



Volume 4, No. 10
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SO MUCH YET TO DO ... And so many ways to accomplish our goals



April ... Magazine Month. It might seem strange when there are so many challenges in the world to focus a month on publications. But do you know what great resources RI provides for Rotarians "on the ground"?

Did you know that The Rotary World Magazine Press consists of 32 magazines in 23 languages? Did you know that Rotary produces *The Rotarian Video Magazine* that showcases extraordinary Rotary projects from around the world? Did you know that Rotary publishes 17 newsletters designed to keep Rotarians up-to-date about the work of the international organization, youth programs, program-specific initiatives (e.g. polio) and other topics?

We're bombarded daily by information, so isn't it wonderful that Rotary puts together topic-focused newsletters that highlight issues and information to help us do our jobs in our clubs – to learn from others how to do it easier, faster, more efficiently, or to learn what's happening around the Rotary world and how projects might be duplicated.

In the Rotary world, "plagiarism" is not only acceptable, but encouraged! Use these resources and share them liberally.

It is said that a week's worth of The New York Times contains more information than an individual might come across in a lifetime in the 18th century. So why not take full advantage of the great reporters and publishers who sift through information to bring us the best reports and facts to assist us in doing a better job in our clubs?

While we're nine months into this Rotary year, there's still a lot of Rotary left to do. District Assembly is April 18; club officers and members who want to learn more should plan on participating. Rotary Leadership Institute is May 2 in Weston. Marlins Rotary Social is May 16 – come root on the hometown team against the Dodgers! Ambassadorial Scholarship Interviews are May 16. The RI Convention is June 21-24 in jolly old England!

There's still so much to do and so much need. As Friedrich Engels said, "An ounce of action is worth a ton of theory" ... so let's finish the year with lots of action!

Yours in Rotary Service,
DG Marcy

THIS MONTH IS ...

Magazine Month. *The Rotarian* magazine, RI's flagship publication, supplies information to 1.2 million members monthly. Visit <http://www.rotary.org/en/mediaandnews/newsletters/MoreNewsletters/Pages/ridefault.aspx> for a list of great newsletters you can subscribe to covering all aspects of Rotary.

LEADERSHIP CORNER ...

Derek Norman, President, Big Pine & Lower Keys Rotary Club



Originally from Toronto, Ontario, Derek has spent most of his adult life as a resident of the Florida Keys. He graduated from Key West High school in 1990 and traveled both nationally and internationally for extended periods as a young adult. As a result of these travels, his heritage, and his schooling Derek speaks some Portuguese, French, Italian and Spanish and enjoys opportunities to practice and polish his language skills.

Derek also enjoys his career as a Realtor with Schwartz Property Sales, GMAC Real Estate. In addition to selling real estate, Derek is the owner of DRN Moving (a full service moving company) and Big Pine Storage (a mini-storage facility on Big Pine Key). From start to finish, Derek can handle all of your relocation needs!

Derek met his wife, Jacqui, 13 years ago and they were married in 2000. They are blessed with two beautiful young girls. Kara is 2 years old, and Emma was born in February 2008.

Derek was invited to join Rotary in 2001 by Jay Marzella and immediately became an active member. He became a Director the following year and the Membership Chairman for his club shortly thereafter. Since joining, he has participated in almost every event and fundraiser.

Living in a small community, Derek feels it is very important to be active locally. He is an award-winning graduate of Leadership Monroe County, Class XIV, and served as President of the Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce in 2004 and 2nd Vice President on the Board of Directors for the Lower Keys Chamber for 2003-2004. Derek also currently serves as a Director/Parliamentarian on the Board of Directors for the Marathon & Lower Keys Association of Realtors.

When Derek and his family are fortunate to have some time off, you'll find them boating, snorkeling or otherwise enjoying the beautiful waters of the Florida Keys, or else traveling and exploring both new and familiar places.

Ilajean Horwitz, President, Rotary Club of Miami Dadeland-Pinecrest



Wisconsin native Ilajean Horwitz obtained a BS Degree in Journalism from Northwestern University and a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Wisconsin. She served her community as the Director of the Sheboygan County Office on Aging and was named by the Sheboygan Press as one of 100 people who helped shape Sheboygan County.

In 1990, Ilajean and her late husband, Robert, moved to Miami from Sheboygan. She was invited to join the Rotary Club of Miami Dadeland-Pinecrest the same year by Ron Lieberman. Her classification is Community Service. She has served on the club's board of directors since 1991, including a previous year's service as club president.

A noted ceramicist, Ilajean is again serving as president of the club. She said, "One of my major endeavors has been to donate ceramics for a variety of projects, including district awards for two years, and most recently to fund cash grants for art students at MDC Kendall Campus."

