

ROTARY

September 2021

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literacy
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SURGICAL MASKS, PERSONAL
PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT,
WATER BLEACH, VOLUNTEERS,
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FUNDING, MEDICAL SUPPLIES,
DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT,
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AID FOR HEALTH WORKERS,
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EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS...

Rotary's response to the pandemic

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TOGETHER, WE

INSPIRE

Rotary believes in taking action to create positive change in communities. That's why Rotary members participate in thousands of events around the globe, including the Miles to End Polio bike ride, to raise funds to help eradicate polio and support other causes. Inspiring others and leading by example - that's what people of action do.

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Rotary  **PEOPLE of ACTION**



GREETINGS, MY DEAR CHANGEMAKERS,

I am sure you are having an enriching experience as you *Serve to Change Lives*. One of the ways you can make the greatest change in a person's life is to help them learn to read.

Literacy opens up the world to us. It makes us better informed about life in our own communities and opens vistas to other cultures. Reading and writing connects people and gives us another way to express our love for one another.

September is Basic Education and Literacy Month in Rotary. Enhancing literacy skills is critical in our pursuit of reducing poverty, improving health, and promoting peace. In fact, if all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills, it would result in a significant cut in global poverty rates.

Without education, illiterate children become illiterate adults. Today, 14 percent of the world's adult population — 762 million people — lack basic reading and writing skills. Two-thirds of that group are women. Literacy and numeracy skills are essential to obtaining better housing, health care, and jobs over a lifetime.

Especially for girls and women, literacy can be a life-or-death issue. If all girls completed their primary education, there would be far fewer maternal deaths. And a child is more likely to survive past age 5 if he or she is born to a mother who can read. Improving outcomes for more people worldwide is possible only if countries remove barriers to education for girls. The economic argument for doing so is clear: In some countries where schooling is geared toward boys, the cost of missed economic opportunity is more than \$1 billion per year.

Empowering people through education is among the boldest goals we have as Rotarians. We don't have to travel far from our homes to encounter those whose lives are being curtailed because they struggle with reading, rely on others to read for them, or cannot write anything more than their own name.

Starting this month, consider how your club can *Serve to Change Lives* through literacy: Support local organizations that offer free programs to support adult literacy or local language learning, or that provide teachers with professional development centered around reading and writing. Become literacy mentors, or work with an organization like the Global Partnership for Education to increase learning opportunities for children around the world. Have conversations with local schools and libraries to see how your club can support their existing programs or help create needed ones in your community.

In India, the TEACH program, a successful collaboration between the country's Rotary clubs and its government, has demonstrated how to scale up literacy efforts to reach millions of children. And at a time when schools across India were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program's e-learning component reached more than 100 million children through national television.

Literacy is the first step out of poverty. As Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai has noted, "One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world."

Shekhar Mehta

President, Rotary International



WELCOME



YOU ARE HERE: Seoul, Korea

THE PALACE: Gyeongbokgung is the royal palace of the Joseon dynastic kingdom, which lasted from 1392 to 1897 CE. The largest of five royal palaces, it was for many years home to the king, the royal household, and the government. Much of the palace complex was destroyed in the early 20th century, but since the 1990s, a restoration of the grounds and buildings has been underway. The palace grounds are also home to Korea's National Palace Museum and National Folk Museum.

THE CLUBS: In Seoul, you can choose from more than 100 clubs. Here are just a few that meet near the Gyeongbokgung complex: Rotary Club of Sae Hanyang (Mondays at noon), Rotary Club of Sae Seoul (Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.), Rotary Club of Seoul Itaewon (Saturdays at noon), Rotary Club of Seoul Frontier (Saturdays at 12:30 p.m.).

THE PHOTOGRAPHER: In-Hyuk Song, Rotary Club of Daegu-Dongshin, Korea

ROTARY

September 2021

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Rotary 

**END
POLIO
NOW**

A collage of images representing global health workers and the impact of polio. At the top is a large, close-up portrait of a young girl with a slight smile. Below her, a woman in a white headscarf looks off to the side. In the center, a man in a yellow safety vest with "GOODBYE POLIO" written on the back is seen from behind. To his right, a man in a blue cap looks upwards. At the bottom, two women are examining a baby lying on its back. The background is a desolate, sandy landscape under a bright sky.

TAKE ACTION
ERADICATE A DISEASE FOREVER

**WORLD POLIO DAY
24 OCTOBER 2021**

www.endpolio.org/world-polio-day

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When a deadly crisis gripped the world, Rotary members leapt into action. We look back at what we accomplished — and ahead to what's next

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Peace Corps volunteers and Rotary members find meaningful connections

By Diana Schoberg



Fernando Teixeira

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On the cover:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, members of Rotary from around the globe stepped forward to provide a wide range of essential services, materials, and information.

Photography by Anna Shvets

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A Rotary member finds fellowship through song

“What really drove us initially was the concern for people in the countries where Peace Corps and Rotary work. By working together, we could create bigger, more sustainable projects.”

— Steve Werner; Rotary Club of Denver Southeast member and returned Peace Corps volunteer

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Sean Boggs



Reinventor

JIM MARGGRAFF has founded seven businesses by focusing on what’s possible. He’s best known for creating the popular LeapPad system, which has helped millions of children learn to read. His current venture, Kinoo, aims to connect grandparents with their grandchildren through a video-chat app that integrates games into the virtual visit. In beta testing, he says, it proved to be so much fun that “kids were begging to talk to grandma and grandpa.”

As the world embraces videoconferencing in an effort to cut costs, increase flexibility, and be more inclusive, Marggraff, a member of the Rotary Club of Lamorinda Sunrise, California, wants to make sure Rotary takes full advantage of those opportunities. “Coming out of COVID, I fear that Rotary will just go back to normal,” he says. “Our model needs to adapt.”

So Marggraff co-founded The Global Impact Group, a nonprofit that helps clubs make better use of technology. A video at tgig.org demonstrates how to integrate a virtual option into in-person meetings. “In the future, we’ll need members. Technology can help us achieve that goal.” — VANESSA GLAVINSKAS

Read more about hybrid meetings on page 44.

Illustration by Viktor Miller Gausa

IN THE WORLD OF MAGAZINES, we all remember our first managing editor. Mine was Michael Laurence, a Harvard graduate who ghost-wrote for J. Paul Getty and remains a world-class stamp expert. In his office, he had pinned to the wall a wide-ruled sheet of paper from a grade school assignment that read “I like to write.” He sported a bushy upturned mustache and wore thick red socks exclusively, whether they anchored a pair of corduroy trousers or a pinstriped suit. He was appropriately eccentric.

I was just out of graduate school, and it was his job to beat the sins of academic writing out of me. He was a stickler for clarity and concision, and he would go through my pieces line by line, pointing out errors of grammar, style, and judgment. He was ruthless, but his criticism stemmed from his love of language and his belief that most things could be said more simply. He was also very droll. He once divided a sentence of mine by substituting a period where a comma had been, explaining, “Saves ink.”

I’ve held managing editorships at three magazines. Michael imprinted on me how the responsibilities of that position should be carried out. He was my model. But now I have another one as well: Jenny Llakmani, *Rotary*’s managing editor.

Jenny’s favorite thing to do is weed her garden. At least she seems to be always at it. Forgive the analogy, but Jenny is also in the business of weeding as our managing editor. She yanks out the invasive words, the parasitic adverbs, the overgrown modifiers. She straightens out flawed logic and stumbling sequences.

