

ROTARY

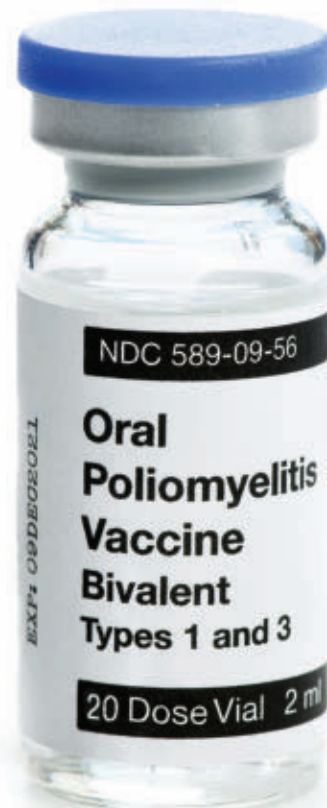
February 2021

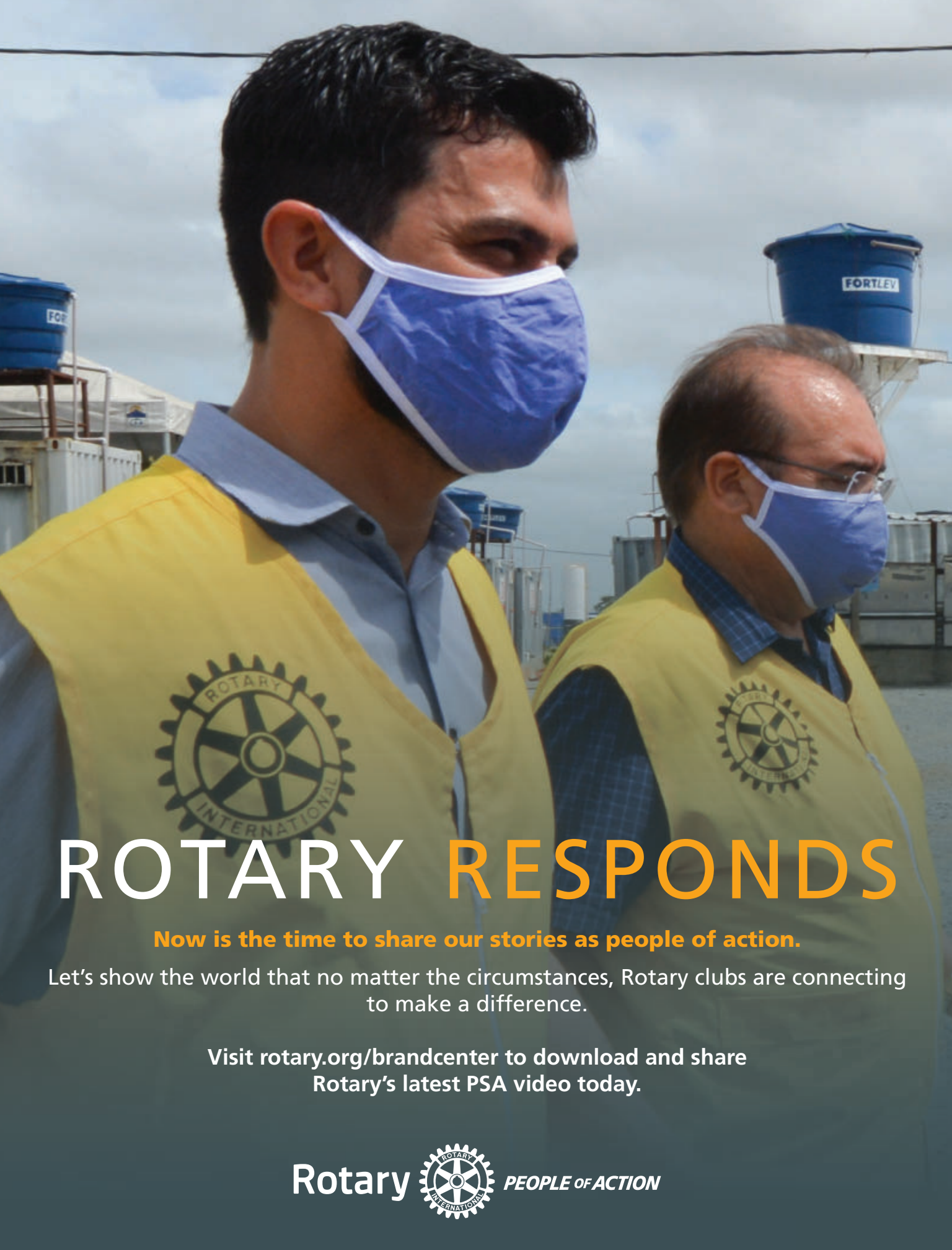
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ROTARY RESPONDS

Now is the time to share our stories as people of action.

Let's show the world that no matter the circumstances, Rotary clubs are connecting to make a difference.

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IN ROTARY, 23 February is our anniversary, and February is also the month when we focus on promoting peace. There is a reason for this: Contributing to peace and international understanding has been a high priority for us since our earliest days.

We are often asked: “How can we get involved in peace now?” There are many paths to peace in Rotary. Our youth programs point us in the direction of Positive Peace, as does the work of intercountry committees and the Rotary Action Group for Peace.

Another path is the Rotarian Peace Projects Incubator (RPPI), an inspirational collaboration among Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Rotary Peace Fellows and alumni. Led by Rotarians in Switzerland and Liechtenstein, RPPI has designed 48 global projects that any club can support, either directly or through Rotary Foundation global grants. Nino Lotishvili and Matthew Johnsen, alumni of the Rotary Peace Center at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, are two of the many volunteers.

During my Rotary peace journey, I have learned how personal resilience helps build inner peace and create sustainable outer peace. This was the inspiration behind the Women Peace Ambassadors for the South Caucasus project, which is based on my field research in Georgia. The RPPI team of Rotarians and peace fellows recognized the incredible potential of women from mixed-ethnicity families who live on borderlands to be role models for peace within and beyond their communities. Through workshops on building inner and outer peace that draw on the power of storytelling, 40 participants will be sharing their stories and reaching around 400 extended family and community members. These inspiring but marginalized women

will reclaim their inner strength as peacebuilders at the grassroots level. In this way, we will take steps toward the sustainable, peaceful society we need so much, not only in our region, but throughout the world. — Nino Lotishvili

I was excited to join the peace incubator project and to further strengthen my ties with Rotary’s peace community by working with past and current peace fellows to develop these proposals. My team wrote five proposals — three in Bangladesh, one in Iraq, and one in Poland — that focus on the arts and on education to generate dialogue across religious divisions and avert the radicalization of young people. I was inspired by how, despite the pandemic, we came together via technology with a vision to develop, test, and strengthen ideas and to produce workable solutions that clubs across the world can support to advance peace. I am excited to work with Rotary’s peace community to transform these visions into reality. — Matthew Johnsen

Here is further proof that in Rotary, we prefer action to words. This is Rotary at its best. I encourage you to visit rpqi.ch to explore the projects and support them.

We have lasted 116 years because of our strong ethics, our passion for Service Above Self, and our unique approach to problem-solving. One of our greatest strengths is how we reach across our communities and across national, ethnic, religious, and political divisions to unite people of all backgrounds and to help others. This month, let’s celebrate our history and the many ways that *Rotary Opens Opportunities* to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace, our ultimate mission.

HOLGER KNAACK

President, Rotary International



Nino Lotishvili
Founder and CEO,
Peace Research
Center Tbilisi and
Mindful Georgia



Matthew Johnsen
Professor emeritus and
founding co-director,
Center for Social
Innovation, Worcester
State University,
Massachusetts



WELCOME



YOU ARE HERE: Tainan City, Taiwan

THE CITY: Located on the island's southwest coast, Tainan is Taiwan's oldest city. Explore its narrow alleys, such as Shennong Street, and its well-preserved old houses and shops.

THE NIGHT MARKETS: A fixture of city life throughout Taiwan, night markets provide a place to shop, snack, and relax after dark. With brightly lit stalls and an enticing array of dining options, the Dadong Night Market (pictured) showcases the lively atmosphere of the island's night markets.

THE CLUBS: Tainan has a thriving Rotary presence and boasts many clubs to choose from if you visit, including the Rotary Club of Hsin Ying East (Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.), the Rotary Club of Tainan Lucky (second and fourth Thursday of the month at noon), and the Rotary Club of Tainan Northeast (Mondays at 6:30 p.m.).

THE PHOTOGRAPHER: Anh Vu Bui, Rotary Club of Shan Hua, Tainan

ROTARY

February 2021

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**DISASTER
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Monika Lozinska/Rotary International

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Throughout the African region, millions of health workers have traveled by foot, boat, bicycle, and bus during the decades-long polio eradication campaign.



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Invested in peace

IN 2019, MANUELA MOT spent a month evaluating World Bank investments on the Philippine island of Mindanao, an area that has experienced conflict since the late 1960s. “Development is possible even in conflict-affected areas,” she says. “The main target of the program was not only to build roads, but to have the factions make decisions together.”

Mot observed how bank-funded infrastructure projects brought to the table Muslim and Christian stakeholders who in other circumstances might have been at war with each other. By working together on projects that would benefit everyone, the groups began to see one another in a new light and to build trust.

Mot gained the peacebuilding skills she puts into practice working for the World Bank through a 2009-11 Rotary Peace Fellowship at Duke University and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; she was the first Romanian to take part in the program. She’s a member of the recently chartered Rotary Club of Washington Global, D.C.

— VANESSA GLAVINSKAS

Turn to page 54 to read more about the Rotary Club of Washington Global.

WHAT IS PEACE? How do we recognize it? If we were to paint it, should we imagine a valley in springtime, with full sun? Cue the songbirds, the leafy trees. Sprinkle liberally with daffodils. Remember to pack plenty of pastels.

In the popular mind, peace is a state in which nothing much happens. There is no conflict, there is no friction; it's where never is heard a discouraging — or incendiary — word. It's a world in aspic.

Sound nice? Not really. There's no room for real life.

Wars break out. Grievances, resentments, a strategic advantage, and the availability of weapons can all contribute to the flipped switch that leads to bloodshed and tragedy. Peace never simply breaks out. It's far more deliberate. It's not improvised. The run-up to peace, I bet, goes through several drafts, with lines rewritten, entire paragraphs cut, and great gnashing of teeth over a few crucial words.

We have many famed renderings of the ideas behind war, rebellion, and carnage. Jacques-Louis David's kinetic portrait of Napoleon crossing the Alps, for example. What a selfie! Or Eugène Delacroix's *Liberty Leading the People*, which depicts a Romantic version of heroic rebellion. It would be 85 years before photographs from the battlefields of World War I revealed the raw barbarity of armed conflict, a sight from which we could not avert our eyes.

So what do we have as a modern image of peace? In 2009, I visited the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, where I tucked myself into an exhibit re-creating John Lennon and Yoko Ono's "bed-in," when they encouraged the world to give peace a chance. But in what felt like a mausoleum for peace, I was unable to summon much enthusiasm for the enterprise.

Two years later, in 2011, I spent time with Sakuji Tanaka as he was about to assume the office of Rotary president. His theme was *Peace Through Service*. He organized presidential peace conferences in Berlin, Hiroshima, and Honolulu, bold gestures for Rotary. He attended a peace forum in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where the nuclear material for the first atomic weapon, deployed against Japan during his lifetime, was made.

I asked Tanaka how service could lead to peace. He believed that by serving others to provide for the basic needs of health care, sanitation, food, and education, we could nurture peace. So is there a painting of that?

Maybe Caravaggio's *The Seven Works of Mercy* in the Pio Monte della Misericordia in Naples, Italy. In it, the artist crammed representations of the Misericordia brotherhood's agenda: bury the dead, feed the hungry, visit the imprisoned, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, visit the sick, refresh the thirsty. Treading air above it all are two angels, bearing Mary and her child, conferring on those below the grace to be merciful. The painting is full of action.

So is the pursuit of peace. But we have to come up with our own pictures.

JOHN REZEK
Editor in chief

Peace never simply breaks out. It's far more deliberate.

Letters to the editor



DIVERSITY MATTERS

While I was wowed by the speakers at the Rotary International Convention in Toronto several years ago, I was blown away by your excellent piece about Xavier Ramey ["We the People," November]. His is an impressive story, but his message is much more important. He did Rotary a favor in joining our ranks, and I expect even greater things from him — and us. — **Phillip R. van Ness, Urbana, Illinois**

I look forward to the arrival of *Rotary* magazine every month. The November issue inspired me to let you know how much I appreciate it. The article about Xavier Ramey was excellent. I recall hearing him speak at the Rotary Convention in Toronto in 2018. Also, the story "Table for 5,000" was incredibly inspiring. Given where we are in our world right now, I believe Rotary has a place and responsibility in addressing community needs much the same way that Rotarians did during the Depression. — **Bruce Amey, Avon, New York**

Thank you for your insightful story on Xavier Ramey's work. My wife, Adele, and I had the privilege of witnessing his Toronto presentation and meeting him afterward. He took time to visit with us briefly and pose for a photo. Truly, it was one of the finest pre-

sentations we've heard, and in alignment with Rotary's diversity, equity, and inclusion statement.

— **Steve Yorde, Pengilly, Minnesota**

A growing number of African American intellectuals have spoken out and written skillfully about their serious disagreements with the sorts of analyses and conclusions offered by Mr. Ramey. Two that readily come to mind are author Shelby Steele and linguist John McWhorter, both of whose presentations, essays, and books can easily be found online.

To my mind, the beautiful and enduring thing about Rotary, and the key to its success, has been its ability to be the one place where nationality, race, religion, and political ideology are set aside lest they impede a relentless focus on practical problem-solving and effective solutions.



It's important to be as educated as possible about the injustices committed by 18th-, 19th-, and 20th-century forebears with whom we may or may not share some DNA. But it's far more important that, as people of action, Rotarians continue to look carefully at what conditions exist in the present and then use our talent, resources, and energy to craft a better tomorrow. — **Carl Ochsner, Chico, California**

TOURING TAIPEI

I enjoyed reading "Taipei Rising" [November]. I visited Taipei in March 1969 on a five-day R&R from the war when I was serving in the Mekong Delta in Vietnam. I found the city to be very clean and safe, and the Taiwanese people to be both hard-working and very welcoming to



American servicemen. I visited some of the places described in the article, such as the mountains and the National Palace Museum, and I took a number of pictures. I even saw President Chiang Kai-shek's limousine at the museum. Needless to say, I had a very good time and it was a much-needed respite from the daily grind of the war in the Delta. — **Rodney Lynch, Rockland, Maine**

PEACE PLUS POLLINATORS

My husband couldn't wait to share with me the article titled "Butterfly Effect" [October]. In June 2020, our club, the Rotary Club of Spearfish-Northern Black Hills, South Dakota, planted a peace and pollinator garden. The project started as a memorial to Rotarians. Partnering with our city, local organizations, community volunteers, and local nurseries, within two hours we planted a space 30 feet across that attracted pollinators even as we worked. This spring, we will purchase hydration stations, puddlers, and butterfly and bee houses to enhance the habitat. The centerpiece of the design is a peace pole inscribed



with "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in four languages of North America (English, French, Lakota, and Spanish) that we purchased through the Rotary Action Group for Peace.



