



Rotary



ACE Express

Appreciate • Congratulate • Educate

Volume I \ VIII

February, 2018



Trip to Haiti was life-changing

By Kathe Sobczak
Frankford-Northeast Rotarian

What I thought was going to be a trip to Gressier, Haiti to provide education to children at the Community School of Bellevue turned into a life-changing experience!

Sue Mardinly, president of Mommy Sue's Children, was a guest speaker at our Rotary Club earlier this year. Sue, president of Concordville-Chadds Ford Rotary Club, spoke about her trip to Haiti after the 2010 earthquake as a volunteer emergency relief worker. While there she met Maxo, the principal of The Community School of Belleue which provides education to children who are among the poorest of the poor. The school provides education to children from Pre- K thru the eighth grade. A ninth grade is being added shortly. Maxo built the school with his own money so the children would have a place to receive an education. Sue learned that the school was about to close from the loss of support from disaster response groups no longer coming. The need in the community is so great that it grew beyond his ability to support it. After her presentation, I told her that I would love to go with her on her next trip. I felt compelled to meet Maxo and help these students in any way possible.

On November 9, 2017, Lynne, a retired R.N, and myself, a retired social worker, joined Sue as members of Mommy Sue's first team traveling to Haiti. We were greeted by Maxo, along with his driver, who drove us from Port au Prince to Gressier, which took about three hours.

Throughout our trip, Maxo was our translator. During that time, I witnessed the challenges and obstacles the Haitians face on a daily basis. Trash and debris lined the streets and the stench was overwhelming. Merchants, seven rows deep, elbow to elbow, trying to sell their wares to customers. Homes without doors with only a sheet covering the doorway for privacy. There were homes without furniture or only a mattress to sleep on; bathrooms were literally a hole in the ground with an enclosed area for privacy.

(Continued on Page Six)

From DG Dawn deFuria

"Happy Birthday Rotary!"

We are celebrating 113 years since Rotary was founded on February 23. The first Rotary Club was formed when Paul Harris called together a meeting with three business acquaintances. Paul Harris had just moved to Chicago and was looking to make friends. The initial goal was to create a club for friendship and fellowship. The name Rotary was chosen because initially they rotated subsequent weekly club meetings at one another's offices in downtown Chicago, Illinois.

Today we have added service and diversity to Rotary but we still ask new members who are looking for fellowship and want to make a difference in their community to join Rotary. Rotary gives us much more today than when Paul Harris was a member. Our world is changing and we need our Clubs to change and move forward if we want to be relevant in the future. Since 2016, the Council on Legislation has given more flexibility for members. Membership in our District is down overall by 30 since July 1. It is 1380. Think about creating a Satellite Club, an extension of your Club on a different day or time. Use the flexibility to bring in new members; it's up to you to grow membership in your Club.

Mark your calendars for April 20-22, 2018 for our District Conference. We are asking you to "get on board the ACE Express and join the Whistle Stop Tour"; three days, three different locations in our District. No traveling long distance, no high prices; we're bringing the event to you!

Friday evening we will celebrate and recognize Rotarians and Clubs for all their service at our Second annual **SASY** awards.

Saturday, we will have our program of great speakers, and Sunday, which is Earth Day, we will be planting 80 trees in Heuser Park in King of Prussia.

Dawn deFuria

(See Page Three for Conference Details.)



DG Dawn has 'Rotary moment' during RYLA weekend

DG Dawn deFuria shares her impressions of part of this year's RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) weekend at the Freedoms Foundation in Valley Forge which concluded Sunday, February 11.

WOW what an amazing weekend! We had 82 students (including six Youth Exchange Students) and 10 Rotaractors, who led the event for a weekend of leadership. These 82 students were fully engaged and are on their way to becoming our future leaders. There was a program where John Nanni came in and talked about Polio. John is a Polio survivor and after his message, we had a student stand up and ask how can he donate to Polio. He gave John \$20, John Nanni matched the \$20. Next, Rotarian Brian Casey gave \$20 and the total was \$60 for PolioPlus. What happened next was amazing! During the next seven minutes, students donated an additional \$136 for Polio Plus, totaling \$196. With the Rotary math by the Bill and

Melinda Gates Foundation (\$2 for \$1 match), we will give \$588 to Rotary International for Polio Plus.

