could give one of the items to his father as he had nothing to give him. It is this personal connection with individuals that makes our club unique in our community.

The future of Rotary depends on Rotary International holding to its core values of service above self.

District Governor Nominees Sought for 2011-12

Applications are now being accepted for the position of District Governor for Rotary year 2011-12. Please be reminded that nominees should be former presidents and members in good standing for the past seven years.

For additional information and application forms, please contact: Joe Caldwell at Ph 606-524-3935 or joecaldwell43@yahoo.com

Join the Rotary Leadership Institute

The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is a series of fast-paced, interactive, one-day courses offered to refine a Rotarian's leadership skills and increase his/her base of knowledge in Rotary.

Courses are fun, topical, interactive, and geared toward busy business and professional Rotarians who want to be more effective leaders in their vocations and their clubs. It is recommended that clubs nominate two Rotarians each year to begin RLI and support prior attendees' continuation of the Parts II and III.

Rotary clubs need a constant influx of new leadership as club officers, board and committee leaders change every year. It is difficult at the club level to learn enough about the exciting

world of Rotary with its 1.4 million members in 166 countries. Furthermore, leadership skills in a voluntary organization are often different from business leadership skills. It is important that club leaders have every opportunity for education because the success or failure of our clubs depends in large part on the quality of their leaders. This is an outstanding opportunity for each club to improve the Rotary knowledge of its key people who will also be exposed to new ideas of leadership. Just the interaction with other Rotarians makes the courses worthwhile.

The next RLI will take place on Saturday, February 7, 2009 in Lexington at the Ramada Inn on US 27/US 68 North (Paris Pike) near the intersection of I 75/I 64. For more information contact Jack McAllister at mrjackmac@insightbb.com.

Richmond Club meetings make a move

The Richmond Rotary Club will move their meetings from the Galaxy Bowling Center to Arlington on January 21, 2009. Arlington, owned by Eastern Kentucky University, is located just off exit 90 of I-75 on West Main Street. They are pleased to report that the move is the result of the club's membership growth this past year. The Richmond Rotary meets each Wednesday at noon and all fellow Rotarians are welcome.

London Rotary helps third-graders look it up with new dictionaries

With her pigails bouncing, Page Lewis opened her shiny, new Websters' dictionary and creased the front page. Practically pressing her nose inside the book, she started looking up the word "beneficial" as instructed.

Lewis was pleased with her new acquisition.

"It's cool how it helps me learn," she said.

Over in the next London Elementary classroom, Peyton Eldridge was likewise flipping through his new book.

"I like it cause it will help me do my homework," he said.

When asked what kind of homework he expects to use the dictionary for, Eldridge shrugged and then thoughtfully answered.

"Probably math," he said.

Every third-grader in the district - a total of 960 kids - received a dictionary in October courtesy of the London Rotary Club, whose members have been handing out the books for the past two years.

"One of the four avenues of service in the Rotary Club is community service," explained **Mike Giles**, president of the London Rotary Club. "The club felt that a dictionary project would be a good way to promote literacy for the kids in this community."

The dictionaries come from a non-profit organization called the *Dictionary Project*, whose goal is to give a free dictionary to 4,170,598 students, the number of third graders across the country.

Last year, 2,330,715 dictionaries were given to students.



Dictionary Project Office Manager Anya Leveille said the undertaking has more benefits than just improving spelling and vocabulary development.

"We've also found that having adults from the community, who aren't their parents or their teachers, coming in and giving students an educational gift reinforces that the people in the community really care about their education," Leveille commented. "And the teachers love it because they all have the same book and they can incorporate that into their lessons."

Leveille said the dictionaries can teach another lesson, as well.

"We encourage kids to write thank-you letters to their sponsors to cultivate gratitude," she said.

After receiving the book, students were the Rotary's Four-Way Test, which asks the questions: "Is it the truth?" "Is it fair to all concerned?" "Will it build good will and better friendships?" and "Will it be beneficial to all concerned?"

In turn, the kids were asked to look up the word "beneficial" in their new dictionaries.

