



2010 Montreal Convention Speakers Announced

Several of the 2010 Convention Speakers have been announced by Rotary International. In addition to RI President John Kenny, President-Elect Ray Klinginsmith, President-Nominee Kalyan Banerjee and TRF Trustee Chair Glenn Estess, the stage of the Bell Center will be graced by **Bob Mazzuca**, Chief Scout Executive, Boy Scouts of America; **Greg Mortenson**, Executive Director of the Central Asia Institute; **Jo Luck**, President and CEO of Heifer International; and **Dolly Parton**, Country music singer, Literacy Spokesperson, and founder of Dolly's Imagination Library. This month we focus on two of these speakers.

Greg Mortensen

Greg Mortenson is the co-founder of the nonprofit Central Asia Institute, founder of Pennies For Peace, co-author of the #1 New York Times bestseller *Three Cups of Tea*, and author of *Stones into Schools*. In March 2009, Mortenson received Pakistan's highest civilian honor, Sitara-e-Pakistan ("Star of Pakistan") for his dedicated and humanitarian effort to promote education and literacy in Pakistan's rural areas for fifteen years.



Three Cups of Tea is required reading for U.S. senior military commanders, for U.S. Special Forces deploying to Afghanistan, and Pentagon officers in counter-insurgency training. The book has been read by all of the top commanders involved in the war in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Mortenson has addressed the National Defense Senior Leadership Conference at the Pentagon, visited over two dozen military bases and NORAD, and spoken at the Air Force, Naval and West Point Academies.

In 1993, to honor his sister's memory, Mortenson climbed Pakistan's K2, the world's second highest mountain in the Karakoram range. While recovering from the climb in a village called Korphe, Mortenson met a group of children sitting in the dirt writing with sticks in the sand, and made a promise to build them a school. From that rash promise, grew a remarkable humanitarian campaign, to which Mortenson has dedicated his

life to promote education, especially for girls, in remote regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

As of 2009, Mortenson has established 131 schools in rural and often volatile regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan, which provide education to over 58,000 children, including 44,000 girls, where few education opportunities existed before.

Dolly Parton

Country music legend and philanthropist, Dolly Parton, will speak at the morning plenary session on June 23 to inspire a love of reading and books amongst the world's preschool children. Parton and her Dollywood Foundation's Imagination Library program teamed up with Rotary International in March to help provide age-appropriate books each month to children from birth until age five.



Parton will speak to Rotarians about the importance of early childhood reading and how the collaboration with Rotary International has augmented the success of the Imagination Library.

Parton developed a personal love of books growing up in rural Tennessee where she saw first hand the toll illiteracy can take on families.

"I am thrilled about our partnership with Rotary International," Parton said in March, "Rotarians love kids as much as I do so I truly believe we can do something extraordinary together to help even more children love to read and succeed."

Since its launch in 1996, the Imagination Library program has provided more than 23 million books to preschoolers.

Registration Discount Deadline Approaching

It is now only six weeks until the first registration discount deadline (**December 15**). Don't delay any longer. Get registered now and join your fellow Rotarians in Montreal in 2010.

Register: <http://www.rotary.org>

Host Events: <http://www.rotary2010.com>

Next Month: [More Speaker Information](#)