

THE STAFFORD ROTARY HIGHLIGHTER

February 21, 2024



Rotary Club of Stafford  **People of Action**

February 21 Program – Roots of Rotary - Leigh Hudson, Governor District 7710, 2013-14



Leigh Hudson is the owner of Hudson's Hardware & Outdoor Equipment, with 2 locations in Garner and Clayton, NC. Born in Raleigh, and growing up in Garner, he attended Garner Senior High School and UNC-CH prior to committing to a 50-year career managing the family hardware business. He is currently retired and married to his Rotarian wife Karen "Happy" Hudson.

As a 42-year member of Rotary, Leigh served many positions including two stints as the Clayton Rotary president in 1989-90 and again in 2009-10. In 2008, he led a 2-year project that successfully grew his morning club from 19 to 45 members while also chartering a new Clayton lunch club.

In 1993, he received a NC Governor's Crime Prevention Award, and Clayton's Citizen of the Year Award for leading the town's effort to significantly reduce drug related crimes by organizing a youth program in the early 1990's.

Leigh's hobby is Rotary service. He served District 7710 as District Governor in 2013 and has chaired numerous District 7710 committees over the last 12 years. He currently serves as district treasurer and as chairman of the District Learning Resources Committee. He, and his former wife, Pug, were honored in 2022 as new members of The Rotary Foundation's Arch Klumph Society.

Club Calendar February Is Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month

- ❖ February 21 - PDG Leigh Hudson, D7710 - Roots of Rotary
- ❖ February 23- Rotary is 118 years old.
- ❖ February 24 – Peace Conference
- ❖ February 28 – Meeting, 7-8 pm
- ❖ March 3, 1 pm – Visit to Public Safety Center with Sheriff Decatur.
- ❖ March 6 - Speaker: Michael Morris, Stafford County Towne Center
- ❖ March 13 - Samantha Mitzel UMW Rotaract President
- ❖ March 20 - Dr. Thomas Taylor - STAFFORD COUNTY School Superintendent
- ❖ March 30 – RLI in Warrenton.
- ❖ April 2, 4:00pm to 7:00 pm- Thurman Brisben Center - Help us cook and serve dinner
- ❖ April 27 - District Training Assembly - April 2024
- ❖ May 25-29, 2024 -Rotary International Convention in Singapore
- ❖ August 11-13 – District trip to RI HQ
- ❖ September 28, 29 -Via Colori
- ❖ October 4-6, 2024 – District Conference

Leigh continues to enjoy educating Rotarians as a facilitator with Zone 33's Mid-Atlantic Rotary Leadership Institute.

February 14 Meeting

President Jamie presided over our completely online meeting. The Paradise Diner had too much Valentine's Day business to manage our Rotary meeting.

Kristy gave the Thought of the Day: "If you get to the top, and you're alone, you are not a leader, you are just a hiker."

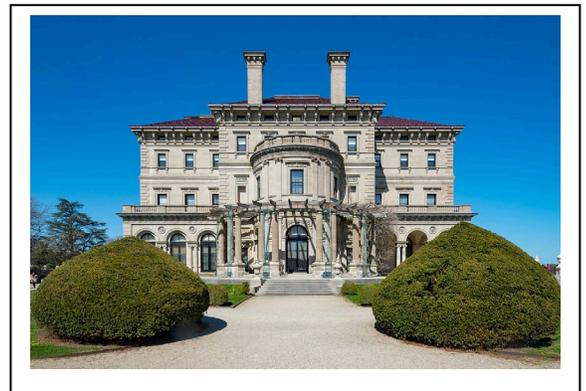
Announcements:

- ❖ At the board meeting prior to the club meeting, President Jamie discussed the need to grow our membership. Donna and Cheri suggested some alternative meetings to attract prospective members and current members unable to attend noon meetings. They suggested we try this for four months. President Jamie suggested we try having an evening meeting on the last Wednesday of the month. We will have our monthly club socials at other times.
- ❖ Jake announced that it is not feasible to hold a casino night this April. Instead, we must begin planning the event for April, 2025.
- ❖ The Capitol Fools event cannot be held during Parents' Weekend at UMW because it is the same weekend as the District Conference. The board discussed other good weekends.
- ❖ Jake announced that PE Shekela represented our club well at the district meeting on the budget. Both district and Rotary International dues are increasing as of July 1. Jake and Michael are working on financial data to determine how our club dues structure fits into this added expense.
- ❖ Many clubs are considering by-laws changes that will change club presidents' terms to two years.