Jenny is one of the fastest editors I’ve ever worked with. She plows ahead undeterred by the relative gravity or lightness of a piece. All text gets scrutinized equally. And she doesn’t seem to have time for subject prejudices, except that she is a devoted enthusiast of stories about sanitation.

I’m not saying she is argumentative, but Jenny defends her opinions vigorously. When I overrule her, she concedes and we move on. However, she’s said “You’re right” to me so infrequently that I note the date: once in July 2017, and again in February 2020.

This issue is my last as editor of this magazine. After 13 years, I leave a large part of my heart with the people who remain — the ones who design, write, edit, and produce what you are reading. Look at the masthead: Each person brings extraordinary talent to the table. I’m leaving the magazine in excellent hands. It’s been an honor and a pleasure to work with this team and to share the joy of toiling together to advance the preposterous notion that we can make the world a better place.

This issue is my last as editor of this magazine. After 13 years, I leave a large part of my heart with the people who remain.

JOHN REZEK
Editor in chief

Letters to the editor



COVER SHOT

My initial glance at the cover of the June issue prompted me to ask the question, “Why is *Rotary* magazine publishing a Rembrandt painting?” Upon a closer look, I realized that Hansruedi Frutiger’s photo, which won first place this year in *Rotary* magazine’s annual photo awards, tells a beautiful, heartwarming story, with wonderful composition. I love it! (I still see some Rembrandt in there, though.)

— **Roland Steorts,**
Rochester, New York

Your beautiful cover of the June issue filled my heart with joy until I looked more closely, when I was stunned and heartbroken to see what appears to be a dead animal hanging from the rafters above the family room.

Every living thing is precious and should be cared for. I understand that in some societies hunting is the usual means of feeding the family, however showing this dead animal on the cover of *Rotary* magazine is insensitive to many people. It does not belong on the face of our publication.

— **Linda Le Vine,**
Agoura Hills, California

PRESIDENTIAL MUSINGS

I wholeheartedly agree with the message from 2020–21 RI President Holger Knaack in the June issue concerning women’s participation in Rotary.



EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR

EMPOWER THROUGH EDUCATION

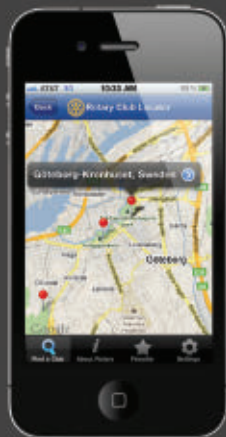
Rotary members are creating community-driven, sustainable projects to improve access to quality education around the world. Your gift to The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund supports these projects to inspire learning at all ages.

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When I moved to Iowa, I was welcomed into the Rotary Club of Muscatine. During my years here, we have had seven exceptional club presidents, and four of those seven were women. Each president has added quality ideas and their own special heart to our club.

I do not think of them as “women” presidents or “men” presidents. I refer to them as “top-tier presidents,” some female, some male. Their quality is not determined by their gender, but by the quality of their character. Yes, welcome more women into your clubs. But see them as leaders first.

— **Paul FitzPatrick,**
Wilton, Iowa

RI President Holger Knaack’s June message highlighted three key words in respect to Rotary in 2020-21: *nimble*, *adaptable*, and *creative*. That month’s message was a rewarding look at how his presidential theme, *Rotary Opens Opportunities*, became reality through an extensive exercise of online meetings. It was also a reaffirmation of an old proverb: “Every cloud has a silver lining.” So kudos for his open perspective. We Rotarians have learned a lot and done a lot over the past year.

— **M Saleem Chaudhry,**
Lahore, Pakistan



THE FLIP SIDE

I was very disturbed on reading Bill Hamilton’s letter to the editor (“Water and Climate,” June). I don’t consider the editor’s “failure” to point out Michael Crichton’s views on climate a failure at all. Is this a new standard to be applied to all letter writers? Calling anyone a “climate denier” is meant as a term of abuse in my view, and “huge cli-

mate denier” is even worse. Who could possibly object to someone who raised awareness about public health and access to clean water?

— **John Daniell,**
Shelton, Connecticut



GOOD WILL

My father, Willmon L. White, former editor in chief of *The Rotarian*, passed away on 1 June at age 89. He was a Rotarian and worked as the magazine’s top editor from 1974 to 2000, and he consulted on projects for Rotary even after his retirement. Rotary was part of the fabric of his life and my family’s life as far back as I can remember. In fact, my dad met my mom at Rotary, when she was secretary to the general secretary and he was a newly hired editor. I joke that I literally owe my life to Rotary.

My father was proud of his work at Rotary as well as the work that the organization carried out around the globe, and he was committed to documenting that work. He was a loyal ambassador for Rotary, dug deep into every project, and approached his role as editor in chief with a combination of inventiveness, humor, and tenacity. I have fond memories of visiting his office as a child, where I’d find him laughing and working at a desk full of ideas.

— **Theresa White**
Evanston, Illinois

Your turn

Want to see your photograph in *Rotary* magazine? The 2022 photo awards open on 1 October. Watch for details in next month’s issue.



Overheard on social media

In our June issue, we highlighted the LGBT Rotarians and Friends Fellowship.

Thank you, Rotary. It has been wonderful to be part of a Rotary club committed to inclusion and with a large LGBTQ membership.
Jeff Strater
Dallas, Texas
► [via LinkedIn](#)

Just as we evolved from the original Rotary motto “He Profits Most Who Serves Best” — approved in 1911 — to “One Profits Most Who Serves Best” in 2010, it’s great to see that our organization is constantly moving forward and becoming more diverse, equal, and inclusive as time goes by.
Rotary Club of São Paulo-Alto da Moóca, Brazil
► [via Facebook](#)

FORWARD

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THE SPECIALIST

Grief coach

She's here to help people on their journey through loss

Helping those who are mourning is my life's work. I'm a grief coach and speaker. I also run programming and training for hospice volunteers and spiritual communities that deal with bereavement. I want to create compassionate communities worldwide, where we support people who are grieving.

We actively avoid our grief in our society. In Canada and the United States, we think a funeral is one and done, and once we've been through the funeral, we should go back to life as it is. But anyone who has grieved a loss knows that grief is a journey, and it takes a long time. Every symptom of grief is asking us to slow down, from the physical and

emotional exhaustion, to the brain having a hard time adding two plus two. We slow down so we can digest the indigestible.

To help people who are grieving, listen. Be a receptive ear to the story and be willing to hear the story many, many times. If you are grieving, be patient with yourself and be willing to listen to your grief. We are terrified that we're going to get stuck in grief and never get out of it. It's our fight against grief and our fear of it that prolongs it.

We have this delusion that grief is about closure, and we need to bring closure to the relationship. Someone who's grieving knows this is wrong. They don't want to grieve, because they don't want to bring the relationship to closure. The grief journey is about discovering where the relationship is now, letting go of the physical connection to the loved one, and reclaiming our joy and memories. To be able to validate for someone that they're on the right track, to help someone through their own grief journey and to see the release and relief that comes, is huge. That's why I do this.

Maria Kliavkoff
Rotary Club of
District 5080
Passport (British
Columbia, Idaho,
and Washington)
Grief coach and
speaker

— AS TOLD TO ANNE STEIN



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convention.rotary.org

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Teamwork makes Rotary work

YOU'VE BEEN ASKED to promote resources for service and to get club members more involved in projects. To succeed, you realize you'll need to work with the chairs of your club's Rotary Foundation, membership, public image, and club administration committees. But they don't seem interested. You believe it's vital that you all work together, but they want to focus on their own goals. What would you do?