According to **Jamie Harrison**, Rotary treasurer and chair of the local Dictionary Project, the kids were happy to receive the gifts.

"When you tell them it's their dictionary, their faces just light up," he said. "It's pretty awesome."



Mike Giles (left), president of the London Rotary Club, presents Don Wattenbarger, Chairman of London's *Shop with a Cop* program, with a \$1,000 check from the club to help underprivileged children in the Laurel County area to have a Merry Christmas.

Paul Claiborne (right), Sergeant-at-Arms of the London Rotary, presents Linda Gilreath, Director of the London

Come-Unity Cooperative Care, and a new member of the London Rotary, a \$1500 donation for *Christmas Food Baskets* for needy families in the area.



Bruce Gordon reports for Georgetown Rotary



Tom Bloch, Larry Prather

, and **Katy Prather** work a concession stand at the Georgetown College Basketball tournament December 5 and 6. Rotarians from Georgetown manned the stand for two days of basketball championship games and raised over \$1,000 for Rotary charities. The event was so successful that the Georgetown club plans to sponsor the *Jim Reed Classic Basketball Tournament* in 2009 as its signature event to raise money for Rotary projects.

Pikeville RYLA sponsors "Adopt a Pet"



The Pikeville Rotary Club-sponsored youth program called RYLA kicked off its community

service this year by offering a helping hand to the abandoned animals in the Pikeville area. The young Rylarians, with the help of the Pikeville Rotary Club, organized "Adopt a Pet".

The group selected five cats and five dogs from the local animal shelter and paid their adoption fees, de-worming and rabies immunizations, and the cost of spaying or neutering all the pets in the program. RYLA set up a tent outside Wal-Mart and interacted with prospective families willing to adopt the animals. The pets were given away, along with a few supplies, including collars and leashes, food and water bowls, toys and bags of food, all at no cost to the adopting families.

In exchange for adopting a pet, the families made any donation they could to the group. The youth successfully adopted out all ten pets in under four hours. In fact, the program was so successful that the Rylarians plan to have another give away in the spring.

Rylarians who helped carry out this project were Emily Smallwood, Dana Hall, Chasity Adams, Timothy Hall, Vikki Burke, Zachary Wright, Erica, Kaitlyn Osborne and Chelsea from Shelby Valley High School; Sara Blackburn, Daniel Thacker and Rakayla Newsome from Pike Central High School; and Tyler Marcum, Ryan Glass, and Shikha Sachdeva from Pikeville High School. The Rylarians are also involved in after-school tutoring programs and plan to raise awareness and funds to help AIDS orphans in Africa. The RYLA sponsor is **Seema Sachdeva**.

Maysville Rotary presents

As is traditional, the Rotary Club of Maysville sponsors the *Community Crib* in downtown Maysville each Christmas. Life-sized figures in a handcrafted stable were dedicated on the first Sunday of December with Rotarians, the County Judge Buddy Gallenstein, and Mayor David Cartmell participating. Readings and Christmas carols followed an inspirational address by Assistant Police Chief and Outstanding Rotarian **Ron Rice**.



On another front, for more than 25 years, Maysville philanthropist Polly Hesler has provided free Thanksgiving meals for the needy in the area. Polly began this charitable project when she owned a restaurant and found many who would be without a good meal on Thanksgiving Day. So she stepped up to provide meals for those folks.

After a few years, there were so many who showed up to partake of those free Thanksgiving meals that she outgrew the restaurant. At that point, Polly moved the "project" to the Rotary Clubhouse. Last year Polly, her family, Rotarians and other volunteers furnished over 800 hot meals to the needy and shut-ins.

Unfortunately, Polly, who had been fighting a battle against cancer, was told by her doctor (Rotarian **David Doty**) that she would not be able to continue to personally supervise the project. David promised Polly that the project would continue, and he brought the idea before the Maysville Rotary's Board. There was no question as to the outcome of the vote.

So this year, the Maysville Rotary began sponsoring the *Polly Hesler Thanksgiving Dinner* with the help of her family and volunteers. Surprisingly, Polly felt well enough to "supervise" this year to the delight of all.