Program: Debra Schleef: The Gilded Age

Our guest speaker was Debra Schleef. Debra did double duty, as both a sociologist and a tourist as she gave us a history of the Gilded Age, from about 1865 to 1914. Debra once taught a class at UMW on "Sociology of the Elites". The Gilded Age was a time of great economic disparity and conspicuous consumption. Nowhere is this better shown than in the magnificent mansions in Newport, Rhode Island. She reminded us that the term "Gilded Age" was coined by Mark Twain. It was not a complimentary term since gilding is simply a method of covering items with a tissue thin covering of gold paint or gold leaf.

Debra toured these "cottages" last summer and shared pictures of four of them with information about the owners:



- The Breakers was built between 1893 and 1895 as a summer residence for Cornelius Vanderbilt II and his wife Alice, designed by Richard Morris Hunt. The house cost 12 million dollars to build and has 70 rooms. The dining room will seat 34 people. The fireplace, taken from a 16th-century French chateau, bears the inscription "I laugh at great wealth,

and never miss it; nothing but wisdom matters in the end."

There were 30 rooms on the third floor for the many servants who worked and lived on the estate. In 1948, the heir, Gladys Moore Vanderbilt, Countess Széchenyi, leased the high-maintenance property to The Preservation Society of Newport County for \$1 per year. The Preservation Society bought The Breakers and approximately 90% of its furnishings in 1972 for \$365,000 (\$2.6 million today) from Countess Sylvia Szapary, Gladys's daughter, although the agreement granted her life tenancy. Upon her death in 1998, The Preservation Society agreed to allow the family to continue to live on the third floor, which is not open to the public. This occupancy ended in 2018.

- Rosecliff was built 1898–1902 by Theresa "Tessie" Fair Oelrichs, a silver heiress from Nevada, whose father James Graham Fair was one of the four partners in the Comstock Lode. She was the wife of Hermann Oelrichs, American agent for Norddeutscher Lloyd steamship line.

She bought the land in 1891 and commissioned the architectural firm of McKim, Mead, and White to design a summer home suitable for entertaining on a grand scale. She "threw herself into the social scene with tremendous gusto, becoming, with Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish and Mrs. O.H.P. Belmont, one of the three great hostesses of Newport.

The principal architect, Stanford White, modeled the mansion after the Grand Trianon of Versailles, but smaller and reduced to a basic "H" shape.



- Marble House was built from 1888 to 1892 as a summer cottage for Alva and William Kissam Vanderbilt and was also designed by Richard Morris Hunt in the Beaux Arts style.



Alva Vanderbilt shocked society in March 1895 when she divorced her husband, who had long been unfaithful, and received a large financial settlement said to be in excess of \$10 million, in addition to several estates. She already owned Marble House outright.

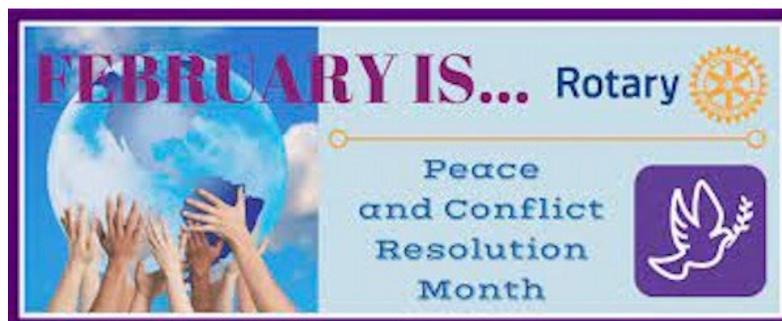
After Alva and William divorced, Alva married Oliver H.P. Belmont. Upon Oliver's passing in 1908, Alva re-opened Marble House, and commissioned Richard and Joseph Howland Hunt to design a Chinese garden pavilion on the estate grounds.

