



SERVICE Above Self

Fargo West Rotary

Newsletter March 2010

Fargo West Rotary, PO Box 9237, Fargo, ND 58106

President's Message

by David Wrolstad

"A Little Taste of India — Rotary Style!"



Greetings Fargo West Rotary! Up in the air on the first leg of our return flight back to the good old USA. Just leaving Kolkata at 6:50 pm on Saturday 2/27 – 11½ hours earlier than you back in Fargo - 7:20 am for you. Guess we are flying 'Back to the Future' for the next 38 hours!? Lots of seat time and time to reflect on the past 17 days.

Anyone tell you lately "Rotarians are something special"? Left Fargo 17 days ago with 13 strangers (I did know 3 a little) and now I am returning with 13 friends. We also picked up several Indian Rotary friends as we crossed the India landscape from south to north to northeast.

The Rotarians and our Rotarian host families in Rajapalayam were absolutely outstanding. The warmth and hospitality extended to us was first class. The southern state of Tamil Nadu does not see much for Westerners – there is nothing in town that could be considered a Hotel. We somewhat felt like one of Paula's zoo animals as we were always under a watchful eye of curious Indians. We also felt like 'Rock Stars' as we received 1st class treatment wherever we went – just call me Justin Timberlake now!

Rotary's theme for **February was 'World Understanding' month**. With 2+ weeks in India, I now have somewhat of an understanding of their history, religion & culture. Just enough to get me into trouble. Below are some random thoughts:

- India is a vast country. We traveled many miles by plane, train, van, car, taxi (a couple by elephant), but still only saw a part of their country. We saw a lot in a few days (some very long days), but just the tip of the iceberg.
- India is a land of huge contrast. Huge metropolitan cities with people, noise & pollution and very peaceful rural areas. Extreme wealth and extreme poverty. Extreme beauty and extreme despair.....
- The people of India are a very warm and friendly people; the hospitality of our Friends in Rajapalayam was unsurpassed by any reception I have received elsewhere. Even in the hustle and bustle of the city, or the deep despair of the slum, I never felt threatened for my safety. The only disagreement I witnessed was a family scrabble outside a Muslim mosque that I never figured out?
- The people of India are very religious....and do they have the temples and monuments to show it.

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Be part of history —Join us at the District Conference in Winnipeg May 13-16th. Meet RI President, John Kenny, Scotland.

Sign up at

<http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=777459>

Bring your spouse!

Pres. Message *cont*

- The people of India are very proud....proud of their families, their heritage, their religion, their work, their cities, their schools.....they want to show you everything.
- Driving an automobile in India is something to be experienced – or maybe better not experienced? I thought that driving in Guatemala or Mexico was interesting and challenging, but it pales in comparison to India. India has a British history so the driving is on the left side of the road — a first for me. Roads are paved with lanes but they are not used. With small cars, a two-lane road becomes 3 or 4 — not to mention the shoulders. People walking, bicycles, cows, dogs..... the list goes on. Street signs are non-existent; I never did figure out what direction we ever traveled as roads are random and not laid out in blocks like we are used to. Driving in Kolcatta that past 3 days (actually just riding) was unreal. I am sure many of these drivers could be racecar drivers - their skill and depth perception are unparalleled. I did not witness any accidents or fender benders in our 2+ weeks. I would not even be able to get out of a parking lot without hitting another car, person, bike, COW.....
- The Taj Mahal was magnificent — as were all the historical monuments we visited.
- The food was excellent, but very different from our normal food — where's the beef? The food was spicier in the south than the north. I just used silverware on the plane today for the first time in 2 weeks as food is always eaten with one's fingers. Coffee black still has sugar (I did try some coffee — my first cup since 1978).

The stories go on & on, but I will share the rest with you when I present our trip at an upcoming Club meeting.

Better get a few winks.....only 37 more hours to go before I am home (I guess we still have to drive from Minneapolis to Fargo!)

"The Future of the Fargo West Rotary Club.....IS IN YOUR HANDS." How can YOU make a difference as a member?