Overheard on social media

Arch Klumph was a man ahead of his time! Don't let any Rotarian give the "but that's the way we've always done it" excuse for not moving forward, adapting, and growing Rotary. — **Diane Cordero de Noriega, via LinkedIn**

Check out Rotary International's Instagram story on 17 February for an interactive poll about community assessments.

FOR MEMBERS

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CONNECT



▲ Chicago Rotarian Xavier Ramey works with organizations to foster workplace diversity and put equity at the center of their grantmaking. Find out more about making your Rotary club more diverse and inclusive at my.rotary.org/en/learning-reference.

What would you do?

Your club has members who come from different backgrounds, religions, and ethnicities. In response to current events, some members want to take a stand against social injustices in your local community and abroad. Other members consider these issues political or controversial, and don't support the club taking action. This has created tension in your club and alienated and upset some members. As the club chair for community service, you want to ensure that everyone's voice is heard and that the types of projects and initiatives your club supports in the community are endorsed by all members.

What would you do? Tell us at magazine@rotary.org.

The city of Spearfish has recognized the installation and is monitoring our pollinator-friendly weed and pest control in the hopes of expanding such practices throughout the city. With volunteer labor and donated materials, the project cost our club less than \$350 and has garnered newspaper and television coverage as well as certification from Monarch Watch and the Xerces Society. This has been an empowering and positive effort for our club at a time when other community service has

been curtailed. — **Dana Eberhard, Spearfish, South Dakota**

NEWS I COULD USE

I was not very impressed with your new magazine design, especially the somewhat childish illustrations. But I was very impressed with the many news items and stories that were of high value. In my experience, *The Rotarian* used to have maybe two such stories at most, but the September issue of *Rotary* is full of them! — **Allan Jamieson, Burnie, Australia**

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TOGETHER, WE

MENTOR

Mentorship sparks passion and opens doors to new possibilities. That's one of many reasons Rotary members dedicate their time to help others reach their potential. Mentoring and inspiring generations of leaders — that's what people of action do.

Learn more at [Rotary.org](https://www.rotary.org)

Rotary



PEOPLE OF ACTION



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THE SPECIALIST

Special delivery

Toastmasters helps a leader polish his skills

Leadership challenges are invigorating. I have launched or led four businesses, as well as a Toastmasters club, a Rotary club, and a Rotary Fellowship. As a Rotarian and a Toastmaster, I can tell you that both organizations transform lives, although in different ways. And both have had an impact on my life.

I knew I needed to step up my game when I was tapped to serve as president of the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa. I wanted a higher level of skill and self-confidence in order to lead my club and represent Rotary in the community. My wife had been a Toastmaster for a year, and I had visited her club a few times to watch her speak. She had really begun to blossom. I thought this program could help me.

When a speaker canceled shortly before a Rotary meeting, I was ready. With only two hours' notice, I gave a half-hour speech about my recent trip to the Rotary International Convention.

The Rotary Means Business Fellowship provides networking opportunities for Rotarians. I've given presentations about the fellowship at three conventions and to Rotarians all over the world. In each of those situations, my experience as a Toastmaster and Rotarian helped me feel confident in my ability to share my message in front of hundreds of people. The founding and nurturing of the Rotary Means Business Fellowship is one of my most fulfilling personal achievements.

For 30 years, I owned a business with two dozen employees. As the boss, you tell an employee to do something, and they do it. In a volunteer organization, you have to motivate people to want to do something, or it won't get done. Holding officer positions in Toastmasters and Rotary has helped me become a more effective leader.

The alliance between Rotary and Toastmasters is sparking new learning and leadership opportunities. Rotarians are enrolling in the communication and leadership development courses that Toastmasters created for Rotary members and are practicing their public speaking skills at Toastmasters clubs. And Toastmasters members are honing their own skills by speaking at Rotary meetings.

— AS TOLD TO ARNOLD R. GRAHL

Mark Burchill
Rotary Club of
Santa Rosa,
California

Founder and
chair of the
Rotary Means
Business
Fellowship

Learn more about Rotary's partnership with Toastmasters at my.rotary.org/toastmasters-alliance.

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He comes in peace
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Responding
with resilience

PROMOTING PEACE

Lowering the temperature

Sometimes the peace Rotarians seek to make is a local matter — very local

JEAN BEST WAS about to resign from Rotary. It was a sad day for her: She loved being a Rotarian. But she had become enmeshed in a conflict with another member of her club. Although she tried to engage with that member to defuse the situation, the problem persisted. Best could have pressed the issue, could have tried to run it all the way up the flagpole. But instead, she decided to back away. She left that club and joined the Rotary Club of Newton Stewart, Scotland, where she's very happy. But she hasn't given up on addressing the larger issue: "Now I'm looking at conflict resolution in Rotary clubs," she says.

Conflict resolution is something we humans have been trying to master at least since the first Cro-Magnon tribal steering committee. Some scientists who study the fossil record say that for much of history, people have dealt with conflict through violence. Some even theorize that our very ability to work as a team evolved out of our need to compete against other groups.

And while bench-clearing brawls may be rare at your Rotary club, that doesn't mean your meetings always end in a chorus of "Kumbaya" — especially at a moment in history when the fractiousness of the world seems to seep into our lives in unexpected ways. "The conflict in clubs is growing," says Jo Pawley, 2019-20 governor of District 1020 (Scotland). "I've seen examples of bullying. I've seen people being downright rude. I've seen examples of people not leaving things alone, pulling the scab off something

you think has been resolved."

Calum Thomson, Pawley's successor as district governor, agrees. "Every club's got issues. They might be minor, minuscule, not that fundamental. But we've all got issues," he says.

"It's difficult to talk about conflict in clubs because many Rotarians don't realize that there is conflict in clubs," Best says. "So it's about raising awareness to begin with about what a modern, 21st-century Rotary is all about. If we want Rotary to continue as the great organization it is, we need to start changing the way we conduct our Rotary club meetings. It's about clubs putting greater emphasis on how they discuss issues, rather than what they discuss. We found that people were leaving clubs because they were not listened to or were not spoken to appropriately. Talking and listening should be an important part of Rotary. Into this comes an awareness of bias, diversity, and stereotypes."

Rotary clubs aren't the only place where conflict occurs, of course. We live in an age of rage: road rage, air rage, office rage, bike rage, quarantine rage. Online, we're subjected to Twitter fights, Facebook unfriendings, Nextdoor knockdowns, and LinkedIn lashings.

An entire field of study is dedicated to systematically learning how to ratchet down disagreements, cool emotions, and help everyone be happy with getting less than they wanted. Conflict resolution isn't something that was invented recently.

It's also not the exclusive province of Western diplomats and

CONFLICT RESOLUTION: ROTARY RESOURCES

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academics. The European Union is a well-known “peace system,” but there’s also the Iroquois Great League of Peace and Power in New York, the tribes of the Upper Xingu River basin in Brazil, and the aboriginal tribes of the Western Desert in Australia. According to one study of what they all have in common, the impetus behind these systems was to manage conflict between neighboring societies before it rose to the level of war. Some employ what’s known as an active peace system, while others rely on passive systems that use avoidance and toleration.

But how can we use the active system to address interpersonal conflicts, not just societal ones? Best has developed a four-seminar program to help keep meetings, Rotary club

meetings included, moving along smoothly and openly. “One of the watchwords we use is, ‘Get curious before you get furious,’” she says. “In other words, ask, ‘Why did you say that? Why did you do that?’ before you get angry. In a lot of cases, people just fly off the handle and walk out the door. It’s about saying, ‘Hang on a minute, let’s discuss this. Let’s open this up. Tell me why you feel like this. What have I said that’s upset you?’ It’s a way of defusing the situation.”

In 2020, Thomson and Pawley started working with Best to help train their district’s incoming club presidents in conflict resolution. “It’s all about listening to people,” says Thomson. “And when they say something, you need to be able to

repeat it back to them. So you’re saying, ‘I think this is what you said,’ so there are no misunderstandings and we both know what we’re talking about.”

“Jean has this brilliant test where you have to describe something but you can’t use nouns,” says Pawley. The test consists of two people sitting back to back, so neither one can see the other. One person has to draw what the other person is describing. “What tends to happen is that you draw something completely not what was being described,” she says. “It shows you that your listening skills are not as good as you think they are. It shows that you have to listen more to what is actually being said.” The exercise also shows

Jean Best suggests that we all could do better at saying what we mean and listening to what others are saying.

While bench-clearing brawls may be rare at your Rotary club, that doesn't mean your meetings always end in a chorus of "Kumbaya" — especially at a moment in history when the fractiousness of the world seems to seep into our lives in unexpected ways.

the speakers how their words can be misinterpreted, so everyone involved learns how communication can go wrong.

Best, who worked in education for nearly 40 years as a teacher, a head teacher, and finally as an inspector of schools for the Scottish government, makes this point too. "People, especially older people, in Rotary think they know how to talk to each other," she says, "but they actually don't. They think they're listening, and they're not. And we prove to them that they don't know how to talk and that they don't know how to listen."

Louisa Weinstein, a mediator who wrote a guide called *The 7 Principles of Conflict Resolution: How to Resolve Disputes, Defuse Difficult Situations and Reach Agreement*, agrees with this approach. "The first, basic thing is to listen — to really listen, as a mirror to the other person," she says. "I might reflect back what the other person has said, and it might be absolutely to the letter what they said. And they may still come back to me and say, 'No, no. I didn't say that.'"

This happens because often we say things that we don't mean or mean things that we don't say. But

an even bigger obstacle is that we all think we're right. "We need to assume a nonjudgmental attitude," says Weinstein. "If I'm going to resolve conflict, I need to be open to the fact that my judgment may not be valid, even if I think I'm absolutely right. Besides, being right isn't necessarily going to help anyway. It's about trying to understand, rather than to be understood."

In Best's system, once a conflict is out in the open, all parties offer ideas for resolution, which are discussed and considered. Finally, the person who has the conflict chooses the first step forward, followed by the others. This gives each party more ownership over the outcome.

As Best herself knows, this doesn't always work. Still, it's far better than just hoping a conflict will quietly disappear. Arguments within clubs, she says, have resulted in more than a few members dropping out. "Quite often it's because of something that's been said, or someone hasn't been listened to properly and then there's no discussion," she says.

"We can't afford to do this. Rotary is too important to the world to lose Rotarians over silly disagreements."

— FRANK BURES



Five strategies for conflict resolution

1

Recognize that all of us have biased fairness perceptions.

2

Avoid escalating tensions with threats and provocative moves.

3

Overcome an "us versus them" mentality.

4

Look beneath the surface to identify deeper issues.

5

Separate negotiable from nonnegotiable issues.

Source: Katie Shonk, Program on Negotiation blog at Harvard Law School

Join the Rotary Peace Academy

If you want to put conflict resolution in the wider context of peace, the Rotary Peace Academy has courses and resources. Visit my.rotary.org/join-rotary-peace-academy.

Short takes

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the International Fellowship of Rotarian Musicians assembled a virtual choir that began performing weekly on Zoom.



An online peace projects incubator showcased more than 40 projects developed by Rotary members, Peace Fellows, and experts in November.



PROFILE

Mass mediator

Peacebuilding can be a matter of networks

Randall Butler

Rotary Club
of Boulder,
Colorado

“I’VE BEEN IN conflict resolution my whole career,” says Randy Butler, the founder and CEO of the Institute for Sustainable Peace. A former trial lawyer, Butler abandoned the courtroom to focus on using mediation to resolve disputes and training others in the use of mediation. “I’d found my passion,” he says.

In 2018, he led a workshop to “build the skills necessary to overcome the polarization we are experiencing in the United States.” When Butler reached out to the peacebuilding committee at the Rotary Club of Boulder, he met Gary Kahn, who asked him: “Why are you not a member of Rotary?”

Attending a meeting of the Boulder club, he says, “it was amazing to look at all these people around the room — the district attorney; medical professionals and successful businesspeople; college professors — and realize that here was a club that had brought all these individuals together and that they make a real difference in what they’re doing.”

It was Butler’s Rotary epiphany. “I suddenly saw this network forming all over the world: people who knew how to get things done and knew people they could get things done with.”

Today he’s the chair of the peacebuilding committee of the 101-year-old club, which has dedicated its second century to fostering peace. “We remind our club members that all of our projects that help to build Positive Peace involve collaborations at the community level, even across traditional divides,” he says, noting that they look forward to using the vast Rotary network to build even more “bridges of understanding.”

— GEOFFREY JOHNSON

Learn more at
rotaryactiongroupforpeace.org.

On World Polio Day in October, RI General Secretary John Hewko completed a 42-mile bike ride, raising more than \$6,000.



In November, disaster relief charity ShelterBox honored Rotary with its inaugural Global Humanitarian Service Award.

The 2020 Council on Resolutions concluded in November with the adoption of 12 resolutions. Read them at my.rotary.org/cor/vote.

Rotary projects around the globe



Canada

The Rotary Club of Windsor (1918) in Ontario repurposed plastic shopping bags to craft sleeping mats for homeless people in their community. The club's young Rotary leaders committee, made up of members under 40, launched Mats for Hope in November 2018, says Julia Lee, a club member and organizer of the project. Club members pitched in to cut the bags into strips and crochet them into mats measuring roughly 38 by 75 inches, or the size of a twin mattress cover.

After an in-person start to production in 2019, the coronavirus delayed the assembly line effort, but by the end of July, 15 mats had been delivered to the Windsor Salvation Army's emergency shelter. "They're waterproof, easily transportable, more hygienic than a blanket, and can be cleaned easily," while reducing refuse, says Lee. Other than the cutting and stitching time, the investment was modest: about US\$165 for scissors and supplies.

400
PLASTIC BAGS
REUSED TO MAKE
ONE SLEEPING MAT

Colombia

In Colombia, the COVID-19 pandemic worsened food insecurity, in part because the crisis shut down much of the country's informal economy. "The quarantine has affected the most vulnerable families in the city of Bogotá, especially those who depend on a daily income," says Jaime Márquez, a member of the Rotary Club of Bogotá Capital. The club focused on the Altos de la Estancia area of Ciudad Bolívar, a poverty-stricken district in the capital's hilly southwest, with a food donation campaign. The endeavor was planned to benefit farmers outside the city as well as people in the neighborhood. Rotarian Ana Milena Salazar and her husband, Antonio, led the effort. They collected funds and bought fruits and vegetables from 10 farming families in Sasaima, a municipality about 50 miles from Bogotá. The food was distributed to 346 families over four deliveries made by Sineambore, a local organic waste recycler, which also provided organic fertilizer to the farmers in the network.



