



District 6360 Gazette

Fellowship Month

June, 2009
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DG Renée Merchant

“I have a dream; a song to sing, to help me cope with anything. If you see the wonder of a fairy tail, you can take the future, even if you fail... I have a dream, a fantasy, to help me through reality, and my destination makes it worth the while.” The words of ABBA come to mind as I review this year in District 6360. Our goal was to *Make Dreams Real*, and I believe we achieved our goal.

While some will point to loss of members and lack of annual fund donations, there are other critical success factors to consider. We have many new members who agreed to join us in Service Above Self to supply backpacks to children, to build playgrounds, and to read books to children. We assembled and delivered literacy kits, with a “Read to Me” infant shirt and a book, to low income mothers to encourage reading. We teamed up with other clubs to build wheelchair ramps for disabled children and adults. We funded and delivered clean water filters to children facing health risks. We funded training for disabled and disadvantaged children in Buenos Aires, so they can have an income. We funded a Peace Scholar to study conflict resolution techniques. These are only a few of the many outstanding community and world service projects our members participated in this Rotary year. Each of us *Make Dreams Real* locally and globally.

We exceeded our district goal for donations to PolioPlus! We funded grants to feed children, to build community parks and trails, and to plant trees. We raised money with pancake breakfasts, spaghetti dinners, and community event support. We enjoyed community variety shows of many years standing, and took a risk on new community projects. All these efforts brought the Rotary wheel front and center in our communities. People know who we are, and they know we *Make Dreams Real*.

We have partnered with two other districts to form the Rotary Leadership Institute, Great Lakes Division, a personal goal of mine. We will use this program to build club and district leadership.

And finally, we completed the year with a wonderful, well-attended District Conference in Frankenmuth. Our Rotary speakers informed and motivated us. A speaker inspired us to donate cash to The Rotary Foundation. We had much fun and fellowship!

I appreciate the support, advice and hard work each member of our district contributed to make my year and District 6360 successful. We do *Make Dreams Real!*

Renée Merchant

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Michigan Center/JCE moves to new meeting place:

**Lloyd Ganton Retirement Center – Legacy
Assisted Living
5025 Ann Arbor Road
Jackson, MI 49201
517-764-2000**

Still meet 12:10 – 1:15 p.m. on Thursdays

APRIL 2009 ATTENDANCE

Club	Members -06/30/2008	Current	Chg	Last Mo.	Held	Attend%
Albion	58	58	0	0	5	60
Allegan	38	38	0	-1	4	55.99
Battle Creek	77	84	7	3	4	50
Benton Harbor-Sunrise	62	55	-7	0	5	63.5
Berrien Springs-Eau Claire	34	35	1	-1	4	63
Bronson	41	43	2	0	5	87.14
Cereal City Sunrise (Battle Creek)	16	16	0	0	5	70
Charlotte	83	85	2	-1	4	76.67
Climax	26	24	-2	-1	5	79
Coldwater	90	93	3	4	4	80.12
Coldwater Township Sunrise	46	51	5	1	5	72.5
Constantine	17	20	3	0	4	100
Delta Township (Lansing-Waverly)	80	80	0	0	4	61
Delton Area	28	25	-3	0	5	62
Dowagiac	63	58	-5	0	5	42.07
East Lansing	83	87	4	1	4	61.03
Eaton Rapids	31	33	2	0	4	53
Grand Ledge	56	53	-3	-3	5	57.5
Gull Lake Area	50	54	4	0	5	64.23
Haslett-Okemos	49	49	0	0	4	68.47
Hastings	64	63	-1	0	4	63.53
Hillsdale	49	43	-6	0	5	47.6
Ionia	37	37	0	0	5	58
Jackson	88	81	-7	0	5	72.59
Jackson-Breakfast	24	21	-3	0	4	72
Jonesville	22	22	0	0	4	68
Kalamazoo	252	247	-5	-1	4	58.56
Kalamazoo Sunrise	14	18	4	0	4	66.24
Lakeshore (Baroda-Stevensville-Bridgman)	51	58	7	0	5	42.07
Lansing	257	246	-11	-3	4	50.28
Lansing - Dewitt Sunrise	30	28	-2	0	5	71.43
Litchfield	14	15	1	0	4	80
Marcellus	13	12	-1	0	4	77.08
Marshall	64	63	-1	0	3	49.7
Mason	27	26	-1	-1	5	63.08
Michigan Center-Jackson County East	15	15	0	0	5	78
Middleville	41	45	4	3	4	57.78
Niles-Buchanan	49	47	-2	0	4	63
Oshtemo	37	31	-6	0	5	57.41
Otsego	19	19	0	0	4	72.63
Parchment	16	16	0	0	5	52
Paw Paw Area	23	24	1	0	0	70
Paw Paw Lake (Coloma Hartford Watervliet)	14	15	1	0	5	55.8
Plainwell	18	19	1	0	5	69.47
Portage	92	94	2	0	5	58
Portage AM	23	20	-3	0	5	75
Quincy	37	33	-4	-1	4	73
Reading	21	19	-2	0	4	82
South Haven	54	52	-2	0	4	69.15
South Lansing-Holt	30	29	-1	0	5	62.22
St. Johns	49	43	-6	-1	4	69.88
St. Joseph & Benton Harbor	189	196	7	2	4	68.54
Sturgis	48	45	-3	0	4	59.44
Three Rivers	91	97	6	0	0	54.2
Union City	21	23	2	2	4	86.96
Vicksburg	34	36	2	0	3	53.03
White Pigeon	13	13	0	0	6	82
Williamston Sunrise	44	42	-2	0	3	64.71
Totals, Net Gain, Avg Attendance:	3012	2994	-18	2		65.54%
58 of 58 clubs reporting						



