



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM & NEWS: Jan. 21, 2010

The Rotary Club of Blacksburg, Club #5753

P.O. Box 770 Blacksburg, VA 24063 / [T.O. Williams](#), President

*Four Way Test: Of the things we think, say or do...Is it the truth?
Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?*

PROGRAMS & EVENTS: JANUARY IS ROTARY AWARENESS MONTH

- January 21, [Rotary Citizen of the Year](#) Presentation / **Rotary Foundation Committee meeting follows**
- January 28, Gail Billingsly, YMCA at Virginia Tech new programs / **Golf Event Committee meeting at 11:15**
- February 4, [Dean Stauffer](#), Professor of Wildlife at Virginia Tech, on bird habitats in reclaimed mine areas
- February 11, Rotary Foundation Education
- February 18, Mardi Gras Party & Fundraiser (evening event)
- February 25, Cindy Mitchell, Blacksburg High Marketing Teacher, on the Cinderella Project
- March 19 - 21, [District Conference](#) at The Homestead in Hot Springs, VA
- April 8, Brazil Group Exchange
- April 26, Blacksburg Rotary Golf Tournament

January 25, 1979, the Rotary Club of Blacksburg was founded at the former Red Lion Inn (where the Hilton Garden Inn now stands on Prices Fork Road) in Blacksburg. That is over 31 years of *Service Above Self*.

One of our club's charter members, John Lewis "**Lew**" **Shelor**, passed away on Wednesday, January 13, 2010. Lew was 83. He remained active until his health started to fail when he was made an honorary member. The following comes from Lew's obituary.

"Lew was born on January 31, 1926. He was born and raised in Floyd County. He went off to war in 1944 and served in the 801 first tank destroyer division. Following the war, he returned and attended VPI & SU briefly before marrying, starting a family and establishing a car repair shop. In 1957, he started a 17-year career with Chevrolet, which took him to Roanoke, Richmond and Severn Park, Md. In 1974 he started his business career, establishing Shelor Chevrolet which has evolved today into the Shelor Motor Mile."

Our club continues to grow in its membership and in its giving. This week we are **inducting new members Bill Foster, President, Foster Economic Research; Art Lucia with Excella Consulting and Rhonda Arsenault with Virginia Tech Development.**

Thank you to those who contributed to **Dave Reemsnyder's call action** last week for **immediate support** for the Haitian relief effort. With Dave's \$2000 match, our club sent \$4000 through our Rotary friends who are coordinating this aid in Haiti. These funds will be used **for immediate relief**, such as supplying water, food or shelter.

One of the emergency relief programs under way in Haiti is the **ShelterBox program**. Each box supplies an extended family of up to 10 people with a tent, thermal blankets, insulated ground sheets, multi-fuel stove, wood burning stove, cooking utensils, tools, water containers and purification equipment. According to Rotary International, as of January 18, the Rotary ShelterBox response team has delivered 1,700 containers of supplies to the affected areas. Another 1,600 will be dispatched from the U.K. to Port-au-Prince and more than 100 Aquaboxes are being delivered to provide safe water.

To learn more about the shelter box program see the website here <http://shelterbox.org>. Read more on Rotary's efforts in Haiti here http://www.rotary.org/en/MediaAndNews/News/Pages/100113_news_haitirelief.aspx.

FROM THE MARDI GRAS EVENT COMMITTEE: The **Mardi Gras Party and Fundraiser** set for **Thursday, February 18** (snow date Feb 25), is a benefit for the Foundation of the Rotary Club of Blacksburg. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 through foundation sustainers and the silent and live auctions. The funds enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.



Last year we raised close to \$14,000 for the foundation which in turn helped us to fund Paul Harris Fellows, Group Study Exchanges, Youth Exchanges and Ambassadorial Scholars, and the Polio Plus program. Additionally, the foundation funds district grants such as one we used in helping the people of Ghana eradicate the guinea worm and provide clean water to their villages. Under this project, our club teamed up with the Rocky Mount club to combine Rotary's matching capabilities with those of corporate America.