Lebanon

On 4 August, during a fire in the port area of Beirut, a cache of ammonium nitrate detonated in an explosion equivalent to at least 500 tons of TNT. The blast killed more than 200 people, injured some 6,000, and left 300,000 homeless. The disaster stirred Rotarians around the world to assist people who had been displaced as well as businesses that had been affected. Closer to home, clubs in District 2452, including the Rotary clubs of Chtaura-Bekaa Gate and Zahlé-Bekaa, both in Lebanon, responded within days of the explosion, says Walid Faraoun of the Chtaura-Bekaa Gate club. "Volunteers from the Rotary Club of Chtaura-Bekaa Gate and the Rotaract Club of Chtaura-Bekaa took action to do cleanup and initial food distribution, going from

house to house for the first week," says Faraoun. Rotarians "provided moral and psychosocial support, and donated furniture, appliances, and rechargeable emergency lamps," says Maha Maalouf-Kassouf, president of the Zahlé-Bekaa club.



\$4 BILLION

ESTIMATED DAMAGE
FROM BEIRUT EXPLOSION

Togo

Six Rotaract clubs in District 9102 — two in Togo and four in Benin — combined forces to construct a borehole well at a secondary school in Lomé, Togo. The Rotaract Club of Lomé Racines helped raise funds for the installation at the Adidogomé School of General Education in the Lankouvi area of Togo's capital. The Lomé Racines Rotaractors were joined by members of the Rotaract Club of Lomé Horizon in Togo and, in Benin, the Rotaract clubs of Bohicon, Cotonou Centre, Cotonou

Cocotiers, and Cotonou Palmier.

The well was inaugurated during a small, physically distanced ceremony late last March, notes Médard Tovi of the Lomé Racines club. He noted that the installation of the well could not have been better timed as the coronavirus crisis took hold. "The school was not equipped with a drinking water supply, and there was no water fountain in the surrounding area," says Michelle Thérèse Houssou, club president. The well's dedication was "a moment of intense joy."

19%

PEOPLE IN TOGO WHO HAVE ACCESS
TO SAFELY MANAGED WATER

4,100

ACRES DEVOTED TO CITRUS CROPS IN NEW ZEALAND



New Zealand

For more than 25 years, the Rotary Club of Ahuriri (Napier), in the Hawke's Bay region of New Zealand's North Island, has reaped a bounty of excess oranges, lemons, and grapefruit for distribution to people in need. The fruit is shipped to Rotary clubs on the South Island, where citrus fruit is not so easily grown, and those clubs handle the distribution. In August the Ahuriri club collected 13 half-ton boxes of fruit. "Over the years, our club has arranged the collection of fruit to save it from being dumped," says Mike Smith, a club member and a past governor of District 9930. "Years ago, the Rotary Club of Tawa asked our club if we could send them some citrus fruit for them to distribute to seniors to help ward off colds and the flu." The effort has developed into "a master class in cooperation with volunteers, the public, and businesses," including shippers who offer their services at no charge.

— BRAD WEBBER



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GOODWILL

Growth funds

Corporate matching programs are the yeast in your philanthropy recipe

If you've ever used a corporate matching program to increase your charitable giving, you can thank the New Jersey Supreme Court. In the 1953 case *Smith v. Barlow*, a group of shareholders asserted that donations to Princeton University by the A.P. Smith Manufacturing Co. were counter to shareholder interests. The court majority decided against the shareholders, holding that philanthropic gifts by corporations were good for the company, the community, and the United States. The next year, General Electric set up the first corporate matching program, supplementing employee donations to their alma maters.

Since then the concept has expanded far beyond its narrow original target, but the logic laid out in *Smith v. Barlow* has held. Companies have found that benefits accrue not only to the recipients of the donations, but also to the businesses and to employees, and over the years, employers have gotten more sophisticated about the process. And there's still lots of room for the programs to grow.

"Initially, [a company's] CEO and leadership decided what programs to support and what nonprofits and causes to align with," says Una Osili, a professor of economics and philanthropic studies at Indiana University's School of Philanthropy. "Over the past decade, many corporations have become more strategic with their philanthropy. They're aligning the areas where they're giving with their underlying business."

Connecting charitable work with the corporate mission also builds

goodwill with potential and existing employees, particularly younger recruits who are looking for an employer with a social mission. It's about more than money; one form of corporate gift matching is volunteer matching gifts, which allow employees to donate their time in order to secure an equivalent donation from the company. Such an approach makes it easier for workers to find the volunteer opportunities they're best suited for and creates connections between the company and vital local institutions. Through skills-based volunteering, charities and nonprofits can access high-level talent they might not otherwise be able to afford.

"We're seeing really effective programs that take the skills employees have and allow employees to apply that specialized knowledge to help benefit a nonprofit," says Anna Pruitt, managing editor of *Giving USA*, an annual report on philanthropy. "Tech companies, for instance, try to build giving back into the organization of the company — 'We have these specialized technical skills; what are some local organizations we can bring these skills to?'"

A 2017 survey of attitudes toward giving in the workplace found that more employees donated time, at 58 percent, than money, at 46 percent. Just 24 percent volunteered skills — not surprising given the additional work of matching skills to opportunities, but suggesting a potential area of growth.

The rise of remote work during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the possibility that work-from-home

rates may remain high thereafter, doesn't take away from the potential of corporate-matching programs. In fact, it's a good argument to expand them. A 2016 study found that knowledge of a company's charitable program resulted in "increased quantity and quality of extra work" from its remote employees.

One challenge is that often workers don't know about matching programs, or if they do, they don't use them. Double the Donation, a company that provides corporate gift match management software, estimates that \$6 billion to \$10 billion in matching gift funds gets left on the table every year, based on the calculation that only 9 percent of employees participated in their company's program in 2016.

Social interactions between employees are critical for creating knowledge of corporate matching programs and encouraging donations of money or time, so it's incumbent on companies with a large share of remote workers to go the extra mile in promoting their existence.

For companies without a long history of corporate matching, or for smaller firms, running a program is a lot of work, so some use third-party vendors such as CyberGrants, YourCause, and Benevity, which ease the process of matching donations and offer a broad menu of causes for employees' charitable dollars.

Donations to The Rotary Foundation through corporate matching programs are growing: Since 2015, total match contributions have doubled and Rotary has raised \$1.2 million through such programs.

There's a benefit for Rotary members who participate in corporate matching programs as well, according to Foundation donor coordinator Nia Bolden. When they give to the Foundation, donors also receive one Foundation recognition point for every dollar matched by their company, which counts toward Paul Harris Fellow recognition. "A lot of employees and donors are really motivated by that Paul Harris Fellow recognition," Bolden says.

— WHET MOSER

Find your employer's matching gift campaign with Rotary's company matching gifts tool:



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Survival of the resilient

The past year has been rough. But we were born with the tools to overcome trauma

By Laurence Gonzales

ONE MORNING many years ago, I was putting on my shirt when I lifted my arms and stuck my hand into the spinning blades of a ceiling fan. It was so painful that I cried out and fell writhing to the floor. Looking at my hand now, I see no sign of the injury. And yet the trauma lives on. To this day, whenever I am about to raise my arms to put on a shirt, I look up, checking for spinning fans. My wife laughs at me. “No fan,” she says, “no fan!” But I do it reflexively, without thinking.

This automatic system of memory takes no conscious thought and operates outside the realm of our best intentions. Such responses happen against our will, as many traumatized soldiers discover upon returning home. And many who are being traumatized now by the exigencies of the global pandemic will find this out when it is over and they attempt to return to normal life, only to find that normal life no longer exists. By the end of November, COVID-19 had killed more than 250,000 people in the United States. Over its entire length, the war in Vietnam killed about 58,000 Americans. This pandemic is like a war, and people are being traumatized in a variety of ways.

When people experience trauma, our remarkable system of memory instantly goes to work to record everything important connected with the events. In 1983, a hiker named Patricia van Tighem was mauled by a grizzly bear. Just before the attack, she had crushed some

pine needles, because she loved the smell. But after she returned home from the hospital, the smell of pine needles would send her into a panic. She would become physically ill with fear. Reassurance that she was safe at home did not help. Her response was reflexive and automatic. She had no control over it.

Many people who were in New York City on the day the World Trade Center towers fell have found that clear, sunny autumn days make them anxious, because that’s what the weather was like on 11 September 2001. Clear fall weather does not mean that another attack will come. But it feels as if it will because of our system of memory, which tells us that the future will equal the past.

When under attack, all mammals activate a pathway in the brain and body known as the rage circuit. It’s easy to see it in action. Accidentally step on a cat’s tail and you will hear the cry and see the bared claws and teeth, the clenched jaw, the struggle. I’m sure that I looked much the

same after sticking my hand into the ceiling fan. Over evolutionary time, this response proved useful in helping to escape attacks, and so the trait was passed along. And for van Tighem, if the scent of pine accompanied the attack, then the safest course was to activate the rage circuit anytime she smelled pine.

This seemingly illogical response is a clear case of what psychiatrists call post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD. I object to the word “disorder,” because the actual response shows memory working as it must to protect us.

Everyone suffers trauma. As the Buddha said, it is part of everyday life. His First Noble Truth concerned the ubiquity of stress and suffering. And everyone is afflicted with some form of reflex, ranging from the trivial, as with my avoidance of fans, to the debilitating, as with van Tighem’s response to the scent of pine. Some people get stuck in rage. Some people’s rage circuit becomes a hair trigger. Anything can set them off. And if you were raised by someone like this, then you can become afflicted, too, and the trauma cascades down the generations.

By visiting a pet store, you can gain insight into our nature and our interior life. Observe the reptiles. There’s not much going on. They are naturally evolved to be immobile. Their primary strategy for defense is to dive underwater and lower their metabolism so that they can hold still. Then go to see the mammals. They are playing and tumbling and running on exercise wheels. They are naturally mobile.

An attack by a predator may be motivated by hunger: I’m going to eat you. It may be defensive: I’m going to kill you because you’re in my territory. But mammals tend to follow a predictable pattern in response to attack. If we can anticipate the attack, we can use higher-order social behavior to avoid it. You can see this when a puppy is confronted with a

Laurence Gonzales is the author of *Deep Survival: Who Lives, Who Dies, and Why* and its sequel, *Surviving Survival: The Art and Science of Resilience*. He was an appointed scholar at the Santa Fe Institute from 2016 to 2020.



larger dog. He rolls on his back and bares his stomach and neck, signaling surrender. If the attack proceeds, if we are held immobile against our will, the rage circuit becomes active. And if struggling and screaming and fighting don't work, we move to the ancient strategy of our reptile forebears: We freeze.

Freezing, while natural for reptiles, can be dangerous for mammals. And it can amplify the post-traumatic stress responses we experience once the danger has passed. Neuroscience today tells us that the old notion of the brain as a big intelligent computer that commands the body to do this or that is simply wrong. Brain and body are an integrated whole, and there is good evidence that the body plays the leading role. Certainly in our experience of daily life, we can readily see how gut feelings, as we call them, are the deciding factor in most of our decisions. When you go to a restaurant, you don't call your lawyer to find out what you should order. We don't think our way through life. We feel our way.

And so we must use our bodies to develop our resilience in the face of trauma. In sleep, we have the ability to enter a state between mobility and immobility that is pleasurable. We are capable of another state, too, which combines the parts of the nervous system that promote mobilization with the parts that promote immobilization. It is a seemingly paradoxical state we call play.

Play is essential for learning, socializing, and developing a healthy means of regulating the internal state of our bodies. You do not have to teach a baby to play. The skill emerges naturally. A research team led by Jeffrey Burgdorf, a professor of biomedical engineering at Northwestern University, showed that laboratory animals that were stressed and then allowed to engage in rough-and-tumble play proved measurably more resilient in the face of adversity. Play, they found, "could be an antidepressant."

Those who experience trauma can take advantage of the natural pathways to resilience. You can see this in another behavior of cats. When a cat stalks prey, it is quiet, methodical, moving steadily toward a goal, and completely engaged. Rage has no place in this, and in fact, the rage circuit is silenced by the activation of what's called the seeking circuit. Mammals do not like rage, so they will work hard to stop it. Seeking is the antidote to rage.

And humans are good at finding ways to activate the seeking circuit. Almost any activity that imitates some features of the cat's stalking will do. It must be organized, methodical, and directed. Often it is rhythmic. It is almost always physical in some way. When Ann Hood, a well-known novelist, lost her five-year-old daughter to a sudden illness, she went into a constant state of rage, panic, and anxiety. She found that knitting was the only antidote, and at



the beginning of her grief, she would sometimes knit for eight hours at a stretch. The key to resilience in the face of trauma is to find ways to activate the seeking circuit and silence the rage circuit. I have written about people for whom that activity was knitting, golf, bricklaying, writing, yoga, running, playing piano, meditating, and helping other people who have suffered trauma. I know a veteran of combat in Vietnam who has fly-fished all over the world, researching and catching every species of trout in existence, because it's the only way he can find inner peace.

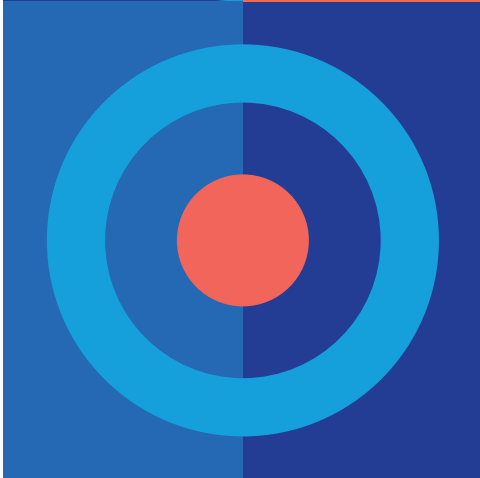
But everyone is different. And while it would be dishonest to paint a rosy picture of a path to resilience and suggest that anyone can follow it, many people who experience trauma can still find a joyous and satisfying way of life. My friend Lisette Johnson's husband tried to murder her. He shot her several times at point-blank range and then shot her again in the back as she ran away. Then he shot himself in the head. Lisette survived. She and her two children went through harrowing days, nearly in despair at times. But she found herself again and renewed herself in the work of helping others who had suffered trauma. She became a rescuer instead of a victim. I don't like the word "recovery." Lisette did not recover. She learned resilience.

"I have some very dark times," Lisette told me. "I'm never going to leave this behind. But I also have a very fulfilling, very happy life. Even on my worst days, I'm so much happier than I was."

Millions of people are traumatized by a variety of causes every day. Most of us can and will find ways to cope. We will emerge into resilience and fashion a new life, perhaps one that is fuller and richer than what we left behind. And we are at our best when we start on the path to resilience before we need to. ■

Those who experience trauma
can take advantage of the
natural pathways to resilience.