Iran releases former Rotary Scholar, journalist

By Ryan Hyland

Rotary International News -- 19 May 2009



Former Rotary Scholar

Roxana Saberi smiles as she talks with media in Tehran, Iran, 12 May after her release from prison. *AP Photo/Hasan Sarbakhshian*

The 11 May release of former [Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar](#) and U.S. journalist Roxana Saberi, imprisoned in Iran on charges of spying, brought elation and relief to people worldwide, especially to Rotarians of Fargo, North Dakota.

Saberi, a Fargo native, was arrested in January and initially accused of working with expired press credentials, but authorities later charged her with espionage. Her release came after an Iranian appeals court reduced her eight-year prison sentence to a suspended two-year sentence.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Fargo, Saberi was selected as a 1999-2000 Ambassadorial Scholar to attend the University of Cambridge, where she studied journalism.

Fargo club president Joel Fremstad wrote a letter to Mohammad Khazaei, permanent representative of Iran to the United Nations, and Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki, explaining Saberi's connection to Rotary and its mission and requesting her release.

Fremstad, who worked on Capitol Hill in 2003-04 for U.S. Representative Earl Pomeroy of North Dakota, contacted his former boss to express concern on behalf of all Rotarians in the

state. Pomeroy, who was a Rotary Scholar in 1975-76 at Durham University in England, got involved and worked closely with the U.S. State Department on Saberi's release. Days before she was freed, he contacted Khazaei for an update on her situation.

"A lot of people, including Iranian officials, coordinated together so that the proper diplomacy [could] take action in Saberi's release," says Fremstad. "Everyone was excited and relieved to hear the good news."

"In North Dakota, when a friend or neighbor is in trouble, we come together and lend a hand," says Pomeroy. "That was especially true in Roxana's case, where countless individuals and groups came forward to offer their support."

"As a fellow Rotary Scholar, I am especially proud of the work Rotarians did on Roxana's behalf throughout this ordeal," he says. "We don't know what ultimately led to Roxana's release, but I am confident that the rallies, letters, and countless displays of support for Roxana back home played no small part."

Gary Nolte, past governor of District 5580, who helped select Saberi for the Ambassadorial Scholarships program, rejoiced after hearing the news of her release.

"It was an absolute rush when I heard," says Nolte, a member of the Rotary Club of Moorhead, Minnesota, USA. "Saberi is extremely intelligent and confident. During the scholarship interview process, it actually seemed like she was interviewing us. She had everything going for her."

Saberi, whose father was born in Iran, holds dual U.S.-Iranian citizenship. She moved to Iran in 2003, where she worked as a freelance journalist for the BBC and National Public Radio. She plans to return to Fargo, where her family lives.

"We're all very much looking forward to her coming home," says Fremstad. "I'm sure there will be a great celebration upon her return."

