

THE SPOKESMAN
The Derby-Shelton Rotary Club
Date: January 26, 2012



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity



Shelton Rotary Officers 2011-2012

President: Shawn Fields
Past President: Diane Stroman
President-Elect: Mary Ellen Samatulski
Vice President: Bill Miller
Treasurer: Al Patuzzi
Secretary: Doug LoMonte
Sergeant-at-Arms: Jon Wetmore
Service: Kim Caro
Engagement (formerly PR): Lauren Kazzi
Membership-Recruiting: Pat Tarasovic
Membership-Mentoring: David J. Grant
Foundation: Ernie Luise
International: Mike Wynne
Vocational: Kevin Bishop
Club Service: Cindy Rinaldi

Committee Chairs 2011-2012

Shelton Day Chair: Linda Holmes-Hannon
Foundation Trustee Chair: Steve Balog
Speakers: Shawn Fields
Amber Alert Chair: Shawn Fields
Pavilion Chair: David M. Grant
Shelton Interact: Silvia Rodriguez
Derby Interact: Pat Tarasovic
Scholarship Committee Chair: Jack Walsh
Long-Range Planning Chair: Ernie Luise
Website Design Chair: Jack Walsh

MAKE UP MEETINGS IN THE AREA

Town:	Day:	Place:	Time:
Fairfield	Monday	Gaelic-American Club	12:15 pm
Ansonia	Tuesday	Antonio's	12:15 pm
Stratford	Tuesday	Oronoque Country Club	12:15 pm
Devon	Wednesday	Stonebridge Restaurant	7:45 am
Naugatuck	Wednesday	Jessie Camille's	12:15 pm
Bridgeport	Tuesday	Holiday Inn	12:15 pm
Black Rock	Tuesday	The Dish	6:00 pm
Milford	Thursday	Aldario's Restaurant	12:15 pm
Seymour/Oxford**	Thursday	Sandwich Man Restaurant	7:17 am
Trumbull	Friday	Trumbull Public Library	7:30 am
Beacon Falls	Monday	Full Harvest	6:30 pm

** 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month

VISIT YOUR CLUB'S WEBSITE AT: www.derby-sheltonrotary.org

Check out the District's Website and read *The Beacon* at www.rotarydistrict7980.org

Schedule of Meetings & Events

Speaker/Event	Date
Student of the Month	1/26/2012
David Morgan, TEAM	2/2/2012
Board Meeting	2/2/2012
By-Laws Vote/Business	2/9/2012
Sound Tiger District Polio Hockey Night	2/12/2012
John Santa, Ex-Offender Program	2/16/2012
John Daniell, Aircraft	2/23/2012
READING PROJECT	March
Board Meeting	3/1/12
Bowl-2-Benefit, Birmingham Group	3/10/2012
Board Meeting	4/5/2012
Auction	4/29/2012

'Peace Through Service' is 2012-13 RI theme

By Megan Ferringer and Arnold R. Grahl
 Rotary International News -- 16 January 2012



RI President-elect Sakuji Tanaka unveiled the 2012-13 RI theme, **Peace Through Service**, during the opening plenary session of the 2012 International Assembly, a training event for incoming Rotary district governors. **Rotary Images/Alyce Henson**

RI President-elect Sakuji Tanaka will ask Rotarians to build *Peace Through Service* in 2012-13.

Tanaka unveiled the RI theme during the opening plenary session of the 2012 International Assembly, a training event for incoming Rotary district governors.

"Peace, in all of the ways that we can understand it, is a real goal and a realistic goal for Rotary," he said. "Peace is not something that can only be achieved through agreements, by governments, or through heroic struggles. It is something that we can find and that we can achieve, every day and in many simple ways."

Peace has different meanings for different people, Tanaka said.

"No definition is right, and no definition is wrong," he said. "However we use the word, this is what peace means for us.

"No matter how we use, or understand the word, Rotary can help us to achieve it," he added.

Tanaka, a businessman from the greater Tokyo metropolitan area, shared how becoming a Rotarian broadened his understanding of the world. After joining the Rotary Club of Yashio, in 1975, he said, he began to realize that his life's purpose was not to make more money, but to be useful to other people.

"I realized that by helping others, even in the simplest of ways, I could help to build peace," Tanaka said.

He noted that the Japanese tradition of putting the needs of society above the needs of the individual helped his country rebuild after the tsunami and earthquake in March.

"This is a lesson that I think the whole world can learn from, in a positive way. When we see the needs of others as more important than our own needs -- when we focus our energies on a shared goal that is for the good of all -- this changes everything," he said. "It changes our priorities in a completely fundamental way. And it changes how we understand the idea of peace."

Tanaka will ask Rotarians to focus their energy on supporting the three priorities of the [RI Strategic Plan](#), he said. He added that he will ask the incoming leaders to promote three Rotary peace forums, to be held in Hiroshima, Japan; Berlin; and Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.

"In Rotary, our business is not profit. Our business is peace," he said. "Our reward is not financial, but the happiness and satisfaction of seeing a better, more peaceful world, one that we have achieved through our own efforts."

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

October Aless Boisvert

November-DeVante Parks

December- Carly Seamon

Polio

A Rotary engine

NEW YORK

Can a businessmen's club eradicate polio from the world?