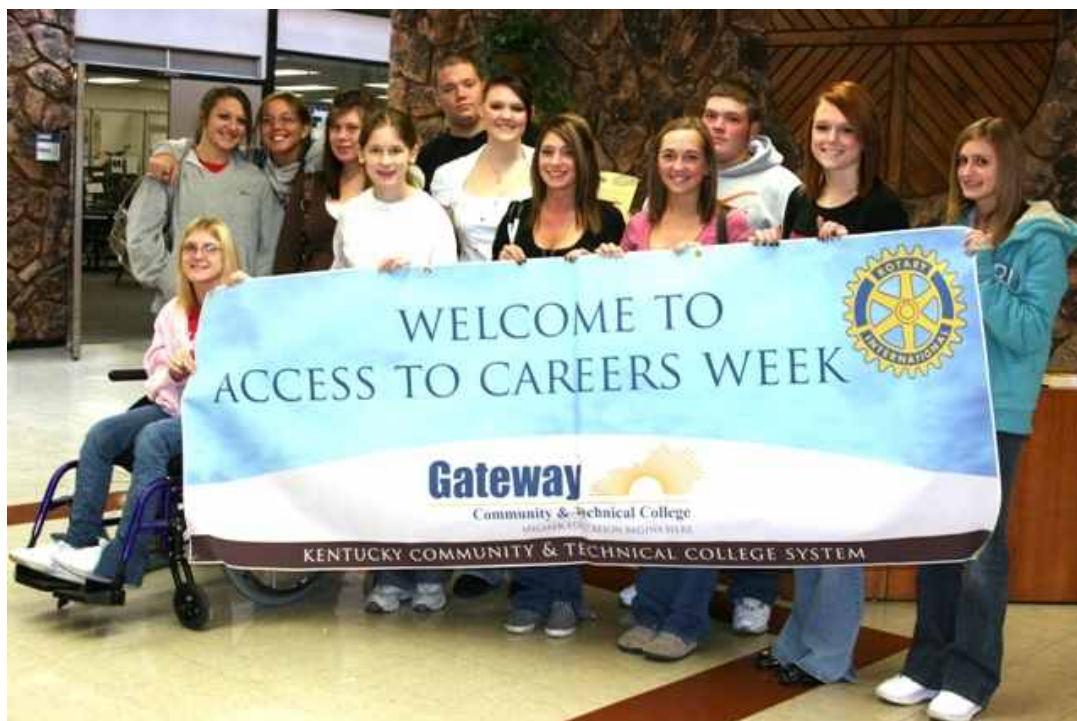
Community members from throughout the area heard of the good work and donated over \$3000 to help with the project.

Pictured below are a few of the wonderful volunteers and Rotarians preparing the food and, of course, the lady who had the dream - Polly Hesler, the originator and coordinator of the dinner.



[Into the future with Campbell County Rotary](#)

The Campbell County Rotary gave a group of high school students a chance to peek into their futures during a recent *Access to Careers Day*. Rotary sponsored the event which allowed students from Campbell County High School to take a tour of the facilities of Gateway Community and Technical College including a visit to each of the school's departments. Students got a first-hand look at the facilities, a close-up of the programs, and a review of the financial aid and tuition programs available. The event was a continuation of Rotary's ongoing efforts to support educational endeavors.



[Spinning wheel in Andhra Pradesh generates](#)



Hyderabad, Nov. 25 (ANI): Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has developed an innovative spinning wheel, which apart from spinning yarn also generates electricity sufficient to energize rural homes for 7-8 hours.

Mahatma Gandhi promoted charkha (the spinning wheel) during freedom struggles as a symbol of self-reliance and source of income for the rural population.

It is after more than six decades of independence that the KVIC thought of the dual use of the spinning wheel. It was the acute electricity shortage in Indian villages that inspired the making of e-charkha (electric spinning wheel).

A follower of Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy Ekambar Nath, has designed the e-charkha. It has a hand driven spinning wheel and the attached battery gets charged while operating the wheel. The spinning of thread on e-charkha for two hours charges the battery for eight hours.

