

Our Auction April 5 !!

Next Week

March 16

Lisa Nerich
Lynn's Special Needs
"Olympics"

March 23

Capt. Michael Rotstein
of the Schooner "Fame"

March 30

Our 8th Grade Student
Awards Program

What An Adventure !

Our 2005-2006 Theme



SERVICE Above Self

Rachel Williams

was our speaker this week - she is an Ipswich Rotarian who has flown both to the tsunami region in Indonesia and more recently to the devastated mountain-top towns and villages in Pakistan. She traveled to a region where a 7.6 level earthquake killed nearly 90,000 people including approximately 40,000 children who were in schools at the time.



Rachel explained to us the Muslim thinking in Pakistan that guides their lives in ways that Americans find difficult to understand and which as it happens, made assistance and

rescue difficult at times.

For example, it is improper for a male doctor to treat a female - and as you might guess, there are few female doctors. As a result thousands of severely injured women died - they had no one to call for medical assistance! Those who did not die, live on the best they can but under very difficult circumstances.

There are 33,000 Pakistani Rotarians and Rotaractors who mobilized to help those afflicted in the mountain communities. In addition there are organizations that jumped in to help immediately, including the Physicians of Pakistani Decent of New England. Their president was a guest at our club Thursday, Dr. G. Naheed Usmani - her first ever Rotary meeting!

When volunteering in Parkistan Rachel visited many emergency shelters and hospitals such as the mother and child above - rooms are typically sheets draped over wires - and individual dwellings are just corrugated sheet metal panels pushed together in an attempt to keep out the winter weather.

Rachel is planning a return mission in December and is looking for more volunteers. Please contact her for information if you would like to help.



Our Reservations Are Coming In

for our Auction Party and the gifts are arriving too! President Virginia urged everyone to step up the action as there are less than 4 weeks to the event!! Especially needed are Red Sox tickets!!

Past President Bob

acted as finemaster this week and nabbed Obie Barker for \$5 as he and Jo Ann started selling Boys & Girls Club \$10,000 raffle tickets at a fast clip at the meeting. Jo Ann had to ante up \$2.

Ilia was not fined anything - her photo was in the Marblehead paper last week as she spoke at Marblehead Harbor Rotary and talked about My Brother's Table - Bob had heard that Ilia gave a very nice presentation.

Gene was fined \$2 for not printing Andy's induction into our club in the District Newsletter prior to the actual event. Linda was fined \$1 - probably for sitting near Gene. Adam and Ron were fined \$2 for being alive and Bob Dugas for being president of a Rotary Club before Bob knew there was something called Rotary!

Connie Colom gave a Happy Dollar to celebrate that her museum director Jane Bowers has been selected a GSE team member to travel to Amsterdam May 3 for 4 weeks representing Rotary District 7930!

Our speaker Rachel Williams and Guest Naheed Usmani donated \$10 Happy Dollars to be allowed to describe their mission to Pakistan !!

Our \$73 Pot

is growing and Ron Johanson and Bob (groan!) Kennedy got the lucky tickets! And that's all they got!

Our District Conference

has finalized the date after which the conference room and meal package will increase by \$100 !!

If you sign up now, you can get a nice room for two, including all events and meals, for \$699 at the Cape Codder Resort in Hyannis.

A single room and all meals is \$499.

The conference committee is hard at work creating a fun weekend May 19 through 21.

Bring the family! Kids under 12 are free and ages 12 - 18 are \$79 including all meals!



Brick by brick

By Bettina Kozlowski
Rotary International News

Rebuilding after the December 2004 tsunami that devastated southeast Asia will not happen in one momentous event. Rotarians Elias Thomas III and Mark Little know it will happen, instead, person by person and brick by brick.

Not content with sending checks for tsunami relief, Thomas, a past governor from the Rotary club of South Berwick, Maine, USA, and Little, from the Rotary club of Norwich St. Edmund, Norfolk, England, decided they wanted to help build a village in India for tsunami victims. The village, called Pannithittu, is located on the coast of south India's state of Pondicherry. Pannithittu has become the first new permanent village for families left homeless by the tsunami in India.

Thomas and Little first learned about plans to build Pannithittu in April 2005 during their first tsunami mission in India. Arriving with nearly US\$175,000 in seed money from Rotarians in England, and the United States, the two friends hoped to roll up their sleeves and join the rebuilding efforts of Project Hope. Swami Chidanand Saraswati, a revered spiritual leader and humanitarian activist, heads the initiative to rebuild post-tsunami communities in India.

Construction of Pannithittu was delayed, however. "It took cutting through a lot of red tape to get the permission to build from the local authorities," says Little from his home in Norwich. "There was no land available for building the village."

It wasn't until January 2006 that Little and Thomas could lay their own eyes and hands on the construction of Pannithittu.

After finally getting the green light from local authorities, Project Hope workers in only four months had nearly completed building the 100 homes.

When they arrived to haul granite and bricks, Little and Thomas were greeted by some of the Pannithittu's new residents, who had placed Rotary International plaques on the wall of each house.

The Indian construction crew was a bit stunned to see Thomas, Little and a friend of Little's toiling around the clock alongside the locals, assisted only by a handful of teenage Indian Rotaractors.

"They thought: 'What are these bizarre strangers doing here, leaving their jobs behind to scrape the soil and haul granite on the other side of the world?'" says Thomas.

The ice broke, however, when Little showed his Indian colleagues photos of Thomas with the originator of Panithittu, the revered swami. "That brought us their respect," says Little. "It opened their eyes to why we were here."

Little and Thomas are proud of the modern features of the 100 homes in Pannithittu. Each home features modern plumbing, a well, and separate areas for kitchens and bedrooms.

The two friends saw more than brick and mortar as evidence of their hard labor. During their first tsunami mission, Thomas and Little helped Project Hope build an orphanage in

Cuddalore, India, which Rotarians from the United States, England, and India helped finance.

3 Feet of Snow !

Former club member Knut Fischer sent some photos of a huge snowfall - over 3 feet - this past weekend in Stamberg, Germany. Look carefully - that is Knut's home buried from the blizzard! He will be visiting our club in a couple of weeks.



Progress At Camp Rotary!

Our new cabins are coming along beautifully! If any member wishes to assist a family in sending a child to camp this summer please contact one of our club members who are on the camp board of directors for more information. You would be doing a great service and camp is a 501-c-3 corporation for your tax deductibility..



GREETERS' SCHEDULE

NEXT MEETING:

March 16 - Jim Harris & Art Horgan
March 23 - Bob Hastings & Jerry Bovardi
March 30 - Rich Cuffe & Bob Kennedy