



"Service Above Self"

Credo

Rotary District 7150 Newsletter

June 2009



2008-09 District Governor
Larry Calabrese
with
Rotary International President
Dong Kurn Lee

In This issue:

- P1: Former Rotary Scholar Released!
- P2: Fulton, DGE Fred Cholet
- P3: District Conference, Polio Update
- P4: Membership, Fatherhood Forum
- P5: DG Notes, *Credo* Information
- P6: District Assembly
- P7: District & *Credo* Information



Former Rotary Scholar Roxana Saberi smiles as she talks with media in Tehran, Iran, 12 May after her release from prison.
[AP Photo/Hasan Sarbakshian]

Iran releases former Rotary Scholar, journalist
By Ryan Hyland (Rotary International News)

19 May 2009 — 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 free-

lance 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."

Ryan

Fulton Rotary Club — Anouk Bids Farewell



Dennis & Brea Goss, Anouk, Patrick, Lorrie, & Kayli Poyneer

Anouk-Aimee Kos, third from left, arrived in Fulton in August 2008 as a Rotary International high school exchange student. Anouk is sponsored by the Fulton Noon Rotary Club and the Fulton Sunrise Rotary Club. She will return to her home in Austria at the end of the school year. At a recent Fulton Rotary Club meeting, Anouk told the Rotarians about her American experience this year. A Fulton Rotary exchange student stays with three American families so that they can experience different aspects of American life. Anouk's first family was Dennis and Brea Goss, and her last host family was the Patrick Poyneer family.

Patrick, his wife Lorrie and daughter Kayli, will host Anouk until graduation. Alan and Marcia Warren were the second host family, but they were not available for the photo. Next year, the two Fulton Rotary clubs will host another foreign student. Anyone interested in being a Fulton Rotary host family should contact Judy Young at 593-1888.

Dick Kemmis



The New District Governor!

Fred Cholet
(Dewitt)

Fred Cholet was born and raised in the east side of Syracuse, and graduated from Nottingham High School. He went to work for Sims

Casting Corp. in 1961. In August 1964 he went into the U.S. Army and served in Southeast Asia for 17 months. Upon his return, he joined the New York Army National Guard. He served until 1972 and held the rank of sergeant first class.

In 1968 Fred received an appointment to the Syracuse Fire Department, working there until his

retirement in 2001. He also joined the DeWitt Volunteer Fire Department in 1969, and served until 2005, including 15 years as chief and 15 years as deputy chief. In addition, Fred worked for Wine Merchants Ltd. part-time from 1969 to 2005.

In 1979 he met Allene Borden and they have been together for 28 years.



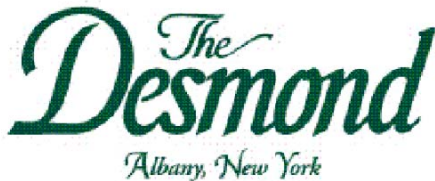
Fred joined DeWitt Rotary in 1982. He served on the board of directors from 1987 to 1989. He is currently serving as club president, and was president once before in 2005–06. He served the district as assistant governor in 2006–07 and was appointed again in 2007–08.



DG Fred Cholet 2009–10



District Conference 2009–10 by Sue Reisman (Manlius)



One of the major reasons for attending a Rotary District Conference is the opportunity to share fellowship with men and women from Rotary Clubs all over our district and from around the world.

Through music and entertainment — through workshops and plenary sessions, you will learn more about Rotary about how other Rotarians go about serving others.

Registration will begin at noon on Friday, 25 September and checkout is by noon on Sunday, 27 September.

The program will include:

- Our Group Study Exchange Team from Japan District

- Literacy project
- Rotary international speaker
- Halo presentation
- Music
- Entertainment
- And lots of Rotary Fellowship



The Desmond Hotel and Conference Center is the Capital Area’s premier upscale hotel. It is conveniently located near the Albany airport.

You can get to The Desmond from District 7150 by taking the New York State Thruway to Exit 24. After toll booths, take the Adirondack Northway (I-87) north to Exit 4 (Albany Airport exit). At the end of the ramp, go left on Wolf Road. At next traffic light, go left on Albany-Shaker Road. You will pass under the highway; do not get back on I-87 south. Rather, proceed straight through the intersection, and prepare to make a left turn. The Desmond is the first building on your left, set back from the road. It resembles a Colonial village.



You can learn all about it by going to the web site:

www.desmondhotelsalbany.com.