District Conference Highlights

**DG Bob Gandolfi 6290,
RI Rep Bob Menconi and
DG Renée Merchant 6360**



**Literacy Project
Featured**



**Iron Lung on
Display**



**Polio Survivors &
NID Trip
Presentations**



Group Study Exchange



Three Men & A Tenor + DG Bob



Summary of motions and resolutions at the First Annual Meeting of the Rotary District 6360, Inc.

- The Financial Review Committee Report was accepted.
- Paul McNamara (St. Johns) was acclaimed the candidate for DG 2011-12.
- PDG Bill Dimond was elected to serve as our District's nominee for member to serve on the Director Nominating Committee for Zone 29.
- PDG Jim Alden was elected to serve as our District's nominee for alternate member to serve on the Director Nominating Committee for Zone 29.
- The January, 2009 version of the Bylaws and District Manual of Procedure were adopted.
- Resolutions were presented to RI President, D K. Lee; DG Renée Merchant; Butch Hasenwinkle. [One was also presented later to RI Rep Robert Menconi from both districts.]

Bill Dimond still needs Goal Forms for these clubs:

Battle Creek, Benton Harbor Sunrise, Cereal City, Coldwater, Coldwater Township, Constantine, Delta Township, Delton Area, East Lansing, Eaton Rapids, Grand Ledge, Haslett-Okemos, Jackson, Jonesville, Lansing, Lansing-DeWitt Sunrise, Litchfield, Marcellus, Mason, Michigan Center, Middleville, Oshtemo, Otsego, Parchment, Paw Paw Area, Plainwell, Portage A. M., Quincy, South Lansing-Holt, Three Rivers, Vicksburg and Williamston.

Send to: bill3127@aol.com , 6240 Nantucket Lane, Kalamazoo, MI 49009.

Host Family Needed for Youth Exchange Student



Anastazia Mieroslawska, who turns 17 in June, hails from Gdansk, Poland. She is currently in her 2nd year of High School. She loves sports and reading books, and sometimes goes to parties with her friends. She is studying Math, geography, Biology, Physics, Polish Literature, History, Computers, English and French.

In school, Anastazia is the leader of the School Anniversary Committee, which organizes 'school events, official ceremonies, good-bye parties and announcement meetings'. Her teachers report that Anastazia is in the top 30% of her class. They write that 'Anastazia is a good-tempered, cultivated person who expects a lot of herself. She is very helpful to other weaker students, and is always positive in the class.'

She lives at home with her mother. She helps with all household chores, and enjoys helping her mother cook. Her mother has a master's degree in economics and is the owner of a Hairdresser's and Cosmetics Salon.

Anastazia is very proud of her city, Gdansk, which is a very old and historic city of 450,000 citizens. It is the city where the independence movement 'Solidarity' was born, with its hero, Lech Walesa.

She has trained for many years in professional dance (standard and Latino American), but her passion in dance has been sidelined for the last 2 years due to a knee problem. This does not prevent her from being active in other sports, walking with her friends and traveling (Germany, Spain, Austria and Italy). Last year, she had a great experience in the short term Youth Exchange program with a one month stay in Germany.

Anastazia wants to come to the USA to meet new people, learn about the US culture, and improve her English.



Gull Lake Area Rotary Club Presents its 24th Annual 4th of July Raffle

The cost is \$25 per ticket. This is a **50/50** raffle. **Only 500 tickets will be sold**, and proceeds will be used for community projects

4 Prizes - **\$1,000** each; 1 Prize - **\$500** ; 8 Prizes of **\$100** each; 3 Prizes of **\$50** each; 34 Prizes of **\$25** each . A total of 50 prizes (**1 in 10 chances of winning**)

Drawing July 4th, 2009 - 12 Noon - Richland Village Square - **Winner need not be present.**

If you would like a ticket, make the check payable to **Gull Lake Area Rotary** and mail it to:

Vito Valella
9478 Treetop Drive
Galesburg, MI 49053
 or call me at 269-303-0839

Visit www.rotary.org for information on such things as learning modules for new members, latest news and information, ordering materials, view online catalogs, Foundation programs, etc.

[TRF Annual Programs Fund: A Pillar of Stability](#)

“The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education and the alleviation of poverty.”

Every time some one reads these words it inspires action. But is it really possible for one person to alleviate poverty? Advance world understanding? Eradicate polio? The answer is **YES**: by participating in our venerable Rotary Foundation, every one contributes and makes a lasting mark.

