

## Rotaracters at 2012 UN Day

By Paul Bersch and Anastacia Stevens, Rotaract

Members of the Rotaract Club of Milwaukee attended the annual Rotary's United Nations Day on November 3rd in New York City. The one-day event celebrates Rotary's international efforts and its longstanding relationship with the UN. Speakers included RI President Sakuji Tanaka, Rotary Peace Fellows, and representatives of clubs and organizations presenting on topics ranging from clean water to human trafficking.

The conference's theme was President Tanaka's mission: Peace Through Service. Each of the six panels provided insight into Rotary's peace-building initiatives, including organizations such as UNICEF, UNESCO, and Mercy Ship.



Rotaracter Anastacia Stevens with RI President Sakuji Tanaka

Other panelists included Rotary Peace Fellows Arthur Romano and Kirandeep Sirah. Romano and Sirah described how they promote peace and conflict resolution through education – Romano by teaching children to challenge violence and Sirah through art and folklore at the Glasgow Museum. Stephen Martineau described his organization, Friends Forever, and its efforts to build ties between conflicting groups. He spoke inspiringly of his success teaching conflict resolution to teens from areas such as Northern Ireland and Israel.

Initiatives to bring about change in Egypt and Darfur were also at the forefront of discussion. Patricia Parker, founder of Kids for Kids, spoke about her organizations' sustainable community development in Darfur. The organization gives families tools

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## Meet Our Ambassadorial Scholar

By Nicole Thompson, Ambassadorial Scholar



Nicole Thompson

I am proud to represent District 6270 as your Ambassadorial Scholar for the 2012-2013 school year and would like to thank Rotary for this opportunity.

As a freshman at Marquette University in 2007, I volunteered at Lincoln Avenue, an MPS bilingual elementary school, which led me to change my focus from journalism to

education. As my passion for service and volunteer work grew, I came to understand how vital good bilingual education is to support English Language Learners in their desire to acquire English and succeed as students as a whole. My desire to inspire ELLs in Milwaukee was only furthered by my student teaching experiences in bilingual classrooms.

I will be studying at the Universidad Nacional de Salta in Salta, Argentina, a city of 500,000 nicknamed "Salta la Linda," or "Salta the Beautiful." I will be studying how languages are acquired, working toward a Masters of Science Degree in Language, as well as learning through experience. I will be doing a service project with Cloudhead, and organization that combines English language acquisition, art, and technology to inspire young people.

I leave for Argentina in late January and cannot wait to serve as a representative of Milwaukee and the United States in Salta. I am so eager to begin making connections and become more of an expert in language acquisition, so that when I return next December I will be able to serve as an inspiring and knowledgeable teacher working with ELLs in Milwaukee. The ability to apply what I have learned will give true value to my experience, and I am forever grateful to Rotary to making my dreams come true. 🌟

*About the Program: Together with Rotary International, Rotary District 6270 provides a one-year Ambassadorial Scholarship of up to \$25,000 to scholars pursuing graduate study abroad.*

## **Rotaracters at 2012 UN Day** *continued from page 1*

needed to support themselves, including kid goats and donkeys whose offspring are distributed around the community. Nevine Abdelkhalek, PH.D spoke on Women and Social Peace in Egypt, outlining how women are gathering to promote gender equality in Egypt (50% of Egyptian Rotarians are woman).

Despite the widespread devastation of Hurricane Sandy that struck only few days earlier, over 1,000 Rotarians, UN delegates and Rotaract members were able to attend the conference. The disaster's widespread reach was plainly evident, from gas lines that stretched down several city blocks to military convoys hauling supplies to affected areas. Local Rotary groups reported on the devastation in their districts: food shortages, power outages, and destroyed homes. But they also told stories of Rotarians' quick response to the disaster: local clubs volunteering to help with the cleanup, and offers of funds and supplies from around the world.

The Rotaract Club of Milwaukee would like to thank the A.D. Robertson Fund for the United Nations, a fund within the RCM Community Trust, for sponsoring their attendance at UN Day, as well as for their continuing support of our club's activities. ☸

## **SPEAKER** *schedule*

**JANUARY 8th** - Futurist **David Zach** will help launch 2013 by updating Milwaukee Rotarians on various fads, trends and principles related to: innovation, logistics, design, the Internet, distraction, automation, emerging professionals, cool gadgets, education, augmented reality, virtual reality and how attention has become the most valuable and scarce resource in the world.

