



# THE WHEEL

## March Program Calendar

- ♦ **March 5** - Club Assembly
- ♦ **March 12** - Melanie Hurley Heart of Gold Sickle Cell Foundation
- ♦ **March 19** - Kathleen Murphy Current Policy Issues in Virginia
- ♦ **March 26** - Elizabeth May-Salazar Update on The McLean Community Center

## Up Coming Events

- ♦ **March 14** - from 9-11:30  
"Love of Reading Program.  
Timber Lane Elementary,
- ♦ **March 24**—from 4:30 to  
7:30 St. Patricks Day Party  
American Legion Hal
- ♦ **May 18**— McLean Day



**SERVICE Above Self**

## Club Leadership

- ◆ Carmen Wu, President
- ◆ Savendra (Sam) Agarwal  
Immediate Past President
- ◆ Vance Zavela, Vice  
President,
- ◆ Cecilia Duran Closs,  
President-Elect
- ◆ Janine Frank,  
President-Nominee/Secretary
- ◆ Michael Arietti,  
Treasurer
- ◆ Michael Falcone,  
Club Services Director
- ◆ Deborah R Jackson,  
Membership Director
- ◆ Robert F Jansen,  
Youth & New Generation
- ◆ Carol A King,  
Club Admin Director
- ◆ Matthew Melton,  
Rotary Foundation Director
- ◆ Courtney Nuzzo & Cecilia Closs  
Grants
- ◆ Lois Wilson,  
International Service Director
- ◆ Barry Byer,  
Club Committee Director
- ◆ Joann G Berkson,  
Public Relations Director
- ◆ Paul M Sawtell, Paul  
Kohlenberger, Paul Ward,  
Sergeants-at-Arms
- ◆ Eugene Durman,  
Club Program Chair
- ◆ Richard Golden, Webmaster



## February is Water and Sanitation Month

Each March, Rotary International highlights one of its 7 areas of focus, clean water, proper sanitation, and hygiene education. McLean Rotary has been a part of our District's Strategic Water Alliance (SWA) for the past 10 years. McLean Rotarian Bob Jansen has chaired this Alliance since 2015. The Alliance consists of now 23 clubs dedicated to providing clean water, proper sanitation, and hygiene education to parts of the developing world. Since SWA's inception in 2007, the Alliance has performed over 50 projects in 5 countries, expending over \$800,000 and benefiting almost 100,000 global citizens.

SWA is very close to getting a Global Grant approved in Uganda. The water and sanitation project for the Kabule Health Center III in Mityana, Uganda will focus on providing water drilling and pumping services, water storage facilities, a water distribution network from storage to the health center and neighboring community, water tanks that will act as reservoirs for the health center and the community,

water filtration systems for treatment, elimination of contamination to ensure that the water quality is safe and clean for human and hospital consumption. Water sanitation and hygiene training programs will also be provided to the health center staff and the community to ensure effective water and sanitation practices. Over 15,000 patients visit this Health Center annually while the area's population has grown to over 100,000 since 1995.

For Rotary Year 2024-2025, SWA is working on a Global Grant in The Gambia. The project will be to erect and install a solar-powered borehole system within the communities of Lewna, Wellingara and Medina Sotoko. Upon completion, the water system will include a borehole well, taps at major junctions throughout the community, solar panels, and a water tank. This will provide clean and safe drinking water to all the compounds in the village, as well as to the Lower Basic School students. We estimate these facilities will benefit a community and school population of about 4,500 people.