1. Come to weekly meetings
2. Invite a friend to a meeting
3. Invite a friend to join
4. Get involved.....ASK (You only get out what you put in)
5. Read.....the monthly club newsletter (Thanks, Betty), the monthly district newsletter and The Rotarian magazine
6. Attend the first Rotary District 5550/5580 Joint Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba May 13 – 16, 2010.
7. **'Every Rotarian Every Year' — become a Sustaining Paul Harris Fellow**
8. *"Eat Chili – the rest will become history."*

Miracle League in Full Swing

by Belinda Forknell

The FM Rotary Miracle League committee is gearing up for a late-spring groundbreaking and continued fundraising activities. In March, committee members are scheduled for speaking engagements and will introduce online donation collection via the project's web site. Announcements for other activities will follow over the next several months, including details for a motorcycle run planned later this summer. You're encouraged to visit the web site for the latest announcements and asked to share this resource to support donation collections. Visit www.fmmiraclefield.org.

ShelterBox Update

Talk about stepping up to the plate, Fargo West Rotary! You purchased 5 — five! — ShelterBoxes for the Haiti earthquake victims. Each one cost \$1,000. You raised \$2,242 which was matched by the Donations Committee and Paula Grimestad used \$516 of her President’s Fund to round it up. Thank you to everyone!!

As you know, Haiti suffered a 7.0 earthquake destroying its largest city, Port au Prince. Hundreds of thousands of Haitians lost their lives and close to 1.5 million people have been made homeless. To date, close to 10,000 ShelterBoxes have been sent to Haiti.



Each box contains a tent capable of housing 10 people and is designed to withstand extreme temperatures, high winds and heavy rainfall. Internally, each tent has privacy partitions that allow recipients to divide the space as they see fit. In addition to the

contain a range of other survival equipment including:

- Thermal blankets, insulated ground sheets
- Insecticide treated mosquito nets
- A wood burning stove, or a multi-fuel stove
- Cooking pans, utensils, bowls and mugs
- Collapsible water containers and water purification tablets
- Basic tool kit –hammer, axe, saw, pliers, hoe head, etc
- A small, children’s pack containing drawing books, crayons and pens



ShelterBoxes rely on individual donations. So far, 65,700 have been donated since January, 2001. The program is the brain child of a Rotarian in England. You can read about the history of the program here <http://www.shelterbox.org/about.php?page=11>



Arial picture of Congress Camp in Haiti where 400 ShelterBox tents have been set up. Photograph: Mark Pearson

Happy Belated Birthday, Rotary!

February 23rd was the 105th birthday of Rotary International. It all started with the Chicago Rotary Club meeting in the Wrigley Building downtown. In honor of its birthday, the Wrigley Building joined several other iconic landmarks worldwide, each lit with an anniversary message or the three words representing Rotary's commitment to rid the world of the crippling childhood disease — End Polio Now.



The landmark displays coincide with a mass mailing of End Polio Now postcards to heads of state in more than 40 countries, encouraging governments to continue or increase their commitment to polio eradication.

In addition to the Wrigley Building, other landmarks illuminated during the week of 23 February include the Pyramid of Khafre in Egypt; the Taipei Arena in Taiwan; the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain; the Old Port Captain's Office on the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town, South Africa; the Obelisk of Buenos Aires, Argentina; and the Royal Palace at Caserta in Italy.

"By lighting these historic landmarks with Rotary's pledge to end polio, Rotary is saying to the world that we will fight this disease to the end," said Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Glenn E. Estess Sr. "People around the world will see these words and join Rotary and its partners in the historic effort to eradicate polio from the face of the earth."

Read the whole article at:

http://www.rotary.org/en/MediaAndNews/News/Pages/100224_news_wrigley.aspx

Meet Our New Member



"I joined Rotary because I think it does good work. I like working with people on the common good. I like the positive perspective that joining together with others can foster. "

I came to Fargo in October 2008 to become the new director and CEO of Plains Art Museum. Before that I had been director of education and a curator at the Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis. There, I started the education department and helped to open the new Frank Gehry Museum building in 1993.

I hold a Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Minnesota. I am devoted to the arts in all its expressions and love to integrate visual art, music, performance, and writing. My goal is to complete the capital campaign at the Plains Art Museum, which will provide great services and education to the Fargo-Moorhead community.