Somehow, the committee chairs must come to the realization that having involved members will make it much easier for them to achieve their own goals. Assuming their respective goals are not in conflict, take an interest in each committee's activities and work with the chairs individually. Help them to see that supporting each other's goals might

be a step toward achieving their own. Note, however, that it is unlikely that this will happen overnight.

Enlist the aid of the member who asked you to take on this task, and make specific suggestions where opportunities present themselves. Consider asking club leadership to organize a "summit meeting" where each of the chairs can provide an overview of their plans — this should help everyone see how working together and involving the club's members will be beneficial to all concerned. Whether this is done formally or informally would depend on the club's culture.

— **Bill Phillips, Rotary Club of Lawrenceburg, Tennessee**

You could define one goal for the club and not individual goals for each committee. Or you could participate in multiple committee gatherings and invite members from

Next question

Your club is formalizing a partnership with a local organization, and one of your club members, who has experience working with that organization, is very passionate about the partnership. Although you are doing as much as you can, the club member is not satisfied with how things are progressing. The member has even made calls to the organization to check on the partnership's status, and your liaisons from the organization have complained that the member is being pushy.

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

other committees to participate in yours. Cross-pollinating ideas triggers common goals.

— **Arnaud d'Haen, Rotary Club of Antwerpen-Park, Belgium**

This problem isn't ethical. It's team dynamics, which can often be a challenge. Your first step is a meeting with your club president. Get that person's support. The next step is to recruit club members to help you lead the project. Your team needs to determine what you need from the four committees. If the chairs aren't cooperative, talk to their committee members. You should re-engage the club president if you don't get support from the committees.

Detail your action plan and explain how it fulfills Rotary's vision through impact, reach, engagement, and adaptability. Ask your president for other resources. You can get help from your district and zone, and on my.rotary.org. With a detailed plan in place, and with the support of the president, you're ready to reapproach the problem. Ask the members of the project team to again ask the committee chairs or members to do a specific task. Base the request on your president's support and on the need to achieve Rotary's strategic objectives.

— **Alex Johnson, Rotary Club of Plano West, Texas**



PROMOTING LITERACY

Words for the future

Rotary is forging a path to full literacy in India

LONG BEFORE he became Rotary International’s president, Shekhar Mehta was known for setting ambitious goals.

His reputation for successfully tackling difficult problems is why, in 2014, Past RI President Kalyan Banerjee asked him to lead an effort to make India fully literate — a goal that has eluded the Indian government as well as many NGOs.

“I realized making a country literate is no easy task,” says Mehta, who defines full literacy as an overall rate of 95 percent or above for those aged 7 and up. (The government of India estimates India’s current literacy rate among that group at 78 percent.) “But I strongly believe in Gandhi’s view that if you find the goal, the means will follow.”

An accountant and real estate developer, Mehta didn’t enter the endeavor with any experience in education. “I had no clue, no background in education at all,” he says. He spent about nine months learning from experts before founding the Rotary India Literacy Mission (RILM), a nonprofit that aims to strengthen and standardize Rotary clubs’ literacy initiatives across India.

To accomplish this, RILM created a program of service projects that it encourages clubs across India to take on with the nonprofit’s support and mentorship. The projects are built around the acronym TEACH, which stands for teacher support, e-learning, adult literacy, child development, and happy schools (which focuses on infrastructure improvements). “We think every school should be a school where our own children would be happy to study,”

says Kamal Sanghvi, who was an RI director from 2019 to 2021 and chairs RILM now that Mehta is RI president.

Following the model that made India’s polio eradication campaign a success, coordinators promoted the TEACH program in Rotary zones and districts in the country. RILM staff created manuals and organized trainings, and now nearly every club in India works on a project to support at least one aspect of the TEACH program. “The momentum picked up so beautifully,” Sanghvi says. “Rotarians understand that for any nation to achieve greatness, you need a high literacy level.”

The combined efforts of hundreds of Rotary clubs, plus their partner organizations, have added up to large-scale results. To date, an estimated 7 million children are benefiting from RILM’s teacher training component alone. The program’s overall reach is enormous.

“Training, standardization, and developing partnerships — these are the three things that make the program work,” Mehta says.

Due to its impact, Rotary India Literacy Mission gained name recognition, which recently led to its largest initiative yet — working with the Indian government to create and distribute free e-learning content to children who were out of school because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“In a lot of areas in India, internet penetration is very poor,” explains Biswajit Ghosh, RILM’s chief operating and strategy officer. “And the government was struggling to provide online education for the masses.” That’s when Ghosh says Rotary “put up its hand” and of-

Role model

Rotary members in Nepal, Pakistan, and Bangladesh are all working on literacy programs modeled on the Rotary India Literacy Mission. (Members in Togo also recently expressed interest in the program.) “This is something that can be replicated anywhere,” Shekhar Mehta says.

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Social startup

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Water solutions in Malawi

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Networking fellowship

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Investing in education

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Puzzle power



Photos courtesy of Rotary India Literacy Mission (RILM)

ferred to facilitate the creation of high-quality multimedia content for grades 1-12.

RILM worked with a video production company to create the content, covering the cost through donations and sponsorships so that e-learning would be free to the nation.

In 2020, India's government began broadcasting the Rotary-sponsored content on several TV channels — one per grade — in both English and Hindi. The lessons were available to about 100 million students across India, Ghosh estimates.

The goal now is to get the same multimedia curriculum translated into more of India's languages and to provide the software to every public school in India. "The level of education in the villages is far lower than

in the cities," explains Sanghvi. "In the city, they simply have better access to technology and knowledge."

But while a large-scale rollout of e-learning could help lessen this disparity, it will only work if teachers know how to use the software. That's where the "T" in TEACH comes in. "We're training teachers across India," Sanghvi says, adding that the urgency to do so became apparent as soon as India went into its pandemic lockdown. "Many teachers didn't know how to start a Zoom," Sanghvi says.

The nonprofit works with partner organizations to provide the e-learning training and also offers an award to teachers who excel — as judged by their students and the school principal. It works like this:

Increased literacy is especially important for women and their communities. Educated women have a better chance of escaping poverty and improving the standard of living for their families and communities.

Rotary clubs survey local students, and that feedback is the basis on which a teacher is selected to win a Nation Builder award. Teachers who score poorly are targeted for future club-sponsored training programs. "We learn which teachers are outstanding and who needs to get their skills upgraded," Sanghvi says. "It's a win-win for us."

Despite RILM's success in improving literacy among children, India will not be able to achieve total literacy without addressing its estimated 287 million illiterate adults, who make up about one-third of the world's illiterate-adult population.

Sanghvi says that illiterate adults have not been served well by government efforts to increase India's

“Rotarians understand that for any nation to achieve greatness, you need a high literacy level.”

literacy rate. So RILM facilitated the publication of a small workbook and primer that will help adults take the first step toward “functional literacy” — being able to read street signs and write their name, among other basic skills.

Local clubs distributed this primer to students, and asked that “each one, teach one” — in other words, a child with a family member who cannot read or write could use this primer as a tool to teach them the basics. “The schoolchildren were excited,” Sanghvi says.

“They’d say, ‘Oh gosh, I’m going to become a teacher!’”

RILM’s goal is to make every Indian citizen at least functionally literate — able to engage in the everyday activities in their community that require basic literacy. The pandemic forced RILM to extend its deadline by two years. The group now hopes to achieve this goal by 2027.

It’s an ambitious goal, Mehta concedes, but “Rotary is thriving in India,” he says. “So, we need to dream.”

— VANESSA GLAVINSKAS



What is the E9?