The evening of Mardi Gras fun **begins at 6:00 p.m.** with an open bar (beer, wine, hurricanes) and **Dixieland jazz**. The social hour will conclude with a **Best Mask** contest. A **New Orleans-style dinner**, complete with King Cake, will begin around 7:30 p.m. The **silent auction** will end as the main activity for the evening, the **live auction**, begins at 8:30 p.m. **Cash, Check, Visa and MasterCard will be taken at this event.** The **Sustainer Drawing** will occur at 9:00 p.m. to wrap up the evening.



We are also **collecting donations** for the silent and live auctions. You could donate that beautiful crystal vase in the cabinet above your fridge that you never use or the brilliant piece of artwork under the stairs in your basement. These types of items are perfect to revive for the silent auction. On the other hand, consider donating your vacation home or services, such as piloting a plane ride or guiding a canoe trip or hike.

In addition, remember—the Foundation of Rotary Club of Blacksburg is a not-for-profit, 501c3 organization. Your donation may be tax deductible and we will supply you with a donation receipt. To help you in determining the value of your donation, see this publication <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p561.pdf> from the IRS.

Seating for the Mardi Gras event will be limited. Reserve your seats now by emailing Christy Brown at cbrown@llbrown.net. The cost is \$40 individual /\$75 a couple. Checks should be made to the **Foundation of the Rotary Club of Blacksburg. Pick up a pledge and reservation form from a committee member today!**

FROM FRANKLYN MORENO, CHAIR DISTRICT EVENTS COMMITTEE: Our District 7570 Annual Conference at the Homestead is March 19 - 21. Registration information will be available at the front sign-in table. **Day Trippers attend on Saturday. A first - time attendee will have their registration fee reimbursed** by our club. Through this conference, you will discover what is being accomplished by other clubs in our District, meet fellow Rotarians, view the Club displays and hear about Rotary International worldwide activities.

The **Brazilian Rotary Group Study Exchange** will be in our area April 5 - 10. The main host is the Evening Club with our club providing major assistance. Hank and Louise Johnson; Michael and Jane Abraham; and Franklyn and Bonnie Moreno will be providing home stays, some meals and transportation. The Brazilian Team will be talking to our club on **April 8**. Others members are assisting with the Vocational day. If you would like to be involved, contact me for more details contact at franklyn.moreno@verizon.net.

FROM ANN BRACKEN, CHAIR YOUTH EXCHANGE COMMITTEE: Berfun Guner, the Rotary Youth Exchange high school student we have been hosting this year, returned to Turkey last Wednesday, January 13. She was expected to stay in Blacksburg until June, but decided in early January to shorten her exchange. We will miss her!

FROM DEBBIE EWING, CO- CHAIR GOLF EVENT COMMITTEE: SAVE THE DATE, the 2010 Golf Tournament is planned for April 26, 2010. The Golf Committee will **meet January 21, 2010, 11:15 a.m.** just before our regular meeting to begin planning for the tournament. Snow date will be the following week, Jan. 28, 2010 at 11:15a.m., before our regular Rotary meeting. Any questions email debbieewing@ewingcabinet.com.

FROM KARIN CLARK, PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR: The January Issue of *The Rotarian* magazine had an article that hit home with me entitled "Downsize with Dignity". The messages — if you must release people from their jobs due to economics, apply the Rotary Four-Way test. This article can be found at the following link, <http://www.rotary.org/en/MediaAndNews/TheRotarian/Pages/Management1001.aspx>

Nearly 100 years of *The Rotarian* is now online and searchable, posted on Google Books (www.books.google.com).

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH: Send a birthday wish to you fellow Rotarian. If your birthday was missed, email karinclark507@comcast.net.

1-Jan, Karin Clark
3-Jan, John Skelton
5-Jan, Tommy McDearis,
6-Jan, Hap Bonham & Joe Jones
7-Jan, Hank Johnson
8-Jan, Christy Brown
11-Jan, Jim McAlister
13-Jan, David Goodyear
14-Jan, Steve Cole
18-Jan, Chuck Richards
19-Jan, Diane Boon