**JANUARY 15th** - Documentary filmmaker **Holly Mosher** will share her inspiration and experience following the work of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus. She will cover both how microcredit empowers women and provides opportunities and how Yunus has expanded his work to offer viable business solutions (which he coined social business) to other dire community needs including healthcare, education and energy needs.

**JANUARY 22nd** - MATC President **Dr. Michael Burke** will speak on the topic "MATC's Second Century of Innovative Education." As MATC moves into its second century, it has come a long way from its humble beginnings as "a continuation school for the forgotten children of Milwaukee." Since 2011, MATC



### **Photo Corner**

Jim Gormley & Janet Protasiewicz (left) and several members of Rotaract (below) enjoy a cocktail at Blu at the Pfister at our 2012 Holiday Networking Hour.

has developed eight new associate degrees, 15 new technical diplomas, and two dozen new certificate programs to meet the needs of an evolving workforce. Working with local employers, the college provides industry-certified skills to our local workforce so that we can maintain our economic competitiveness and promote innovation. From manufacturing and construction to sustainability and mobile applications development, MATC prepares its students for the world of technology.

**JANUARY 29th** - **Bruce Bittles'** Economic & Stock Market Outlook 2013 will focus on the root causes of the turbulence the U.S. economy has experienced since the bursting of the housing bubble. The focus will be on the likelihood of a slow growth economy continuing well past 2012. Attention will be given to: the impact on inflation, interest rates, stock market returns and Federal Reserve Policy going forward; U.S. dollar and gold prices; and the impact on the U.S. equity markets and their influence on consumer confidence and GDP growth. Mr. Bittles is the Chief Investment Strategist with Robert W. Baird & Co.

## Rotary 1939-1947

Rotary surveyed Milwaukeeans extensively in an effort to identify priorities for capital investment. Rotarians concluded that the City needed more playgrounds and parks, a larger museum and public library, a remodeled sports arena and outdoor stadium and better roadways.

Just before the war began in 1941, Rotarians provided leadership and advocacy for building a stadium necessary to attract a Major League baseball team. While it took over 12 years to become a reality, it set the tone for efforts to modify the city landscape after Prohibition, the Great Depression, and the War effort had stalled development for 25 years.



Milwaukee aldermen survey the location for the County Stadium.

With the emergence of World War II and a recovering economy, the Rotary Club of Milwaukee renewed its philanthropic efforts in the community. In 1942, contributions were directed to new recreational facilities at Mitchell Field for use by troops stationed in Milwaukee. In 1943, Rotary Club of Milwaukee furnished the Officer's Day Room and Lounge at Mitchell Field. That same year, the Club acquired new specimens for the Washington Park Zoo. And it marked the first year of the roast of the out-going Club President, a tradition that continues today.

Post-War civic initiatives endorsed by Rotary reached a price tag of \$83 million. At the time of these recommendations, unemployment was at a rate of 2% in Milwaukee and industrial output reached \$1.5 billion.

Members of the Rotary Club of Milwaukee donated clothing for Europeans through Rotary International as the War came to a close. In 1947, the Club also donated \$10 for each member to the Paul Harris Memorial Fund on the occasion of the death of the Rotary founder.

Two Rotarians – Will Ross and Mackie Wells – volunteered as co-chairs for the campaign to raise funds to build the Milwaukee War Memorial—a space to provide for “art, music, drama, public discussion and social assembly”. Support of summer camp for boys changed priorities to support the best high school students interning at companies in the interests of future employees.

And, on a lighter note, in 1946 a special appeal for new pictures was directed to members who had pictures in the Rotary directory with handle-bar mustaches and/or high rubber collars with the comment the atomic bomb has taken the place of cannon balls.

And, as is tradition, Rotarians enjoyed great programs such as:

- The President of Marquette University addressed the Club on the role of education after the War.