The E9 is a group of nine countries — Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, and Pakistan — that represent more than half of the world’s population and large education systems, and 70 percent of the world’s illiterate adults. Their collective efforts considerably influence the success of global education initiatives.

Where are literacy programs needed?

The following countries have adult literacy rates below 50 percent:

- ▶ Afghanistan
- ▶ Benin
- ▶ Burkina Faso
- ▶ Central African Republic
- ▶ Chad
- ▶ Côte d’Ivoire
- ▶ Guinea
- ▶ Guinea-Bissau
- ▶ Liberia
- ▶ Mali
- ▶ Niger
- ▶ Sierra Leone
- ▶ Somalia
- ▶ South Sudan

* Source: UNESCO

Short takes

Nominations for the Rotary Alumni Global Service Award, given to an outstanding former Rotary program participant, are due 15 September. Learn more at rotary.org/awards.



In June, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative launched a new five-year strategy to overcome the remaining challenges to ending polio.



PROFILE

Spontaneous generation

Young entrepreneur creates a new way to connect

Karolina Demianczuk
Rotary Youth Exchange alum

KAROLINA DEMIANCZUK was bored. Then 19 years old, she was between classes at the Warsaw School of Economics and had time on her hands. As it turned out, so did some of her friends. She just didn't know it. When she managed to get in touch with them, they'd already left campus. Her mind drifted to an idea: Why isn't there something to connect people who are bored at the same time? What if there were an app to connect us?

Without knowing anything about building an app, she searched Facebook forums for developers and posted that she had this idea. To her surprise, nearly 100 people messaged her right away. "People want to join startups," says Demianczuk, a former member of the Rotaract Club of Warsaw Fryderyk Chopin and a Rotary Youth Exchange alum.

She assembled a small team, and soon a prototype of the app had garnered media attention. That led to investor backing, and by the time of its beta release in 2016, Demianczuk's app — called Spontime — had a \$3.3 million valuation.

The app makes it easy to find people and activities nearby; the only catch is that users are expected to meet face-to-face the same day. As the COVID-19 pandemic brought socializing with strangers to a halt, Demianczuk's team made the difficult decision to put the app on pause.

Demianczuk, who is now 27, married, and living in California, started working as a recruiter for other startups. She's poised to become a serial entrepreneur: She recently launched a recruiting firm that aims to connect engineers in Eastern Europe with American tech companies. She doesn't wait for the next opportunity to come to her — she makes it happen. — VANESSA GLAVINSKAS

Three new Rotary Fellowships were approved this spring, focused on comedy, leadership, and Argentine culture.



The Rotary Action Group for Peace celebrated exceptional peacebuilders at its inaugural Peace Dove Gala, held virtually on 30 June.

District 4455 (Peru) is hosting a virtual project fair from 18 to 24 September. Register at rotaryinkaprojectfair.org.

Rotary projects around the globe

By BRAD WEBBER



United States

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rotary Club of Las Vegas Summerlin turned to some of the city's well-known entertainers to put on a virtual show. On 17 April, about 300 viewers streamed "In the House ... Your House," an 80-minute webcast of recorded acts that included illusionist Mat Franco, manic prop comedian Carrot Top, singer Clint Holmes, and performers from the long-running *Fantasy* revue. "The performers provided their services gratis," says Michael Turner, the club's current president. Rotarians David Cabral and Glenn Ritt helped produce the video. The \$20,000 raised by the event will benefit the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth; the Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation; Delivering With Dignity, an organization formed during the coronavirus crisis to deliver food to people in need; and the club's own awareness campaign to stop child sex-trafficking.



22,000

CONVENTIONS HELD ANNUALLY IN LAS VEGAS

1 billion

ESTIMATED ANNUAL GLOBAL PARTICIPANTS IN EARTH DAY



U.S. Virgin Islands

Rotarians in St. Croix cherish their island's natural beauty, as evidenced by an island-wide roster of Earth Day activities. Members of the Rotary Club of St. Croix were among the volunteers who installed 10 Malayan dwarf coconut palms on the former grounds of the Bethlehem sugar factory. The Rotary Club of St. Croix West enlisted 16 volunteers, half of them nonmembers, to remove rubbish at the Frederiksted waterfront, while 10 Rotarians and other volunteers from the Rotary Club of St. Croix Mid-Isle undertook a similar effort along the main streets of Christiansted. A six-person team from the Rotary Club of St. Croix, Harborside, planted a neem tree and a *Cassia grandis*, known as a pink shower, at a local junior high school.





India

In January, the Rotaract Club of Jammu City constructed a dog shelter in a public parking lot in a market area of the city, which is located in India's far north. "Our motto was: Save the strays," says club member Chaitley Sharma. "We installed steel shelters and beds made of tires and rugs, with tarpaulin sheds to protect the four-legged from the bone-chilling cold

and scorching heat." Rotaractors outfitted 250 of the strays with reflective collars, which "can make all the difference when it comes to protecting the lives of these animals," she adds. Proceeds from the sales of small oil lamps and baked goods funded the roughly \$150 cost of the project, which they dubbed PAWSible Together.



New Zealand

Many low-income residents of Porirua, a suburb of Wellington, struggle to connect with agencies that assist with food, housing, employment, and matters related to family and finances. In the eastern part of the town, "the communities have large populations of Maori and Pacific families, and many are unable to access the information because of lack of computers, or language barriers," says June Murugan, immediate past president of the Rotary Club of Porirua. "Families find themselves left behind, often frustrated and unable to fully participate in society." To remedy that, in March the club helped open a satellite branch of the Citizens Advice Bureau, a national service network, to serve that population on a one-on-one basis. The club's \$3,000 outlay for the initiative was matched by a grant from District 9940.



Malawi

When the Rotary Club of Powhatan County, Virginia, asked Paul Sabbatini to serve as international service chair, he had big ideas. A native of Malawi, he told the club about that country's water issues, which are exacerbated by deforestation, shortages of potable water, and dismal sanitation. The club teamed up with Total LandCare, a nonprofit dedicated to aiding smallholding farmers in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2015 the partners installed two wells in the Dedza district. In the years since, the commitment has expanded to include eco-friendly pit latrines, foot-operated treadle pumps for irrigation, and fuel-efficient cookstoves. In 2020 the club, as well as non-Rotarian donors, provided financial support for 10 new wells, augmented by additional wells in 2021. "That water is lifesaving," Sabbatini says.



35 million
ESTIMATED STRAY
DOGS IN INDIA

1 in 5
MAORI AND PACIFIC
CHILDREN IN NEW ZEALAND
WHO EXPERIENCE
MATERIAL HARDSHIP



BIG PICTURE

Good business

A fellowship that celebrates Rotary's networking roots

PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING has been part of Rotary since our earliest days. “Part of being Rotarians doing business with each other is that we assume we are all going to follow The Four-Way Test,” says Mark Burchill, a member of the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa, California. “So there’s a level of trust.”

Burchill is the chair of the Rotary Means Business Fellowship, which was established in 2013 to celebrate and encourage networking among members and between clubs. The fellowship has expanded to include more than 120 chapters, with many of the chapters covering an entire district.

Two of its biggest growth areas have been in India and South America. Nicolás Juan Cánepa Arigón, a member of the Rotary Club of Montevideo, Uruguay, and leader of the Uruguay chapter of Rotary Means Business, notes that several Latin American chapters have recently joined forces — “a great forum that will unite most of southern America, from Mexico to Argentina” — to promote the value of the fellowship to clubs in other countries.

“Rotary Means Business is attractive to younger members,” Burchill says. “A lot of the younger people whom Rotary is trying to attract don’t have a lot of extra time. If they can consolidate Rotary and business networking, they’re more likely to join a Rotary club.”