Active in two school programs, KAPOW and Take Stock in Children, Ilajean also serves on Baptist Hospital's Systems Quality and Patient Safety Steering Council. And, she prepares and donates a casserole monthly to Camillus House, which provides programs and assistance for the homeless. Ilajean has three children and two grandsons.

AROUND THE DISTRICT ...



On March 14th, **Sunset Rotary Key West** held its 5th Annual Menendez Miler 5K run/walk to benefit the Bobby Menendez High School Scholarship Fund. Bobby Menendez, former Key West High Principal, was on hand with his family members to participate in the event and signal the gun to start the race. The weather was perfect, despite a few minutes of downpour during the awards ceremony. Participation was excellent, especially from the younger generation of runners, with approximately 200 in the run. The Southernmost Runners Club helped coordinate logistics for the event. As usual, there were plenty of great prizes for the participants, along with refreshments and beer after the race. A good time had by all, and the Sunset Rotary raised approximately \$4,500 for the Scholarship Fund.

TEACH A MAN TO FISH ... The story of Compassion Air, Inc.

Around 2003, Jerry Lowenstein had just gotten his pilot's license here in south Florida. Life and business were good for him and Susan, his wife, and so they were able to buy their first airplane. Then they read an article on the devastating poverty just hours away. Jerry loved adventure and Susan loved kids. The result was Compassion Air, Inc. Since then, with the help of many, including the **Hollywood Rotary Club**, the Lowensteins have started and are well on their way to completing a fully self-sustaining, solar powered, "Green", closed system fish farm for the Canaan orphanage at Mont Roués, Haiti.

Because of the commitment and continued efforts of Hollywood Rotarian Christopher Neilson, which culminated with a \$1,000 donation made by the Hollywood Rotary Club and a \$1,000 District 6990 matching grant, Compassion Air was able to purchase and deliver the Geysler pump, aerators, and batteries necessary to operate the fish farm under development.



Shortly after Jerry and Susan decided to fly supplies to Haiti, they met Pastor Henri and Sister Gladys who had started a home to help drug addicts and alcoholics many years earlier. The adults they were trying to help would come and leave their children, so the facility developed into an orphanage. The children, some now young adults, will never be adopted. Still, Pastor Henri and Sister Gladys give unconditional love and patience, caring for 90 kids as if they were their own. But it is not easy to keep everyone fed.

And so it became Jerry's dream to build a fish farm. The Lowensteins traveled to Canaan over 35 times in the past five years, staying at the orphanage where there is rarely electricity and conditions are hard. But they all make do on love and friendship. With the help of friends and donations from

organizations, Compassion Air has brought to the orphanage medical teams, dentists, food, many, many pairs of shoes, toys, fruit trees, and rabbits.

Continued ...

Says Susan Lowenstein, "Can you imagine trying to keep 90 kids in shoes? We take out the seats in our airplane and load it up. Pastor Henri picks us up and we drive two hours over very difficult terrain to Mount Rouse. We get there and each of the kids runs up to the truck to kiss us hello. We always feel like we wish we could have done more. We also feel very blessed each time we go."

The Lowensteins believe the fish farm will give the children hope and a future. It will provide them the much needed food and also a chance to develop commerce. The cost of the project will be approximately \$25,000, since it is the prototype. The main 15,000 gallon fish holding tank is completed, and they hope to reduce the subsequent pond costs to \$15,000. The excavation for the grow bed and duck weed pond is nearly complete. They are using local labor, some donated and some at minimal costs. It is an arduous task considering all the block is made by hand and there is no heavy equipment to dig in the rock, which has proven beyond difficult.



Geysers pump with one of the Sweetwater air pumps and aerators

When complete, the system should produce about 5,000 pounds of fish every eight months. This means each child will have available to them at least a pound and a half of protein laden fish per week. The pond will also produce an abundance of fresh vegetables, as well as the duck weed that will be used to feed the fish. The three-tier ponds operate on solar power to charge the batteries to keep the pumps running.



Main fish pond forefront with grow beds far left and duck weed pond far right.

The Lowensteins are returning to Haiti this month to provide funding and technical support to complete the excavation and move the project forward. They will transport the liners for the grow beds and duck weed pond. The next step is to plumb the system and erect the shade house, which they hope to have completed in June. It then takes 30 to 60 days to stabilize the ponds. They expect to have fish in the ponds by end of Summer 2009.

Said Jerry Lowenstein, "There are plans to develop two additional fully self-sustaining fish ponds in the future. We are always looking at new green technology to power the ponds, and have recently found a newly designed windmill pump – there is most always a breeze at the orphanage – capable of aerating the ponds for around only \$850. We're hoping to implement this design for the next series of ponds."

