

ROTARY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
of
GREATER NEW ENGLAND

— est. 2013 —



Message from Our President

Dear Alumni and Friends,

In this newsletter you can read about a local project in Bangladesh that was organized by our membership chair Sayedul. On the 21th of January, there will be an event that honors Razia from Afghanistan, the founder of the Razia's Ray of Hope Foundation, in Concord (MA). Last year, RAAGNE raised money for this foundation.

Moreover, an initiative to raise awareness for the End Polio campaign was started by encouraged students at Yale University, among those Hanny Wan (a former Ambassadorial Scholar from Hong Kong; currently studying in Yale). Everyone can participate in this campaign by taking pictures of their favorite dishes and I highly encourage you to do so! Let us know if you participate!

Last month, The Rotaract Club of Washington D.C. successfully completed a fundraiser for [Together We Rise](#), a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of foster children in the U.S.

Best regards,

Christopher Uschnig
RAAGNE President
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Winter clothing Distribution Program in Bangladesh

Recent Project

Sayedul has recently organized a Winter Clothing Distribution Program for underprivileged people on December 13, 2014 at Shariakandi, Bogra, Bangladesh. The program is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Baridhara, RID-3281, Bangladesh. To fulfill this purpose Rotaract Club Of Baridhara (Rotary International District 3281, Bangladesh), Rotary Alumni Association of Greater New England - RAAGNE and Yes Foundation jointly are going to organize a program which distributed more than 100 warm clothes / blanket among the under privilege people in a remote place of Bangladesh.



Sayedul Hassan

Sayedul Hassan is from Dhaka, Bangladesh and is finishing his MBA at Dhaka University. Currently, he is working for a multinational company in Human Resources department. Sayedul is the Membership Chair of RAAGNE and the current President of the Rotaract Club of Baridhara, Rotary International District – 3281. Moreover, he was a Official Volunteer at the Rotary International Convention – 2014 in Sydney, Australia.



End Polio

Eat, Drink and Make History

(A Yale student project to help make the world polio-free) from **Hanny Wan**

What tops the to-do list of brides-to-be in the quest to win that dream wedding? To shed a few extra pounds? Straighten their teeth? Or go through intensive treatments to get that flawless skin?

For Radna, a 21-year-old polio patient, it's to undergo a knee corrective surgery.

When I met her in a hospital during my polio immunization trip to India, she told me that she was getting married in two months. The only request her boyfriend's parents had was for her to "get rid of those crutches," she said. "Because they are not good to have in the family."

While Rotary has helped rid polio off 99% of the world, as long as there is even just one case left anywhere, every child in every nation remains at risk of the virus imported from polio-endemic countries.

As a former Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar, I've turned my Yale School of Management project into a fundraiser for Rotary's *End Polio Now*. Please join us and dedicate a meal or a drink to **Eat, Drink and Make History – We Are This Close to End Polio**. Every US\$1 raised is matched by US\$2 from the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**. So every **US\$1 you donate becomes US\$3!** Every dollar matched can **immunize five children** against the crippling and sometimes fatal disease.

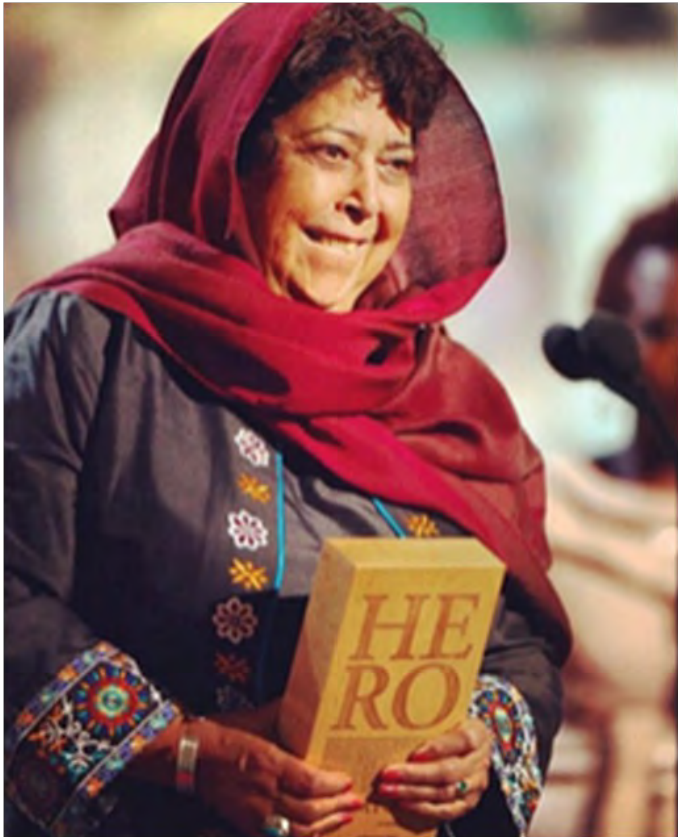
Our target is to collect 100 donations and photos of different cuisines from around the world to publish a photo book *100 Meals Around the World to Help End Polio*. And you can be part of it.

