

August Programs

August 14
Mike Sweeney:
The Movable
Vietnam Wall

**If you have a
program idea,
please contact
Loretta at
781-599-1450!**

**EVERY ROTARIAN
US \$100
EVERY YEAR**

Friends Forever A Great Worldwide Project Started in New England



Our 08-09 Rotary Theme

Bob Kennedy

rang the bell as our president was among the missing Thursday. Bob was president in 1982 but believe it or not, he remembered how to do it!

Obie Barker gave a powerful grace and from a somewhat cloudy region of our meeting a faint voice seemed to say something like "bag of pine cones" just prior to Obie's presentation.

After a delicious luncheon your editor introduced our speaker.

Steve Martineau



is the executive director of Friends Forever and gave an excellent presentation of the goals of the organization and what it has accomplished since its founding by a Danvers Rotarian, Bob Raiche in 1986.

Our club participated in the Friends program in 1998 when Maryanne Rooney was our president. Back then it was a program to bring young people together from Northern and Southern Ireland - today it has expanded and includes Jewish and Muslim youth from Israel.

Steve explained that the 10 young people that participate here in the states have at first no idea what cooperation among people is all about. They are used to segregation in all walks of life - such as you are a Catholic and you do only Catholic things; I am a Protestant and do only things Protestants do.

When they get together here in America they immediately learn to work together with no thoughts of their religious or ethnic backgrounds and they are flabbergasted!

They did not understand the concepts of "community service" as in their home countries their governments are "socialistic" in nature and any help of any kind is ONLY done by the government!

Steve said that while our US supporters here see the youth while they are at the beginning of their Friends Forever experience with the "Life Raft" two week stay, it is in the following months in their homelands that the bonds are truly solidified. The groups from 2007 are doing amazing things in their own country as they have decided to take their meetings to the next level and use them as an opportunity to make the world a better place in their own right.

For example, the group from Carrickfergus is raising money collectively to fund a water distribution project in Malawi. The Bangor group is creating a day of safety and fun at their YMCA for new Eastern European Immigrants who are facing discrimination in their town, and the Belfast teens are developing a Health and Fitness Day that will raise awareness of their new athletic facility.

These ideas all came from the young people which is why they are so enthusiastic about them. The teens come away from America feeling empowered by the roles they can take in the world now *and realize that the solution for global challenges can be solved locally and by them!* Friends Forever wishes everyone could have the opportunity to see these youth in action in their home communities and with that in mind they are happy to arrange group trips to Northern Ireland and Israel for individuals and families that are interested. If you are interested in learning more, please contact them at smartineau@friendsforeverusa.org



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS!

- ◆ John Connor
- ◆ Ron Johanson
- ◆ Dave Surface



Fun at Camp Rotary!



Staffers painted the dining hall just prior to opening camp for the 2008 season! Great job!!



"What can I say? I was an English major."

Our Big Raffle Pot

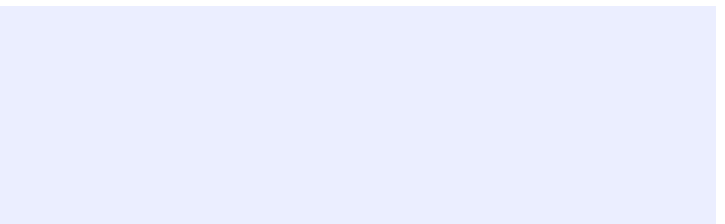
was attacked Thursday by Obie Barker and Bob Kennedy! Neither broke our bank so please come next week - following the directors' meeting everyone will be ready for cash!

Thank You!

One more Rotarian gave me \$100 for the Rotary Foundation today! Wonderful!! Contributions are coming in nicely!!

A Guest

was welcomed Thursday - Diana Moreno, a guest of Bob Eydemberg and possibly a new member to be of our club! Welcome!!



GREETERS' SCHEDULE

August 14 - Virginia Doocy and Obie Barker
August 21 - Jerry Bovardi & Loretta O'Donnell
August 28 - Bill Simpson & Virginia Doocy

Please remember, Greeters have to BREAK DOWN also !!