I've gotten to know some Rotary members and enjoy them as people and as professionals. It is a good way for a newcomer to get to know more people and the community. Thank you for having me!



Harley Davidson Raffle

by Brad Dahl

It's that time of year again! The Harley Davidson raffle is gearing up and the tickets will be ready for sale soon. The raffle committee is **Brad Dahl, Jennifer Dahl, Jill Henning, Paula Grimestad and Cory Badinger.**

This is our eleventh year of selling Harley raffles tickets. The monies we have raised go to the Red River Zoo. So far, we have built the Takin/Tur exhibit — which is awesome — and purchased the wolves for the wolf exhibit. This year, we will be supporting the new exhibit to be built, "Wings of the Orient Aviary," which will feature rare Asian birds.

The exhibit is in the center of the zoo. You will be able walk into the aviary to see the birds. This will be a hit with children.

This is what the poster looks like this year. We are giving away a 2010 FLSTC Heritage Softail Classic. This is one of the most popular bikes in the Harley line. The bike is valued at \$18,000.

The drawing is May 15 at the Harley Davidson dealership's open house. The dealership is located on Main Avenue in West Fargo, just as you pass over the Sheyenne River bridge.

Wings of the Orient

by Paula Grimestad

The Wings of the Orient Aviary offers bird lovers an up-close look at about 50 feathered friends representing 11 species. As you walk through this free-flight aviary you will experience the sights and sounds of Northern Asia. It focuses on exotic species found throughout Northern Asia including the small Reeve's Muntjac deer.

Some of the bird species include:
 Golden Pheasant
 Red-breasted Geese
 Demoiselle Cranes
 Cattle Egrets
 Baikal Teals



Bar-headed Goose



Mandarin Duck



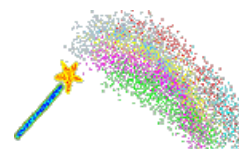
Cotton Pygmy Goose

There is more information to come on motorcycle runs/rides to benefit the Zoo and The Miracle League.

They will be this summer, so be looking for details.

Happy Birthday!

- 3/2 Brien Krank
- 3/4 Erika Johnson
- 3/5 Kim Kemmer
- 3/5 Betty Opheim
- 3/7 David Wrolstad
- 3/10 Penny Crowder
- 3/11 John Bennett



Think Spring!

Meet our Vocational Scholars

by *Dianne Mondry*

Fargo West Rotary provides three scholarships to MSCTC each year. Monday, February 22 the 2010 scholars along with Kay Gnoinsky, Associate Director of Financial Aid and Chuck Chadwick, MSCTC Foundation Director joined our club for lunch.

Our scholars are:

Kirsten Birst, Graphic Design Major, married & divorced, purchased a new home and sold it, had a good job & went through a lay off. Currently carrying a 3.8 GPA and working part time. Kirsten is an officer in Phi Theta Kappa (the International Honor Society) and does activities to help benefit the campus and community through this organization. Also, she is a student representative for the MSCTC Art Committee and a volunteer with Operation Photo Rescue. OPR is an organization which helps people who have had their photos damaged due to natural disasters. In the summer she raises money for the National Kidney Foundation and participates in their NKF Walks and this spring will be participating in the Polar Bear Plunge and raising money for Special Olympics. Kirsten currently has a 3.76 GPA at Minnesota State Community & Technical College.

LaCinda Mielke, Accounting AAS Major, has numerous years of experience in Accounting and wants the degree to enhance the experience. Lacinda is currently relying on SSDI and part-time employment due to loss of employment because of a medical disability. She would like to attain gainful employment utilizing her education and previous experience in a state or federal position. She is a self-supporting student who truly appreciated the scholarship award. She currently has a 3.54 GPA at Minnesota State Community & Technical College.

Christy Wiesmann, Practical Nursing AAS Major, an older than average student that works full-time, is a wife and mother who has dreamed of becoming a nurse for twenty plus years knowing that she wanted to make a difference in people's lives. Upon receiving her LPN degree, Christy wants to go on for her RN degree and work in the Fargo-Moorhead area. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout her education at Minnesota State Community & Technical College.