Recently SWA's work and specifically their attention to sustainability caught the eye of a Board Member of the Potomac Riverkeeper Network. This Board Member then made a substantial contribution to the SWA Fund housed in the Rotary Club of Tysons Corner Foundation. The Rotary Club of McLean was able to thank that individual at their club meeting when they recently hosted the Potomac Riverkeeper Network

More info onf the SWA please contact Bob Jansen at [bob@jansenland.com](mailto:bob@jansenland.com)  
Club No. 5817 - Founded 1965

## Dean Naujoks Riverkeeper for the lower Potomac February 6, 2024



**President Carmen Wu with Speaker Dean Naujoks**

I speak at many Rotary clubs and I'm always impressed at what you do. We defend and protect the water by observing and bringing to light violations of the Clean Water Act. We have many members who often utilize the waters of the Potomac River and it's tributaries. They report any agency or company that appears to be dumping chemicals or sewage into the river. Under the clean Water Act—it has to be an ongoing violation that the EPA has not remedied. Then we take the matter to the AG and file a complaint.

We do everything as if we were preparing for trial. We just settled a lawsuit with Alexandria. We filed a notice to sue in 2018, notified the mayor, and then sued in 2019.





We came to a really good settlement. This source of pollution is going to end. It's been going on for 45 years. We used some of that money to invest back to the river and we introduced freshwater mussels back into the water.

The Army Corps of Engineer discharging black water into the Potomac. We've done a lot of work around these old coal fired plants.

One plant, in Morgantown, was discharging arsenic, mercury. We settled that case as well. Over 90% of the plants that we looked at had polluted groundwater plant. We received notice from workers that they were spreading, illegally, coal ash, and then leaked contaminated water. The result was a \$100,000 fine.

We are working in the state of Maryland to clean up coal ash leakage. A lot of these plants are often found to be leaking into communities of color.

There is a Naval arms testing range on the Potomac river. The Navy is discharging arms, and chemical and biological weapons into the river. This includes thousands of pounds of lead. Dahlgren is a Superfund Site. The Navy never got a Clean Water Act permit. We met with them. Across from Colonial Beach is a place called the Dead Zone. The Navy had discharged the most, and had assumed that it all settled into the sediment with no impact to the water or the marine life. The Navy held firm that it hadn't done anything wrong and we sued them. We have now come to a great settlement.

Endangered Atlantic Sturgeon: The

sturgeon is critically endangered. The river belongs to everyone. It's not fair that the Navy could be taking the use of this river. We are happy that we have reached a favorable settlement with the Navy.

The work that we did led to state-wide legislation on Coal Ash. In 2020 Dominion pled guilty for dumping 27.5 million gallons of dirty coal ash water into the river. We filed a criminal complaint that led to a \$14million dollar fine. There is still extensive groundwater contamination that is leaking into people's drinking wells as well as into the river. There are half a dozen homes surrounding these ponds whose wells are contaminated.

A lot of these regulatory agencies are bullied by these big polluters. You hear about these communities that are destroyed by the coal ash.

Marshal Hyman asked, Can Dominion make a profit off of the coal ash? Yes. The weird thing is we actually import coal ash from Turkey and other countries. The roman aqueducts are still standing because of the constitution. We could use this to build. Now we are starting to look at coal ash as valuable because of the minerals it contains. I never wanted to push the coal ash from one community and into another. There is a viable solution. We can actually clean it up and recycle it. We are trying to do this. Microplastics are showing up everywhere, including in our children's bodies. PFAS contamination is also a growing concern. With the Dominion issue, the governmental agency should have enforced the contamination, but they did not. We had to come in as the bad guys..



March 2024

McLean Rotary

**Cecilia Closs and Steve Maiden  
February 13, 2024  
Valentines Day Entertainment**



To celebrate Valentine's Day, musical entertainment was provided by "Cecilia and Maiden," a duo comprised of Cecilia Closs and Steve Maiden. Cecilia and Steve met while participating in a bigger band. They tried a duo together and really enjoyed it, and now play together the third Wednesday of every month at a brewery in Oakton. They played a variety of "oldies" and more current hits and there was foot-tapping all around

**Janine Frank** presented a check for \$3,218 to Pamela Danner and Michael Arietti for the Rotary Foundation from the Jingle Bell 5K race in December. A prior check for \$4,400 had already been given to the Foundation, which means the proceeds from the race totaled \$7,618. Given this success, the race will take place again next December.