—KRIS VIRE

Rotary Means Business encourages members to support the success of their fellow Rotarians by doing business with them and referring others to them. Learn more at rotarymeansbusiness.org.

WORK THE ROOM

“The fellowship is all about fostering business relationships within Rotary and in the community. I have seen this happen repeatedly over the years that I have led my chapter. It produces stronger local businesses, which leads to stronger Rotarians, then stronger clubs, which leads to a stronger Rotary and Rotary Foundation.”

— Bill Fishman, Rotary Club of White Plains, New York

“In many clubs in South America, we realize that we often sit next to people, have dinner or lunch, and perform service projects. But we do not know what this person’s profession is. Why? I can’t say exactly. What we are doing in the fellowship is encouraging Rotarians to make professional connections — valuing the professional services of their peers, and especially providing references for their peers.”

— Leonardo Santos, Rotary E-Club de Motociclistas, Brazil

RECRUITMENT DRIVE

► **“Having fellowship meetings** open to both Rotarians and non-Rotarians has made it very easy to recruit new Rotary members. Once a nonmember attends and meets Rotarians — who tend to be ethical, helpful, courteous, upstanding, and successful businesspeople — they realize that these are the kind of people they want to associate

with, and they soon ask: ‘How can I join Rotary?’”

— Bill Fishman

► **“We saw many non-Rotarians** coming in as guests for our fellowship meetings, looking forward to introducing themselves and their business to our members. Very quickly they realized the potential and quality of members of this



“Rotary Means Business is a parallel way to connect with other Rotarians. It’s a way to get to know about their expertise as professionals.”

— Claudia Arizmendi,
Rotary Club of Hermosillo Milenio, Mexico

“Networking is building relationships based in integrity. These relationships are built in layers, and when given the opportunity to grow, they are beneficial to both Rotary and the individual club member. I believe that this was the thought process that our founder, Paul Harris, had back in 1905. He successfully combined professional networking with service and fellowship.”

— Linda Kemp, Rotary Club of Aurora, Illinois

VALUE ADDED

► **“For the presidents** and committee chairs of Rotary clubs today, having a Rotary Means Business member in their club means having the keys to be able to execute anything that their members require or request. For every action that requires contacts, consulting a member of our group is bound to increase your impact.”

— Nicolás Juan Cánepa Arigón

► **“I have seen fellowship** members connect with other Rotarians with whom they can create service projects based on their professions and the gifts and talents they carry with them. Just one small comment during a conversation can set the momentum for future service projects and professional opportunities.”

— Linda Kemp

► **“You can count on** the Rotary Means Business team in your region to encourage the development of a fair and ethical professional network. Use our services — we are here to help!”

— Leonardo Santos

fellowship and wanted to be part of it. Many of our guests soon became members of one of the Rotary clubs in the district. Usually, they join the club of the Rotarian who invited them to the meeting initially.”

— Rajamohan Dhandapani, Rotary Club of Coimbatore North, India

► **“A chapter was launched** recently in India — RMB Rotaract

Madurai — which is a purely Rotaract chapter. Another chapter that I know in India approaches many Rotaract entrepreneurs to become members of the fellowship, to encourage them to become full-time Rotarians in the near future.”

— Sachin Gururaj, Rotary Club of Bangalore Oasis, India

GOODWILL

Lesson plans

Smart strategies to improve learning in low- and middle-income nations

E DUCATION IS A GOOD INVESTMENT: It can transform the prospects of a community along with the lives of individuals. But if you want to improve education, what kinds of investments work best? A recent World Bank report, “Cost-Effective Approaches to Improve Global Learning,” looks at different interventions and how well they work in low- and middle-income countries.

It includes recommendations from education and policy experts convened by the UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office and the World Bank. “The report identifies ways to spend money effectively on education,” says Deon Filmer, director of the World Bank’s Development Research Group.

Smart education investments are even more important in the wake of the pandemic, says Halsey Rogers, lead economist with the World Bank’s Education Global Practice. “Children may have lost half a year’s worth of learning or more,” he says. “So the question is, how can governments prioritize with constrained resources so those children recover as quickly as possible?”

Remember that context is important: What works in Tanzania might not work in Ecuador. Here we lay out some of the effective strategies outlined in the report and some of the potential pitfalls. Find the full report at worldbank.org.

COST-EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES SUPPORTED BY STRONG EVIDENCE

Share information with parents and children on how education can increase income, on available sources of

funding, and on the quality of local schools. When parents know what they’re paying for, how much children are learning, and how much money is going to schools, they can demand better outcomes.

Provide structured lesson plans with linked materials and ongoing teacher monitoring and training. In a randomized, controlled trial in Gambia, scripted lesson plans, after-school supplementary classes, and frequent monitoring and teacher coaching dramatically improved learning outcomes for students.

Target instruction by learning level, not grade. When one classroom serves a wide variety of learning levels, some students can get left behind. Group children for all or part of the day based on their learning levels, with help from teacher assistants or volunteers.

Reduce commute times to school. Building new schools closer to students can be prohibitively expensive. A more cost-effective strategy entails setting up schools in existing community buildings or reducing travel times through other methods. In one study, when girls in the Indian state of Bihar received bikes, their secondary school attendance increased by 30 percent.

Give merit-based scholarships to disadvantaged children. Merit-based scholarships targeted at disadvantaged young people can act as an extra incentive to improve attendance and student effort.

Provide software that adapts to a child’s learning level. Adaptive or self-paced software targeted to the individual student can be very effective. But reliable electricity, internet connections, teacher training, and



More than **50 percent of children** in low- and middle-income countries don’t learn to read with comprehension by age 10. Post-COVID, that number could rise to an estimated 63 percent.



Just before the pandemic struck, **53 percent of young people** were completing secondary school globally, but only 29 percent in sub-Saharan Africa.



In rural India in 2016, only **half of grade 5 students** could fluently read text at the grade 2 curriculum level.



In Uruguay, **poor children in grade 6** are assessed as “not competent” in math at five times the rate of wealthy children.

available hardware for all students are critical to this strategy.

Support pre-primary education (ages 3-5). Poor children tend to start school with lower levels of cognitive and language development than children from higher-income households. Intervention in those pre-primary years can have long-term economic benefits.

TIPS FOR AVOIDING PITFALLS

Studies have shown that providing money or supplies alone — whether it’s books, computers, school buildings, grants, salaries, or libraries — without addressing other issues is often ineffective. Donated laptops, for example, won’t improve learning if the school doesn’t have reliable electricity or teachers aren’t trained to use them. Even providing textbooks might not be as simple as it seems. In one case, new textbooks in Sierra Leone went unused because administrators weren’t assured that damaged books would be replaced.

For any intervention to be effective, “you need to have a real sense of what those schools need,” Rogers says. “You need to build that relationship and have a sustained commitment.” And whatever the strategy, Filmer advises, pay attention to outcomes, learn from them, and adapt. Come back in a few months to see whether donated books are being used. Come back in a year and replace them if needed.

Rotary members can also use their influence to improve global learning. “Rotarians can help get the private sector involved in telling the government that education is the future of our country, and we need to invest smartly in our country,” Rogers says. “It really packs a punch when business leaders like Rotarians say that.”

“When countries have made learning for all children a priority, they can achieve remarkable results,” Filmer adds. “We’ve seen that happen around the world, whether in Korea or Finland or Vietnam or states like Ceará in Brazil. What it takes is commitment by all of society.”

— ANNE STEIN



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Got a clue?

