

# Soundings

January 21, 2010

Song Leader.....Barbara Clark  
Pledge of Allegiance.....Hugh O’Kane  
Invocation.....Julie Bell

♪ **SING** ♪

Sing! Sing a song!  
Sing out loud, sing out strong.  
Sing of good times, not bad,  
Sing of happy, not sad.

Sing! Sing a song!  
Make it simple to last a whole life long.  
Don't worry that it's not good enough  
for anyone else to hear, just sing, sing a song!

La, la, la, la la...La, la, la, la la ,  
La, la, la, la la ... la la,

## TODAY’S PROGRAM NAREM SHARMA NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH CONNECTION

### Upcoming Programs

January 28.....Dr. Jim Rex  
Teacher Appreciation Program and  
What’s Going On in Education in SC??  
February 4.....Mason Hardy  
SC Association of Non-Profits  
February 11.....Vic Bubbas  
Former Duke Univ. Basketball Coach

### Family of Rotary

#### **Birthdays**

Justin Rice.....January 21  
David Deaton.....January 24

## Anniversaries

None

## Club Anniversaries

Lou Seikel.....4 Years.....January 26

## Upcoming Events

Now thru January 31 ....Dining In With Friends

January 31 .....Scavenger Hunt

February 5 .....Champagne and Dessert  
Celebration for Dining In With Friends

## ANNUAL SCAVENGER HUNT

Have you signed up for the annual Scavenger Hunt? Today's the day!! In just 10 days, you'll be challenged to follow the clues, find the landmarks, and document your achievements in pictures — and do it faster than anyone else. Do it singly or as a team. Your reward?? A great dinner at Hudson's, fun prizes, and bragging rights. Meet in the Hudson's parking lot on January 31, and start your 2 hour hunt at 3PM. Then, come back for food, drink, and fellowship at 5PM. The cost is \$26 per person for dinner, including beer and wine. A cash bar will also be available. You won't want to miss it.

## DISASTER RELIEF FOR HAITI

Many of you have inquired about how our club can help with the tragic situation in Haiti. District Governor Alan Walters has been in contact with his fellow DG in that area, and to say circumstances are dire is a massive understatement. Our District is setting up a fund for Haiti Relief as part of the overall Rotary response. If you as an individual would like to participate, **please send your checks payable to District 7770 to District Treasurer Ed Dowaschinski at PO Box 7137, Hilton Head Island, SC 29938 and mark it for Haiti Disaster Relief.** Another way to help is through donations to Shelterbox USA. Go to [shelterbox.org](http://shelterbox.org) for more information on how and where to donate.

## BEAUTIFUL MUSIC TO START

Music does soothe the savage soul, and we were treated to a beautiful time of music prior to our regular program by Dasha Bukhartseva, a young Ukrainian woman discovered by our member Hendrik Smit and his wife. She is currently studying at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins university. From Chopin to Rachmaninov, she thrilled us with her artistry.

Our speakers for the day were Theresa Jackson, Program Director, and Emilio Anchorena, an intern, who presented information about the IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program that provides free income tax preparation to qualifying taxpayers. Theresa's group serves Beaufort, Jasper and Hampton counties.

The VITA program uses trained volunteers to help working individuals and families not only file accurate tax returns, but also to take advantage of all the credits available to them, including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the Child Tax Credit (CTC), and many others. Workers who earn less than \$13,440 without qualifying children are estimated to make up the largest segment of eligible taxpayers who fail to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Claiming those tax credits is not only important for the qualifying individual tax payer, but also for our community. Last year the efforts of VITA had an economic impact on Beaufort County of \$33,000,000! That was \$33 Million dollars back into the bank accounts of working individuals and families right here in Beaufort County. Theresa calls it our own economic stimulus plan. This money is used with retailers and

other businesses here in Beaufort County as individuals purchase clothing, medicine, food, and school supplies; make utility and house payments, and establish bank accounts. Individuals and families can qualify for between \$450 and \$5600 plus.

Volunteers with the VITA program usually have some basic computer dexterity and are knowledgeable of the tax preparation process. VITA provides the computer, the software, the facilities and the training and certification to support the volunteers in their work. Facilities exist around the country. Volunteers usually work four to eight hours per week. Visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) for more info.

### **DINING IN WITH FRIENDS EXTENDED**

Because many hosts reported prospective attendees being out of the area, we've extended the timeframe for hosting a Dining In with Friends event through the end of February. This means a whole new month of dates to choose from. The Super Bowl on Feb. 7th is a great reason for a party. Host a Valentine cocktail party. You can have a President's Day party and invite anyone you know who has ever been the President of something during their lives.... Create a unique event that suits your time, style, and venue.

Some of the biggest successes so far have come when two or three Rotarians join together and do cocktail parties and other creative events for their collective friends and neighbors. It's easier with a buddy! One member reported this week that she'd had a dinner for 8 people and raised **\$650!** Another person in the community with no association with Rotary at all held an event and collected **\$550.** It's easy, it's fun with friends, and people respond positively when asked.

The FREE Champagne and Dessert celebration on February 5 will still occur as scheduled at the Hilton Oceanfront Hotel . If you have hosted an event by then, or if you plan to do so in February, you should plan to attend. We'll also be inviting people in the community who may want to find out more about hosting an event. Once your event is scheduled, please call or e-mail Linda to let her know the date and the type of event. If you need invitations or a copy of the Memory Matters DVD, call Jim Collett at 689 9890 or email him at [dd730@aol.com](mailto:dd730@aol.com).

Remember, this is our **ONLY major fundraiser** this year. We are still **\$72,000 short** of the goal that has to be raised by December of this year. **EVERY member** needs to participate enthusiastically. Everyone likes to eat with friends, and because it is so flexible, everyone can find a comfortable way to participate.

### ***Goal Corner***

*Member Goal...6/30/2010.....151*

*Current Active Members.....141*

*Memory Matters 2010 Goal...\$250,000*

*Current total.....71.2%.....\$177,939*