This was my Rotary moment, seeing young people give to a Rotary cause, Polio Plus!

Later that evening, Jay Scott came in and talked about Alex's Lemonade and afterwards every student gave a standing ovation.

Thank you Rotarians Karen Mazzarella-Russo, Brian Casey, Bob Listerman, Dan Kelly, DGE Paul Quintavalla, DGN Kevin Katarynick, Sharon Quick, Kristine Pongras, Joe Russo, Rob Newman, Rick Trivane, John Marble, Chris Potter, Connie Templar and Sue Mardinly for all your service in making this event memorable.

We had the parents join us Sunday morning for a continental breakfast and then had the awards ceremony.

Student after student told me they had a great weekend and asked me to thank the Rotarians and Rotary Clubs for this opportunity.



RYLA students and DG Dawn deFuria (fourth from left in second row) showing how close the drive to eradicate polio is during the 2018 RYLA weekend.



**Rotary International District 7450
and
District Governor Dawn deFuria
Invite you to the
"2018 District Conference"
April 20, 21, and 22, 2018**

"Hop on the Whistle Stop Tour!"

We will have a three- day District Conference in three different areas in our District, featuring lots of activities.. Come **get on board** with us and attend some or all of the events during this great weekend.

Friday, April 20, 2018

We kick off the District Conference with the **2nd Annual SASY Awards** at the Springfield Country Club., 5:30 p.m.

The District will recognize Rotarians and Rotary Clubs for their service from 2016-2018 during a night you won't want to miss!

Saturday, April 21, 2018

Join us at the Doubletree by Hilton Philadelphia-Valley Forge , starting with 7:45 a.m. breakfast, educational sessions, a House of Friendship, lunch, networking, and more. Highlights include: **David Forward**, who will discuss Rotary International Peace Centers; **Carol Metzker** and **Ann Marie Jones**, a local survivor of human trafficking, who will discuss strategies for protecting kids, **4-Way Test contest** speeches, and much more., concluding at 5p.m.

We hope you will stay for the **Happy Hour** to celebrate our amazing year of service, friendship and fun!

Sunday, April 22, 2018

We celebrate Earth Day, beginning with brunch at **Great American Pub in Conshohocken** from **10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.. After brunch**, we will host a **Service Project at Heuser Park in King of Prussia** where we will plant at least 80 trees to contribute to Rotary International President Ian Riseley's goal to plant 1.2 million trees during this Rotary year!

We look forward to seeing you **"get on board"** the weekend of **April 20-22**, for the journey of the year!

Be one of the first 100 to register to be entered into a drawing for:

1st Prize - 3-day Conference Pass to all planned events (value \$275.00)

2nd prize - Scarf/Tie autographed by Rotary International President Ian Riseley

3rd Prize - Train memorabilia commemorating D7450's year of "Getting on Board with Rotary!"

Register NOW for 2018 District Conference Whistle Stop Tour

Conference Cost:

	Until April 6th	After April 6th
Full Conference: (All 3 days)	\$275 \$250	\$300 \$275
- or - Friday - SASY Awards	\$ 80	\$ 85
Saturday Seminars & Sessions	\$155	\$170
Sunday Brunch & Tree Planting	\$ 40	\$ 45

West Chester Rotary Club accepts District check for 'Operation Warm

Bronwyn Martin (standing fourth from left), Foundation chair of Rotary District 7450, recently presented a \$1,500 District check to members of the "Operation Warm" committee of the Rotary Club of West Chester. The grant enabled the committee to purchase 175 winter coats for children in 11 area elementary schools. Different from other winter coat programs, the coats are sized to individual students by school case workers before being purchased. Committee members include (standing from left) Glen Sweet, who was instrumental in preparing the grant application, and Jeannie McGinn, Brandon Smith, Martin, Club President Mickey Hall, and Winnie Stroup; and front (from left) Cynthia Stroup and Patty Jefferis. Other committee members include Fran Curtin, Steve Founds, and Glen Jensen, who were not present.