Arthur Fiedler

- Arthur Fiedler of the Boston Pops shrugged-off the future of rock music.
- Norman Gill of the Citizens' Governmental Research Bureau (now the Public Policy Forum) spoke on post-War improvement programs for Milwaukee – annexation, automobiles, economic cycles, and decentralization of the population.

- Rotarian Brooks Stevens shared his vision for post-War design trend. Another speaker made predictions that, following the War, planes would reach 250 mph and carry as many as 100 passengers.
- A former member of the German Reichstag recommended that Germany be given another chance at democracy, that War criminals be punished, and that German youth be re-educated.
- Several luncheon programs in 1944 were dedicated to determining the likely future of Soviet Russia.

- By 1944, 118 Rotarians from the Club were serving as members of the armed forces. A special Rotary luncheon was devoted to problems post-War: predictions revolved around temporary unemployment, followed by a long period of growth.
- In 1947, Senator Joseph McCarthy spoke about his opposition to keeping German prisoners of war in concentration camps and of dismantling German industry. The Rotary announcement described the Senator as dynamic, aggressive, and colorful.

### Milwaukee and the World 1939-1947

Albert Einstein's letter to President Roosevelt led to the formation of the Manhattan Project in 1939 and, in the same year, Germany invaded Poland. The automatic transmission was first available in an Oldsmobile in 1939 and John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* was published.

In 1940, Milwaukee Public Schools enrolled 81,753 students. It is the year the first McDonald's restaurant opened; the first California freeway was constructed; and Winston Churchill became British Prime Minister as London endured 57 consecutive nights of bombing.

In 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and 81% of households listened to President Roosevelt's speech declaring war. Within a year, the Badger Army ammunition plant – the largest in the country – was constructed near Madison; Anne Frank began her diary; and Milwaukee Mayor Carl Zeidler was killed in action and succeeded by his brother, Frank.

In 1943, President Roosevelt became the first President to travel by airplane while in office; the bombing of Berlin began with Edward R. Murrow describing it as "orchestrated hell". Milwaukee was the only American city free of debt. (By 1956, the City

carried \$55 million in debt from commitments to new infrastructure.)

By 1944, the Normandy Invasion commenced with 155,000 troops landing on the beaches of France. Anne Frank and her family were captured and boarded the last train to Auschwitz.



Cliff Randall (right) with Carl Zeidler (left) shown with Denver Mayor Ben Stapleton (center) at the 1941 Rotary International Convention.

In 1946, drive-up teller windows and Tupperware were first introduced; Winston Churchill coined the phrase The Iron Curtain; and the last mass lynchings in the country occurred in Georgia.

By 1947, the first African American news correspondent was allowed in the galleries of Congress; Jackie Robinson integrated Major League baseball; and WTMJ became the first Milwaukee television station although fewer than 1,000 televisions existed in the city. 🌀

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**Pam Evason**

*Managing Director  
Windermere Wealth Advisors, LLC  
11414 Pak Place, Suite 202  
Milwaukee, WI 53224  
pam.evason@windermerewealth.com  
(414) 716-6150*

Pam Evason is Managing Director of Windermere Wealth Advisors, LLC. Prior to joining Windermere, Pam was a senior manager at Deloitte & Touche LLP where she served numerous financial services clients. Pam places great importance on giving back to the community; serving on the Board of Trustees of the National MS Society-Wisconsin Chapter and volunteering for Make a Difference – Wisconsin and Children’s Hospital. Outside of work, Pam enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, biking, cooking, and practicing Bikram Yoga.



**George Hinton**

*President  
The Hinton Group  
16745 Dane Court West  
Brookfield, WI 53005  
georgehinton87@yahoo.com  
(262) 797-3397*

George P. Hinton is currently President of The Hinton Group, which provides consulting services in healthcare and business. Prior to his current position, he was the President of Aurora Sinai Medical Center. George received an Associate in Business Administration from MATC and a Bachelor of Business Administration, Finance from UWM, as well as a Masters of Healthcare Administration from the University of Alabama-Birmingham. George is married to Michelle and together they have eight children and nine grandchildren.