Sue



District Polio Update

by PDG Mike Occhipinti (Rome)

As of 4, June 2009 our contributions toward our Polio Challenge climbed to \$53,800. *And who said that we couldn't do it?*

| Clubs | Amount |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Adirondack Foothills | \$650 |
| Aurora | \$425 |
| Camden | \$1,184 |
| Camillus | \$134 |
| Cato | \$1,000 |
| Cazenovia | \$2,000 |
| Chittenango | \$1,700 |
| DDF total for program year 2007-08 | \$4000 |
| DeWitt | \$1,000 |
| Eastwood | \$1,640 |
| Fulton | \$500 |
| Greater Utica Sunrise | \$400 |
| Hamilton | \$1,336 |
| Kuyahoorra Valley | \$100 |
| Little Falls | \$269 |
| Marcellus | \$2,415 |
| New Hartford | \$1,480 |
| N. Utica-Whitestown | \$500 |
| Oneida | \$350 |
| Oswego | \$6,396 |
| Rome | \$4,505 |
| Rotary E-Club | \$10,550 |
| Sauquoit | \$1,000 |
| Skaneateles | \$1,925 |
| Syracuse | \$375 |
| Utica | \$2,802 |
| Waterville | \$1,000 |
| West Winfield | \$500 |
| Solvay-Geddes | \$200 |
| Tully | \$1,000 |
| Fulton Sunrise | \$700 |
| Moravia | \$695 |
| | |
| total | \$53,800 |



We now need to do one more thing and that is to make our District a 100% district. We need those clubs who have not contributed to the Polio Challenge to make a contribution to the Rotary Foundation Polio Challenge before June 30.

It is so important for us to show Rotary International and the world that Rotary District 7150 is strongly behind the eradication of polio.

Let's keep our promise that we made to Rotary and also to the world, the promise of a polio-free world.

Until next month...

*PDG Mike
District Polio Chair*



Membership

by Jenny
Doane
(Eastwood)

Thank you!

A hearty "**Thank You**" to all of those clubs in District 7150 who helped to take us to 34 new members in our District, and it is still rising. I heard from a club today that is bringing in two more new members.

You have heard the call and rose to the challenge. Although we all wish it could have been better, I am very happy with our accomplishments. We did this together, and I am very proud of everyone. I know that DG Larry is as well.

Please keep up the good work for Ron Townsend of the Rome club as he takes over the Membership helm starting on July 1. I know you won't let him down. He has a great committee, and you will be

hearing from him on a monthly basis in the Credo.

Again, thanks and a job well done! I have been proud to serve all of you as your District Membership Chair.

Jenny



Fatherhood Forum

by Bob
Stronach
(Utica)

Rotary Targets Impact of Fathers on Child Health and Well Being — Fatherhood Forum Features National Speakers June 10 at MVCC

UTICA — Area Rotary Clubs, in concert with other organizations, are sponsoring a Fatherhood Forum at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 10, at Mohawk Valley Community College's Information and Technology Building. The doors open at 6.

The forum will feature James Rodriguez, M.S.W., CEO of Fathers and Families Coalition of America, joined by Narviar C. Barker, M.S.W., Ph. D., former doctoral program chair in the School of Social Work at Clark Atlanta University; Iran Rodriguez, M.S.W, C.S.W., a professional social worker with 30 years of experience serving children and families, and Kenneth Braswell, executive director of Fathers Incorporated.

"This dynamic group will speak and lead a panel discussion relevant to our community, our families, and our children," noted Chuck Tomaselli, chair of Rotary's Fatherhood Project involving five of the clubs in Rotary District 7150 -- Greater Utica Sunrise Rotary

Club, New Hartford Rotary Club, North Utica/Whitestown Rotary Club, Sauquoit Rotary Club, and Utica Rotary Club.

The panel will explore the issues of child mortality, child health, maternal health, the impact of fathers, and the economic relevance, he said.

The forum is free and open to the public, he said, but reservations are needed and may be made by contacting Mary Khiemdavanh at 315-732-4657, Ext. 222.

"If you can answer 'yes' to two or more of the following questions, this forum is for you," Tomaselli said. "Do you have a father? Are you a father? Do you know a father? Do you live, work, own a business, or pay taxes in the Mohawk Valley?"

With child mortality and well-being as one of Rotary International's top priorities, Tomaselli said, District Governor Larry Calabrese and leaders from the five Utica area clubs began meeting last November to explore what they could do locally to raise awareness or make an impact on the subject. They met with representatives from Hamilton College, Family Nurturing Center, JCTOD Outreach, Resource Center for Independent Living, Perinatal Network, and the Oneida and Herkimer County Health Departments.