More than 70 people in eight cities on three continents have participated. See www.wearethisclose.org/yale-end-polio-eat-drink-and-make-history/ for details.

Wherever you are, join us to *Eat, Drink and Make History – We Are This Close to End Polio*. As you toast to a year well spent and another exciting year ahead, you have one more reason to celebrate as you contribute to a polio-free world.

Hanny WA





Razia's Ray of Hope Foundation has been shaped by the spirit and vision of Razia Jan. Founder of the [Zabuli Education Center](#), Razia has worked for many years to forge connections between Afghans and Americans. RAAGNE has been fortunate to help support such a wonderful humanitarian with raising funds in support of this great foundation.

This Rotary Forum will also feature: Governor Valentine Callahan, Rotary District 7910 and Craig Norberg-Bohm, Jane Doe Inc.

Register at www.rotary7910.org or 978-627-4135

The Power of Change: Improving the Lives of Women

Rotary Forum on Thursday January 22, 2015
Fenn School, Ward Hall, 516 Monument St,
Concord
7pm-8pm Doors Open at 6:30 pm - **FREE Admission**

Please join us on January 22. We'll hear from three powerful change agents, have an opportunity to discuss issues, and focus on ways Rotarians and their clubs can help support their organizations through membership and contributions, keeping in mind that they address two of Rotary International's six areas of focus (1) child and maternal health and (2) peace and conflict resolution.

This evening will feature a panel discussion by three community leaders whose work advances the lives of women. Rotary will recognize these humanitarians as **Agents of Change**.

Sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Nashoba Valley and Concord in recognition of **25 Years of Women in Rotary**.





This fundraiser was only one of many successful volunteering events that the club has completed throughout the year, but they are also very much focused on developing their club culture and creating a place where members feel welcome and can work together to see their ideas actualized. They already have a few ideas in the works for this year, possibly including a joint clothing drive with other Rotary clubs or a comedy show fundraiser. With the start of a new year, we can certainly expect to see great things from these Rotaractors!

Last month, The [Rotaract Club of Metro Washington D.C.](#) hosted a fundraiser for [Together We Rise](#), a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of foster children in the U.S. The fundraiser took place as a happy hour event at [Thomas Foolery](#) in downtown D.C. where guest bartenders made special cocktails and all tips and raffle prize money went to Together We Rise to help buy gifts for foster children during the holidays. Members and friends of Rotaract, as well as Rotarians from local clubs attended, and they were able to raise over \$500 for the organization. Bo Young In, the current Vice President of the club, described the event as a success and admired her fellow Rotaractors for taking on their roles to make the event a great achievement for the group.



What is your Rotaract Club Doing? Let us know so you can be featured in our next newsletter!

Jerry Evans - over half a century with perfect attendance!

RAAGNE received the sad news of PDG Jerry Evans demise.

Christopher, RAAGNE's president, remembers him from the last year's Annual General Meeting in Baltimore where he got the chance to talk with Jerry about the association and his efforts for the safe blood program prior to the business meeting. Jerry was very enthusiastic about the association and he came all the way to Baltimore on his own. Until his demise, he was also in touch with RAAGNE board members and helped to promote the association. Jerry was an outstanding Rotarian and wonderful man. Thank you!

Here is his Obituary:

Jerry Evan Evans, 77, of Fredericksburg, died November 16, 2014 at home after a battle with cancer. In his youth he was an Eagle Scout of Troop 220 San Gabriel Valley Council in California. He was an alumnus of Pomona College, '59 and then owned Alhambra Sheet Metal in Alhambra, CA for 35 years before moving to Virginia where he worked for Skyline Equipment Sales in Springfield. Jerry was very active in Rotary with 53 years of perfect attendance. He was a Past President of the Alhambra, CA Rotary Club in 1985-1986 and served in many capacities. After moving to Virginia, he served the Rappahannock-Fredericksburg Rotary Club as Fund Raising Chairman, Educational Foundation Chairman, and Assistant District Governor from 2001 to 2003. He was a Past District Governor of District 7610 for 2004-2005 and was also a facilitator for the Rotary Leadership Institute for Zone 33 and Chairman of Safe Blood, Inc., which is a joint venture of Rotary and the Pan American Health Organization, until his death. He was an Elk for over 50 years, most recently of Lodge 875.

<http://www.johnsonfuneralhomeandcrematory.com/obituary/Jerry-Evan-Evans/Fredericksburg-VA/1452940>