K. Mohan Rao, State Director, KVIC, Andhra Pradesh said the effort is to replace the old charkha with the new e-charkhas so that the villages could become self-sufficient in the generation of electricity.

These e-charkhas are distributed free of cost under a scheme "Funds for Regeneration of Traditional Industries" SFURTI, sponsored by the Central government.

This new innovation has made the inhabitants of Hyderabad, like Jehangir, immune to the frequent and long cuts in electricity.

"After the coming of e-charkhas we can generate electricity while spinning. In villages where there is no electricity, using e-charkhas could solve the problem. If one spins an e-charkha for two hours, it charges the battery sufficient to last for eight hours. Now when the battery is charged, one can work at night also. There are provisions for entertainment attached to this e-charkha as well. One can listen to a transistor or charge a mobile while spinning the charkha", said Jehangir, a resident.

Officials of the KVIC said that each e-charkha costs approximately 9,000 rupees (approximately \$180 US). Currently, Andhra Pradesh has 200 e-charkhas operating.

Carlisle Rotary marks milestone

Mr. **Cleary Fightmaster**, the last surviving founder of the Carlisle Rotary Club (1943), passed away at the end of November. Even in his 90s, Mr. Fightmaster continued to play a special role in each of the club's *Kids' Christmas Parties*. He was beloved by the children and always enjoyed their conversations and sweet hugs.



Mr. Fightmaster donated \$1,000 every year to insure that 25 children from poor families had a party where they could meet Santa and take home gifts for Christmas. The names of children are submitted by the local school.

The Carlisle Rotary will miss this great Rotarian and will always admire his compassion for those who had less and his dedication to his club.

Pikeville Rotary Pancake Day a huge success



The Pikeville Rotary Club's annual *Pancake Day* brought hundreds of community members to the Pikeville Methodist Church Annex on a chilly December 5 to enjoy toasty pancakes and delicious sausage. Rotarians took turns grilling up the fare for those who came for breakfast, lunch or dinner and lots of fellowship. The food was donated by Food City and the utensils and paper products by Wal Mart.

Over \$7,000 was raised that day with the proceeds paying for one of the club projects - a disaster trailer which will be donated to the local chapter of the American Red Cross.

Pictured are Rotarian **Shirley Blackburn**, volunteer Melissa Little, Rotarian **Tim Collins** (chair of the event) and Rotarians **John Paul Epling** and **Dwain Stevens**.

District Conference Planning Committee begins work



On December 6, the planning committee in charge of organizing the April 2009 *District Conference* met at the East Kentucky Expo Center in Pikeville. The meeting was chaired by ADG Jerry Kanney. DG Rakesh Sachdeva challenged the seventeen Rotarians present to create a climate in which each of the participating Rotarians would leave the conference, not only with renewed enthusiasm for the roles each will play within their own clubs, but with helpful tips and other tools with which to build on the successes of their clubs. DG Sachdeva, who is very excited to host "The Party in Pikeville" to showcase his hometown and East Kentucky, also suggested the theme for the conference. "Celebrate Compassion" will be used in all materials and will hopefully help motivate the 2,000 district Rotarians to come to Pikeville and be part of this important event.

Pikeville Rotarian Jeanne Clark, the executive organizer of the conference, led the committee through an overview of the structure for planning such a large event. The conference, which will be held at the East Kentucky Expo Center on April 24-26, will feature timely seminars and knowledgeable speakers. There will be a focus on our youth, GSE teams, Ambassadorial Scholars, Rotary Alumni, District Speech Contest Finalists and much more. The banquets will be filled with exceptional food, fabulous entertainment, and exciting speakers.

Committee members include: ADG **John Adams** (Somerset/Pulaski Co.) **Christie Adams** (Somerset/Pulaski Co.), **Chris Castle** (Paintsville), **Jeanne Clark** (Pikeville), **Gerri Clark** (Pikeville), **James Glass** (Pikeville), Pres. **Pam Howard** (Pikeville), ADG **Jerry Kanney** (Pikeville), **Janice King** (Hazard), **Gerri Kinder** (Pikeville), **Cindy Legg** (Paintsville), **David McKenzie** (Louisa), **Josephine Richardson** (Whitesburg), DG **Rakesh Sachdeva** (Pikeville), **Seema Sachdeva** (Pikeville), **Steve St. John** (Pikeville), **Wes Stedtefeld** (Paintsville), and **Mike Vance** (Prestonsburg).