Rotarian Eagles' fans and Patriots' fans pledge \$2775 for Polio Plus

Rotary Clubs in Foxboro, Massachusetts and Philadelphia had a little bet going on the 2018 Super Bowl. XXII February 4 with both Clubs donating \$25 for every point scored by both teams. The total raised, based on the 41-33 final score, will be \$2775. The funds will be sent to the Rotary Foundation **End Polio Now** campaign to eradicate polio worldwide. The amount raised will be matched \$2 for \$1 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation which raises the total to \$5,550. In addition to the fundraising, the bet included the proviso that the president of the Rotary Club of the winning team, Eagles, will send an Eagles shirt to the Foxboro Club president who had to wear it to the Club's next meeting.

Foxboro Rotarian Jim Goya came up with the idea and Club President Hesh Kagan reached out to Kurt Stroemel, president-elect of the Rotary Club of Philadelphia, to seal the wager.

"It appears that our respective hometown teams will be having a friendly game of football shortly," Kagan emailed Stroemel. She said that since the Patriots and Gillette Stadium are located in Foxboro, it seemed like a fitting way to raise money for the Rotary Foundation and show support for the local

team.

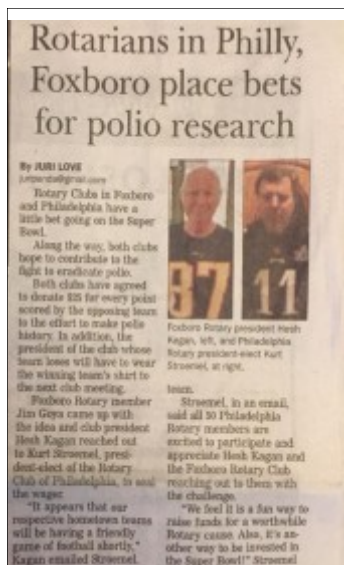
Stroemel, in an email, said all 50 Philadelphia Rotary members are excited to participate and appreciate Hesh Kagan and the Foxboro Rotary Club reaching out to them with the challenge. "We feel it is a fun way to raise funds for a worthwhile Rotary cause. Also, it's another way to be invested in the Super Bowl!" Stroemel wrote.

The Rotary Club of Philadelphia is the 19th oldest chapter among 34,000 worldwide. Stroemel said, prior to the game, he thought Kagan will look great in a green Eagles jersey. Kagan also expressed her confidence that Stroemel would be wearing Patriots' red, white and blue. Both clubs are looking beyond the final score in making the contribution to the effort to eradicate polio by 2022.

"We have a good feeling about the Eagles and believe we may be involved in this challenge again in the near future," Stroemel wrote. "But either way, Rotary wins and people around the world win."

Rotary International has been a major contributor of funds and volunteers to participate in the distribution of the polio vaccine since 1088.

At the end of 2017, fewer than 10 cases were reported during the year. "We are very close to winning this battle and eradicating this devastating disease and all it's suffering from the world," Stroemel said.



Peace Fellow Stacy Hughes reports from Bangkok and Thailand

**By Stacy Hughes
Rotary Peace Fellow**

I literally can't believe I have been gone for almost three weeks.

Overall, class has been interesting and I am enjoying it. There is a lot of reading to do and I am doing my best to keep up with it. Today, we started working on our Individual Conflict Analysis topics. I selected Philadelphia Gun Violence. When I gave my initial presentation about the topic, everyone was shocked at how much gun violence occurs in Philadelphia. Last week, class mainly focused on discussing the theory behind conflict resolution, the role of gender/sex, the different types/categories of conflict, Peace building, and a whole lot of other concepts/topics that I have never really thought about or been exposed to before coming to the program. At some point during class last week, we were discussing names and the importance of getting someone's name correct and the professor states "Our names are short-hand for a much long story." I thought it was so simple, but really brilliant. If you have time check out the website for the Global Peace Index. it ranks 163 countries concerning peace and there are a lot of factors/variable that go into the ranking. I won't tell you the America's ranking, but I was shocked when I saw it ompared to other countries. There is also one specifically for the America. The final picture attached is from class one day last week. We were discussing and focusing on gender and sex in Conflict Analysis.

