



RCN BULLETIN

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World Peace

RCN to host World Understanding Day



With disputed results of the 2007 Presidential and General elections, Kenyans started the year 2008 in a sorry state of affairs. The country was on the brink of disaster never seen in our history. Over a thousand people lost their lives and many thousands were internally and externally displaced. Neighbours who had lived in perfect harmony, turned on each other. Buildings and homes were torched. Services in Kenya and to the neighbouring nations were disrupted.

Kenya's friends from near and far joined forces to bring sanity to the masses. The International community joined hands with eminent African personalities, under the dynamic leadership of the former Secretary General of the United Nations Kofi Anan, who brought the two teams to a meeting table. The two principals, Honourable Mwai Kibaki and Honourable Raila Odinga formed a power sharing/coalition government almost one year to the date. Kenya was brought back from the brink of a catastrophe. The coalition government has worked for us Kenyans for the last one year; though there have been challenges.

The Rotary Club of Nairobi, the oldest Rotary Club North of Limpopo and South of Sahara, celebrates the World Understanding day on the last Thursday of February each year. This year, the day falls on February 26th 2009. It is to reflect from where we as a nation have come and where we are going. This year we have the privilege of hosting

Professor Jorge Steiner, Professor Emeritus from the University of Berne, Professor Emeritus in Political Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Professor Steiner has written 12 books, several chapters in other books and journals. His recent books are Consociationalism and Corporatism in Western Europe. Still the politics of Accommodation and Deliberative Politics in Action. Analyzing Parliamentary Discourse. He also teaches a Rotary course at the UNC Chapel Hill. The Embassy of Switzerland has arranged for Jorge Steiner's visit. We, at the Rotary Club of Nairobi are also hopeful that the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Kenya Raila Odinga, will also attend and give his thoughts on the year that was.

The Embassy of Switzerland, in partnership with The Kenya Association of Residents Associations (KARA) and Hans Seidel Foundation, has put together a programme for the Civil Society for the afternoon of February 25th. The Rotary Club of Nairobi in collaboration with the University of Nairobi is trying to put together a course on Rotary and coalition systems to remind us of how near we were to a catastrophe.

The Nairobi Hilton has a limited seating capacity and the Rotary Club of Nairobi would appreciate if the guests could confirm their attendance with the secretariat at secretariat@rotarynairobi.org by the close of business of 19th of February.

Rotary Month

February is
Rotary Understanding
Month.

RCN Website

We are on the Web:
www.rotarynairobi.org
www.rotary9200.org

Attendance Update

M = Thursday Fellowships

Jan. 08th '09	76%
Jan. 22nd '09	75%
Jan. 29th '09	60%
Feb 12th '09	83%

Next Meetings...

Thursday,
Feb 19th, 26th 2009
@ 12.30p.m.

Club Meeting Venue:
Laico Regency & Once at end
month @ Parklands Sports Club

All are Welcome.

Our Condolences go out to the Families who lost their loved ones at the Nakumatt and Molo fire tragedies. May God give them Strength and Peace at this very difficult time.



ROTARY CLUB OF NAIROBI

Founded Sept. 11, 1930
Club No. 17261
P.O. Box 41181-00100
Nairobi, Kenya

Our Vision:

To remain the leading Rotary Club in Kenya and beyond, where dynamic members enjoy bringing great benefit to their community.

Our Mission:

To implement high impact service projects in education, in health, with youth and elsewhere, while members enjoy each others' fellowship.

Our values:

- Commitment
- Care
- Humility
- Friendliness
- Trustworthiness
- Responsiveness

Board 2008 - 09:

President: Ashok Shah

Email: president@rotarynairobi.org

Vice President & Club

Administration: Nick Hutchinson

Secretary: Sally Gitoho

Treasurer: Amar Kantaria

President-Elect: Willy Strothman

Immediate Past President:

James Mwangi

Director: Darsi Lotay

Director: Simeon Macharia

Director, Rotary Foundation /International Service:

Dan Poenaru

Director, Service Committee:

Salim Fazal

Director, Family of Rotary:

Halima Shaiyah

Director, Fund-raising:

Barbara Magoha

Club Secretariat:

Email: secretariat@rotarynairobi.org

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The office is run permanently by our **Administrative Assistant**, Rachel Mwikali.