"We soon learned about the number of infants who die or have poor health due to preventable causes, and about the factors that impact the well-being of mothers, too," explained District Governor Calabrese. "We learned that one in three children live apart from their biological fathers, and we came to realize that the absence of fathers affects maternal and child health,



as well as a host of issues such as teen pregnancy, substance abuse, poverty, education, crime, and childhood obesity."

Thus, he said, plans for the Fatherhood Forum got underway with the aim of creating community awareness and of encouraging follow-up initiatives on the theme, "Takes a Man to Be a Dad."

Bob



Noteworthy News from the DG's Desk

It's hard to believe that my year as your District Governor is coming to an end. As I reflect on the year, I am so very proud of all that we have accomplished together.

Our District Conference was one of the best in recent years. The hands-on literacy project was the highlight of the weekend where we assembled over 300 kits for newborn infants and their mothers.

In October we chartered the Tully Interact Club who immediately embraced our Pennies for Polio campaign. In fact, they raised over \$1,000 in the dead of winter to help meet our challenge. We set a Polio Plus goal of \$50,000 for our district, and I am happy to report that as of June 1 we are at nearly \$51,000.

Our net membership gain is at approximately 4% which represents some 60 members.

This past week I participated in the District Literacy Golf Tournament. I've been told it was the highest attended golf tournament to date. Thank you to our District Literacy Team. We also initiated a new literacy project, "Books for

the World," which will provide books to children in South Africa. The project is growing in leaps and bounds within our district and is starting to gain attention throughout New York State. We are truly making a difference.

Another focused goal was to increase public awareness of Rotary and all that we do in our communities and throughout the world. With the help of a \$7,500 Rotary International public relations grant, we flooded the radio airwaves during March and April with Rotary service messages.

And finally, when we started our Rotary year together, our #1 goal was to reduce child mortality. As you may recall, RI President D. K. Lee shared with us that 30,000 children die every day from preventable causes. Area 2 clubs listened to D. K. Lee's call to action. They have developed a social marketing program, "It Takes a Man to be a Dad." The program's objective is to raise awareness of the impact of missing fathers on the lives of their children. It is a call to action of our community leaders to help improve the quality of life of a significant number of children in our community who are being raised by a single parent. UNICEF recently reported that the child mortality number is down to approximately 25,000. There is no question that Rotarians throughout the world have played a major role in this significant reduction.

As I close my final message to you, I want to reiterate President D. K. Lee's closing comments: "Continue to Make Dreams Real in the new Rotary year. The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands and the future of the world's children is as well."

It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as your District Governor. I will cherish this past year for the rest of my life.

Your District Governor,
Larry Calabrese



Credo Information

Dennis Schonewetter (Rome)

Submissions to the 2008-09 *Credo* are due **no later than the first day of each month**. The *Credo* will be published and distributed on or about the tenth day of each month. Send your articles to schonewetter@west-point.org.

Distribution will be through email, on the District 7150 Web Site, and USPS mail.

Emailed copies will go to all club presidents & secretaries, the District Staff, AGs, PDGs, and other persons designated by the DG. Email address corrections should be sent to the District Secretary, Laraine Dell when known, at larainedell@roadrunner.com.

The *Credo* will also be available on the District 7150 Web Site as soon as it is published.

DG Larry hopes that each club will make copies of the *Credo* available to their members through their own club email list and via paper copies to those members who do not have access to email.

Dennis



District Assembly

District Governor-Elect Fred Cholet presided over the District Assembly held May 16 at Madison-Oneida BOCES in Verona.

The 2009-2010 Rotary International theme, *The Future of Rotary Is in Your Hands*, and the new Rotary year's District goals were highlighted, along with:

- approval of the district budget.
- approval of holding the District Conference at The Desmond in Albany Sept. 25-27.
- approval to research and prepare a proposal to form a district 501 (C) (3) foundation

(to be presented at the District Conference).

- presentations on a "fatherhood" project and a Community Fatherhood Forum featuring a national speaker on June 10; Group Study Exchange; Polio strategy (with the district close to first year goal \$50,000); Books for the World project; Water Project goals.
- breakout sessions on Administration, Foundation, Literacy, Membership and Youth Exchange.