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**In a time of extraordinary challenges,
we can celebrate a milestone:
The WHO African region has been
certified free of the wild poliovirus.
Here's how we got there**

POLIO FREE

By Diana Schoberg

It was May 1997, and Sam Okudzeto, then a member of the African Regional PolioPlus Committee from Ghana, was flying to Sierra Leone for what he anticipated would be a routine annual meeting about polio eradication in Africa. But when his plane touched down and he looked out the window, he saw that soldiers, guns drawn, had flooded the tarmac.

As Okudzeto made his way to passport control, he asked an airport official what was going on. “Listen carefully,” he was told. “You can hear the guns.” There had been a coup that morning.

“All we heard was *boom, boom, boom*,” Okudzeto recalls. “Then I realized that the aircraft that had brought us had gone.”

With no taxis running, Okudzeto and the other meeting participants who had been on the plane walked to a nearby hotel. “We all went to our rooms and put our luggage down and then went to the restaurant,” he recalls. “I asked for the biggest and juiciest sole fish I had ever had in my life, because it might be my last supper.” (Luckily it wasn’t, and four days later, Okudzeto and the others caught a helicopter out of the country.)

“There is an enemy in life — and it’s fear,” he says now. “For those who are not afraid, it’s amazing what you can do. It’s fantastic to see the result now: Africa is [wild] polio-free.”

In August, the World Health Organization (WHO) certified the African region free of wild poliovirus, the culmination of a decades-long effort involving millions of Rotary members, health workers, government officials, traditional and religious leaders, and parents. Since 1996, a year when wild polio paralyzed an estimated 75,000 children across Africa, health workers have given more than 9 billion doses of the oral polio vaccine, preventing 1.8 million wild polio cases.

“Everybody chipped in,” says Gaston Kaba, longtime chair of the Niger PolioPlus Committee (he retired from the position in June 2019).

“Volunteers, town criers, many other people were involved. Nobody knows about them. They worked quietly to get the job done.”

The 47 countries that make up WHO’s African region are home to nearly 1,400 Rotary clubs and 32,000 members, many of whom have dedicated time and resources to the effort. Rotary members around the world have contributed nearly \$890 million toward eradicating polio in the region, advocated for support from their governments,

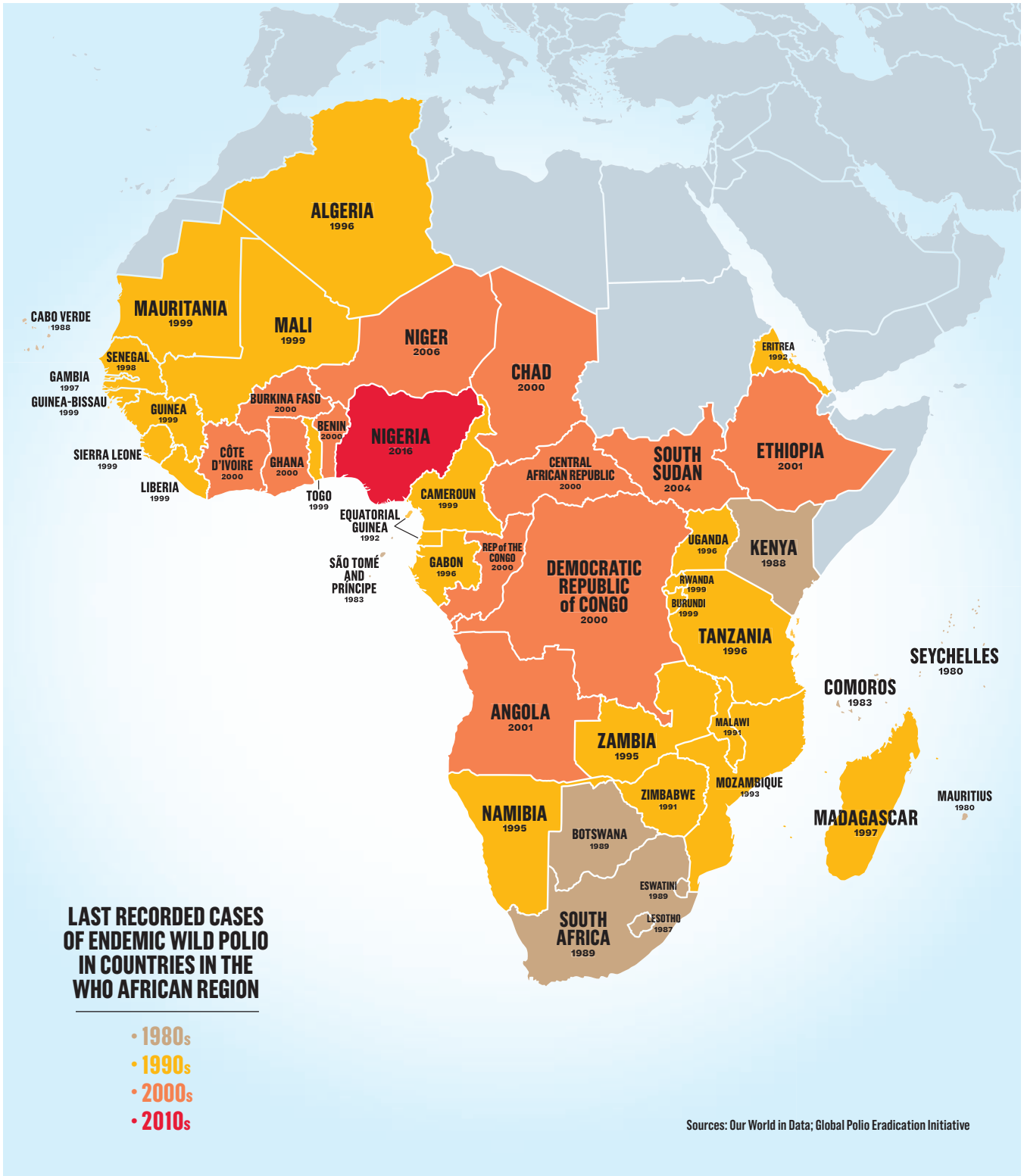
mobilized communities around National Immunization Days, and held events for World Polio Day to raise public awareness.

The legacy of those efforts is a health care infrastructure that is playing an important role in the COVID-19 pandemic and is poised to respond to future public health emergencies. The laboratory and surveillance networks developed to track the po-

liovirus are being used to monitor other diseases. Polio workers bolster an array of routine immunizations, deliver deworming medicines and oral rehydration salts, and provide other health services. And they continue to vaccinate children against polio, because until the virus is eradicated from the earth, it remains a threat everywhere. “Being declared free of polio is an amazing success,” says Teguest Yilma, Ethiopia PolioPlus Committee chair. “I am happy — but I’m still not relaxed.”

In a time of extraordinary challenges, we can celebrate the eradication of wild polio in the African region. Here are just a few of the stories of the drive and determination Rotary members and our partners have shown in overcoming challenges and setbacks.

**ROTARY MEMBERS
AROUND THE WORLD HAVE
CONTRIBUTED NEARLY
\$890 MILLION TOWARD
ERADICATING POLIO
IN THE AFRICAN REGION.**



THE CHALLENGE:

Conflict

In February 2005, as civil war raged through Côte d'Ivoire, Marie-Irène Richmond-Ahoua entered the heart of rebel-held territory. Then the national Polio-Plus committee chair, Richmond-Ahoua joined representatives from Rotary's partners on a United Nations (UN) flight to Bouaké, where the rebels were based. "We met with rebel chiefs to beg them to make immunization days safe," she recalls, asking for their cooperation in providing soldiers to protect the vaccinators. "They did it. For five days, it was easy to reach children."

Over the years, security was one of the biggest challenges to the polio eradication effort in Africa. Rotary and its partners worked to negotiate truces and military protection to make sure that health workers could reach every child in conflict areas. In 1994 and 1996, the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army and the Sudanese government agreed to honor "corridors of peace" where vaccinators could travel safely, and two years later, a PolioPlus grant supported the airlifting of vaccines into villages that hadn't seen a government health worker in 15 years. In 1985 in Uganda, the government and the National Resistance Army agreed to permit UNICEF flights into rebel-held territory after the civil war cut off a third of the population from government services. And in late 1999, then-UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan negotiated a nationwide truce in Sierra Leone so that National Immunization Days could be held.

But at times, bloodshed still derailed polio eradication efforts. Nigeria thought it had seen its last case of wild polio in July 2014. But then the militant group

Boko Haram kept vaccinators out of its strongholds in Borno state in northeastern Nigeria for several years. "Boko Haram was against immunizations in the first place, so many health facilities were destroyed. Immunization was not even something you could think about," says Tunji Funsho, who has served as Nigeria PolioPlus Committee chair since 2013. Polio was festering, undiagnosed, in the areas of Borno where children hadn't received their vaccines, and in 2016 the country recorded four cases.

But the Nigerian government — as well as Rotary, its partners, and health workers and volunteers — never gave up. The Nigerian Army became a key participant in vaccination efforts. At first, it would secure an area, and vaccinators would spend two days or less quickly immunizing children before leaving, a strategy called "hit and run." Later, armed local militia members would escort vaccinators to unsafe areas. Today, army medical corps members carry the vaccine to settlements

that remain unsafe for civilians to enter and vaccinate children themselves. "The military knows how to take care of themselves," Funsho says.

Funsho recalls visiting the home of the child who had the last case of wild polio in Nigeria, another innocent victim of the insurgency. "The potential for a three-year-old girl in Borno state to achieve the best that is possible for her life is already very low — educationally, socially, in all aspects of human endeavor," he says. "Add polio paralysis to that, and what is the hope for that child? It is heart-rending."

"BOKO HARAM WAS AGAINST IMMUNIZATIONS IN THE FIRST PLACE, SO MANY HEALTH FACILITIES WERE DESTROYED. IMMUNIZATION WAS NOT EVEN SOMETHING YOU COULD THINK ABOUT."

Rotary and its partners worked to negotiate truces and military protection for health workers in conflict areas.





THE CHALLENGE:

Rumors

In Nigeria, another significant obstacle was the persistent rumors about the safety of the oral polio vaccine that spread in the northern part of the country in the early 2000s, Funsho says. Skeptical political and religious leaders told parents to refuse vaccinations, combining rhetoric of the anti-vaccine movement with conspiracy theories about a Western plot to sterilize Muslims. “This rumor was not homegrown. It came from abroad and found local weapons to energize it,” Funsho says. “It led to vaccination becoming a political thing rather than a means to protect our children against paralysis.”

The situation deteriorated. Several states in northern Nigeria canceled all immunization activities until officials could show proof that the vaccine was safe, and the country went 14 months without a National Immunization Day. The Nigerian government, strongly committed to polio eradication, set up a committee that included key Muslim leaders to verify the vaccine’s safety. They toured vaccine manufacturing sites and produced a report that satisfied all except political and religious leaders in Kano state, the epicenter of the rumors. Officials there sent their own committee of health experts and religious scholars to Indonesia, where they reconfirmed the safety of a vaccine manufactured in a Muslim country.

Meanwhile, Rotary members continued to engage in advocacy and in educating the public. Ado Bayero,

the late emir of Kano, was a supporter of the Rotary Club of Kano, and Funsho was his personal physician. One of the country’s most influential Muslim leaders, the emir “was a great friend of Rotary,” Funsho says. “He knew Rotary would not bring anything harmful.” The emir demonstrated his faith in the oral polio vaccine by personally immunizing his grandchildren in his palace. “We used that to a lot of our advantage in the media.”

“IT LED TO VACCINATION BECOMING A POLITICAL THING RATHER THAN A MEANS TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN AGAINST PARALYSIS.”

In neighboring Niger, a country whose population is 99 percent Muslim, then-President Mamadou Tandja pushed back against the persistent rumors in a key speech that launched a 2004 immunization campaign. He gave the speech in Hausa, a language widely spoken in Niger as well as Nigeria, which made his message about the importance of vaccination all the more effective. “Tandja was very strong on the message he delivered,” says

Kaba, the former Niger PolioPlus Committee chair. “He referred to the Quran. You don’t joke with the Quran.” A month later, Rotary presented Tandja with a Polio Eradication Champion Award.

Polio cases in Africa had been trending down until the early 2000s. But the rumors and missed immunizations led to the exportation of the virus from Nigeria to almost 20 countries. “As soon as we overcame that, the graph just went gradually down and down until we got to zero,” Funsho says.

Rotary members in Nigeria advocated with government leaders and educated the public to dispel persistent myths about vaccine safety.

THE CHALLENGE:

Hard-to-reach children

Nearly 800,000 refugees live in Ethiopia, most of them from Eritrea, Somalia, and South Sudan. “Our borders are very porous. A lot of people come in and out from neighboring countries,” Yilma says. So the government coordinates cross-border vaccination campaigns with surrounding nations to ensure that the virus isn’t brought in over the border.

The country has some of the most rugged terrain in Africa — from mountainous highlands to vast desert plains that sit hundreds of feet below sea level. There are some places where health workers have to walk hours to reach a single family, and others that are so densely populated that ensuring that every child is vaccinated can be difficult. “Ethiopia didn’t face a situation like in Nigeria where people outright refused to be vaccinated,” Yilma says. “The problems in Ethiopia are that it’s a large population that is mobile and that the topography of Ethiopia makes them very difficult to reach.”

Throughout the African region, millions of health workers have traveled by foot, boat, bicycle, and bus during the decades-long eradication campaign.

Grants from The Rotary Foundation have supported them along the way. In 2000, Africa’s first synchronized multicountry immunization campaigns reached 76 million children in 17 countries.

Rotary members from other countries often came to Ethiopia to volunteer during National Immunization Days, providing a morale boost to local members and communities. The visitors saw other needs as well and stepped up to help, Yilma says, supporting water projects and schools in addition to polio eradication.

Related health initiatives — the “plus” in PolioPlus — went a long way toward getting local communities to accept the polio vaccine, says Funsho. During polio outbreaks in Nigeria, children were visited frequently by health workers to provide immunizations, yet often families didn’t have clean drinking water or access to basic medicines. Grants from the Foundation allowed Rotary members to install solar-powered boreholes, first in settlements for displaced persons in Borno and later in surrounding communities. “That endeared Rotary to the area,” Funsho says.

THROUGHOUT THE AFRICAN REGION, MILLIONS OF HEALTH WORKERS HAVE TRAVELED BY FOOT, BOAT, BICYCLE, AND BUS DURING THE DECADES-LONG ERADICATION CAMPAIGN.

To eradicate wild polio in Africa, health workers had to vaccinate hard-to-reach children such as those at this camp for internally displaced people in northern Nigeria.