The Hunts journeyed to Southern China to research the project, where they drew inspiration from 12th century Song Dynasty temple buildings with upswept eave ends and guardian animal figures. The interior decoration includes dark wooden panels painted in a Ming Dynasty style. Alva ultimately used the Tea House to host many suffragist rallies for a woman's right to vote.

- Rough Point is an English Manorial style home designed by architectural firm Peabody & Stearns for Frederick William Vanderbilt. Construction on the red sandstone and granite began in 1887 and was completed 1892. It is located on Bellevue Avenue and borders the Cliff Walk and overlooks the Atlantic Ocean. The original gardens were designed by Frederick Law Olmsted's firm.



The home's last owner was Doris Duke and it is currently owned and operated by the Newport Restoration Foundation.



Strengthening Positive Peace to
Create Hope in the World
A Day to Learn, Reflect & Exchange Ideas

February 24, 2024 at Stevenson Ridge
6901 Meeting Street, Fredericksburg, VA

Registration is now open for the District 7610 Peacebuilding Conference. Please use this link:
<https://registrations.dacdb.com/Register/index.cfm...>

GIVE SHOES. GIVE LOVE.

We're hosting a shoe drive to collect new and gently used shoes to create opportunities for women in developing nations to start and sustain a small business.

You can help by simply donating your shoes!

Bring your new or gently worn shoes on:

Date of Event: February 9 - March 10, 2024

Address: Paradise Diner during Rotary Meeting; Every Wed from 11:45a - 1:00p

Contact: Shekela Hutchinson @ 540-270-8823

All shoes will be donated to the non-profit organization Soles4Souls

Soles4Souls creates sustainable jobs and provides relief through the distribution of shoes and clothing around the world. Since 2006, Soles4Souls has distributed 40 million pairs of new and gently worn shoes in 127 countries. Soles4Souls is a four-star charity rated by Charity Navigator.



SOLES4SOULS

Turning shoes and clothing into opportunity

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Your Report from the PolioPlus Corner

By PDG Chuck Davidson

2023 Polio Case Totals. The chart below shows “near-final” 2023 case totals for wild polio and vaccine-derived polio. As of January 31, the number of wild polio cases in 2023 is holding at 12. But, as the footnote to the chart says, analytical laboratories are still working on samples obtained in 2023. And if one or more of those cases turn up positive for polio, they will count on 2023 totals.

Next-Generation Oral Vaccine. The recently fielded mutation-resistant oral vaccine, nOPV2, has obtained its final World Health Organization regulatory approval. This is the vaccine that should substantially reduce vaccine-derived polio cases, because its weakened virus component is far less likely to mutate into a virulent strain. Although some countries have been using it for over a year, this final approval will allow more countries to do so. Vaccine-derived case totals for 2023 are already turning out to be significantly less than in 2022.



Drumming up business! Local Punjabi drummer attracts kids and parents to polio vaccination clinics. Photo courtesy UNICEF/Pakistan.

Drumming Up Kids to Vaccinate. Lack of access is the principal reason for wild polio cases hanging on in the final two endemic countries. One way of combatting this in the Punjab district of Pakistan has turned out to be an unlikely method: drumming. Health workers there are using local drummers to play familiar tunes and attract children and their parents to vaccination clinics. This engaging and fun tactic seems to have struck a chord with local communities. Whatever works!

Cash Works, Too! Recent donations from the Governments of Japan, Spain, and Canada are already at work in fighting polio in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Such contributions provide political as well as financial support for this effort. Thank you!

Reminder: Health authorities universally use the calendar year, not the Rotary year, in reporting all of their efforts.

Calendar Year	2020	2021	2022	2023 YTD*
Wild Polio Cases	140	6	30	12
Vaccine Derived	1,117	702	883	493

*As of January 31, 2024 (WP: 6–Afghanistan; 6-Pakistan) [NOTE: 2023 totals are not yet final. Since labs are sometimes behind in analyzing samples, it’s always possible that cases analyzed as positive in early 2024 will still be charged to 2023 totals.]