Time has been going by so quickly and I have essentially been eating my way through Bangkok and Thailand. You really do need to come here just to try all the wonderful food.



Stacy Hughes (second row, third from left) is surrounded by fellow Peace Scholars in Bangkok classroom.

As part of the program, I'm taking Thai language classes twice a week. It has been interesting and hard, but I can count and say some basic phrases. The classes are taught by University students. I also learned how to say "No Spicy" which is important because Thais like to make everything spicy, including their Fruit Salad!!

I had a busy weekend and went to three different Temples and two floating markets. I attached a picture from one of the Temples (Golden Buddha) and a picture from the floating the market. I wanted to send a video from the floating market, but it's too big. One of the Temples is essentially built inside of a tree and the tree and it's roots grow around the structure. The other picture that is attached is me with a Thai artist who was having an exhibition at the Amphwaea Floating Market. I purchased one painting that he had done the day before of the market. He was so gracious and nice.

Saturday night a group of us went to the movies to see The Post (Go see it if you haven't, it was very good). The theater was in one of the six giant malls that is near where I am staying. Prior to the movie starting, the National Anthem plays and everyone stands up. Thankful I had warning this was going to happen or would have been very confused. The popcorn was just as good as the states and there are multiple flavors.

I had my first traditional Thai Massage. It was FANTASTIC!! It was an hour long and wonderful. I hope to have one a week while I am here. It cost 265 Bhat or \$8.43. I and some of my classmates have thought about taking classes to learn the practice of Thai.



Trip to Haiti made a difference for school students

(Continued from Page One)

Children were without clothing or shoes. Many were begging for someone to purchase fruit or vegetables. All this prepared me to meet many of the children who live under these impoverished conditions.

Upon our arrival, the children were so excited to see Mommy Sue. We arrived with a full agenda for the next five days. We had seven large suitcases filled with educational and medical supplies. Sue provided an Art Project and had a suitcase filled with art supplies and drawing and creative art books. Now the school has all the necessary materials to add an Art Class to the curriculum. Sue took pictures of each student as each completed his or her finished project to have a keepsake of their art work. In addition, Sue gave the music teacher four recorders, a giant piano mat and sheet music. The teacher was delighted to receive such a generous donation. She immediately picked up the recorder and began to play and the children gathered to hear the unfamiliar sound and listened with joy, waiting for the day they can play it themselves.

Before traveling to Haiti, my granddaughter and I made 50 shakers with various size beans for the little ones to shake to the beat of their favorite songs in class. The children really enjoyed themselves when using them. Lynne provided dental and oral hygiene education along with a personal toothbrush with toothpaste in baggies for each child to take home. These items were generously donated by Lynne's church. Lynne amused the children with wind-up dancing teeth. Many of the children had never had a toothbrush prior to that day. I provided a Literacy Project and presented Maxo and the children with 16 books written in Haitian Creole and in English plus two large dictionaries. In addition, there were many new books to educate the children in art, history, music, reading, poetry and science. The books will be kept in the Library for their use. The look on the children's faces as each paged through the children's books—all smiling at the pictures as I read to them. Just Priceless!

Through a very generous donation, we were able to provide medical supplies for the school nurse and completely filled her supply closet. Prior to our arrival, they had nothing. She was overcome with emotion as she looked through the supplies and was very grateful to be starting her new job knowing that she would be able to meet any medical need.



Students in the Community School of Bellevue, Haiti, gather around Sue Mardinly, affectionally called "Mommy Sue", who is holding sign listing the Rotary Clubs who are supporting the Well and Well House and the school last fall. She is president of "Mommy Sue's Children" and Concordville-Chadds Ford Rotary Club and is planning a return trip to the school next month..

