



TIKI WA'HA ROTARY CLUB OF ALA MOANA



Lend a Hand

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By David Brown

Washington Post Staff Writer

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Lunch is over, and the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C., is taking coffee when Susan O'Neal starts her slide presentation about the trip she and 65 other Rotarians took to India, where they helped hand out oral polio vaccine to ragtag children in a New Delhi slum. in the environment."

A groan briefly mixes with the tinkling of glassware as the Rotarians settle in for the latest dispatch from their organization's 15-year campaign to eradicate polio, the leading cause of childhood paralysis.

This scene at the Hotel Washington recently is not one that George F. Babbitt, the title character of Sinclair Lewis's 1922 novel, would easily recognize. A small-minded resident of a fictional American city, Babbitt belonged to a Rotary-like organization called the Boosters Club. Lewis lampooned it as little more than institutionalized selfishness, and his unflattering picture still lingers in the American psyche.

That may be the reason so few people know that the heirs of Babbitt's Boosters — not only in Rotary but also in two other large clubs like it — are now major players in the global fight against disease. They are engaged in arduous and thankless campaigns against ailments that have largely disappeared from the places where their members live.

Since 1988, Rotary International has contributed \$500 million and sent thousands of volunteers to work on the polio campaign. The club is second only to the U.S. government in the amount of money it has poured into the effort to eradicate a human disease for only the second time in history.

In 1994, Kiwanis International adopted as its cause the elimination of iodine deficiency, the biggest cause of preventable mental retardation in the world. Since then, the club has provided more than \$50 million to help ensure that all salt used in food contains iodine.

Lions Clubs International, once famous for collecting and recycling used eyeglasses, spent \$148 million over the past decade on sight-preservation projects in 79 countries. It plays an important role in a river-blindness campaign in Africa, has trained 14,000 ophthalmic workers in India and helped pay for 2.1 million cataract operations in 104 rural counties in China, where last year it became the only Western "service club" allowed to establish chapters.

The contributions of these clubs, however, go well beyond money. Over the past decade they have essentially created a new species of nongovernmental organization.

Unlike many medical charities in the developing world, these are not small cadres of overworked, self-sacrificing idealists. Instead, they are vast, permanent networks of well-connected people willing to put in small amounts of time — often in the form of lobbying and consciousness-raising — against a few targeted diseases.

"Their contribution goes way beyond pretty important. I believe that eradication of polio would not have been feasible without the participation of Rotary International," said R. Bruce Aylward, a Canadian physician who is the World Health Organization's coordinator for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

"Kiwanis is signed up indefinitely, not for donating money but for raising their voice if they see any backsliding," said Frits van der Haar, a Dutch nutritionist who heads the Network for Sustained Elimination of Iodine Deficiency.

"Outsiders like Kiwanis are the watchdogs. They see that the work is done well and continues to get done."

In the river-blindness campaign, Merck & Co. provides the drug ivermectin and Lions Clubs International pays to train African villagers to dispense it. The "barefoot doctor" strategy that has evolved from the program may become a model for other medical programs in places with few health professionals, said Moses Katarbarwa, a Ugandan epidemiologist and anthropologist.

"The Lions, they have triggered off a process in which there is no reverse," said Katarbarwa, who recently moved to the United States to work on river blindness with the Carter Center in Atlanta.

ALA MOANA HOTEL

- LUNCH -

THURSDAY NOON

45-year-old Helen Keller challenged them to become “knights of the blind in this crusade against darkness.” All eventually opened clubs on other continents.

In the early 1980s, several Rotary leaders proposed beginning an organization-wide project separate from local efforts. “This was contrary to the beginnings of Rotary and was also contrary to the feelings of a lot of senior Rotarians,” recalled William T. Sergeant, who at age 84 heads Rotary’s polio activities. But the idea took hold.

At the suggestion of Albert Sabin, inventor of the oral polio vaccine, Rotary chose as its goal universal immunization of children against polio and several other infectious diseases. In 1986, it decided to support the effort through 2005, the club’s centennial year. It did not envisage eradicating polio.