**Lawrence McDonald, Author  
"Am I Too Old To Save The World"  
February 20, 2024**



Egene Durman formally introduced the day's speaker, Lawrence MacDonald. Lawrence is a former foreign correspondent and vice president of the World Resources Institute, and is the recent author of "Am I Too Old to Save the Planet: A Boomer's Guide to Climate Action".

Lawrence explained that, as a "boomer," he was motivated to write the book because climate change is



progressing faster than most people realize; for example, 2023 was the hottest year in 125,000 years, and 2024 will be hotter still.

Consequently, we are approaching “tipping points” from which there will be no return; for example, the polar ice caps currently reflect sunlight, thus helping to keep the earth cool, but once the caps melt, the ocean will absorb heat, thus accelerating future temperature increases.

Lawrence outlined a number of actions that he believes will be necessary to address global warming. One, he identifies six personal actions that individuals can make (e.g., eat less red meat). Two, he stresses the importance of supporting organized advocacy groups that work on climate issues, particularly faith-based advocacy groups which politicians take seriously. Three, political activism will be important – he stated that the fossil fuel industry has spent heavily to deliberately undermine scientific evidence for many years, creating doubt among politicians and the public and there must be citizen pushback to move this issue higher on the political agenda.

In response to many questions, Lawrence listed other actions that he believes must be part of the solution. These include stopping building out fossil fuel infrastructure; rapid expansion of carbon capture technology; and expanding the use of nuclear energy to produce the vast amounts of electricity needed to power these carbon capture methodologies. Finally, he stressed

the important role that the US must play in leading the world in addressing this problem. Not only is the US the global leader in the cumulative emissions over time that have led to global warming, we still annually emit more carbon per capita than any other country in the world (17 tons per capita in the US vs. 5 tons per capita in China).

### **Marty Helman Update on Rotary Peace Program February 27, 2024**



Nicki Birch formally (and proudly) introduced her sister, Marty Helman, who was the day's speaker. Marty became a Rotarian in 2003, and Nicki has watched her sister since that time progress through Rotary's international efforts. Nicki recalled seeing photos of her sister administering polio vaccines, and then volunteering in anti-malaria efforts, before becoming involved in the Rotary Peace Program.

Marty provided an update on the Rotary Peace Center Program, which was created in 1999.



The program initially began providing master's degrees, and subsequently added a non-degree certificate program. Since 1999, more than 1,500 peace fellows from more than 115 countries have graduated – 904 from the master's program and 572 from the grant certificate program. The program is open to graduate students of any origin and is tuition-free, but admission is highly competitive; for example, only one in twelve applicants to the master's degree program are accepted each year.

Students are trained in research and conflict analysis; conflict resolution; communications and presentation skills; project planning; and leadership. Once graduated, they work to design peace and development initiatives in communities affected by conflict

Currently, there are 7 peace centers around the world. Marty participated in the process to establish the latest peace center to serve the Middle East and North Africa. The site selection process focused on finding a location that was safe; centrally located in the region and home to a reasonable number of Rotarians; and containing a private university with an established expertise in peace studies. The finalist locations were Turkey, Egypt, and Morocco, and in the end the committee chose a university in Istanbul, Turkey which already had a sizeable number of international students. The next center will be located in Latin America and the goal is to have it up and running by 2030.



Club No. 5817 - Founded 1965



**Andrew Wade and Bob Jansen present Shelly Slade** with a bouquet of flowers in recognition of her generous support of both the Strategic water alliance and the Potomac River Keepers

## Happy March Birthdays

Tom Mangan	23 March
Frank Petreson	24 March
Bilal Raschid	01 March
Courtney Nuzzo	14 February

## March Membership Anniversaries

Robert Nath	03/06/90 34 yrs
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**Rotarians Enjoying the Valentines Day Concert by Cecilia and Maiden Band**

District 7610





# The Four Way Test

of the things we think, say and do

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?