There are so many needs as I looked around. The classrooms are furnished with long tables and small wicker weaved wood chairs. Thin flat wood panels are the dividing walls between the classrooms. Many are utilized as blackboards. The bathroom facility for the children is a hole in the ground in an enclosed small area. Seeing these conditions, I realized this will be one of many trips to Haiti. I am committed to use my social work skills and experience to help find a solution to create an environment in which these children can thrive and receive an education. My giving story is not just about change within me that happened because of this experience; "my giving" will encompass giving of myself along with financial contributions. Seeing this poverty has definitely changed the way I give!

The Well, Well House and one of the kindergarten classrooms were made possible with grants from the Rotary District 7450 and Gundaker Foundations, in partnership with Mommy Sue's Children. As a Rotarian it was a wonderful opportunity for me to see firsthand what our contributions are used for and the impact on the children that attend the school. School supplies were very limited. After seeing the overwhelming needs of the people in Haiti, especially the children, I am planning to return with Mommy Sue and the rest of the team this Spring. Please consider joining us on our next trip.

Remember that these parents have the same dreams for their children's future as we do for our own children and grandchildren. I have witnessed the many needs of these children. If you would like to join us in making a difference in the lives of these children in Haiti, go to : www.facebook.com/MommySuesChildren.

Kathy Sobczak, a member of the Frankford-Northeast Rotary Club and a retired social worker, reads to children at the Community School in Bellevue, Haiti, during November trip. She plans to return to the school next month.

West Chester Rotary Club presents \$1,000 check to Rotaplast

Cristina Combee (left), representing the International Service Committee of the West Chester Rotary Club, presents a \$1,000 check to District 7450 Rotaplast Chairman Paul Quintavalla, while President Mickey Hall looks on. Paul, a member of Broomall Rotary Club, has participated in several Rotaplast missions as a volunteer support person when doctors perform surgery on children with cleft lips and cleft palates. He also is Rotary District 7450 Governor-Elect for 2018-2019!



Registration open for March 17 Rotary Leadership Institute

Don't miss out. the time now to sign up for Spring 2018 Semester District 7450 and District 7430 Rotary Leadership Institute March 17 at the Raddison Valley Forge (instead of April 7 in Media). All levels (I, II, III and Graduate) will take place as long as at least eight people have signed up for a session (six for Graduate Course) by ten business days before it is scheduled (March 10). The purpose of the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is to strengthen your Club and strengthen your life. Rotary provides an opportunity for all of us to provide service to our communities and throughout the world. With the motto "Service Above Self" comes a learning experience in the areas of leadership, team building, marketing, planning, communication and organization. RLI provides an opportunity to enrich that learning through sharing experiences and ideas with other Rotarians throughout the region.

March 17, 2018, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Location : Radisson Valley Forge, 1160 First Avenue, King of Prussia.

Cost \$115

To register: Link is on the [District Facebook Rotary District 7450](#).

Rotary District 7450 is pleased to present

The 2nd Annual

SASY AWARDS




SPRINGFIELD COUNTRY CLUB

WHAT ARE THEY?

Join us for an evening of fun and excitement as we celebrate the stars of District 7450, whether individuals or entire Clubs. Walk the Red Carpet on your way into the Golf View Ballroom and enjoy a sumptuous meal with us. This is a night you will not want to miss. Looking forward to seeing all of you there!

April 20, 2018

Rotary 

**DEADLINE FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 28**

Send to: mombugjoan@msn.com;
info@rotary7450.org



Let's Get on Board
the next stop of our
Whistle Stop Tour!

Double Tree

By Hilton Hotel Philadelphia
Valley Forge

Saturday April 21, 2018
7:45am-5:00pm



Double Tree Valley Forge
301 W. Dekalb Pike
King of Prussia





Save the Date!

Celebrate Chinese New Year

February 21st, 2018

6:00pm

Margaret Kuo's

\$75.00

6 Courses

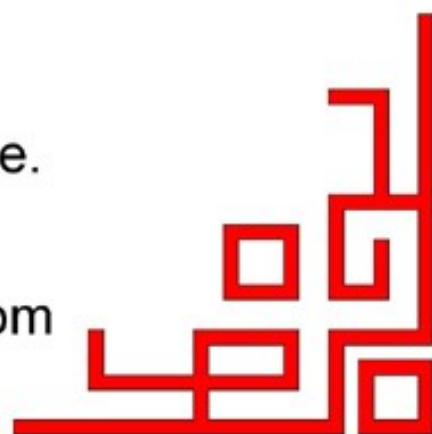
175 E. Lancaster Ave.