THE CHALLENGE:

Political will

It was 1996. Wild polio would paralyze 75,000 children across Africa that year. A decade earlier, African health ministers had agreed to a goal to reach 75 percent of children with vaccines by 1990 — but the gains they had made were erased in the face of a deteriorating regional economy, lingering drought, competing health priorities, and debilitating civil wars. Polio eradication needed a champion.

Rotary and its partners found one in Nelson Mandela. Approached by Rotary leaders, Mandela, then president of South Africa, agreed to advocate for the cause. At the July 1996 summit of the Organization of African Unity (the predecessor to the African Union), Mandela galvanized his fellow African heads of state to make polio eradication an urgent priority. Within weeks, Mandela, with Rotary leaders by his side, launched the Kick Polio Out of Africa campaign, using soccer matches and sports stars to rally support. By the end of the year, more than 30 countries had held National or Sub-national Immunization Days, and 60 million children had been vaccinated. “The involvement of the African Union, particularly of Mandela, meant so much for us,” Okudzeto says. “It was fantastic.”

Rotary members used their respected roles in society — and often their personal charisma — to advocate for their governments to become active in polio eradication. “Security and political will were the biggest challenges,” says Richmond-Ahoua, the Côte d’Ivoire PolioPlus Committee chair from 1996 to 2014. “We have to convince civic society, opinion leaders, parents, traditional leaders, and religious leaders. Ending polio was not an option; it was an obligation.”

Such advocacy work wasn’t glamorous; it involved regular meetings with ministers of health and their staff members to remind them that polio-virus was still there. And sometimes Rotary members had to get creative to convince recalcitrant leaders that it was their responsibility to immunize the citizens of their country. Richmond-Ahoua tells a story about this.

It was 2000, and there had been a coup in Côte d’Ivoire. The new government didn’t want to carry out National Immunization Days. Richmond-Ahoua decided to go to the head of state’s home — without an appointment.

Upon arrival, she asked to see the wife of General Robert Guéï, who had been put in charge after the coup. “They looked at me as if I was mad,” she says. “But Rotarians take risks when they want some-

thing.” After waiting more than five hours, she was finally called in to see the first lady, Rose Doudou Guéï. When she explained why she was there, the first lady was in complete agreement, and she not only convinced her husband of the importance of the NIDs, but attended one herself. “She’s a woman.

She has children. She understood,” Richmond-Ahoua says.

Richmond-Ahoua’s story is one dramatic example of the everyday advocacy by Rotary members to keep polio at the top of the political agenda in countries throughout the continent. Though now Africa is wild polio-free, the work will continue, Richmond-Ahoua says. “We have to ensure that the political will is strong to finish the job.”

Kaba recalls looking at a map of Niger with Tandja, the country’s president from 1999 to 2010. “Niger is a huge country, the size of California and Texas combined, and two-thirds of the country is desert. He said, ‘Can we eradicate polio from this country?’” Kaba remembers. “I said, ‘Yes, with your help, we can.’” ■

ROTARY MEMBERS USED THEIR RESPECTED ROLES IN SOCIETY TO ADVOCATE FOR THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO BECOME ACTIVE IN POLIO ERADICATION.

The next phase

The certification of the African region as wild polio-free is a milestone in Rotary’s commitment to rid the world of polio. But the work isn’t over. “We are entering a phase that will be a bit more difficult, because when we advocate for more funds and more resources, people will say that we’ve been certified polio-free, so why do we need more?” Funsho says.

As long as the poliovirus survives anywhere, it remains only a plane ride away. Routine immunization rates in Nigeria aren’t high enough to guarantee that if wild poliovirus is imported back into the country, more children won’t be paralyzed. The country will still need to hold regular National Immunization Days, even if not at the pace they were held before certification. “Our current slogan is ‘Keep Polio at Zero,’” Funsho says.

You can play a part in keeping Africa free of wild polio — and in wiping out wild polio in the last two endemic countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Each contribution to the PolioPlus Fund gets us closer to our goal of \$50 million per year to end polio. With every dollar matched 2-to-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, your donation goes even further to help reach children in every part of the world with the polio vaccine as well as other lifesaving vaccines and health care. Make your contribution at endpolio.org/donate.







EYE ON AFRICA

In his photographs, Andrew Esiebo helps people see and understand everyday Africa — its colors, its chaos, its progress — while bringing Rotary’s work there to life



Andrew Esiebo’s photography is based on trust. “My starting point is not taking pictures,” he explains. “It’s asking questions. When you give someone space to tell their story, the trust comes.”

Esiebo, 42, began documenting life in Nigeria 20 years ago when a friend bought him a camera. He started capturing what he saw — everything from street soccer games to unusual uses of space in crowded Lagos — and worked out his technique through trial and error. Today, Esiebo’s photos are shown internationally and have appeared in the *New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *National Geographic*, and many other publications, including, since 2017, in this magazine.

In his photography for *Rotary*, Esiebo connects members with the impact of their work in some of the hardest-to-access places in the world, such as northeastern Nigeria, where he has documented the polio workers who risk their lives in areas controlled by the terrorist group Boko Haram and photographed young women survivors of kidnapping who were able to study at a university through the support of Rotary. In Rwanda, he brought to life the unexpected role a library has played in healing a nation fractured by civil war and genocide. And during the pandemic, he has been documenting the work of COVID-19 frontline workers for the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control.

In this conversation with contributing editor Vanessa Glavinskis, Esiebo explains how he developed his craft, how he gains access in complicated situations, and how photographing Rotary projects has inspired him.



Andrew Esiebo shot our October 2020 cover image; some of his photos also appear in “Polio Free” in this issue. See the other stories he has photographed for Rotary:

- ▶ “More Than a Library,” Kigali, Rwanda (February 2020)
- ▶ “The Sustainability Challenge,” Ghana (December 2019)
- ▶ “The Plus in PolioPlus,” Nigeria (October 2019)
- ▶ “Where Polio Hides,” Borno state, Nigeria (May 2017)
- ▶ “Education on the Front Lines,” Yola, Nigeria (February 2017)

Previous pages:

I shot this from the balcony of a building overlooking Ahmadu Bello Way in Kaduna. I wanted to give context to a shoot for a story about PolioPlus. It’s also a metaphor for the way things work in Nigeria — even if rules are in place, people find a way to go around them. Everything is negotiable.

Opposite:

I took this photo on the way to Dochi, a town about 50 miles northwest of Accra, Ghana. It struck me as such breathtaking scenery, but it’s also a really remote location that I would never see if I didn’t get to do this kind of work for Rotary.

What was your first camera?

It was a film camera, a Nikon Nikkormat that came with a fixed 35 mm lens. I got it as a gift from a friend, because I couldn’t afford it at that time. I grew up in a working-class family with five kids in Lagos. We were not really poor and not really rich; we just had to work hard. But I lost my dad when I was 11, and my mom couldn’t care for all five of us anymore. I went to live with my uncle in Ibadan, about 140 kilometers from Lagos. He’s a commercial photographer and began teaching me how to develop negatives in the lab. We’d go into the darkroom, expose the images, and develop the pictures. I loved it.

Are you primarily self-taught?

Yes. Everyone told me to get an education and become a banker, a doctor, an accountant. There was no way I could imagine becoming a photographer. I was too scared to even tell my uncle when I started taking pictures. He wanted me in a real professional job, not a trade. But after finishing high school, when I was trying to get into university, my interest in photography grew. There was no university where I could study photography, so I studied journalism at the International Institute of Journalism in Ibadan. It was a professional school, not a university. One of the ways I was able to improve my craft was to go to various workshops. My passion for photography was so strong. I eventually applied for a grant from an organization called CulturesFrance and won a residency to go to France and work on a photography project for five months. I could finally develop my craft without worrying about survival.

In France, you documented the lives of African gay men. Why did you focus on this topic?

I thought it would be interesting, but relatively easy, to document the daily life of these men in France. But it was so difficult. Even though the men were living so far from home, they were still worried about speaking up, because being gay in Africa is very taboo. It was a challenge for me to get people to collaborate with me and let me understand their lives.

How did you gain their trust?

I just spoke my honest truth about what I wanted to do. I wanted to take on the taboo. But still no one would spend time

with me. I was ready to give up when someone who’d previously refused to talk with me called and said, “I want to speak with you.” When we met, I didn’t even ask him one question, and he told me everything, beyond what I expected. That’s when I learned that people want to share their stories, but first you have to make them feel they can trust you. They need to feel safe. And if people don’t want to give you their story, then you’re not meant to do it. There will be other stories.

That body of work was eventually shown at several photo festivals. I didn’t just want to show the man’s sexual life, but his daily life and struggles. I had a friend in Nigeria who I later showed this work to, and he called me one day and said that it helped him accept a gay friend, and he thanked me. It was nice to see that my work actually affected somebody. In Nigeria, homosexuality is discriminated against. I did this project to create a platform to start a conversation around sexuality.

What’s the philosophy behind your photography?

All of my projects are about trying to understand people and how they live. From the Rotary projects I’ve visited, I’ve learned a lot about the human condition, about people’s daily life and culture, by observing what’s around me.

What stands out to you among the Rotary projects you’ve photographed?

I did a series where the idea was to document polio survivors and how polio had affected their lives. Photographing the polio survivors was an inspiration to me. There was one woman who I remember very well. She had had polio and was unable to walk, but she still goes out during National Immunization Days to encourage people to get vaccinated. She wants her experience to be useful to others. That’s inspirational to me. I saw her as someone who was empowered, who did not give up, and I tried to show her that way.

What’s your biggest struggle as a photographer?

The unique thing about my position is that I enjoy what I’m doing, so even when it’s hard, it’s still fulfilling. But my biggest struggle is trying to win people’s trust. Photographing people can be challeng-

ing. You cannot predict who a person is, so I'm always hoping my subject will collaborate with me. Photography is about 40 percent technical skills; the other 60 percent relies on your ability to connect with the subject.

When did you realize that you could make a career out of photography?

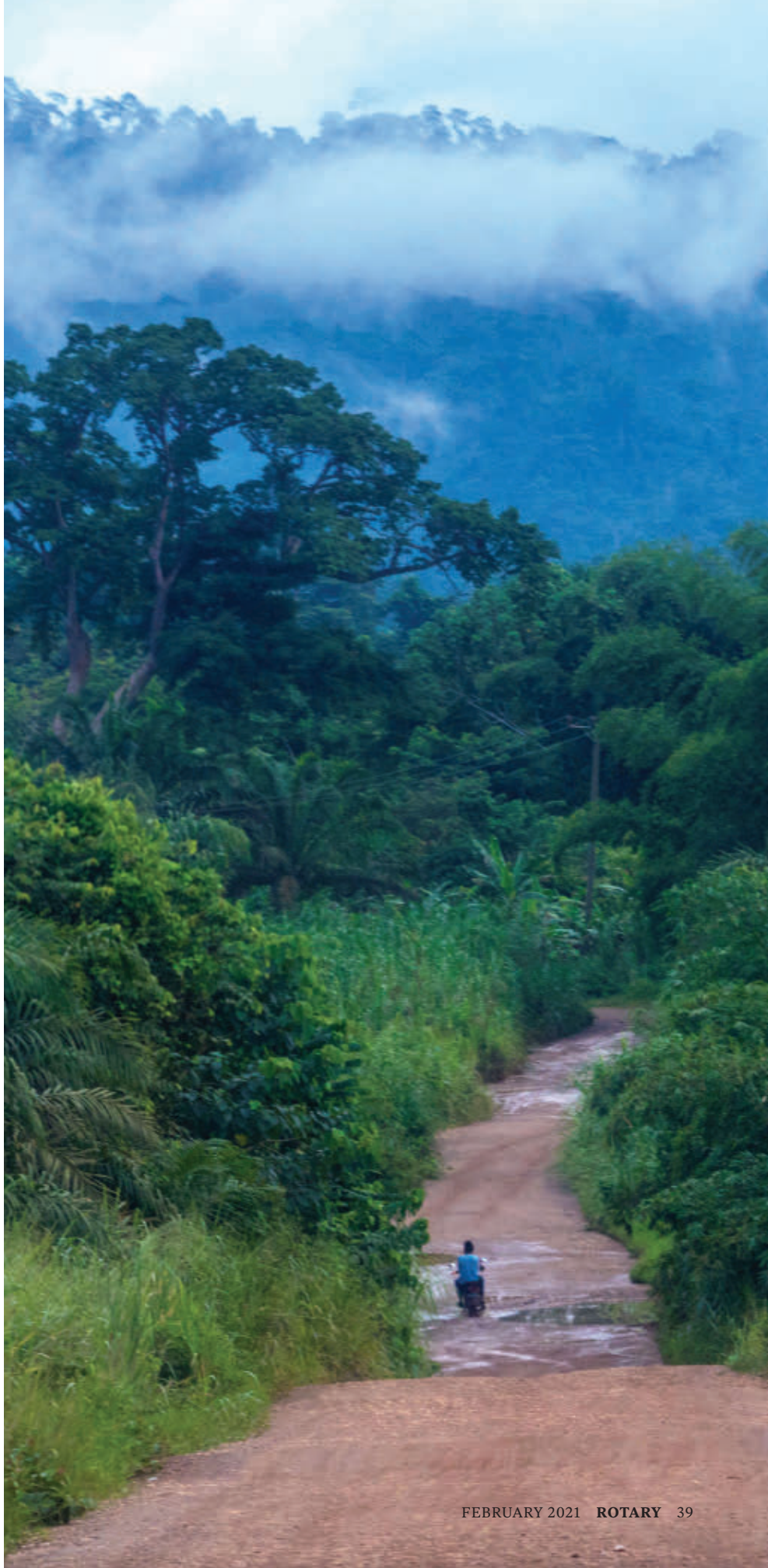
In the beginning, I was only interested in developing my own body of work. My starting point of being a professional photographer was in 2007 when I got the grant to go to France. Then I went to the UK on another grant and did a story on Nigerians living there. After that, I got a job in Italy exploring how Nigerian and Ghanaian Pentecostal churches relate to the Catholic Church. But until 2012, I was just developing myself. I never had the intention of getting assignments, but the assignments started coming. I think what helped me was that I don't just take beautiful pictures. The pictures tell a story.