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Visiting Rotarians, 29 Jan 2009

Rtn. Bennie Sutherland RC North Delta Canada, RC Eleanor Harris RC Thika.

Guest of Rotarians

Rtn. Praful Lakhani's guest was our guest speaker Mr. Ketan Shukla and his wife from the Indian High Commission, Rtn. Yusuf Kodwawwala's guest was his spouse Mrs. Marie Kodwawwala, Rtn. John Konchellah's guest was his spouse Mrs. Ruth Konchellah, PP Erick Krystall's guest was Rotaractor William Kariuki, Rtn. Anantha Krishnan guests were Karun, Melanda and Graie from the UN Habitat, Rtn. Rita Rogers guest was her spouse Mr. Charles Rogers and Tina Dass from the Jacaranda workshop, Rtn. Omi Nagpal's guest was his spouse Mrs. Pamela Nagpal, Rtn. Elizabeth Kimkung's guest was Mr. Wilfred Marube from the City Council of Nairobi, Rtn. Sasa Mart's guest was his spouse Mrs. Sanja Mart, Rtn. Kamal Sanghani's guest was his



President Ashok Shah

spouse, Mrs. Trupti Sanghani, PP Daris Lotay's guest was his spouse Mrs. Renate Lotay and finally Rtn. Ismail Waliji's guest was his spouse Mrs. Yasmin Waliji.

Rtn. James Mwangi was the Sergeant at Arms and raised Kshs /- 4900.

Our guest speaker was Mr. Ketan Shukla who is the Indian High Commissioner. He gave a presentation of India and its economy.

Lollipop Project



President Ashok Shah presents Daphne Kemunto with a craving from the Jacaranda Childrens' Home. Daphne gave a presentation on the Lollipop project which is geared to identifying black - spots on our roads and thereafter station people to assist school children cross the roads. Well done Daphne, continue with the good work.

A helping hand to fire tragedy victims



Members of RCN, led by President Ashok are taken through the Waruku slum area in Kangemi, where a fire outbreak destroyed homes and belongings of the residents. Prof. Edward Kairu organised a fund-raising at RCN and various materials including iron sheets, clothes, food, timber and other stuff was collected. These items were then distributed to the fire victims at a tour organised by Prof. Kairu. We thank all the RCN members who donated whatever materials, and do hope we keep up the good spirit of giving.

Message from the District Governor - 2009 District Conference and Assembly

Greetings to you in Rotary!
I am glad to note that I am nearing the completion of my official visits to the Clubs. During the visits all Club members have promised me that they will attend the 84th District Conference & Assembly in large numbers, going by the 4 Way Test.

It is my pleasure to officially announce that the venue of the 84th District Conference & Assembly has been changed from the Kenyatta International Conference Center (KICC) to the ultra modern facilities of the United Nations Complex in Nairobi.

Please note that all the registration fees will remain unaffected. The District Conference Committee has stepped up

the gear in the preparations. In due course you will be receiving finer details and related announcements on the Conference from the Conference Chairman James Gachui and his Committee.

I would like to remind all Rotarians and Guests to take advantage of the early registration deadline to register before 31st December 2008 to enjoy the discounted rates. I look forward to hosting you all to a memorable District Conference and Assembly from 13th to 16th May 2009.

Best regards and God Bless,

DG Kaushik Manek

*For Your
Diary...*

Thursday, 12th Feb 2009

Jan Grootenhuis makes a presentation on his various experiences in Kenya. Jan who is familiar to some of us came to Kenya several decades ago and currently manages an eco-tourism project in the Loita.