Wayne, PA 19807

www.margaretkuo.com




Year of the Dog






Rotary

SATURDAY, APRIL 28
3:30 PM
DC UNITED



vs



7th ANNUAL

ROTARY DAY AT THE UNION

Join fellow Rotarians at Talen Energy Stadium to watch Philadelphia Union Soccer while helping generate funds for Polio Eradication!

Pregame tailgate party from 1:30pm-3:00pm with fellowship, fun, and games!
Bring your own Food – but Water and Sodas will be provided.

Tickets are \$30 with \$8 of each ticket being donated to PolioPlus.

To reserve seats for your Club or individually, please send the following:

- Your Name
- Your Mailing Address
- Number of Tickets Needed (\$30 each)
- A Check Payable to Rotary District 7450



Checks can be mailed to:

Bronwyn Martin, 107 W. State Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348

Questions:? Contact: Bronwyn.d7450@gmail.com or 610-453-7215

Come join us as we...

Celebrate Earth Day

April 22, 2018

with Rotary District 7450
as we plant 80 trees and give
"Mother Earth" a new breath
of fresh air!



Rotary International President-elect, Ian H.S. Riseley, made the case on Monday January 16, 2017 that protecting the environment and curbing climate change is essential to Rotary's goal of sustainable service.

"I believe the greater result will be a Rotary that recognizes our responsibility not only to the people on our planet, but to the planet itself." Riseley said.

Heuser Park

694 W Beidler Rd
King of Prussia, PA 19406
12:30 PM



Rotary



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE



SAVE THE DATE !!!
APRIL 20 - 22, 2018

“WHISTLE STOP TOUR” 2017-18 DISTRICT CONFERENCE

*“Get on board” for a
unique experience at
“stations” across our
own district as we
celebrate our year!
(...details to come)*



Whistle stops

Friday, April 20: 2nd Annual SASY Awards at the Springfield Country Club: 5:30 P.M.

Saturday, April 21: Rotary Program at Hilton Doubletree in King of Prussia: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 22: 10:30 a.m. Brunch at the American Bar & Grill, Conshohocken. Tree-Planting follows at Heuser Park in King of Prussia.

February 19th deadline:

Time running out to order fruit from West Chester Rotary Club

Orders must be submitted by February 19th. for the annual West Chester Rotary Club fruit sale which kicked off January 11th. The sale will feature five choices of fruit items, from California Navel Oranges, to Florida Red Grapefruit, to Oregon/Washington Pears and two boxes of mixed fruits, ranging in price from \$26 to \$30.

Similar to last year, buyers may choose to credit a charity of their choice from those who have qualified to participate when the proceeds are distributed: Chester County Family Academy, Chester County Volunteer English Program, Domestic Violence Center of Chester County, Friends Associationn. for the Care and Protection of Children, Home of the Sparrow, In-

terfaith Housing and West Chester Area Senior Center.

Buyers may choose to purchase fruit to be donated to The West Chester Food Cupboard. Co chairs of this year's drive are Brian Fahey and Christine Wildauer.

To submit orders online with a credit card, go to : www.FreshFruitOrder.org/WCRotaryFruitSale Additional order forms are available from the co-chairs.

For more information, contact Christine Wildauer at 484-678-6150, lorgusflowers@gmail.com ; or Brian Fahey, fruit sale co-chairs. Questions? Christine, 484-678-.6150, lorgusflowers@gmail.com; Brian Fahey , 302-530-0772, bfahey@wcfriends.org.



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

**Rotary District 7450 ACE Express
Appreciate - Congratulate - Educate**

**RI President: Ian H.S. Riseley
District Governor: Dawn deFuria**

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Joan Connor Toenniessen— Jay Childress
(mombugjoan@msn.com) (info@Rotary7450.org)