For crossword addicts,
puzzles have all the answers

By Kevin Cook

WHAT'S A THREE-LETTER WORD FOR "Puzzle addict"? That's easy: MOI. It's not ME, because crosswords don't allow two-letter answers. Why not? TRADITION. The grids we addicts refer to as "xwords" have their quirks.

Answers are always in capital letters, for instance, with no punctuation or spaces between words. Why? YUGOTME. But that's how it can be that MRT is the answer to "TV tough guy who pities the fool."

Until last year, I'd been known to try an occasional crossword on weekends, but that was as far as my interest went. Then COVID-19 changed the world. Instead of shaving, showering, and running out the door every day, I had time on my hands. Too much time. One week, binge-watching *Westworld* killed 28 hours and countless DROIDS but still left me with more than 80 waking hours to fill. Lucky for me, my daughter Lily, a keen cruciverbalist, sent me a link to the online version of the *New York Times* crossword.

I'd been used to old-fashioned pencil-and-paper puzzle-solving — erasing wrong guesses or crossing them out, sometimes wadding up the newspaper page and chucking it across the room. Now all that is virtual. In this digital format, I can quickly switch guesses, check my answers (but not Google them; that would be cheating), and then catch myself just before chucking my laptop across the room. Soon I was hooked, and I'm hardly the only one. Like CARRYOUT,

CLOROX, and FAUCI, puzzles of all kinds became far more popular during the pandemic.

Here was a strange new world — a crossword, if you will — a place where "northwest" means the upper-left corner, where Fridays and Saturdays take longer than Mondays, and where Rotary Club of Little Rock, Arkansas, member Victor Fleming, who constructs this magazine's monthly puzzle, has been known to entertain clubs by strumming a guitar and singing his anthem to crosswords, "If You Don't Come Across (I'm Gonna Be Down)."

If that strikes you as genius, you're one of us.

The modern crossword debuted in the *New York World* in 1913. Billed as "A Word-Cross Puzzle," it was a diamond-shaped grid with empty space in the middle. The clue to one answer that day was: "What this puzzle is." The answer: HARD. That puzzle also featured NARD, "an aromatic plant," and yet another botanical baffler: "The fibre of the gomuti palm."

The answer to that one, DOH, is still appearing in crosswords 108 years later, thanks to Homer Simpson.

Homer himself once grumbled, "Trying is the first step toward failure." That describes my first stabs at the sprawling grid in the *Sunday Times*, with its hundreds of black and white squares, each interlocked with the others, offering more than 300 chances to ERR. As if cooking up such an alphabet stew weren't hard enough, any puzzle worth a SOU must be symmetrical, with the arrangement of black and white spaces perfectly mirroring each other on the page. Why? Crossword constructors say it's more pleasing that way.

About as pleasing as a sharp stick in the IRIS, at least at first. But it gets easier as you explore the four corners of a crossword, moving not simply from northwest to southeast but also along the crucial in-between routes beloved by constructors, from NNE to SSW. In no time you'll GROK that the *Times* puzzle, the category leader, gets harder as the week goes on. Monday's is user-friendly, while the Friday and Saturday puzzles want to beat you up. If the answer is HOMER, Monday's clue might be "Four-bagger," Wednesday's could be "Round-tripper," and Saturday might hit you with "Springfield paterfamilias."

Thursday's *Times* crossword, meanwhile, often features goofy gimmicks. You may have to substitute numbers for letters, shove two letters into a single space, or fill answers in backward, all while deducing these rules DUJOUR, which are seldom spelled out in the clues. That makes Thursday the weekly trickster, with Friday and Saturday posing the real threats to my self-esteem. The *Times'* famed Sunday crossword is often thought to be the toughest of all — some folks spend all week on it — but it is actually pitched at a midweek level of difficulty. That's

Kevin Cook's
latest book is
The Burning Blue.



a kindness, since a Sunday-sized grid with Saturday savagery would have solvers pelting the New York Times Building with our pocket dictionaries.

During the depths of the pandemic, with my town locked down and each day feeling depressingly identical to the last, the crossword's weekly progress became a comfort. It helped to mark time — a reminder that there might be better days ahead. Not a bad thing for a puzzle to do.

Solvers run across delightful facts every day. You've probably heard of a murder of crows, but how about porcupines? A bunch of them is called, no joke, a PRICKLE. Fanciful names for animal groups appeared as far back as a 1486 book by Dame Juliana Berners, whose contributions to the crossword field are cheerier than that of Budapest's Antal Gyula, a waiter who killed himself in 1926. Gyula left behind a puzzle as his suicide note, hinting at interested persons. Nobody could solve it.

Did you know Jon Stewart proposed to his wife in a crossword? He and his then-girlfriend, Tracey McShane, were both devotees of the *Times* puzzle, so in 1999 Stewart conspired with *Times* crossword editor Will Shortz to surprise her with one that featured the clue "Valentine's Day request." The answer: WILLYOUMARRYME. She got that one with ease but was briefly stumped by

"Recipient of the request" until she filled in the blanks spelling TRACEY.

Like her, crossword solvers pick up secrets of the trade along the way.

Hall of Famer Mel OTT, for example, is a giant in crosswords thanks to his last name, which consists of three letters constructors like to rely on. Ditto Bobby ORR, a BRUIN whose HOMEICE was in BEANTOWN. Constructors go GAGA for EMO, ENO, and ELO — a "rock genre," "Roxy Music man," and "Mr. Blue Sky' grp.," respectively. They thank heaven for NAVE, APSE, PEW, HADJ, and KARMA. Literate puzzlers know Melville's novels OMOO and TYPEE, which is no TYPO, as well as STET, STENO, IBID, and ETAL. Ballet? PLIE. Got MLK? That's AOK, as are FDR, LBJ, IKE, and JFK, who as a sailor knew nautical terms like AFT, ALEE, and AVAST — which could make him sound like SMEE, Captain Hook's right-hook man. Smart solvers are always on their guard for ECOLI and the TSETSE fly. They keep their Irish up with ERIN, EIRE, and ENYA, and wouldn't say NYET to ETE, CIAO, MUY, MAS, or MOI. That's because foreign words and phrases are KOSHER if not DERIGUEUR. If all that leaves you hungry for more, try a puzzler's feast of RAMEN, TAPAS, POI, and SORBET. UMAMI, that's tasty!

It helps to get into the mindset of crossword constructors, who tend to GEEKOUT on

their personal passions. I'm nerdy enough to know LEIA, HANSOLO, ARTOO, and even KYLOREN, but I get stumped by clues about all the characters from the world of Harry Potter or *Game of Thrones*.

Lately I've been digging into the *Times* archives, a trove of puzzles dating back to 1993. That's where I found a 10-letter answer to the clue "Service organization with a wheel logo."