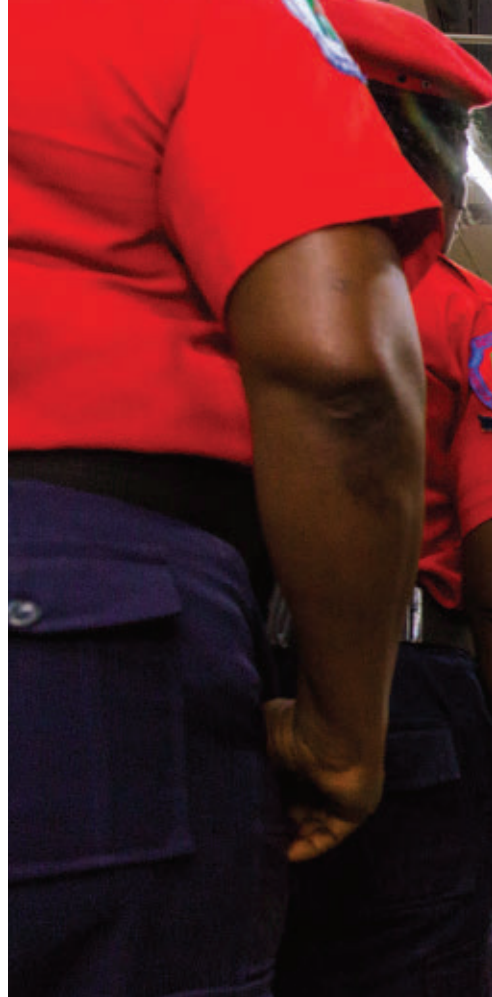
Many of your photographs focus on the Nigerian experience. Is that intentional?

I document my daily reality so it becomes a testimony of today. I'm interested in telling the story of my society. The West will think what they want about us — for me it's important to tell my story.

What have you learned about Rotary since you started photographing projects for this magazine?

In high school, we had Interact. It was something for the social guys, so being in the Interact club was about going to parties. That was the notion I had about Rotary when Jennifer [Moody, *Rotary* magazine's art director] approached me to do a story. That's when I found out that Rotary wasn't what I thought it was, and I was really intrigued. I learned about the change Rotary makes in people's lives. One thing that struck me was how much PolioPlus changes people's lives. In Nigeria, polio survivors have gone from begging on the street to starting small businesses and becoming independent. Rotary empowers people, and when you empower them, they don't need to wait for you to provide for them; they find ways to do it on their own.





**Jennifer Moody,
Rotary art director:**

Andrew is able to create meaningful portraits because he connects so easily with his subjects. He puts people at ease while paying close attention to their body language and gestures. He makes sure he is photographing people in the environment that best highlights their experience. Then he takes the time he needs to find a lovely compositional balance.



CONNECTION

Clockwise from top left:

Polio survivor Isiaku Musa Maaji has his own business in Kaduna building hand-operated tricycles. While photographing him, I learned that four of his five children were able to attend private school. He could pay their school fees because of his business.

This was part of a shoot I did for a profile of Rotary member Margee Ensign, who brought girls who had survived a 2014 kidnapping by Boko Haram to study at the American University of Nigeria in Yola, where she was president. I wanted to illustrate what it takes to allow them some sense of security at the university.

I like an image that can incorporate many things. By photographing from the back of this classroom in Kade, Ghana, I could show the context: the students, the teacher, and what's written on the board.

When I took this photo at the Kigali Public Library — which Rotary members led the campaign to build in the aftermath of Rwanda's 1994 genocide — what struck me was how the pattern in the fabric behind this man mimics books. It's called Dutch wax fabric, and it is very popular across Africa. It's a part of our cultural identity.





Moody: This assignment was for a story about immunization activities in camps for internally displaced people in Nigeria's Borno state, and we needed to help our readers understand the vastness of these settlements. The warm yellow and beige tones contrast with the harsh reality of having to share one's "home" with thousands of other people. Because of the tremendous challenges those living here face to simply exist day to day, we decided that Andrew should show life at a distance.



CONTEXT

Clockwise from far left:

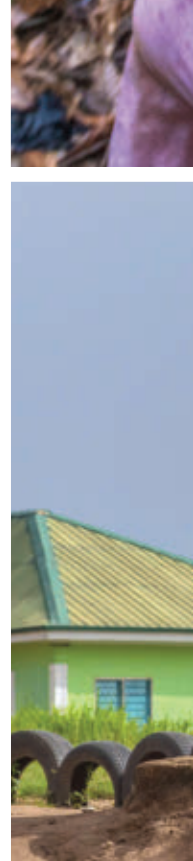
Water is a luxury in the Muna Garage El Badawe temporary settlement in Maiduguri, Nigeria. People take turns filling up their buckets when the water is running. They line up their buckets to hold their place in line. What was interesting to me is that so many of the buckets are yellow. To me, yellow is a happy color. But this isn't a happy photo.

I was looking for visual ways to reflect the factors that lead to polio, and one of those is living in an unhygienic environment. The Bakasi camp in the Borno state of Nigeria is for people who have been displaced by Boko Haram. This channel is filthy and full of garbage, but people use it. I often show Rotary bringing a solution, but it's also essential to depict what causes polio.

It was important to me to reflect the scale of the Bakasi camp in order to represent the number of people who have been displaced. I climbed a water tower to get this image.



Moody: Photography offers us a tool that can illustrate abstract or complex topics. In the United States, when we talk about water projects, people tend to think only about drinking water, so it was important for Andrew to capture photos of Rotary's projects that show how people also use water for washing, cooking, and bathing. He infused a point of view that makes these images intriguing.



ARTISTRY

Clockwise from top:

I wanted to portray what people have to go through to get water in Dochi, Ghana. To show the water itself, I needed to get to a higher point, so I climbed a tree. I also wanted to show how the water moves, so I had to play a bit with my shutter speed to get this shot.

I was outside Accra with Rotary members visiting a community WASH [water, sanitation, and hygiene] project. I saw this guy with a bucket. He had a towel wrapped around him, and I realized he was going to take a shower. But if you look at that picture, it's not about him. It's about daily life, how people take a shower. I didn't want to reveal his identity, but rather to show the space.

A community development fund keeps the water going in this community in Ghana. The residents are able to maintain the borehole provided through Rotary and USAID because they have this funding over time. I was looking for a way to illustrate the negotiation and payment in the context of water, and I was so happy to capture that image in the reflection in the bucket.





Moody: In Rotary's photographic storytelling, our objective is to illustrate stories in a way that helps the reader understand a subject more deeply. Andrew and I have discussed how his camera speaks a language that most of us can't speak but that we all understand. His photos translate the experience for the reader. And his extraordinary sense of timing is key to his ability to capture these details: These are the moments we never see unless they are captured in a still image.

PERSPECTIVE

Clockwise from far left:

I was at a meeting near Accra when I saw this boy playing with the water. I had this visual in mind and I used a super-quick shutter speed to freeze the drops of water in the air.

When I'm shooting people doing labor, I try to get below them so they are elevated and look empowered. These women in Ghana are using water provided by Rotary and USAID to process oil palm fruits and seeds. By going low, I could also capture the movement of the fruits.

A lot of health care workers responding to COVID-19 have also worked on polio and are using the polio infrastructure to engage communities, educate people that the virus is real, and encourage them to get tested. I managed to catch these health workers' reflections in a puddle as they crossed a street in Lagos; then I flipped the photo.

As this woman washed clothes, I blurred the movement by reducing my shutter speed, and I shot from above to show both the clean and the soapy water. You always get good angles when you go 6 feet lower or 6 feet higher. I learned this years ago in a conversation with an American photographer. Capturing an image shouldn't take more than 10 seconds, but first you need to know what you want to shoot. I always see a picture in my mind before I do anything with the camera.



Building *the* Dream

ON ROTARY'S 116TH ANNIVERSARY,
A LOOK BACK AT ITS VARIOUS HEADQUARTERS —
AND THE PLACE WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

by GEOFFREY JOHNSON

W

HEN HE SAT DOWN to write about Rotary's first headquarters, Chesley Perry was specific about the who, the when, and the why, but maddeningly vague about the where. In the December 1934 issue of *The Rotarian*, Perry recalled the "hot day in Chicago in August 1910" when the organization's Board of Directors persuaded him to serve as Rotary's first general secretary.

"From Paul Harris' office, where we had been carrying on the promotion of the [first Rotary] convention, I brought a card file and a correspondence file, and placed them on the top of my desk in my own office in a building then at 189 La Salle Street, near Monroe Street. The building has been replaced, and the number of the street has been changed. That was the first office of what is now Rotary International."

As Perry intimated, Chicago underwent a citywide renumbering of its street addresses beginning in 1909, and it can sometimes be difficult to locate precisely where an old address is situated today. But materials in Rotary's archives and other resources helped pinpoint Perry's office (in the now-demolished Calumet Building) and other details of Rotary's various headquarters over the years. A look at those buildings — as well as the Unity Building, where Rotary got its start 116 years ago this month — opens a door onto the organization's past and onto the architectural history of the city.



Each of the Calumet's 58 offices had a different pattern of wallpaper.

Unity Building

Current address: 127 N. Dearborn St.

Built: 1892

Architect: Clinton J. Warren

Demolished: 1990

What's there now: A parking garage

In 1905, Gustavus Loehr, a mining engineer, had his office in Room 711 of this 16-story building. Paul Harris (who at one time also had his law office in the building), Loehr, and the two other original members of Rotary — Silvester Schiele and Hiram E. Shorey — held their first meeting there on 23 February of that year. In anticipation of the 1980 Rotary International Convention in Chicago, Rotarians leased Room 711 and restored it to its early 20th-century appearance. Before the building's demolition, members of the Paul Harris 711 Club dismantled the office; today it's at One Rotary Center.

► **Fun fact:** Because of a mishap during its construction, the Unity Building tilted about 27 inches to the south.

Calumet Building

Years occupied by Rotary: 1910-11

Current address: 111-17 S. La Salle St.

Built: 1884

Architect: Burnham & Root

Demolished: 1914

What's there now: West building of the Harris Bank complex

In 1914, as the nine-story Calumet Building awaited the wrecking ball, the *Chicago Tribune* hailed it as one of the “landmarks” in what had recently become (and remains) the city’s financial district. Later reviews, written with only photos to critique, were mixed. One critic praised this “handsome structure of red brick and terra cotta”; another thought the “various intricacies” of the façade “unwittingly devalue[ed] the wall almost to the point of suggesting gingham.”

► **Fun fact:** Each of the building’s 58 offices had a different pattern of wallpaper.



First National Bank

Years occupied by Rotary: 1911-13

Address: 38 S. Dearborn St.

Built: 1905

Architect: D.H. Burnham & Co.

Demolished: 1970

What's there now: *The Four Seasons*, a four-sided mosaic by Marc Chagall

When it was completed, a leading architectural journal of the day called the opulent 18-story First National Bank building “a marvel of what may be termed American architecture. ... No one could enter here without being much impressed by its vastness, its magnificent scale and proportion.” Rotary moved its headquarters there in 1911, sharing a small office — and a stenographer — with the Rotary Club of Chicago.

► **Fun fact:** The building was built in two phases. On one afternoon in December 1903, after the completion of the first phase, First National employees moved \$14 million in gold, silver, and bank bills, as well as many millions more in securities, from the old bank, which was slated for demolition, to the newly built bank next door.



Fort Dearborn Building

Years occupied by Rotary: 1913-14

Address: 105 W. Monroe St.

Built: 1895

Architect: Jenney & Mundie

Demolished: 1957

What's there now: Harris Bank Addition

In 1913, Rotary left the Chicago club's office behind and moved into its own space: three small rooms in the 16-story Fort Dearborn Building. Perry recalled that “there were those who felt that our small back rooms were not in harmony with the dignity of such an organization as Rotary International, which we began to realize was to become a world-wide movement.”

► **Fun fact:** The building was once home to Cook County's Circuit and Superior courts.



Karpén Building

Years occupied by Rotary: 1914-23

Address: 910 S. Michigan Ave.

Built: 1911

Architect: Marshall & Fox

What's there now: Its conversion to condominiums in 2000 made this one of the pioneer residential buildings in the South Loop neighborhood. Today it's known as the Michigan Avenue Lofts.

Rotary left Chicago's Loop in 1914, moving south into the 13-story headquarters of S. Karpén & Bros., then the largest upholstered furniture company in the world. “We had lovely, light offices,” recalled Perry, who oversaw a large increase in the staff — from 10 to 78 employees — during the nine years Rotary spent in the building. The organization's “administrative activities increased, [and] it began to function in several languages,” he recalled. “Five times we had to increase our space there.”

► **Fun fact:** The Standard Oil Co. bought the building in 1917, paying \$3.5 million — at that time the largest single real estate transaction in Chicago's history. Standard Oil added seven stories to the building and erected a giant illuminated sign with the company's logo on the roof. A longtime beacon on the nighttime skyline, the sign was touted, when it was installed in 1956, as the largest neon emblem in the United States.



Atwell Building

Years occupied by Rotary: 1923-28

Address: 221 E. Cullerton St.

Built: 1922

Architect: Alfred S. Alschuler

What's there now: The building, known today as the Prairie Avenue Lofts, still stands.

In 1923, Rotary moved farther south into what had been, in the last decades of the 19th century, Chicago's most fashionable neighborhood (grand houses from that era are now part of the Prairie Avenue Historic District). When Rotary arrived, the neighborhood was shifting from residential to commercial; its new eight-story headquarters belonged to the Atwell Printing & Binding Co. The staff liked the new offices, but, according to Perry, "there was some dissatisfaction on the part of Rotarians both in the United States and in other countries over the undignified quarters which we had there, and the distance we were from the central business section of Chicago."

► **Fun fact:** Atwell printed catalogs, ballots, and more than 50 magazines, including the *American Poultry Journal*, *College Comics*, *Dry Goods Reporter*, *Motor Age*, *Railway Review* — and *The Rotarian*.



Chicago Evening Post Building

Years occupied by Rotary: 1928-34

Address: 211 W. Wacker Drive

Built: 1928

Architect: Holabird & Root

What's there now: The building is known today simply as 211 W. Wacker.

In 1928, Rotary International returned to the heart of the city, moving into a new building on West Wacker Drive, a newly constructed thoroughfare along the Chicago River. "We were in an attractive location, with plenty of light," recalled Perry, "but we discovered that it was a neighborhood of considerable noise." An increase in staff, from 88 employees to 105, would, after six years, necessitate another move, to a building about six blocks east.

► **Fun fact:** At various times from 1928 to 1958, three Chicago newspapers had their headquarters there: the *Evening Post*, the *Daily Times*, and the *Sun-Times*.

Jewelers Building

Years occupied by Rotary: 1934-54

Address: 35 E. Wacker Drive

Built: 1927

Architect: Giaver & Dinkelberg (Thielbar & Fugard, supervising architects)

What's there now: The building still stands; today it's known by its address.

Rotary spent 20 years at this location — longer than at any of its other Chicago headquarters. It occupied parts of three floors "in the style," as Perry put it, "... befitting such an organization as Rotary International. ... Here we shall be in a better position to render service to the board, the committees, the district governors, the commissioners, and to club officers and committees."

► **Fun fact No. 1:** To provide greater security for vehicles loaded with gems, the Jewelers Building originally housed a parking garage on several floors in the building and accessible from Lower Wacker Drive by a car elevator.

► **Fun fact No. 2:** In the 2005 movie *Batman Begins*, the Caped Crusader watches over Gotham City from one of the building's four turrets; meanwhile, at street level, from his perch atop a large clock, Father Time counts down the days of our lives.