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS ...

This space is reserved for clubs to announce their special events, golf tournaments, fundraising galas, marathons, pancake breakfasts, etc. Send your event announcement with date, time, location and contact information at least a month in advance.

April 20, 2009 – Rotary Club of Weston's WestonLawyers.com Golf Classic at Weston Hills Country Club
8:00 a.m. tee off. Luncheon. \$10,000 'Draw Down' at 6:30 cocktail party. Foursomes and sponsorships available. Proceeds will benefit the Rotary Club of Weston's high school scholarship fund. For more info contact Chairperson Chuck Yeh at 954-401-4746 or Clark Kilgard at 954-849-8826.

May 29, 2009 – Deerfield Beach Rotary Club and JM Family Enterprises, Inc. Youth Scholarship Golf Tournament at Deer Creek Country Club
1:15 p.m. shotgun start. Awards Dinner. Foursomes and Sponsorships available. Sheriff Al Lamberti Honorary Chairman. For more information contact Pete Sudler at 954-553-9576.

IMPORTANT DATES ...

April 17, 2009 – Ambassadorial Scholarship Deadline

April 18, 2009 – District 6990 Assembly – Signature Gardens, 12725 SW 122 Ave., Miami, 33186

Register online now! \$70 pp, includes Continental Breakfast and Lunch. Sign-in/registration begins at 8:00 a.m., Programs 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Go to www.rotary6990.org to sign up today!

May 2, 2009 – Rotary Leadership Institute – American Intercontinental University, Weston

Space is limited so register soon – deadline is April 22. See complete class schedules and register online at: www.rlitraining.org

May 16, 2009 – Ambassadorial Scholarship Interviews

May 16, 2009 – Marlins Rotary Night 2009, 6:10 p.m., Dolphin Stadium, The Marlins vs. the L.A. Dodgers

Join you r fellow Rotarians from around the District at the ballpark and cheer on the home team. Infield box seats only \$27!! For more information contact Anthony Jabara at 305-626-7247 or Michael Kesti at 305-323-2903.

June 21-24, 2009 – 100th Rotary International Convention, Birmingham, England

Register via www.rotary.org/convention.

REGISTER FOR THE SOUTHLAND BREAKFAST ...

Tickets are now available for the **famous Southland Breakfast** that will be held at the RI Convention in Birmingham, England, on Monday, June 22, 2009. Our RI Director, Eric Adamson, promises us a very enlightening breakfast time. The cost of a ticket is \$45. If you would like a ticket to attend, please send a self-addressed envelope along with a check for \$45 payable to Lee Phares to: Lee Phares, 2104 NE 45th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308. DGE Lee will then mail you your ticket. Please call DGE Lee at 954-492-8254 if you have any questions. There is a limited number of tickets and they will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Tickets will **NOT** be available at the door, so order yours today!

NEW MEMBER CORNER ...

Hialeah-Miami Springs Kicks it up a Notch, John Knox Village Extends Lead

The RC of **John Knox Village**, the newest club in the district, inducted two new members during the month of March, extending its new member recruiting lead to 27. The RC of **Key West** continued its claim to second place with 22 total inductions. Shining for the month of March with the induction of three new members was the RC of **Hialeah-Miami Springs**. We extend a warm Rotary welcome to the new members of the RCs of HIALEAH-MIAMI SPRINGS, **Ben Badger** – Retired Electrician, **Mary Frances Egglar** – Realtor-retired, and **Carol Foster** – Grant Writer. We are heading into the final two months of the 2008-09 Rotary year. Where does your club stand in the list of new member inductions (see below)? Who are you introducing to Rotary and bringing to a meeting this month?

Please also extend a big Rotary welcome to the following new members of the Rotary clubs of: CORAL GABLES, **Guillermo Villar** – Banker and **Gene Witherspoon** - Insurance Agent; CORAL SPRINGS, **Tara Maginnis** – Mortician; CORAL SPRINGS – PARKLAND, **Glenn Turpening** – Financial Advisor; DAVIE-COOPER CITY, **Joe Sadoff** – CPA; FORT LAUDERDALE NORTH, **Richard Plant** – Secondary Education (retired), FORT LAUDERDALE SOUTH, **Jenny Thow** – Fundraiser and **Casey (Chad) Zagaria** – Educator; FREEPORT, **Lea Percentie** – Dentist; HOLLYWOOD, **Bob Ishman** – Architect and **Rick Superstein** – CPA, HALLANDALE-AVENTURA, **Frank Bisk** – Educator; JOHN KNOX VILLAGE, **Dick Wynn** – Mortgage Banker and **Jane Wynn** – Nutritionist; KEY LARGO, **Lori Bailey** – Banker; MIAMI, **Traci Giddens** – Associations-Small Business Administration; POMPANO BEACH, **Rusty Hanna** – Mortgage Broker and **Marge Muth** – Mortician; POMPANO BEACH-LIGHTHOUSE, **Maria (Millie) de los Milagros Torchetti-Noah** – Financial Advisor; UPPER KEYS, **Frank Derfler** – Writer and **Cale Smith** – Financial Advisor; and WESTON, **Jeanna Gutierrez** – Realtor.