Chuck Tomaselli
Fatherhood



Dick Kamms
GSE



DGND Jim Gasoon
501 (C) (3)



PDG Mike Occhipinti
Polio



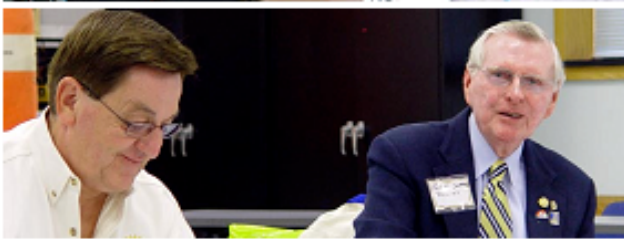
PDG Don Reese
Keynote Speaker



John Arnold
Conference



John Howard
Budget





Credo

The Official Newsletter
of District 7150

Newsletter Editor

PP Dennis Schonewetter (Rome—336-9686,
schonewetter@west-point.org)



Annabelle & DG Larry Calabrese

District 7150 Officers

DG: Larry Calabrese (Utica—736-8404,
ltclar@roadrunner.com)

DGE: Fred Cholet (DeWitt—481-5610,
fcholet@twcny.rr.com)

DGN: Paul "PJ" Scott (Oswego—303-4723,
pj.scott@twcny.rr.com)

DGND: Jim Gascon (Marcellus—673-4451,
jjg@ccf-law.com)

Secretary: Laraine Dell (GUS—735-2554,
larainedell@roadrunner.com)

Treasurer: John Howard (Utica—797-6600,
jhoward@bhcpapc.com)

IPDG: Marlene Brown (D7150 E-club—853-5092,
marlenebrown@roadrunner.com)

Web Sites:

www.rotary.org (RI)

www.rotarydistrict7150.org (District)

www.rlinea.com (RLI)

www.RotaryDistrict7150YouthExchange.org (YE)

Check out our District 7150 web site at www.rotarydistrict7150.org — it's great!

Rotary International District 7150

Post Office Box 655 • Rome • New York • 13442-0655





**Did you have a Father?
Are you a Father?
Do you know a Father?**

Do you live, work, own a business or pay taxes in the Mohawk Valley?

If you answered, **"Yes"** to 2 or more of these questions, your attendance at the Fatherhood Forum could make a difference in the future of our area.

FATHERHOOD FORUM

at

**MVCC Information & Technology Building
Wednesday, June, 10 2009**

6:00 pm – 6:30 – Community Resource Reception

6:30 pm – 9:30 pm - Forum Presentation

with

**James Rodriguez, M.S.W., CEO Fathers & Families Coalition of America, Inc.
and**

Dr. Narviar C. Barker, M.S.W., Ph. D., author.

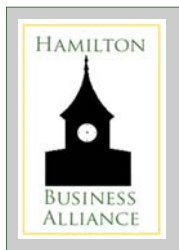
This dynamic pair will speak and lead a panel discussion relevant to our community, our families and our children; creating the possibility of a healthy economy as well as healthy citizens.

The Fatherhood Forum is proudly sponsored by the Area II Clubs of Rotary District 7150 Greater Utica Sunrise, New Hartford, North Utica/Whitestown, Sauquoit and Utica.

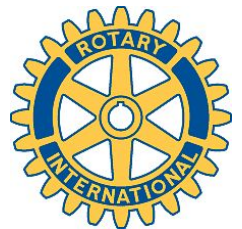
There is no charge for this event

**For reservations please call Mary Khiemdavanh at 315-732-4657 ext. 222
by June 4, 2009.**





Father's Day "Fly-In" Pancake Breakfast



Sunday, June 21, 2009 - 8AM-1PM

Mid-York Airpark

Advance Tickets: Adults \$7, Child (6-10) \$4, Under 5 free

At the door: Adults \$8, Child (6-10) \$5

Airplane/helicopter rides ▪ Hot air balloon rides ▪ Hot rod and motorcycle cruise-in ▪ Door prizes & raffle ▪ Fire & rescue vehicle display ▪ Community band

For tickets call 315-824-2300 or see your local HBA or Rotary member!

A portion of the proceeds to benefit Community Memorial Hospital's Campaign for Giving



Oriskany Falls Rotary Club Presents

40th Annual "Ruby" Golf Tournament



Captain and Crew
Team Prizes for :
Low Score
Longest Drive
Closest to the Pin
Skins
High Score
50/50 Raffle and Door
★ Prizes

Cost: **\$60.00** per person

Price includes 18 holes plus Cart, Prime

★ Rib Dinner, and Beer/Soda on tap
from start to finish!

★ Hole Sponsor Packages available for
player discounts.

Register teams at

★ Barker Brook (315-821-4653) or
Pierce Auto Parts (315-893-1844)

July 31, 2009, at Barker Brook Golf Course
Oriskany Falls NY 13425 (315) 821-4653
Shotgun Start at 12 Noon

All proceeds to benefit Community Service Projects such as Scholarships, Youth Activities, Reading Programs, Hi-Way Clean Up, Village Christmas Lights, Sr. Citizens Events, and Support of other Nonprofit Organizations. For More information on Rotary, contact the Oriskany Falls Rotary Club at 315 821-7821