**Weldon Gage**

*Chief Financial Officer  
Children’s Hospital and Health System  
9000 W. Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53226  
wgage@chw.org  
(414) 266-6220*

Weldon Gage is the Chief Financial Officer for Children’s Hospital and Health System. Prior to joining Children’s, Weldon worked in finance for Texas Children’s Hospital, MD Anderson Cancer Center and Hendrick Medical Center. He is a member of the Healthcare Financial Management Association. Originally from Texas, Weldon lives with his wife Wendy in Pewaukee.



**Doug Stahl**

*Professor  
Milwaukee School of Engineering  
1025 N. Broadway  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
stahl@msoe.edu  
(414) 277-7308*

Doug Stahl is a professor of structural engineering at Milwaukee School of Engineering. He is advisor to MSOE’s Engineers Without Borders group, guiding students through the planning, design, and construction of infrastructure projects in rural Guatemala. When not in the classroom or Central America he likes to be with his wife Ann and their two high-school-age children.



**Sean Walker**

*Partner  
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP  
10700 W. Research Drive #200  
Milwaukee, WI 53226  
sean.walker@cliftonlarsonallen.com  
(414) 721-7521*

Sean Walker is the partner-in-charge of CliftonLarsonAllen’s state and local government practice. He leads a national team of over 350 professionals providing auditing, accounting, and consulting services to governments. His passion is to improve the well being of society by providing support and assistance to organizations that have an impact on each of us. He volunteers his talents with American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Government Finance Officers Association. Additionally, he serves on the 88Nine Radio Milwaukee’s finance committee. Sean graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He lives in Wauwatosa with his wife Stephanie.

**BOARD APPROVES NEW MEMBERS**

*At its recent meeting, the Board of Directors welcomed three new members and expressed thanks to the proposers:*

**Loei Badreddine**  
**GRAEF**  
Engineering  
*Proposer: Kathie Eilers*

**Donna Bembenek**  
**YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee**  
Human Services  
*Proposer: Tom Gale*

**Susan Lloyd**  
**Zilber Family Foundation**  
Charitable Foundation  
*Proposer: Steve Chevalier*

## Spotlight on the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum:

### *Why Plant Natives?*

By Caitlin Reinartz, Urban Ecology Center Forestry Specialist

Within the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum, the Urban Ecology Center will plant only those plants that are native to Southeastern Wisconsin, and will work to eliminate those species that are non-native or invasive. Why only natives?

**Reason #1:** The Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum will be used to teach generations of children about the natural world. Lady Bird Johnson, first lady and champion of Texas native plants, once said that native plants “give us a sense of where we are in this great land of ours.” When children and adults visit the Arboretum, we want them to get a sense of Wisconsin. Native plants within the Arboretum will help foster a connection between urban youth and our plant communities. By spending time in a real Wisconsin ecosystem, children will be able to discover the natural beauty all around them.



Top: Swamp Milkweed Bottom: Bloodroot

Most native plants have developed resistances to insects and diseases common to our area, and will remain healthy without our help. As Lady Bird Johnson said

**Reason #2:** Native Wisconsin plants have evolved for millions of years to be well adapted to the climate, weather, and soils that exist here, thereby needing less human intervention once established. Native plants require less watering, which conserves water and lowers maintenance costs. Native plants also require little or no fertilization or pesticide application, which means less contamination of our water supply.

when founding her Wildflower Center, “you just have a better chance if you’re using natives and wild things. They’re easier to grow if the Lord put them there in the first place; and they’re hardy and can survive.”



Top: Michigan Lily Bottom: Trilliums

**Reason #3:** Native plants sustain native wildlife with appropriate food and shelter having evolved together for millions of years. For example, many insect species (which are the foundation of the wildlife food web) only feed on native plants. The loss of native plant communities to farming and urbanization has meant that our native creatures have fewer places to grow and thrive. Enhancing the native plant culture not

preserves existing animal habitat, but it will create an expanded and richer habitat that can support a larger and more diverse wildlife population. And more wildlife means more bird watching, and more magical moments when a child sees a fox or a hawk or a great blue heron!

If you would like to read more on the subject of the importance of using native plants in natural areas and even our backyards, read this wonderful, very informative, and easy-to-read book: *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants* by Douglas W. Tallamy (published by Timber Press).