A two-year campaign brought in more than twice as much money as expected — \$247 million, not \$120 million. Partly on the strength of that support, the World Health Organization in 1988 announced its intent to rid the world of polio. A WHO-led effort had previously eradicated smallpox in a campaign lasting from 1966 to 1980.

“A lot of people have very ambitious ideas, but almost nobody has the funding to kick-start a global initiative,” Aylward said. “Rotary was the Gates Foundation of 1988.”

But eradication has proved more difficult than anyone anticipated. The target date was originally 2000; it is now 2005. The extra time required more money. Earlier this year, Rotary completed a second fundraising campaign, which raised \$111 million — again more than the target, which was \$80 million. The club’s contributions, including interest, now total more than \$500 million.

Lions Clubs International, the world’s largest service club, decided to reorient much of its sight-saving efforts after it held a symposium with experts in blindness prevention in Singapore in 1989.

“We were astounded to hear that blindness was increasing, particularly in the developing world,” said Brian Stevenson, a provincial judge in Alberta who had just finished a term as Lions president. “They told us there were 40 million blind people in the world, and 32 million of the cases were or had been treatable. So it gave us a lot of focus.”

Lions set a goal of \$130 million but raised \$147 million for its SightFirst program. The organization has funded more than 550 grants in 78 countries targeting the main causes of blindness.

Kiwanis’s entry into the global health arena was due in part to the example of the two other clubs.

In 1991, William Foege, former head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, asked the Kiwanis president, a physician named Wil Blechman, what the club was doing for the world’s children. Foege cited Rotary’s polio work and Lions’ just-created SightFirst. While Kiwanis had urged local clubs to have a charitable activity aimed at children younger than 5, there was no organization-wide project.

“I will bring this to the attention of our board, because I don’t know at the moment,” Blechman recalled answering sheepishly.

UNICEF estimated the problem could be eliminated worldwide in five years for \$50 million to \$75 million. Kiwanis took the challenge because it was important, concrete and “something we thought we could handle,” Blechman said.

The organization pledged to raise \$75 million and has already contributed \$57 million. The money pays for iodization equipment for salt manufacturers and campaigns on the importance of iodized salt.

Occasionally, members of service clubs do the work themselves. Thousands of Rotarians, both local and foreign volunteers, have participated in national immunization days when vaccine is given to millions of children over a few days.

Dave Groner, a 60-year-old funeral director in Dowagiac, Mich., has led four groups of Rotarians to India and one to Nigeria. Next month, he will take 14 people, 10 of them nurses, to Niger. They will all pay their own way — about \$3,000 each. “We’ve never been asked to not work or to get lost,” he said.

Occasionally, club members play a role nobody else can. Angola has a single Rotary Club, 32 people who meet in the capital, Luanda. They are led by Sylvia Nagy, who with her husband owns a foundry. In 1997, a 25-year civil war, which ended last year with the death of rebel leader Jonas Savimbi, was underway. There had not been a vaccination campaign in the rebel-held half of the country in years.

Nagy, along with representatives of WHO and UNICEF, negotiated a truce so immunization days could be held in June that year. Rotary rented planes, boats and four-wheel-drive vehicles to deliver vaccine, and disbursed \$4 million to far-flung vaccinators. About 2.5 million children were vaccinated.

On Sept. 2, Angola marked its second year without a single case of polio.



