



# Royal Palm Beach Rotary Club Newsletter

April 21, 2016

## NEWS

### Joan Scherer recognized as Major Donor

Contribute to the newsletter! Committee news, club news, member news, and photographs are welcome. Please send submissions to Taiye Sangoyomi (taiye@yahoo.com)



RPB Rotary President presenting pins to Joan Scherer

Joan Scherer was recognized as a Major Donor by the Rotary Foundation, and presented with the crystal and diamond pins. Major Donors comprise of a dedicated group of humanitarians who have committed themselves to helping others less fortunate, and made contributions to the Rotary Foundation to qualify as a Major Donor. Only one Rotarian from the club has previously been recognized as such, and Joan makes the second.

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### Speaker from Previous Meeting



RBP President Bruce Elkind with Maxime Piron

Speaker from the April 14 meeting was Maxime Piron, an exchange student from Belgium, hosted by the Royal Palm Beach Rotary Club for the 2015/2016 school year. Max made a presentation about himself, and we got to know about his family, his country, what he has learned about the US, and his activities in the last year. One thing we got to know about is that Belgium has three official languages: French, German and Dutch.

## Future Speakers/Program

Date	Speaker
21-Apr-2016	Lynn Balch
28-Apr-2016	Club Business Meeting
5-May-2016	Marvin Hubert, Fire Safety Specialist

### Recap from April 14, 2016 meeting by Bruce Elkind

- Member anniversaries...Terri 13 years on April 15th
- Wedding anniversaries...Ron & Elaine (51 years), BB & Glory (21 years) on April 15th
- Invoices went out...Please pay and if you are behind with last quarter's catch up!
- Joan was awarded the Major Donor award for Paul Harris...Way to go Joan!
- Invite potential members, have 1 on 1's, follow up with members who have been absent from meetings and events!
- Exceeded our annual goal for Foundation giving...Keep giving
- Ball Drop was April 15th...Joan won! You deserve it!
- Josh the Otter dates set:
- Cypress Trails May 12th, RP Elem May 13th, HLJ May 18th
- Crystal Apple Award May 4th
- RYLA is coming this weekend
- Accepting Scholarship applications...do you know of any students in RPB that are seniors that are college bound???
- Sign up for the District Assembly and District Conference...links on our District Site
- Installation Dinner is slowly creeping up...just around the corner...June 18th
- We are looking for host families for next year's exchange student...they do not need to be Rotarians...just in the RPB HS school zone
- Wishing Keith J. a speedy recovery from his shoulder surgery, and looking forward to Marcia's return to the meetings as well...we miss your presence!
- Our speaker was Max from Belgium, and next week will be our very own Lynn Balch...don't want to miss this!

### Feature News:

#### Alumna Honoree Creates Opportunities for the Poor by David Sweet,

*Rotary News*, 8-Jan-2016

For her work to mitigate extreme poverty around the world, Susan Davis has received



Susan Davis share a photo with School Children in Pakistan

many honors. But the 2015-16 Rotary Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award has special sig-

“It feels like a circle of completion,” says Davis, who was a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar in 1980-81, doing graduate studies in international relations at Oxford University in England. “Rotary invested in me when I was young, and now is celebrating the harvest.”

A decade ago, Davis co-founded [BRAC USA](#) to advance the mission of BRAC -- Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee

nificance.

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## Ball Drop Winner by Diane Smith-Ivancic



The Royal Palm Beach Rotary Club held a Ball Drop Fundraiser on April 15, 2016, to assist the club with local projects and scholarships. Close to 200 balls were dropped at the Palm Beach Gardens Municipal Golf Course on Hole #9 by the Sheriff's Office Aviation Unit.

Ball #175 was the lucky winner!! Joan Scherer from the Royal Palm Beach Rotary won the 50/50 prize. Thank you to all who participated and helped

raise money for community based, worthwhile projects that make a positive difference in the lives of many.



## Alumna Honoree Creates Opportunities for the Poor (continued from page 2)

-- the world's largest nongovernmental development organization, which was founded after Bangladesh's partition from Pakistan in the 1970s. The U.S. branch is dedicated to fighting poverty and to creating opportunities for the poor in Africa and elsewhere.

Fulfilling that mission hasn't been easy. Davis' work has been disrupted by floods, cyclones, earthquakes, and war. Even worse was the sudden and deadly Ebola epidemic in 2014 in West Africa.

"I wasn't sure how to protect our staff and clients and accompany these vulnerable communities out of this tragic situation," says Davis, who served as BRAC USA's president and chief executive officer until her departure this month. She quickly contacted Ebola experts and connected them with BRAC USA's representatives in affected countries. "I lost sleep and cried with each

death," she says.

Two of those deaths were particularly painful. Ophelia Dede, a BRAC credit officer in Liberia, and her husband succumbed to the virus, leaving behind a little girl. Davis helped set up a scholarship fund for her education.

But she doesn't allow such painful experiences to deter her.

"The urgency of the need and the tangible opportunities to make a difference keep me going," she says. "And I have been blessed by seeing two big ideas — microfinance and social entrepreneurship — take root globally."

From 1987 to 1991, Davis championed microfinance while working as a program

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## Alumna Honoree Creates Opportunities for the Poor (continued from page 3)

officer with the Ford Foundation in Bangladesh. She developed a consortium that raised \$175 million, increasing the availability of microloans in Bangladeshi villages to 44 percent from 5 percent, she says. Though debates endure over how much credit

Davis also is co-author, with journalist David Bornstein, of the book "Social Entrepreneurship: What Everyone Needs to Know." And she is involved with Ashoka, a nonprofit organization that supports social entrepreneurship; as a director, she oversaw its expansion to the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia.

A resident of New York City, Davis is widely recognized for her work in the field of international development. She was appointed to the board of the United Nations Fund for International Partnership in 2012, is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and has served on the boards of the Grameen Foundation, the Sirleaf Market Women's Fund, and the African Women's Development Fund

USA.

Davis has come a long way from the small town in southwest Louisiana, USA, where she grew up. The Rotary scholarship provided her first opportunity to live abroad. She believes that her Oxford experience allowed her to be taken seriously, and credits it with helping her land a job with the Ford Foundation.

Perhaps most importantly, says Davis, that Rotary-sponsored year gave her an entirely new perspective on power and privilege.

"Oxford was larger than life in my imagination," she recalls. "But when I became a part of Oxford and got to know the dons and the students, I realized that, whether rich or poor, we were all just human beings and all of us were vulnerable and full of imperfections."

Davis will be honored at the Rotary International Convention in Korea in June.

### Royal Palm Beach Rotary Club Leaders

President	Elkind, Bruce Lee
President-Elect & Program Chair	Logan, Steven Mark
Vice President	Jordano, Keith
Secretary	Scherer, Joan
Sergeant-at-Arms	Sangoyomi, Taiye
Club RI Foundation Chair	Bhandary, Sharada Ram

Membership Chair	Snyder, Scott Bernard
Club Service Co-Chair	Balch, Lynn
Club Service Chair	Fehribach, Michael
Webmaster	Tomchin, Ronald E.
Youth Services Chair	Hmara, Jeff
iPast President	Smith, Diane

### Meeting Information

*Location:*

Wild West Diner, 12041 Southern Blvd., Loxahatchee, FL 33470

*Date & Time:*

Thursdays, 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM

### Contact Information

Joan Scherer

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