IT IS a year since the last case of polio was diagnosed in India. That is not enough to pronounce the country polio-free—three clear years are the conventional period required for that to happen. But it is a good start. And if India really is clear, then what was once a global scourge will now be endemic to a mere three countries: Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan. The number of people infected, meanwhile, has dropped from 350,000 in 1988 to 650 last year.

All this is in large part thanks to the efforts of Rotary International. In 1985, after a successful pilot study in the Philippines, this businessmen's club cum global charity announced a plan to eradicate polio by vaccinating every child under five at risk of catching it. The estimate then was that it would cost \$120m. Some \$800m of Rotary money later (plus a lot from other sources), the virus is still out there, but its remaining hidey-holes tell their own story: where civil disorder is rife, medicine is hard.

On January 17th Rotary announced it had raised yet another \$200m. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will contribute a further \$405m, and the pressure will thus be kept up. John Germ, one of Rotary's trustees, thinks that if all goes well 2016 might be the first year when no new cases are reported. That would, though, mean spending more than \$1 billion a year between now and then.

The inspiration for Rotary's campaign against polio came from the eradication of smallpox. Like polio, smallpox was a viral disease for which effective, easily administered vaccines existed. And crucially, like polio, smallpox had only one animal host: *Homo sapiens*. In principle, then, extermination should be possible. The practice, however, has turned out rather different.

First, unlike smallpox, polio viruses can survive for long periods outside a host—for instance in sewage. Second, when the campaign began in earnest there were three main varieties of polio, each of which required a specially tailored vaccine. Focusing effort on one of these strains often led to the resurgence of another. Third, besides the inevitable difficulties of working in places that have poor medical infrastructure, the campaign ran into some specific human problems. The most notorious of these was the rumour, spread in 2003 by certain religious leaders in Nigeria, that the vaccine would sterilise girls and was part of an American plot to rid the world of Muslims. This helps explain why polio



Goodbye to all that

persists in Nigeria.

That polio can actually be eradicated is suggested by the elimination, in 1999, of one of the three strains. Whether the resources needed to do so might be better spent elsewhere, though, is a matter of debate. Some would prefer to see a shift to policies that improve overall health, including investing in decent sanitation and clean water.

The response to that is that if you remove the specific pressure on polio it will simply bounce back. Moreover, in practice, a synthesis between the two positions is emerging. According to Mr Germ there is already a debate within Rotary about what to do next. Providing clean water and improving maternal and child health are popular options.

One thing everyone wants to avoid, though, is what happened after smallpox was eliminated. Then, the infrastructure of health workers and clinics that had been created to detect and fight the disease was allowed to evaporate. Had it been used instead to focus on polio, that illness, too, might have been vanquished by now. ■

Forensic science

Ignorance is bliss

Forensic scientists know too much about the cases they investigate

AS ALL fans of crime fiction know, DNA is the gold standard of forensic science. Or is it? Itiel Dror, a cognitive psychologist at University College, London, thinks this doctrine of infallibility needs to be questioned. His problem is not with the technology itself, but with the way it is deployed. For he has gathered evidence that DNA examiners' interpretations of their results are, at least in complex cases, open to subjectivity and bias.

When America's National Academy of Sciences produced a report on the state of forensic science in 2009, it criticised many of the methods then in use. Citing earlier research by Dr Dror, the report's authors stated, for example, that fingerprint examiners' claims of zero error rates were scientifically implausible. DNA, however, was spared their criticism. Now Dr Dror and Greg Hampikian, a forensic biologist at Boise State University in Idaho, have published a study in *Science & Justice* that suggests all is not shipshape in the domain of the double helix either.

Do Not Adulate

Dr Dror's and Dr Hampikian's experiment presented data from a real case to 17 DNA examiners working in an accredited government laboratory in North America. The case involved a gang rape in the state of Georgia, in which one of the rapists testified against three other suspects in exchange for a lighter sentence, as part of a plea bargain. All three denied involvement, but the two DNA examiners in the original case both found that they could not exclude one of the three from having been involved, based on an analysis of swabs taken from the victim.

As is almost always true in forensic-science laboratories, these examiners knew what the case was about. And their find- ▶▶

The Richard Casement internship

We invite applications for the 2012 Richard Casement internship. We are looking for a would-be journalist to spend three months of the summer working on the newspaper in London, writing about science and technology. Our aim is more to discover writing talent in a science student or scientist than scientific aptitude in a budding journalist.

Applicants should write a letter introducing themselves and an original article of about 600 words that they think would be suitable for publication in the Science and Technology section. They should be prepared to come for an interview in London or New York, at their own expense. A small stipend will be paid to the successful candidate.

Applications must reach us by February 3rd. These should be sent to: casement2012@economist.com

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

January Birthdays:

David J. Grant
Barb Quinn
Rob Saracino

February Birthdays:

Kate Marks
Al Patuzzi
Drew Scott

January Anniversaries:

Bill Allan (1985)
Mary Ellen Samatulski (2008)
Diane Stroman (2001)
Mike Wynne (2001)

February Anniversaries:

Linda Holmes-Hannon (2002)
Lauren Kazzi (2009)
Al Patuzzi (1997)
Milly Rochet (2009)

Rotary's Challenge totals*

US\$202.6M

**As of 17 January 2012*

Polio Facts & Figures

Polio Facts & Figures

Area Number of cases in
2011

Afghanistan 76

India 1

Nigeria 52

Pakistan 192

Non-endemic
countries 306

Total worldwide 627

*(Data as of 11
January/World Health
Organization)*