

G O D M O R N I N G !

Thursday, May 10, 2012

"Culture is Us!"



Debra Mahr

Executive Director

**The Hunger and Homeless
Coalition of Collier County**

Education

- BA-Religious Studies from St. Thomas University, Miami, Florida
- MA-Community Leadership from Regis University, Denver, Colorado

Debi has been with the Hunger & Homeless Coalition for over five years. As Executive Director, she coordinates multiple related programs directed toward a comprehensive service delivery system to address hunger and homelessness in Collier County.

Debi is responsible for all Coalition events and programs, including convening partner agencies to identify gaps in services, designing collaborative programs that target unmet needs, and organizing outreach to individuals and families experiencing hunger and homelessness and those at risk of homelessness in Collier County.

She is Co-author of our Community Ten Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in Collier County.



**We're havin' a
Blood Suckin'
on May 31st.**

2011-2012 Annual Sponsors

Silver Sponsors

Brooks Insurance Company
Dr. Tom Hale
Hill Barth & King, LLC
Moorings Park

Bronze Sponsor

The "Wizdumb" Table

Our thanks to
Capital Bank and The Naples Daily News for their
generous sponsorship of the All-Star Football Classic.

April is Magazine Month

Attendance Last Meeting

Members Present:	80	80%		
Makeups:	6			
Visiting Rotarians:	3		Winter Pigeons:	4
Guests of Members:	3		Student Guests:	1

Did you make up?

Guest Speaker

Next Week: Collier County Bomb Squad

Last Meeting: Joyce Crain, Prescriptions 4 Hope of Collier County

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Member	Birthday	Age
Cathy Caldwell	May 16	46
Norm Harris	May 12	75

Member	Wedding Anv.	Years
Dave Agoston	May 14	18
Jim Morey	May 16	14

Member	Club Anv.	Years
Larry Ray	May 14	20

Distinguished Rotarians

Rotarian	Honored
Doug Baird	Sept. 30, 2010
Heather Milner	Apr. 23, 2009
Lois Kluberdanz	Jun. 5, 2008

Rotarian of the Year 2012

Alex Garland, Jr.

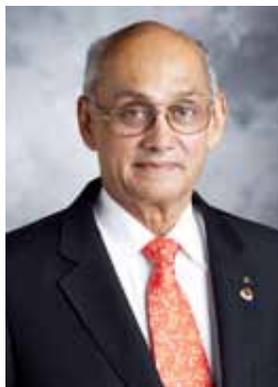


**100% Paul Harris Fellows
or Sustaining Members**



RI President Kalyan Banerjee Monthly Message

When we talk about building membership, we all recognize that welcoming a new member into a Rotary club is only the beginning of our task. To turn a new club member into a committed Rotarian, much more is necessary – and the first step is helping that new member to get involved.



Every Rotarian in every club should know that he or she is not only needed but relied upon. Every Rotarian should have a job within the club – a role to play. After all, why are we in Rotary? We are here to make a difference. Yes, we enjoy our Rotary service, but that is not enough if we are to make Rotary a priority week after week, year after year. The knowledge that we are having an impact, that we are changing lives – that is what keeps us going, no matter what other demands may compete for our time. And this is why each one of us, however long we have been in Rotary, must always be striving to grow as Rotarians – to find new ways to help others, and to bring about all the positive change we possibly can. For this, more than anything, is what makes our Rotary service worthwhile.

Whether we are new members or old ones, each of us can find ways to become more involved in Rotary service – at the club level, the district level, and beyond. Rotarian Action Groups are a wonderful opportunity to put specific expertise or interests to work, in a way that brings Rotarians from every part of the Rotary world together for a common goal. Whether your passion is water and sanitation issues, or microcredit, or blindness prevention – whether you want to volunteer your dental skills or help organize blood drives – chances are there is a Rotarian Action Group for you. And if not, why not organize one yourself? You can learn more about Rotarian Action Groups at www.rotary.org/actiongroups.

Rotary is and always has been an organization based on its clubs. The purpose of Rotary International is not to direct its clubs, but to connect, inform, and support them. Where and how each club, and each Rotarian, chooses to serve, is ultimately the decision of each one alone. So follow your own ambition and your own vision. Open your eyes to the challenges in our world, and use the strength you have through Rotary to find ways to overcome them. Every one of us has so much potential, and can achieve so much, when we Reach Within to Embrace Humanity.

Former Sudanese soldier pumps up the volume as Peace Symposium opens

Emmanuel Jal began his keynote speech at the 2012 Rotary World Peace Symposium in Bangkok, Thailand, not by talking about peace but rather by singing about it.

The former Sudanese child soldier, now an international peace advocate and hip-hop star, energized the morning session crowd with his song “We Want Peace.”



Emmanuel Jal, former Sudanese child soldier and now a recording artist, speaks at the Rotary World Peace Symposium's opening plenary session, 3 May, in Bangkok, Thailand.

At the opening plenary session of the symposium, Thursday, 3 May, Jal talked about what peace means to him, the atrocities he witnessed as a child soldier, and the horrors he experienced while escaping Sudan's bloody civil war.

“Peace means different things to people all around the world,” said Jal, a spokesman for Amnesty International, who has also worked on behalf of Save the Children, UNICEF, the World Food Programme, and Christian Aid. “Peace is when you leave home and come back safely. Peace is when you have a full stomach. For me, peace is justice, equality, and freedom for all.”

Escape

Jal lost his mother and most of his family to the civil war and became a soldier for the Sudan People's Liberation Army at the age of nine. Three years later, he was one of 400 boys who escaped the war by walking across the desert in search of refuge. In a poem, Jal described the journey and the effects it had on him.

“I was at my lowest point as a human being during my escape,” said Jal. “I was angry. I wanted to hurt those who killed my family and friends. But I learned to forgive. It's a constant struggle for me. But forgiveness is a path to peace.”

A British aid worker found Jal and smuggled him into Kenya. Gradually, he discovered that music was a way to share his story. He founded GUA Africa, an organization that works with individuals, families, and communities to help them overcome the effects of war and poverty.