1600 Ridge Ave.

Years occupied by Rotary: 1954-87
Address: 1600 Ridge Ave., Evanston
Built: 1954

Architect: Harry E. Maher and Kenneth A. McGrew

What's there now: Northwestern University's Office of Alumni Relations and Development and its Department of Safety and Security

In 1954, Rotary International departed the Windy City and moved its headquarters to Evanston, the lakefront suburb on Chicago's northern border. The move fulfilled a wish, expressed by Rotary President Albert Adams at the 1920 convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey, that Rotarians would one day "see our headquarters in a beautiful building of our own." A serious search commenced in 1943 and almost led to Rotary moving its headquarters to Denver; it culminated with the purchase, in 1952, of a lot in Evanston and the construction of the organization's new three-story headquarters, a 50,000-square-foot building that accommodated 150 employees. "Does its unpretentious dignity and its efficient work space 'typify the spirit of Rotary?'" asked *The Rotarian*. "... You be the judge: the building is yours."

► **Fun fact:** On 16 May 1954, about 400 people from 10 countries gathered at the new headquarters for the ceremonial laying of its cornerstone. Inside was an airtight box that contained a trove of historical Rotary artifacts, including 11 books (among them, Paul Harris' *My Road to Rotary*); "Rotary in 47 Minutes" and a dozen other pamphlets; and a raft of other items, such as a list of past Rotary presidents, a copy of The Four-Way Test, a membership card and lapel pin, and a filmed interview with Paul Harris and Chesley Perry.



One Rotary Center

Years occupied by Rotary: 1987-present
Address: 1560 Sherman Ave., Evanston
Built: 1977
Architect: Schipporeit Inc.

By 1985, Rotary International, with a staff of 322, had outgrown its Ridge Avenue headquarters — so much so that the 56 employees assigned to The Rotary Foundation had been moved into a newly acquired building nearby. Additional space was leased in yet another building for staff working on PolioPlus. After the RI Board investigated and abandoned plans to either build a new building or further expand the Ridge Avenue headquarters — whose interior space had already grown to 77,000 square feet — the organization's Investment Advisory Committee recommended the acquisition of an 18-story building a half-mile from the Ridge Avenue location that had been constructed for the American Hospital Supply Corp. in 1977. Introducing the new headquarters in the August 1987 issue, *The Rotarian* bragged that the "building has impressive meeting rooms and executive offices, a modern kitchen, an attractive cafeteria to serve 350 people, a high-standard auditorium with seating for 190 persons, complete



with stage and sound and projection booth, a telecommunications center, and an indoor garage with spaces for 375 cars." (Left unmentioned were the unparalleled views of Lake Michigan and the Chicago skyline.) As home to the U.S. offices of the organization's Secretariat with 568 employees, One Rotary Center, in addition to providing support to the organization's myriad local and global programs and projects, is a living repository of Rotary's vitality and its remarkable 116-year history — from the interactive Arch Klumph Society gallery on the 17th floor to the re-creation of the Unity Building's Room 711, where it all began in 1905.

► **Fun fact:** When the building was owned by American Hospital Supply, its lobby housed a museum devoted to surgical tools and techniques. ■

AN OPEN INVITATION

Take a video tour of One Rotary Center at my.rotary.org/visit-rotary-international-world-headquarters.

Photo credits, from left: Courtesy of Prairie District Neighborhood Alliance; Civic ArtWorks/Zach Borders; Wikipedia/Joaquim Alves Gaspar; Rotary International; Rotary International; Monika Lozinska/Rotary International

OUR CLUBS

VIRTUAL VISIT

Uncommon knowledge

Rotary Club of Washington Global, D.C.

Quentin Wodon, an economist at the World Bank, joined Rotary to share his expertise, to network, and to help others. He has remained a member because he enjoys it. “I have been a Rotarian for 10 years,” says Wodon. “My father was a Rotarian, and I was a Rotaractor in Belgium. I also did Rotary Youth Exchange, so I’ve known Rotary for a long time.”

Wodon, who was a member of the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill (Washington, D.C.) and before that the Rotary Club of Washington, had been thinking about starting a club unlike any he had been a part of before. “I wanted to make it a knowledge club,” he explains. “In Rotary, we have a lot of goodwill. But, by nature, it’s extremely decentralized.” That decentralization, he says, makes it hard to share best practices and evaluate effectiveness. He thought that if a club could focus on collecting information and disseminating reports, it would not only help other clubs improve their projects, but also enhance Rotary’s authority among other

international development organizations.

With this vision in mind, Wodon formed the Rotary Club of Washington Global a year ago with 38 members. “We accept both local members and members all over the world who join us online,” he says.

The first meeting was held in person for members in the Washington area, with others joining via videoconference, but when the coronavirus pandemic prompted stay-at-home orders, the club switched to all-virtual meetings. That hasn’t stopped its growth. “We’re already at more than 50 members,” says Manuela Mot, who serves as the club’s membership chair and who, like a number of other members, works at the World Bank. “I think we actually got many members because of COVID-19. People want to feel that they belong somewhere right now.”

The club recently hosted a series of events on conflict, migration, and refugees, highlighting the expertise and connections of its members, many of whom work in international development. Those connections paved the way for the club to co-host, with the Organization of American States (OAS), an online conference on migration and refugees last June. “We are trying to bring together the strength of Rotary with the strength of the institutions that we work for,” says member Lara Bersano, who works for the Trust for the Americas, which is affiliated with the OAS.

While most Rotary clubs bring in a diverse roster of speakers to their meetings, the Washington Global club spends months developing a series of presentations that delve into a particular subject. Members solicit expert speakers, host webinars,

Vital statistics

- ▶ **Charter date:** 28 February 2020
- ▶ **Charter membership:** 38
- ▶ **Current membership:** 53

38
Percentage of members who are under age 40

3/4
Proportion of members who are women

About 50
Percentage of members who are Rotary alumni

1st and 3rd
Tuesdays each month when the club meets

▶ Visit the club’s website at **washingtonglobalrotary.org**. Learn more about the new action group at **rotaryactiongroupforpeace.org**.

and then put together a detailed report on the topic. Their first report focused on migration and refugees; the second examined education. “We aim to serve as

a knowledge club or small think tank for Rotarians,” Wodon says.

This model has proved attractive to younger professionals. “Many of our charter members are people under 40,” Mot notes, and many are Rotary alumni. Mot, who is originally from Romania, is a former Rotary Peace Fellow. Bersano grew up in Argentina, where she participated in Interact, Rotaract, RYLA, and Rotary. “Many of our members are people who have benefited from Rotary in the past,” Mot says. “They now want to give back to the community and help Rotary.”

Low dues and flexible attendance options have also helped bring in younger members. Dues are set at \$250 per year, with a \$50 discount for members under age 35. The current membership rolls include people based in countries including the United States, Canada, France, and Uganda who work at organizations that include the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, OAS, and USAID.

The club sponsors a small community-based satellite club in Maryland where members can take part in local projects. Members are also working on the new Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration and on a fellowship being formed for Rotary members interested in global development.

“Refugees are of interest to our members because they need support in every one of the seven areas of focus,” Wodon explains. “It’s also an issue that’s going to get worse and worse.”

Initial interest in the action group has been strong, and Wodon hopes the group will eventually serve as a kind of consultancy for clubs organizing projects that help refugees. “Knowledge is as important as funding,” he says. “That’s why the action groups are so important. They are Rotary’s way to provide expertise.” The new fellowship will provide a network-



ing opportunity for members who work in global development, as well as a way to share information.

The swift growth of the Washington Global club is a testament to the commitment of members like Rose Cardarelli, who is new to Rotary but has already recruited three other members. “I think we have a responsibility to reach out, because people are interested but don’t know how to approach the organization,” she says. Cardarelli, who runs a non-profit that focuses on education, is also Rotary International’s new representative to UNICEF in New York City.

“Starting a new Rotary club is not like riding a bike. The people and the issues are different every time,” says Bersano, who has previously helped to charter a Rotaract and a Rotary club. “But what’s the same is the vision of Paul Harris. We are friends and help each other, and then we go out and help our community.”

—VANESSA GLAVINSKAS

Members of the Rotary Club of Washington Global, from left: Rose Cardarelli, Lara Bersano, Quentin Wodon, and Manuela Mot.

“We aim to serve as a knowledge club or small think tank for Rotarians.”



FOUR QUESTIONS

Beyond borders

Intercountry committees form a framework for promoting peace and service

Cyril Noirtin experienced the value of international friendship when he went to Hartland, Wisconsin, as a Rotary Youth Exchange student in 1989. Upon returning home to Nancy, France, he joined a Rotaract club and eventually became president of the European Rotaract Information Center, where he learned about intercountry committees (ICCs). Established in 1950, ICCs help build friendship and cooperation among Rotary clubs in different countries and improve relations among Rotary members in regions historically affected by conflict. There are now some 400 ICCs around the world.

In 2001, Noirtin and several Rotaract friends established the Rotary Club of Paris Agora, which he served as charter president. He is the primary RI representative to UNESCO and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development as well as the chair of the intercountry committee executive council.

1 What's the story behind intercountry committees?

Reaching across borders to promote peace, international understanding, and goodwill is an integral part of Rotary's message and is reflected in its fourth Avenue of Service. In the early 1930s, Rotarians in Germany and France created a *petit comité franco-allemand* to promote

peace and understanding between the countries. The committee had to stop its activities when the Nazis banned Rotary clubs in Germany.

After the Second World War, at a Rotary District 70 conference in Strasbourg, France, in 1950, Robert Haussmann (Stuttgart, Germany) and Roger Coutant (Lille, France) created a new intercountry committee between France and Germany, with the aim of reestablishing bonds of international friendship and promoting peace. Based on that example, other ICCs were developed by clubs worldwide, but in Europe in particular. ICCs help strengthen international understanding and social, economic, and cultural relations, and they provide a mechanism for the efficient promotion of peace. They have traditionally served as a catalyst for international service and are frequently the framework through which many international service projects are carried out.

“Reaching across borders to promote peace is an integral part of Rotary’s message.”

2 How do ICCs advance Rotary’s peacebuilding goals?

ICCs help Rotarians and Rotaractors to learn about other cultures and to work together on Rotary programs and build international partnerships, including for projects funded by global grants. They also promote the image of Rotary in general and help establish new clubs.

ICCs have been a major factor in the expansion of Rotary in Eastern and Central Europe since the end of the Cold War. In the 1990s, French Rotarians formed ICCs with Poland, Russia, and Ukraine. This helped to reintroduce Rotary to Poland and Ukraine, and encouraged the proliferation of Rotary clubs in Russia after the end of Soviet rule.

3 What is the process for forming an ICC?

ICCs involve districts in two or more countries. Rotary members in each country form a planning committee whose responsibilities include obtaining the endorsement of the district governors, organizing planning meetings, and identifying potential projects and activities for clubs from the ICC’s participating countries to jointly undertake. For an ICC to be a national relationship between two countries, all districts from both countries need to agree to the relationship. An ICC can also be subnational if a handful of districts from each country decide to formalize the international relationship.

4 What will be the focus of your 2021 preconvention event?

Intercountry Committees: Opening Opportunities for Peace is a one-day preconvention event that will explore how ICCs can promote Rotary’s mission and strategic vision. We hope to raise awareness about ICCs and their peacebuilding potential by highlighting successful relationships and accomplishments, including between countries that have been at war or are in permanent conflict. The event will be an interactive networking opportunity aimed at inspiring the formation of new ICCs. Breakout sessions will explain how to organize and manage ICCs and how to focus on service areas where ICCs can have the most impact. The event will offer different tracks: All interested participants are welcome regardless of experience with intercountry committees. — PAUL ENGLEMAN

Learn more at rotary-icc.org.

February events

6th

A BRRRISK GAME OF GOLF

Event:
Chili Open

Host:
Rotary Club of Akron, Ohio

What it benefits:
Camp for children with special needs

What it is:
Snow is a distinct possibility at this arctic (yet fun!) version of golf. The historic Hale Farm & Village in Bath is transformed into five courses with nine holes each, where brave “polar bear golfers” take to the tees. Contestants can warm up afterward with a chili meal. It’s probably better to choose brightly colored golf balls over the traditional white for this event!



19th to
21st

THE REEL DEAL

Event:
Banff Mountain Film Festival

Host:
Rotary Club of Grand Junction, Colorado

What it benefits:
Youth, education, and conservation initiatives

What it is:
For the sixth year, the Banff Mountain Film Festival makes a stop at the historic Avalon Theatre in downtown Grand Junction. For three nights, attendees can view a variety of acclaimed films about outdoor activities like kayaking, skiing, and hiking, as well as culturally oriented selections. There will also be an online option for those who prefer to watch from home.

14th

FOOD FIGHT

Event:
Hungry Games

Host:
Rotary Club of Nevada City, California

What it benefits:
Local youth programs

What it is:
Rescheduled from March 2020 because of COVID-19, this long-awaited event will feature a cook-off between two local chefs, live music, live and silent auctions, and a raffle for a dozen \$100 restaurant gift certificates. The chefs will share their culinary tips and tricks as they compete.



13th

ARID CONDITIONING

Event:
Buckskin Mountain Desert Dash

Host:
Rotary Club of Parker, Arizona

What it benefits:
Local charities

What it is:
There are cycling races and there are running races; this festive and casual desert competition combines the two. Participants can opt for a five-mile bike ride or a 5K walk or run. Everyone ends up at the Desert Bar for libations and camaraderie, and all participants are entered to win donated prizes via drawings.

27th to
28th

SEE FOOD, EAT IT

Event:
Stone Crab & Seafood Festival

Host:
Rotary Club of Homestead, Florida

What it benefits:
Local nonprofits

What it is:
Originally held on Key Largo, this beloved seafood fest was adopted by the Rotary Club of Homestead when it became too difficult to host on the island because of traffic concerns. Fresh seafood, live music, rides and entertainment for kids, and a plethora of craft and merchandise vendors add up to two days of much-anticipated fun.

Tell us about your event. Write to magazine@rotary.org with “calendar” in the subject line.

HANDBOOK

How to succeed at community assessments

Make sure your project accomplishes the community's goals (and not just your club's)

You wouldn't start a business without first researching the market. Yet clubs often start projects without taking the step of making sure it's something the community actually needs and can support.

"Imagine we visit a community, apply our values, and conclude they need a new well," says Ron Denham, a past governor of District 7070 and chair emeritus of the WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) Rotary Action Group. "But months later, we discover the well isn't being used. Had we listened to the community, we would have learned that what they really needed was a new toilet so women wouldn't risk abduction or rape by going into the bushes at night."

So before your club spends a single minute, dollar, or brain cell on your next project, make sure it will help the community thrive. A well-planned community assessment ensures a successful project for everyone involved.

— MAUREEN VAUGHT

DO

Do be aware of the dynamics of the room during community meetings. Are local leaders the only people speaking? You may want to organize smaller focus groups to give everyone a chance to be heard.