**REGISTRATION PACKETS WILL BE MAILED TO EACH ROTARIAN
AROUND MARCH 1. MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN TO ATTEND!**

**Florence Rotary concert raises \$4500
to fight polio**

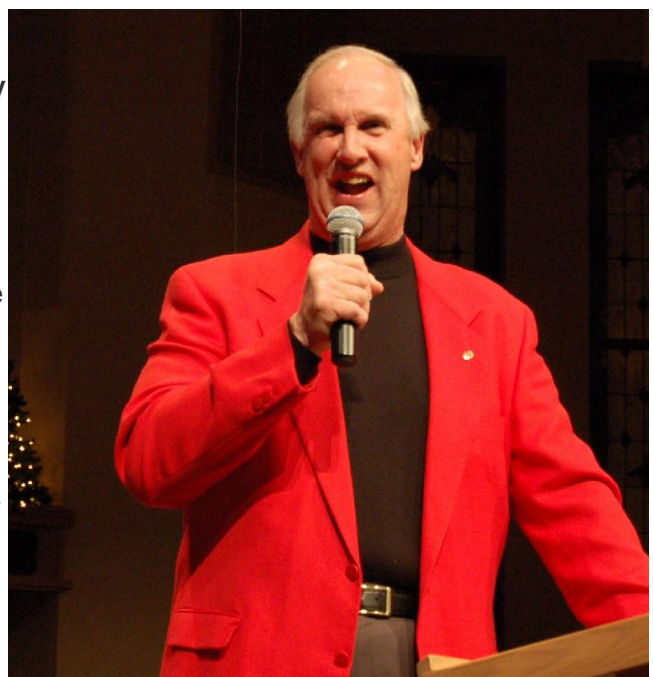
Guests and performers filled Lakeside Christian Church with praise and gracious generosity during the annual Florence Rotary *Christmas Concert*.



The audience, estimated at about 600, reveled in the musical celebration heralding the beginning of the Christmas season. Traditional and contemporary songs of the season were provided by a combination of musicians, ensembles and soloists.

The Florence Rotary Christmas Concert is a longstanding tradition and is one of the top fundraising events for the club. This year's concert proceeds are going toward the fight against polio.

Pictured (above right) are guests at the Christmas Concert and (right) Event Coordinator and performer, Rotarian **Gary Griesser**.



Polio eradication is an international effort by the Rotary Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Although tremendous progress has been made, the world is not yet polio-free.

The polio virus knows no borders; it can spread from an endemic country into polio-free areas. As long as one case of polio remains in the world, no child is safe from this deadly disease. Rotary International is committed to the complete elimination of polio throughout the world.

Master of Ceremonies for the Christmas Concert was Rotarian **Shawn Carroll** (right).



For further information about the Florence Rotary, contact **Molly McEvoy-Boh**, president, at

florencerotary@gmail.com or phone her at 859-426-1300 or visit the website at www.florencerotary.org

Rotary Club of Somerset President **John Clay**, Past President **B.J. Parson** and member **George Huggins** recently received honor posters from the *Wreaths Across America* at Mills Springs National Cemetery.

The club held a reception and wreath laying ceremony for several members who served in the military, including PDG **John Tohill**, PP **Ben Hieronymous**, and others. (Photo by John Bolze)



In addition, the club would like to announce that their new inductees include Tammy Cundiff, Terry Reffett, Charlie Flynn, and Monica Flynn.

We hope you enjoy receiving the Rotary Newsletter each month, and we look forward to hearing about your club projects and other newsworthy information. Please submit pictures and articles for publication by the third week in each month to jeanne@setel.com.

**Yours in the spirit of Rotary,
Jeanne W. Clark
Newsletter Editor**

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