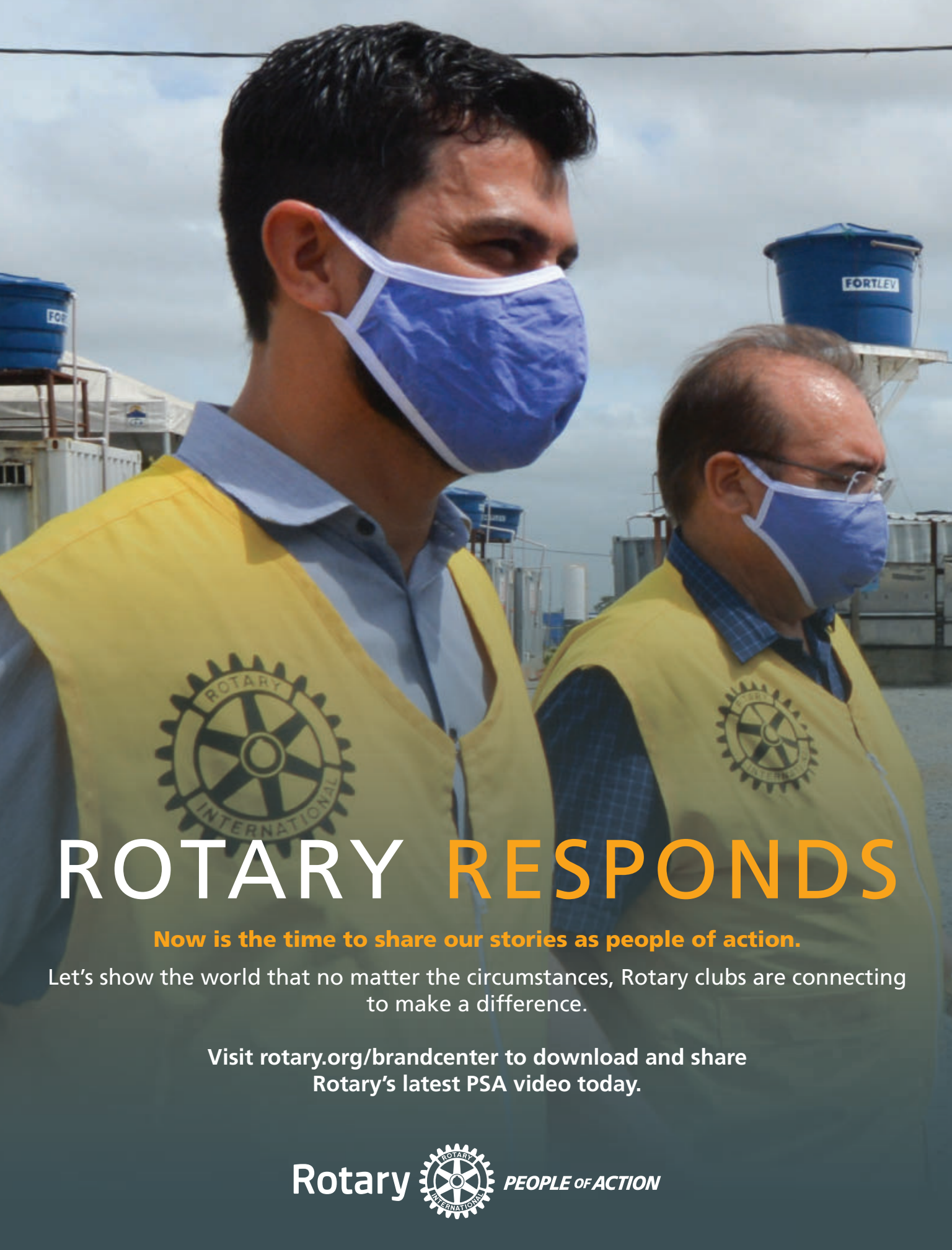
And I've been trying other brainteasers, which in light of my habits may be a slippery slope, or SKIRUN. Sudokus, which some old-timers dismiss as "crosswords for accountants," have given crosswords some competition. I dismiss them, Thursday-style, as 2HARD4ME. Give me a good new-fashioned Spelling Bee, a *New York Times* honey of a puzzle that asks solvers to turn seven letters into as many words as possible. There are the paper's Tiles and Vertex puzzles — crosswords for geometers — and cryptic crosswords, in which each clue is a puzzle of its own. They're all fun. Better yet, they're great exercise for the aging thing between my ears that a crossword constructor might clue as "memory muscle." Like any other organ, the BRAIN gets stronger with training.

But that's not why I'm in thrall to puzzles. In the end, the key to my habit is the punchline to an old joke about a guy who kept banging his head against a wall. Why? "Because it feels so good when I stop."

The whole point is the payoff: the moment when you're about to fill in the last blank. If every letter is in the right place, you fill that blank, your laptop emits a few musical notes, and the screen says, "Congratulations!" To me that means more than the momentary rush of a robotic response. It means that I did at least one thing just right today, and that's what counts in THEEND. ■



Like CARRYOUT, CLOROX, and FAUCI, puzzles of all kinds became far more popular during the pandemic.



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ACCEPTED**



Leading by example

Encouraged by three successive Rotary International presidents — Mark Maloney, Holger Knaack, and Shekhar Mehta — and assisted by about \$35 million in funding from The Rotary Foundation, Rotarians and Rotaractors from around the world stepped forward to provide a wide range of essential services, materials, and information to aid, advise, and comfort people during the COVID-19 pandemic. “Every great challenge is an opportunity for renewal and growth,” Knaack said — and the truth of that remark is demonstrated in the photos here and on the following pages.

Photo credits from left to right, top to bottom: Teresa Mendoza Palma; Bill Glader; Xavier Ferrand; Tejesh A. Mehta; Teresa B. Watson; Prince Kotoko; Fernando Teixeira; B M Imranul Islam EMU & M Khairul Alam, District 3281; Teresa Mendoza Palma; B M Imranul Islam EMU & M Khairul Alam, District 3281.



Eighteen months ago, the world ground to a halt, and for one brief moment, Rotary paused along with it. In March 2020, the magazine stopped the presses on its May issue in order to include a newly written message from 2019-20 RI President Mark Maloney.

“Throughout early March, the news about COVID-19 became increasingly serious throughout the world,” he explained. “We asked all Rotary districts and clubs to curb face-to-face meetings until further notice and to hold virtual meetings instead.” Then Maloney kicked things back into gear: “The world is changing rapidly,” he wrote, “and so must Rotary. Our adaptability and strength will help us navigate this experience.”

Rotarians everywhere responded to Maloney’s call to action. In some cases, they had even anticipated it. By the time that May issue landed in mailboxes, many clubs had already shifted to virtual meetings, and members worldwide were providing on-the-ground support for health care workers, communities in need, and the people most susceptible to the pandemic’s reach.

In June 2020, we published our first roundup of COVID-related projects, and in July, 2020-21 RI President Holger Knaack noted in his first magazine message that “every great challenge is an opportunity for renewal and growth.” In that same issue, we showed how Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative had been drawing on their experience to respond to the pandemic, and in August, we told personal stories from 10 frontline workers around the world — nine Rotarians and one Rotaractor who, despite the grave risk to their own health, stepped forward to offer assistance, comfort, and inspiration.

Since then, we’ve continued to cover the nimble

and creative ways clubs have found to respond to the pandemic, much of that work funded through grants from The Rotary Foundation: As of June, more than \$27 million in global grant funding had gone directly to Rotary’s COVID-19 response, on top of nearly \$8 million in disaster response funding.

Rotary has adapted, just as Maloney and Knaack assured us we could. And despite the pandemic, Rotarians and Rotaractors have continued to make a difference: We celebrated the end of wild poliovirus in Africa. We adopted a new area of focus, the environment. And earlier this year, we welcomed the inaugural cohort of peace fellows to the first Rotary Peace Center in Africa.

In this issue, we take stock of the last 18 months and look ahead to what’s next. You will find examples of the ingenuity, creativity, and resilience that Rotary members have displayed from the start. You will hear from a Rotarian epidemiologist and COVID-19 task force member about Rotary’s role in the pandemic response. You will read about how clubs have embraced change — and learn how virtual connectivity could open the door for more people to get involved in Rotary’s mission.