The Donor Recognition & Scholarship Award Ceremony will take place in April. Fargo West Rotary members will be invited.

Young Artist Concert

Mark your calendars! Saturday, April 24th is the Young Artists concert to end polio. This concert will feature 7-9 young artists (with instruments found in the symphony) to raise funds to eradicate polio. This is a rare opportunity to see the quality of musicians in our high schools and colleges. Seeing them perform in the Scheels Center for Performing Arts at Oak Grove is a special treat.

The concert gives the young artists a venue to display their art, and Rotary the opportunity to support youth. Athletic programs have booster clubs, but the young artists don't have that support. Being a musician is year round training— summer camps, orchestras, etc, but there is not the venue to give them a chance to perform and showcase their talent. This is their time to showcase their talents.

Moorhead Rotary's president, **John Andreasen** is a frequent visitor to our club. His daughter, **Karin Andreasen**, a professional violinist, will be returning to perform. The local Rotary clubs have had the honor of hearing her perform while she was still in high school. She was unbelievable then — can you imagine how she has matured? Winners from the past Young Artist Solo Competition and the Midori Master Class students will also perform.

Midori Goto is a premiere violinist who chose the FM Symphony (one of two symphonies chosen this year) to mentor and train. While she was here, the best young musicians had a workshop with her while she played with them. Can you imagine how she lifted them up and brought them to a higher level? Outstanding! Read Midori's blog here and learn what this remarkable person has given to our community!

<http://orpobservations.wordpress.com/>

Kathleen Toft and **Leann Wolff** are representing Fargo West Rotary on the committee. The committee is looking for concert sponsors for \$500-2500 (4 at \$2500/8 at \$1000). If we can get all the costs underwritten by the sponsors, all the proceeds will go to PolioPlus. The sponsors do not necessarily have to be from Rotary members. The goal is to involve the community — both in attending and in sponsoring. Of course, Rotarian businesses are more than welcome and appreciated.

March is Literacy Month

Rotary International sets a theme for each month and year. March is Literacy Month.

Literacy literally IS the key to success. Can you imagine a world in which everyone around you could communicate via written expression and you couldn't? You wouldn't be able to read or write the simplest words.

These basic skills, which so many of us take for granted, can mean a job, an income, and hope for a better future for those who are struggling to break the cycle of poverty. That's why Rotary has focused on promoting literacy for more than two decades, and why The Rotary Foundation has provided millions of dollars to support literacy projects.

The Rotary Foundation's Humanitarian Grants Program is at work throughout the world helping people in every country gain life-changing literacy skills. Foundation grants provide books, school supplies, computers, and other educational equipment. With Foundation support, clubs are adopting failing schools and helping them to thrive.

There are needs right here in our area where people are learning and struggling to read and write. We have a good-sized immigrant population who needs the help, if they are to be contributing members of our society. In addition to reading and writing, they are also learning English. Our commitment to the ELL program at Carl Ben Eielson Middle School is on-going. It's been a very successful program in terms of helping young students. Plus, our members are reaping the rewards from giving of themselves.

We also distribute dictionaries to each 3rd grade student in Fargo and West Fargo. It's a gift that has tremendous meaning to these students. Owning their own dictionary encourages them to learn new words and the meaning. Students expressed their happiness in this gift. This is an on-going project for our club.

Literacy opens doors to employment and economic security. We need to continue down the path we have chosen to provide the help for people in need.



Important Rotary Info

November Meetings

Greeter: Trent Gerads

3/1 Steve Aune — Marathon Challenge

3/8 Sam Wai — Early History of Wine in America

3/15 Brad Heinz — Twist of Fate

3/22 Mark Peihl — Stockwood Fill — Railroad from Dilworth to DL

3/29 Administration Day

Make up meetings at any of these local clubs:

Fargo West Rotary meets Monday noon at the Holiday Inn

Moorhead Rotary meets Tuesday noon at the Moorhead Country Club

Fargo Rotary meets Wednesday noon at the Radisson Hotel

FM/AM Rotary meets Thursday at 7:00am in the Overture Room at the Ramada Plaza Suites

FM/PM Make up meeting is at 5:15 pm on the 1st & 3rd Wed of every month at the Winery