One of the precious benefits of being a Rotarian is that if you practice Service Above Self, you find that **service gives deeper meaning to self.**

Our Foundation is 92 years old, fiscally conservative, a careful steward and completely transparent in all transactions. What other Charity can make these claims?

Our Annual Programs Fund must be replenished each year. Join the passion and commitment of 1.2 million Rotarians and make your contribution to the Annual Programs Fund **before 30 June 2009.** Your gift will have real impact. Give until it Feels Good. **CONTRIBUTE NOW**

<http://www.rotary.org/en/Contribute/ContributeNow/OnlineContributionForm/Pages/ridefault.aspx>

Sturgis Rotarian, Leon Kimball, passed away on February 28, 2009 at the age of 89. He was a lifelong member of the First United Methodist Church in Sturgis and since 1952 had been an active member of the Sturgis Rotary Club.

In the obituary, the following appeared: "In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorial donations be directed to the Rotary Sand Filter Project c/o: Sturgis Rotary Club, P.O. Box 7074, Sturgis, MI 49091. Envelopes are available at the funeral home."

The Rotary Club of Sturgis has forwarded \$1,875.00 to the Rotary D6360 Foundation in his memory from donations received.

That "directed gift" will provide more than 30 BioSand Water Filters and make clean water available for 500+ children, parents, relatives, and neighbors.

Charles, 269-449-4868

[Find Friends...Fund Filters...Keep it Flowing](#)

FUTURE VISION PLAN PILOT

The Rotary Foundation has completed its selection of districts to participate in the Future Vision Plan pilot for 2010-13. With sincere regret, we must report that your **district was not selected**.

This decision is not a reflection on the strength of your district's involvement with the Foundation, but rather the challenging task the Foundation faced in narrowing down the applicant pool to just 100 districts that were representative of the entire Rotary world.

We realize that you and your fellow Rotarians in the district dedicated significant time and effort to familiarizing yourselves with the Future Vision Plan and determining the level of interest among your clubs. Please accept our sincere appreciation for your interest in the Future Vision Plan. We encourage you to continue to follow the plan's progress at www.rotary.org/futurevision so that your district is fully prepared to make the transition in 2013. With your continued engagement, we can together build a Foundation for the Future.

Sincerely,

Jonathan B. Majiyagbe
Trustee Chair
The Rotary Foundation of RI

Ed Futa
General Secretary
The Rotary Foundation of RI

RI has sent a ballot to club presidents for them to indicate their 1st-4th choice for a member of the 2009-10 Nominating Committee for president of RI in 2011-12 from Zone 29. The candidates are: Robert Brickman, South Haven, MI; William Cadwallader, Jr., Cortland, NY; Mike McCullough, Trenton, MI; Louis Piconi, Bethel-St. Clair, PA. Ballots must be returned by June 30, 2009.

Thanks, DG Renee

**FOR A WONDERFUL ROTARY
YEAR!**



Perspective .. One day, the father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the express purpose of showing him how poor people live. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a

very poor family.
On their return from their trip, the father asked his son.
'How was the trip?'
'It was great, Dad.'
'Did you see how poor people live?' the father asked.
'Oh yeah,' said the son.
'So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip?' asked the father.
The son answered:

- I saw that we have one dog and they had four.
- We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end.
- We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night.
- Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon.
- We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight.
- We have servants who serve us, but they serve others.
- We buy our food, but they grow theirs.
- We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them.'

The boy's father was speechless.
Then his son added,
'Thanks Dad for showing me how poor we are.'

Isn't perspective a wonderful thing? Makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for everything we have, instead of worrying about what we don't have.
Appreciate every single thing you have, especially your friends! 'Life is too short and friends are too few.'

This was sent to us by former GSE Leader from Korea Hansung. Happy Father's Day!

UPCOMING DATES . . .

- June 21-24, 2009 – RI Convention, Birmingham, England
- June 29, 2009, Monday, Handover/Installation Dinner, Radisson, Kalamazoo
- July 14, 2009, Tuesday, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m., Club Officer Training - Lakeview Middle School, Battle Creek
- March 18-20, 2010 –PETS, **MANDATORY FOR PE's** – Radisson, Kalamazoo

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS THE 25TH OF EACH MONTH.

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