

Upcoming Programs

February 14
Jack Donaldson
Our Rotary
Foundation

February 21
Julie Hahnke
Bagpiping

February 28
Our Wonderful
School Recognitions!

EVERY ROTARIAN
US \$100
EVERY YEAR

Penny Bears Are Celebrated Throughout The World



Marilyn Freeman

was our speaker Thursday and told us of the wonderful experiences she and other volunteers have had creating a world of hope for children and for adults, too who are experiencing life-threatening medical situations and need someone or some thing to cling to make each day just bit better than the day before.

The Penny Bear company was founded by Marblehead resident Penny Wigglesworth approximately 13 years ago and has brought families together as they go through dark times such as cancer treatments or long hospitalizations due to the need for lung or kidney replacement.

Having the little bear with the tiny copper penny in its pocket, the hand-knitted sweaters on each bear, all by volunteers has been a wonder for those receiving the gift.

Penny Bears have been sent and taken to many countries including many of our soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

With each bear is included this wonderful poem:

Once upon a Penny Bear,
a brilliant light shone down
in the aura of an angel,
with a halo for a crown.

And the angel said, "Dear Penny Bear,
I have a job for you...
a very special kind of job
that only you can do."

"For it takes a heart that's filled with love
and arms that were made to hug...
a twinkle that makes even sad eyes shine,
and a trust in the Lord above."

"It's a job that will take you forever to fill,
and you'll travel for miles upon miles...
for you'll be in charge of one special person
to share laughter, and secrets, and smiles."

"You'll walk side-by-side and run hand-in-hand
through a lifetime of rainbows... and rain.

You'll know all of their good times, and even the bad,
you'll bring joy, and you'll also ease pain."

"Oh my!" said the bear, "can I do all that?
It's such a big job, don't you know!

I'll have to be loving and watching and guiding
forever... wherever we go!"

"Of course, dear Penny Bear," the Great Angel said,
"the job is just right for you..."

for you're not only snuggly and cuddly and warm,
but you're honest and faithful and true."

"You won't need a halo for your glow is within,
and we know that your light shines afar.

Your hugs are so endless and your love is so strong,
they stretch out from here to the stars!"

"You'll be on the team of a great heavenly crew
forever, for now and all time..."

a guardian angel, dear Penny Bear,
so one person can say, "You're all mine!"

Created by Jeannie M. Rizzo



Marilyn and President Paul are pictured with a few of the wonderful bears and of course, our club banner given to her as a "thank you" for telling us about Penny Bears!

They can always use additional volunteers to help - please give them a call!

Welcome East Boston/ Revere Rotarians!

We welcomed 5 happy Rotarians Thursday including Edna Chesna-Serino, Bill Zona, Fr. John Nazzaro, Fred Scopa and Tony Zambuto!

Bill & Tony had the lucky tickets for our new \$30 pot - but could not find the joker!!

We also had two additional guests, Susan Datnoff and Michael Downey!



Our February Birthdays!

Bill Demakis Joyce Elliott
Mark Kennard
Dave Richardson



Gates Foundation Leader to Leave

SEATTLE — Patty Stonesifer, who helped start the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in an office over a pizza parlor seven years ago and has overseen its growth into the world's largest philanthropic institution, said in an interview on Wednesday that she would step down by the end of the year.



Her decision marks a major turning point for the foundation, which has operated largely as a family foundation overseen by Ms. Stonesifer, a friend and confidante of

Bill Gates, a co-founder of Microsoft.

The announcement is likely to surprise the world of philanthropy, which has watched the growth of the Gates Foundation with a mixture of awe, fear and envy.

With \$37 billion in assets, it is nearly four times the size of the next largest foundation. It dispenses more than \$3 billion annually, more than five times the amount distributed by the Ford Foundation, and will have some 800 employees by year's end.

Ms. Stonesifer, 51, who has worked for a dollar a year after earning millions as a senior executive at Microsoft, said she was comfortable stepping down now because she believed the foundation had firmly established strategies for achieving its primary goals of improving health, education and nutrition around the world.

"It's the right time," she said. "We have a lot of momentum now, our strategies are in place, and it's time to take the organization to the next level where we deliver on those strategies."

Still, finding a replacement for Ms. Stonesifer will be a challenge because no one else has ever led a foundation of similar size and scale of ambition. The biggest goal for the Gateses is to find a vaccine that will prevent AIDS, but they also hope to eradicate malaria, spark an agricultural revolution in Africa and ensure that every child in the United States has access to a quality education, among other things.

Ms. Stonesifer's departure comes as the Gateses are increasing the time they spend on foundation matters. Ms. Gates now devotes roughly half her time to foundation affairs, and Mr. Gates will turn the bulk of his attention to foundation matters by Sept. 1, when he relinquishes some of his control over Microsoft.

New York Times February 7

NEW MEMBER PROPOSAL

Michael Downey, Jr.

representing Ameriprise Financial
Charlestown, Massachusetts

Michael's home address is in Revere.

Proposed by Mark Kennard

Please forward any comments to our secretary at
P.O. Box 406, Marblehead, MA 01945

Have **YOU** contributed to
our Rotary Foundation
yet this year?

If not, Why not??



Pictures from Camp Rotary !!



Our camping season is from between July and September and our campers are aged 7 to 15 - these are questions your editor was asked recently.



Teaching waterfront safety is a very important aspect at Camp Rotary and always has been! In the background is Stiles Pond, one of the cleanest waters in all of New England !!

GREETERS' SCHEDULE

NEXT MEETING:

February 14 - Tom Newhall & Obie Barker
Feb 21 - Elaine Kurkul & Michele Desmarais
February 28 - Bill Simpson & Maria Bazzi

Please remember, Greeters have to BREAK DOWN also !!