New Members July 2008 - March 2009

John Knox Village	27	Coral Springs-Parkland	4	Freeport	2
Key West	22	Ft Lauderdale North	4	Grand Bahama Sunrise	2
Miami	18	Homestead	4	Hallandale Beach-Aventura	2
Weston	14	Key Largo	4	Key Biscayne	2
Ft Lauderdale	12	Upper Keys	4	Key West Sunrise	2
Miami Beach	10	Ft Lauderdale-Cypress Crk	3	Miami Lakes	2
Pompano Beach	8	Hialeah-Miami Springs	3	Miami Shores	2
Marathon	7	Hollywood	3	North Dade	2
Miramar-Pines	7	Miami-Granada	3	Perrine CR-Palmetto Bay	2
Ft Lauderdale South	7	Pompano Beach-Lighthouse	3	South Miami	2
Coral Gables	5	Big Pine & Lower Keys	2	Sunset Key West	2
Davie/Cooper City	5	Coral Springs	2	Allapattah	1
Miami Dadeland Pinecrest	5	Deerfield Beach	2	Lucaya	1
Coconut Grove	4	Ft Lauderdale Beach	2	Miami Airport	1

ATTENDANCE CORNER ...

For the Month of March 2009

Club	Meetings	Avg. Attend%	Club	Meetings	Avg. Attend%
Coral Gables	4	90.00	Hollywood	5	58.30
Perrine-Cutler Rdg/Palmetto Bay	4	89.25	Miami Dadeland-Pinecrest	5	58.06
Coconut Grove	4	85.00	Miami	4	57.25
Pompano Beach-Lighthouse	5	84.34	Miami Sundown	5	56.67
John Knox Village	5	81.50	Upper Keys	5	52.87
Coral Springs	4	80.68	Pompano Beach	4	52.23
Hialeah-Miami Springs	4	80.48	Miami Shores	4	52.09
Plantation	5	80.00	Bal Harbour	4	50.00
Coral Springs-Parkland	5	79.20	Sunset Key West	5	48.00
Oakland Park	5	76.66	Fort Lauderdale	4	47.00
Marathon	4	75.20	Fort Lauderdale South	4	46.97
Miami-Granada	4	75.00	Fort Lauderdale/Cypress Creek	5	46.00
Davie/Cooper City	4	73.00	Allapattah (Miami)	4	45.12
Weston	4	70.75	Homestead	4	41.45
Fort Lauderdale North	4	70.32	Big Pine & Lower Keys	4	39.41
Fort Lauderdale Beach	5	70.00	Doral	0	0.00
Hallandale Beach-Aventura	4	70.00	Freeport,G.B.I.	0	0.00
North Dade	4	69.79	Grand Bahama Sunrise	0	0.00
Key West	4	65.50	Key Biscayne	0	0.00
Key West Sunrise in Conch Rep	4	63.75	Key Largo	0	0.00
Lucaya, G.B.I.	5	62.00	Miami Airport	0	0.00
South Miami	5	60.00	Miami Beach	0	0.00
Deerfield Beach	5	59.00	Miramar-Pines	0	0.00
Miami Lakes	5	58.88	Opa-locka & Miami Gardens	0	0.00

Average attendance with 39 of 48 clubs reporting: **64.66%**

EDITOR'S CORNER ...

If you've had prior experience producing newsletters or bulletins for clients, your Rotary club or other organizations, please consider sharing your time and talent with District 6990 and Governor-Elect Lee to be the new District News Editor or Associate Editor. Current Editors will train. We keep it simple. Interested parties, please contact Governor Marcy or DGE Lee for details or with questions.

Many thanks to those who send in stories, photos and news items from around the district to share! Send your items and information for publication by the 27th for the subsequent month's issue to: Editor@rotary6990.org. Your D6990 News is brought to you by Editors Pat "Where's my red pen?" Hornsby (RC of Coral Springs-Parkland) and Ron "Where are my new member names?" Lieberman (RC of Miami Dadeland-Pinecrest) and Publisher extraordinaire Lan "Big File" Nghiem-Phu (RC of Coral Gables).

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