



ROTARYGRAM

The Weekly Newsletter for the
Rotary Club of Birmingham

WEDNESDAY
JUNE 16, 2010

Today

MICHAEL W. CUTLER

“The Significance of Immigration Laws to the U.S.”

Michael W. Cutler graduated from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York in 1971 with a B.A. in Communications Arts and Sciences. Michael began working for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in October 1971 when he entered on duty as an Immigration Inspector assigned to John F. Kennedy International Airport. From 1973 until 1974 he was assigned as an examiner to the unit which was responsible for adjudicating petitions filed by United States Citizens and Lawfully Admitted Permanent Resident Aliens (LPRs) on behalf of their alien spouses to accord them LPR status. His goal in this assignment was to attempt to uncover fraud marriages and fraud marriage rings.

In August 1975 he became a Criminal Investigator (Special Agent) for the INS at NYC. He rotated through virtually every squad in the Investigations Branch. As a special agent he conducted investigations and arrests of individuals involved in a wide variety of immigration-related violations of law including a number of international terrorists.

From 1988 until 1991 he was assigned as the INS representative to the Unified Intelligence Division (UID) of the DEA in New York. In 1991 he was promoted to the position of Senior Special Agent and was assigned to the Organized Crime, Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) which required that he work with members of other law enforcement agencies including the FBI, DEA, ATF, U.S. Customs and local and state police as well as law enforcement organizations of other countries including Israel, Canada, Great Britain and Japan, to conduct investigations of aliens involved in major drug trafficking organizations. These investigations ultimately resulted in the seizure of the assets of these criminals and their arrests and successful prosecutions for a wide variety of criminal violations.

Michael retired from the INS in February 2002 after a career that spanned some 30 years. He has testified as an "Expert witness" at more than a dozen Congressional hearings on issues relating to the enforcement of immigration laws having been called by members of both political parties and having appeared in both houses of Congress.

After the attacks of September 11, 2001 he was called upon to testify before more than one dozen Congressional hearings and was requested to provide testimony to the Presidential Committee on Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001.

“Since the attacks of 9/11 I have endeavored to do whatever I can in order to provide my perspectives on immigration that impact everything from national security and criminal justice to the economy, the environment, education, health care and other issues.”

Michael speaks with conviction based on his 30-year career “in the trenches.”

THE FUTURE OF ROTARY IS IN
YOUR HANDS

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Birmingham, Alabama
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Dwight M. Beeson Banquet Hall
The Harbert Center

Lunch - 11:45
Bell - 12:20
Adjournment - 1:15

Paul Harris Fellow
Presentation

FUTURE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

June 23 Don James
Vulcan Materials

June 30 Ron Sparks
Democratic Nominee for Governor

FAREWELL PRESIDENT HATTON
& THANK YOU FOR A GREAT
YEAR!

WELCOME PRESIDENT CHARLIE
PERRY!

July 7 NO MEETING
Have a Great Holiday

July 14 Dave Dionne
Red Mountain Park



ADDRESSES OF RECENT SPEAKERS

Dr. Carol Z. Garrison
 President
 The University of Alabama at Birmingham
 AB 1070
 701 20th Street South
 Birmingham, AL 35294

Rele Evans
 2525 Park Lane Court North
 Birmingham, AL 35223

Wick Moorman
 Norfolk Southern Corporation
 3 Commercial Place
 Norfolk, VA 23510

Mary Boehm
 A+ College Ready
 1230 1st Avenue North
 Birmingham, AL 35203

**Meetings are recorded. CDs are available for \$3.50 each, which may be added to Rotary invoices.

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MEETING DAY:

Every Wednesday, 12:15 p.m.
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WWW.BHMROTARY.ORG

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Membership: 578
 Honorary Members: 21

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Stephen Foster Black #277
 ACTIVE (2010)
 SERVICE-NON-PROFIT: Impact Alabama
 President
 Impact Alabama 254-1000
 Director
 Center for Ethics
 1901 6th Avenue North
 Birmingham, AL 35203

Stephen.black@ua.edu
 Res., 4101 Cliff Road 936-9963
 Birmingham, AL 35222

Born, October 24, 1970
 Albuquerque, NM
 Hobbies, interests: Reading



VACATION & ROTARY MAKE-UPS

That time of year is here...vacation time! This is an easy time to forget about Rotary attendance but it's a great time to try out Rotary clubs in other parts of the country or world. Every Rotary club has its own style of Rotary meetings. For instance, did you know that in Rochester, NY, Rotarians begin every meeting by saluting the American flag BUT they pledge to a waving flag, aided by a small fan behind it. In Buenos Aires, Rotarians gather in the park, and with Paul Harris Fellow medals hung on their chests, they process across the street, parade-style, into their meeting, every week. All over the UK, Rotarians begin meetings by toasting the Queen. Traditions in clubs are vastly different but all clubs have something in common - a commitment to service. So, the people you meet are the nicest and often represent the local leadership.

Please keep in mind that you have many opportunities to make up in the Birmingham area before you depart or upon return. If you will be gone for an extended period of time and would like to attend Rotary while vacationing, call the Rotary Office (251-1995) to ask for information regarding clubs anywhere in the world!

DOCUMENTARY AT CANNES SHOWCASES BAND OF CONGOLESE POLIO SURVIVORS

From: Rotary International News -- 2 June 2010

A Congolese band whose lead singers are polio survivors is making its way onto the world music scene after a documentary on the group's origins received critical acclaim at the Cannes Film Festival in May.

Staff Benda Bilili, which means “look beyond appearances” in Lingala, is a band of eight former street musicians from Kinshasa. Five of them are polio survivors. Their song “Polio” speaks of the disease that changed their lives and urges parents to immunize their children.

The band's debut album, *Très Très Fort*, won the 2009 Womex Award for international music. French filmmakers Florent de la Tullaye and Renaud Barrett decided to create a documentary on the band after falling in love with its music when they were in Kinshasa in 2004, working on a movie about the city's music scene. The film *Benda Bilili!* premiered 13 May during the festival.

Band members have also joined other musicians across Africa in lending their voices to the final push to rid the continent of polio. Through the Kick Polio Out of Africa campaign, a soccer ball signed by Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu and a growing number of public figures has been making its way through the continent to raise awareness for polio eradication before traveling to the RI Convention in Montréal, Québec, Canada. Follow the ball's progress on our [interactive map](#). Show your support by [signing a virtual ball online](#).

“Of course we're happy to be part of the campaign. After all, we're handicapped by polio, and we are the first group to sing about polio, so naturally we're ready to help,” said bandleader Ricky Likabu. “Our song ‘Polio’ is simply to implore parents to take their children to health clinics to be vaccinated, as the WHO [World Health Organization] recommends. Parents are responsible for their children, and they need to know how to avoid diseases.”

Staff Benda Bilili's European tour began in April. The band will stop in Greece, Sweden, Poland, the Netherlands, Belgium, and France in June, before performing 5 July at the Montreal Jazz Festival.

IN ROTARY'S PAST



Hartwell Davis, Jr.

1997-1998 - Hartwell Davis, Jr. served as president of the Rotary Club of Birmingham in 1997-1998. Hartwell, a native of Montgomery, Alabama, attended the University of Pennsylvania and graduated from Columbia University with an MBA. In 1997, he had been the long-term principal of Metalplate Galvanizing Company, a company operating in Birmingham, Atlanta, Jacksonville, and Houston. While serving as Rotary president, he increased attendance from 40% to more than 55% and earned the nickname, “Mr. Attendance.” Hartwell now serves as president of The Redstone Club.

FOR YOUR APPROVAL

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