Do include more than just the physical assets in your assessment. Find out who has influence and expertise in the community. Who has the power to make decisions?

Do connect with local and regional government officials to see what initiatives are already underway. You'll avoid duplicating efforts and can work to complement what's already going on.

Do use a variety of methods. No one method works for every situation. A town hall is a good starting point, but you may want to include a survey or focus group to gather more information.

Do build a relationship with the community before starting your assessment. People will be more open about their needs, strengths, and weaknesses when they trust you and share a bond with you.


Do gather data from agencies and governments working in the region, says Martin Strutton, monitoring and evaluation coordinator for ShelterBox, a Rotary project partner. "Whatever information you receive, investigate to make sure it's accurate," he adds.

ASSESSMENT MUST-HAVES

The following elements are required for any global grant community assessment:

- ▶ **Include at least two involved stakeholder groups that fairly represent the community.**
- ▶ **Use a formal methodology.**
- ▶ **Assess more than infrastructure.**
- ▶ **Describe the current situation, including assets and needs.**
- ▶ **Explain the connection between the project and community assessment.**





“A true community assessment is a partnership between the club and community. If the community feels ownership and has a stake in the project, the success rate for the project is higher and more sustainable.”

– Ellina Kushnir, service and engagement manager, Programs & Grants

DON'T

Don't talk to just one or two people, or only meet with the local club. You can find a list of stakeholders for each area of focus in the Community Assessment Tools at Rotary.org.

Don't use a “check the box” wish list to find out what people need. If there is a menu of options, respondents are less likely to identify a need that isn't on the list.

Don't treat the surface issues and ignore the root cause.

Don't cherry-pick data to validate your assumptions.

Don't use the assessment to justify the project you want to do.

Don't focus only on materials and infrastructure; include training and maintenance to ensure your project is sustainable.

RESOURCES

Your membership in Rotary gives you access to experts and resources around the world that can help you design your assessment — and your eventual project.

Online tools at Rotary.org

- ▶ Community Assessment Tools
- ▶ A Guide to Global Grants
- ▶ Global Grants Community Assessment Results form
- ▶ Learning Center courses
- ▶ Areas of focus policy statements
- ▶ Six Steps to Sustainability

Professional expertise

- ▶ Rotary Action Groups
- ▶ Regional grants officers
- ▶ The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers
- ▶ Areas of focus staff
- ▶ District leaders



TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The satisfaction of stepping up

Giving is more than an activity. It is a way of life and a beacon in the search for hope in troubled times. There is great turmoil today, but these are not unusual times, not in the span of human history. The wisdom of the ages is especially important to help us set our path and purpose.

Such wisdom comes from the 12th-century philosopher known as Maimonides. Born in Córdoba, Spain, he and his family went into exile in Morocco to escape religious persecution. As a young man, he mastered Aristotle, astronomy, and later medicine. After moving to Cairo, Maimonides became known as the city's greatest rabbi, producing tomes of commentary on the Torah, and he lived out his final days as a renowned doctor.

But his greatest gift to humanity captured his thoughts about giving itself. His *Eight Levels of Charity* is a masterpiece that teaches us about what giving means and what motivates us to do it.

The bottom rung of Maimonides' ladder is giving out of pity or grudgingly. The next step up is giving less than one should, but doing so cheerfully. Climb up to the fifth rung and you are giving before being asked. Further up the ladder is giving in a way that the receiver does not know who the giver is. The eighth and highest level of charity is to anticipate distress and giving to avoid or prevent it.

When we immunize children against polio, we are anticipating potential illness. We do so with other efforts, such as Rotary projects that reduce the incidence of malaria or cervical cancer.

When we teach someone a profession that enables them to earn a living, we apply the eighth step. From microfinance to education, The Rotary Foundation helps us give the gift of self-reliance.

All of this good work awaits us, as does the work of supporting newborns, cleaning water sources, recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, and countless other efforts we lead.

I am proud to say that many Rotary members climb to the top of Maimonides' ladder. Many of them do so anonymously. Whoever they are and for whatever reason they share their gifts with the Foundation, I thank them.

As an organization, Rotary climbs that ladder as well. Every one of your donations helps us reach higher levels. As we climb this ladder as one, we gain a wider perspective. We see all those who need to be uplifted as well as the countless opportunities we have to help them in Rotary. And as we do so, we find our own meaning and purpose.

K.R. RAVINDRAN

Foundation trustee chair

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

First The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

Second High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

Third The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

Fourth The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

THE FOUR-WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say, or 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?

ROTARIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

The following code of conduct has been adopted for the use of Rotarians:

As a Rotarian, I will

1. Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life
2. Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect
3. Use my professional skills through Rotary to: mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world
4. Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians
5. Help maintain a harassment-free environment in Rotary meetings, events, and activities, report any suspected harassment, and help ensure non-retaliation to those individuals that report harassment.

TAIPEI CONVENTION

Beyond the city



Chen Hsi Fu

When you're in Taipei for the 2021 Rotary International Convention, 12-16 June, take the opportunity to explore other parts of Taiwan. We have a few suggestions.

Alishan, in central Taiwan, is a mountainous region known for its high-altitude tea plantations, which produce a coveted type of oolong, and for its breathtaking vistas. In the Alishan National Scenic Area, early risers are rewarded with the iconic "sea of clouds" at daybreak, when mountain-tops peek out from a vast blanket of misty vapor. Hike

around the park or see it from the comfort of the Alishan Forest Railway.

Sun Moon Lake, so named because part of the lake is shaped like a crescent moon and the other part like the sun, is also located in central Taiwan. Cycle around the lake on an 18-mile bike path, take a boat tour, or ride a gondola for a bird's-eye view of the turquoise waters.

Tainan, on the west coast, offers a different type of city experience from Taipei (see Welcome on page 2 for more on Tainan). From 1624 to

1662, Tainan was a trading base for Dutch colonists, and after the expulsion of the Dutch, the city was the island's capital for more than 200 years. Visit Anping Old Fort, constructed during Dutch rule, and the Great South Gate, built in 1736

as part of a defensive wall surrounding the city. And for something completely different, check out Anping Treehouse, a 19th-century warehouse that has been subsumed by an enormous banyan tree.

— SUSIE L. MA

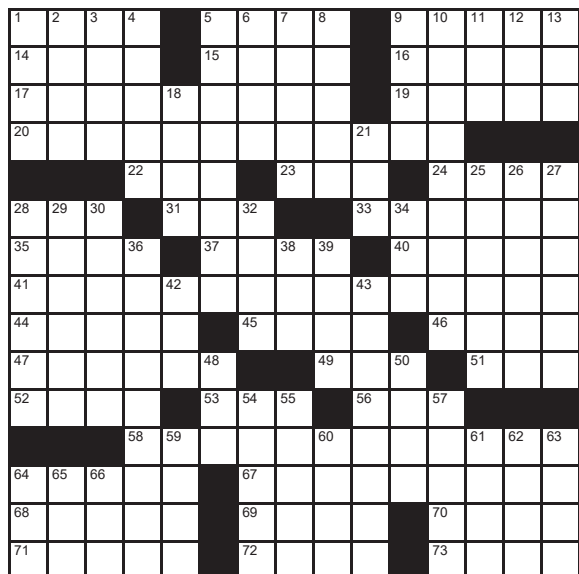
Learn more and register at convention.rotary.org.

CROSSWORD

Seeking serenity

(No. 1 in a series)

By Victor Fleming
Rotary Club of Little Rock, Arkansas



ACROSS

- 1 Kit ___ (Hershey's chocolaty wafer bars)
- 5 Actor LaBeouf
- 9 A-sharp equivalent
- 14 Tweak, as text
- 15 1970s video game
- 16 Make a formal speech
- 17 One who sleeps in
- 19 Stitched
- 20 Discourage combat
- 22 Made a lap?
- 23 Oft-broken golf gadget
- 24 Bilko and Friday (abbr.)
- 28 Fall mo.
- 31 Pop's mate
- 33 Clever comeback
- 35 Root veggie of the tropics
- 37 They may be rolled
- 40 "Dealer in purple cloth" in Acts
- 41 Keep disagreements from happening
- 44 Walk onto stage
- 45 Legal tender in Turin
- 46 1960s pop singer ___ Sands
- 47 Half an octet

- 49 Approximate takeoff hr.
- 51 Little batteries
- 52 Ice cream brand
- 53 "The Raven" writer's monogram
- 56 Mined cartload
- 58 Aid those who have left their countries to escape danger
- 64 Rear window add-on
- 67 When some athletes celebrate
- 68 Wake-up sound
- 69 Lyre's kin
- 70 Truth alternative
- 71 Sal in *Exodus*
- 72 Genesis garden
- 73 Lobe sight

DOWN

- 1 Brown seaweed
- 2 Hebrew month
- 3 Puente or Francona
- 4 Apple holders
- 5 Oater saloon staple
- 6 Some legwear
- 7 All thumbs
- 8 Just say yes
- 9 Anjou kin
- 10 Kind of swimming
- 11 Part of LSAT
- 12 Had breakfast, say
- 13 Baseball legend Williams

- 18 Drift
- 21 ___ Lingus
- 25 Legendary Lady on a horse
- 26 One of the Nixons
- 27 Asserts
- 28 City near Tampa, briefly
- 29 Merited
- 30 ___ Woman
- 32 Chess happening
- 34 North Pole figure
- 36 Elicit a cry of "TMI!"
- 38 Fort Worth sch.
- 39 Hot under the collar
- 42 Stretch named for someone, maybe
- 43 Rarely
- 48 Marina ___ Rey
- 50 Bongo, e.g.
- 54 "An ___ a day ..."
- 55 Like new parents
- 57 "Holy smokes!"
- 59 Red Muppet
- 60 Where *el sol* rises
- 61 Alaska, in Alsace
- 62 6-Down shade
- 63 Storage outbuilding
- 64 Hoover ___
- 65 Yale student, casually
- 66 Beans container

Solution on page 10

IN BRIEF

Africa achievement celebrated on World Polio Day

Rotary's annual Online Global Update program for World Polio Day on 24 October hailed a milestone reached in 2020: the World Health Organization's certification of its African region as free of the wild poliovirus.

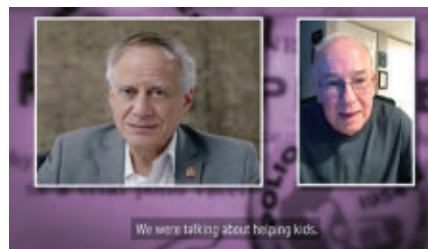
Paralympic medalist and TV presenter Ade Adepitan, who co-hosted the program with Rotary Foundation Trustee Geeta Manek, remarked that the eradication of wild poliovirus from Africa was personal for him. "Since I was born in Nigeria, this achievement is close to my heart," said Adepitan, a polio survivor who contracted the disease as a child. "I've been waiting for this day since I was young."

As recently as 2004, three-quarters of all polio cases caused by the wild virus were contracted in the African region. Now, Adepitan said, more than a billion Africans are safe from the disease. "But we're not done," he cautioned. "We're in pursuit of an even greater triumph: a world without polio. And I can't wait."

Manek, a member of the Rotary Club of Muthaiga, Kenya, said that World Polio Day is an opportunity for Rotary members to be "motivated to continue this fight." She added, "Rotarians around the world are working tirelessly to support the global effort to end polio."

Tunji Funsho, chair of Rotary's Nigeria PolioPlus Committee and a member of the Rotary Club of Lekki Phase 1, told online viewers that the milestone couldn't have been reached without the efforts of Rotary members and leaders in Africa and around the world.

Funsho, who was named one of *Time's* 100 most influential people of 2020, said that individual Rotarians had helped by holding events to raise awareness and funds and by working with governments



▲ The program featured (clockwise from top left) TV presenter Ade Adepitan; Rotary Foundation Trustee Geeta Manek; *Time* editor Jeffrey Kluger interviewing a "Polio Pioneer"; volunteer community mobilizers in Nigeria; and former Côte d'Ivoire PolioPlus Committee Chair Marie-Irène Richmond-Ahoua.

to secure funding and other support for polio eradication. "Polio eradication is truly a collective effort," he said. "This accomplishment belongs to all of us."

The 2020 World Polio Day Online Global Update was sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and was streamed on Facebook in multiple languages and time zones around the world.

The program also featured a panel of global health experts from Rotary's partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), who discussed how the infrastructure that Rotary and the GPEI have built to eradicate polio has also helped communities tackle challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The discussion, moderated by Mark Wright, a TV news anchor and a member of the Rotary Club of Seattle, had been recorded during the 2020 Rotary Virtual Convention.

In addition, Jeffrey Kluger, editor at large for *Time* magazine, spoke with Rotary members and others about their

childhood experiences as "Polio Pioneers" — the 1.8 million children who took part in a mass trial of Jonas Salk's polio vaccine in the 1950s. Other videos highlighted the brave work of volunteer community mobilizers in Nigeria and Afghanistan. The program concluded with a video by Grammy Award-winning singer Angélique Kidjo of her song "M'Baamba."

In conjunction with the Online Global Update, Rotary members and clubs held more than 7,600 virtual activities and socially distanced events across 146 countries. Online contributions to End Polio Now topped \$900,000, the most ever raised for World Polio Day; through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's 2-to-1 match, a total of \$2.7 million was committed to eradicating polio.

— RYAN HYLAND

Watch and download the 2020 Online Global Update at endpolio.org/world-polio-day.



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The Maine event

A chef caters to his community

WHAT I WOULDN'T BE CAUGHT WITHOUT: My chef's knife. I got mine from my grandmother probably 25 years ago now. It was my first high-end piece of culinary equipment. And even if I'm just going to cook at a friend's house, you'll find kosher salt and a lemon in my bag. Rules No. 1 and 2 of cooking, when you're looking for flavor, are to check for salt and check for acid. A squeeze of lemon and a pinch of salt can take a dish from bland to exciting.

WHAT'S ON THE MENU: We often use local

beer in our food, and the herbs are from farmers from my town or the next town over. Last year with COVID-19, a lot of local farms were having a problem getting rid of produce. So we hosted socially distanced farm-to-table dinners, and the producers would come to the events and talk about their farms. The community was so receptive.

FAMILY STYLE: I'm the owner of MANE Catering and Event Services; MANE is an acronym of the first initials of my nieces' and nephews'

names, because I didn't have kids or a wife at the time I started the company. My new events facility is named for my daughter: Stella's on the Square. She's 20 months old, and her picture has been taped on the wall of my kitchen since she was four days old. My wife, Jessica, gave it to me so I wouldn't miss her when I went back to work. I just bought a hot dog cart I'm naming after my mother; it's called Jazzy Jeanne's Jersey Dogs. My wife didn't want a hot dog stand named after her.

Nicholas Orgo
Rotary Club of
Bridgton-Lake
Region, Maine

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