Rotary

Club of Ala Moana

Ballot for Board of Directors & Chairpersons 2004-2005

**Past President
President
President Elect**

**Tony Wong
Milton Miyakawa
Clayton Wong**

Approved Nominations

**Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Sergeant at Arms**

**Glenn Tsumura
Stephen Arita
Valri Murata
James Poorbaugh**

**Vocational Service
New GenerationsCommunity Service
International Service Co Chair
Club Service
Foundation (two year term)
Club Historian**

**Berlyn Hinazumi
Victor Corpuz
Roger Lerud
Mary Ann Berry
Rich Courson
Ethel Ching**

DECEMBER

11th

Ron Nagawawa
Mid Week Magazine

18th

Kim Taylor Reece
Hawaii Photographer

**May you and
your families
have a Merry
Christmas.**

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President of RI
Jonathan B. Majiyagbe
District 5000
Gary Siracusa, DG
Rotary Club of Ala Moana
Officers and Director
Rotary Year 2003-2004
President Tony Wong
Pres-Elect Milton Miyakawa
Vice President Clayton Wong
Past President Kristine Blancq
Secretary Ed Ulery
Treasurer Kevin McCrary
Sargent at Arms MaryAnn Berry
Club Svc. Glenn Tsumura
International Svc. Bob Hayashi
Community Svc. Glenn Tsumura
Vocational Svc. Candice Naito
Club Service Milton Miyakawa
Fellowship Com. Bridgette Adams
New Generations Clayton Wong
Membership & PR Sam Shenkus
Attendance Wally Young
Fund Raising Dave Berry
Fnds (Rotary & HRYF) Rich Courson
Indoctrination Dick Bento
Club Historian Ethel Ching



Guest Speaker: Mr. Will Hartzell, President of Safe Water Systems and a member of the Rotary Club of Honolulu Sunrise, spoke to us about the appalling quality of water in third world countries. He stated that citizens of the United States take our safe drinking water for granted, while 5 million persons per year die from contaminated water related diseases.

Currently, there are two primary schemes to purify water in third world countries. The first is by boiling. Unfortunately, wood is required for this process, and residual problems from the cutting of wood for this purposes occur (depletion of forests, erosion, etc.). Will added that it also may not be necessary to take the water to boiling point to clear the water of the pathogens.

The second method is by pasteurization, where the water is heated but not to boiling point. He showed us a picture of a typical unit that achieves this cheaply and effectively (it sort of looks like a solar water heater panel). This method saves energy and fuel, time and money. The panels are also simple, durable, and will last at least 25 years. Each unit also treats about 250 gallons per day, enough to service 500 people. The in-place cost of each unit is roughly \$5,000.

Since 1993, Rotary has been involved with 1,500 water purification projects, and District 5000 has been involved with their share of project in the pacific and asia areas. Will showed us pictures from a few of District 5000's installations. He closed by informing us that District 5000 will likely urge each club to be involved with a water purification project next year.

The Four-Way Test
Of the things we Think, Say and Do

1. Is it the Truth?
2. Is it Fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships?
4. Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?

**“Recapturing
The Charms of Yesteryear”
A Christmas Party**
Date: December 11, 2003
**Location: The Bayer Estate - “An
Intimate Little Place By The Sea”
Listed on the State Register of
Historic Places**
5329 Kalanianaʻole Highway
Time: 5:15pm - ?

Clayton Wong's Notes on the December 4th meeting.

1. Christmas Party: Bridgette Adams reported that our annual Christmas Party is next Thursday (11 December 2003) at the Bayer Estate, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Those attending should also bring a \$10 grab bag gift and their own alcoholic beverages. (Note: I'll attach the flyer under separate package).
2. Rotary Minute: Gwennette Higa spoke briefly on Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation (HRYF). She told us that this foundation is steered by a nine member board of directors headed by Joanna Sullivan. The foundation offers scholarships for graduating high school seniors heading to a four year accredited university. Award of scholarships is by application and interview. Members of rotarian's immediate family are not eligible for the scholarship program. Gwennette asked the membership to keep their eyes peeled for potential candidates for this scholarship program.
3. Surprise Visitor: Dr. Sen, who is in charge of the Rotary International Convention in Osaka, dropped by prior to today's meeting. He unfortunately could not stay.
4. Toys for Tots: President Tony reported that 18 December 2003 will be our collection date for this service project.
5. Salvation Army Bell Ringing: The sign-up sheet is out for signature.
6. Chicken Tickets Fundraiser: Members were urged to sell their chicken tickets.



Gwennette Higa