Thursday, 14th Feb 2009

Please remember our special Valentine's Swimathon from 12.00pm this Saturday at the University of Nairobi Swimming Pool arena. Liaise with Rtn. Barbara Magoha for more details.

Thursday, 26th Feb 2009

World Understanding Day to be hosted by RCN at the Hilton Hotel from 12 pm.

Yours in Service,

Atia Yahya
Programme Officer

“10m Kenyans still faced with Major Starvation!”



Fellow Rotarians, as you may already know, our country is faced with a very grim Food situation. More than 10m Kenyans are faced with real starvation due to crop failure in the last 2 seasons, coupled by the post election crisis - which affected food production in the country. Grim news is coming from the most productive parts of Kenya, to the effect that people in those areas are seeking relief food! One can only imagine the situation in the less productive areas of the country.

As always, we Rotarians will not sit back and watch this grim situation unfold. This is a special appeal to all Rotarians, regardless of your club to come together and see where we can urgently help, in whatever shape and form, to help our fellow Kenyans get through this Famine.

Say it with Pictures!



President Ashok admires a banner given to him by members of the Group Study Exchange (GSE) from the Oceanside Rotary club in the USA.



Rtn. Chris Knochenhauer and Rtn. Sasa Mart wait for their sandwiches to be prepared by the master chef. A new lunch arrangement has come in place which gives RCN members a good choice on the kind of lunch they choose to have.



Janet Mawiyoo, CEO of Kenya Community Development Fund, which is a Kenyan grant making public foundation that was established in 1997. The Foundation supports communities and other non-profit making organizations to raise and invest funds and resources that assist them in initiating self-sustainable development projects.



Dr. Kioko Mang'eli, Managing Director of the Kenya Bureaus of Standards (KEBS) gives an overview of KEBS and its activities and also tell us what KEBS is doing to stem the proliferation of substandard and counterfeit goods.

Rotary Swimarathon - A Valentine Day like no other!

Would you like to spend this year's Valentines Day doing something innovative, exciting and life-changing?

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Nairobi, I wish you to invite you to participate in or financially support our first ever SWIMARATHON, which will be held at University of Nairobi's Swimming Pool on Valentines Day February 14th, 2009. The event will take place between 1 p.m and 5 p.m. leaving you plenty of time to participate in other Valentine plans. (The pool is situated right opposite the University's Graduation Square, which is off Uhuru Highway.)

We invite you to take part in this **EXTRA SPECIAL FUN EVENT**, (it is not a race), which will help us to raise money to help those less fortunate than ourselves. 50% of the money raised by each team will be donated to the CHARITY OR CAUSE of the team's choice; the remaining 50% will be used on selected projects supported by the Club. Each team is expected to provide a team of six swimmers and raise money from their friends and associates by sponsorship. All team members are therefore requested to fundraise aggressively towards this exciting initiative with a view to enabling us to reach our fundraising target of over **Kshs. 1,000,000.00**

Prizes will be:-

1. The ROTARY CLUB OF NAIROBI'S SWIMARATHON TROPHY to be retained for one year by the team collecting the most sponsorship.
2. A TROPHY for every member of the team collecting the most sponsorship money in each category (club committee, individual and youth).
3. Each Swimmer will receive a certificate of Appreciation.

Dr. Barbara Magoa via email: magoa@africaonline.co.ke. For direct donations please call your respective team leaders or speak directly to me on Tel: 0722 527 009.

Please make an extra special effort to enter a team and support our SWIMARATHON and help us make it a Valentine's Day to remember.

Enjoy Early Booking Discounts
Register Now!

"I personally invite all Rotarians to attend the 84th Rotary District 9200 Conference & Assembly on May 13-16, 2009 at the UN Conference Centre Gigiri, Nairobi"

- DG Kaushik Manek