In the past year, because of everything we’ve been through together, each of us has changed, taking on new challenges and learning new skills. Rotary has changed as well, and more change is surely coming. But as RI President Shekhar Mehta reminded us two months ago in his first *Rotary* message to members: “No challenge is too big for Rotarians.”



Pandemic projects

Members of Rotary served as volunteers, as professionals, and as role models, advocating for vaccination and encouraging others by their own example. Clubs provided masks and other PPE, testing kits, educational materials, diagnostic equipment, intubation tubes, ventilators, hand sanitizer, personal hygiene items, and other essentials such as food and water. They provided aid to refugees and people who were homeless, as well as vocational training to assist people looking for work. Through online seminars, social media updates, and other outlets, clubs also served as a reliable source of information about vaccines and other pandemic-related topics.



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THE SCIENCE OF SAVING LIVES

Ann Marie Kimball knows about pandemics – in fact, she wrote a book about them. An epidemiologist and physician,

Kimball lectured on emerging infections at the University of Washington, worked with the White House to set up the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Emerging Infections Network, earned Fulbright and Guggenheim awards for her work on global trade and emerging infections, designed a global disease surveillance strategy for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and authored *Risky Trade: Infectious Disease in the Era of Global Trade*.

Kimball was introduced to Rotary not by a member, but by vaccines. “Part of my job when I first started working in West Africa was to ensure that the vaccines arriving at airports moved from the tarmac into storage safely,” she says. “I started seeing these crates with the Rotary wheel, and I didn’t know what Rotary was. So I resolved to find out.”

Now a member of the Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island, Washington, Kimball also serves on Rotary’s COVID-19 task force, which is exploring the organization’s role in responding to the pandemic. The task force is encouraging actions such as mobilizing clubs and promoting vaccinations.

Kimball spoke with *Rotary* senior staff writer Diana Schoberg in May about the pandemic and Rotary’s work.

FIVE WAYS TO HELP STOP COVID-19 IN YOUR COMMUNITY

What is your role on Rotary's COVID-19 task force?

My role is primarily technical: to advise the members on the global state of the pandemic. Unfortunately, worldwide, we still have a very active pandemic. We've lost more than 3.5 million people across the globe, and we believe that's an undercount. The other thing we're tracking very closely is vaccine equity and access. Despite 1.4 billion doses [as of 13 May] being administered worldwide, fewer than 1 percent of those are in sub-Saharan Africa. So we're seeing real inequality. I will advise the task force on situation awareness and policy options as we move forward.

How is Rotary well-positioned to address COVID-19? What are our strengths and how can we best put them to use?

You're seeing a lot of great work by Rotarians across the board, and it's very heartening. There's a lot of altruism and community spirit. To a certain extent, we hear all of the bad news and we don't hear enough of the good news. And Rotary is in the business of creating good news.

Rotary is a very powerful partner in COVID-19 response because our organization is multisectoral; it's not confined to the health sector. And it also brings a strong level of volunteerism. Our response is both diverse and tailored locally, which makes it even more valuable.

You've written that Rotary can bridge the gap between science and values in the COVID-19 response. What did you mean by that?

Altruism is very much a core value of Rotary. So in speaking about why an individual should get a vaccination, you can cite the figures, that it's 94 percent protective or it's 80 percent protective. But the conversations that I'm hearing in my community, for example, are about what is your responsibility to get vaccinated to help protect the rest of your community and the people you interact with. And that's what I think Rotary can really bring forward.

Community education is a way of providing the science and awareness of the situation to an individual community. It also involves reaching out to other civic organizations and government entities to coordinate and collaborate.

So many people have died, and so we have a mission of the heart, too. Many Rotary clubs have committees that reach out to support bereaved people and people who are ill. That's another piece of it, in terms of values.

What might combating misinformation look like for a Rotary club? And how will that vary by region?

It depends on what the rumors are. I've tried to keep my ear to the ground in my own community, and it just

1 Educate people on the importance of vaccination

As of the last week of June, only 1 percent of Nigeria's population had received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine; the country has struggled with a lack of supply, receiving its first 4 million doses through the COVAX vaccine-sharing program in March. In the meantime, Rotary members in the country are using connections they have made through their polio eradication work to advocate among political leaders, health care workers, the media, and traditional and religious leaders for the importance of COVID-19 vaccinations. They are reaching the general population through informational campaigns on social media, television, and radio, as well as public service announcements broadcast in public squares.

2 Advocate for fair and equal vaccine distribution

The Rotary Club of Demerara, Guyana, has been conducting medical missions in remote parts of the country for decades, which has given members firsthand knowledge of the needs of the communities in those areas. In March, partnering with the country's Ministry of Health and its Civil Defence Commission, club members traveled by boat to deliver COVID-19 vaccines to the Indigenous villages of Muritaro and Malali. Traditional leaders were among those receiving the vaccines, setting an example for their communities. "Our linkage to these communities and history with our polio efforts gave residents confidence that Rotary wouldn't leave them behind when COVID-19 vaccines became available," said club member Lancelot Khan.

3 Address vaccine hesitancy by sharing accurate, fact-based information

Singapore has been steadily vaccinating its population, but significant pockets of people remain

hesitant to take the vaccine. The Rotary Club of Singapore worked with the National University of Singapore's Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health to launch a public health ambassador program in June. In addition to organizing a webinar to answer questions from the public, the school put on a workshop directed at Interactors, Rotaractors, and Rotarians to equip them with the knowledge and skills to dispel myths and educate communities about vaccine safety.

4 Encourage mask wearing and proper hygiene practices

With limited vaccines available, Pakistan faced a third wave of COVID-19 cases this spring. The Rotary-supported polio resource center in Bannu is using its expertise to educate the community about hand washing and other precautionary measures against infection. More than 25 women attended a session in May led by health care workers.

5 Support health agencies' vaccine distribution efforts

Rotary members in District 2060 (Italy) became critical government partners in getting vaccination sites up and running earlier this year. Within a week of an initial call for volunteers in January, more than 150 Rotarians and Rotaractors stepped forward, including doctors, nurses, paramedics, lawyers, and a notary to help with paperwork. Impressed, the medical authorities in Verona put the district in charge of all volunteer activities related to COVID-19 vaccination in the region, including scheduling patients, assigning shifts, and reporting data. By the end of May, more than 700 volunteers had participated, and more than 300,000 people in the region were vaccinated.

Read more about how clubs are fighting COVID-19 at rotary.org/covid19.

means listening and then having respectful conversations. People who believe misinformation aren't stupid; they're just misinformed. Bringing credible information forward in a respectful manner can often make the difference.

We can tell them, from our experience with polio and our long experience with childhood vaccinations, that these vaccines are safe and they're highly effective, and that we know vaccines work.

What's the difference between dialogue and persuasion when it comes to vaccine hesitancy?

When I first joined the task force, I recommended a book to the other members titled *Stuck: How Vaccine Rumors Start — and Why They Don't Go Away*, by Heidi Larson. It draws from years of research on vaccine hesitancy. The takeaway is that you need to listen, and then there has to be an interchange. You may or may not be successful at persuasion, but really listening is very, very important. I was amazed at some of the rumors going around that have a slim basis in some piece of fact but have been entirely distorted and misinterpreted.

It's really a dialogue. Rotary is nonpolitical. We have a vast array of Rotarians with a vast array of political beliefs, and we don't do politics in our clubs. And that is very important for Rotary's credibility.

the more opportunities there are for variants to occur. Vaccination remains our only tool, and if you were able to vaccinate everyone successfully, you could really tamp down transmission and variants. Generally, viruses mutate toward more infectiousness, but they don't mutate toward more lethality for their host — that's a very broad generalization. The virus wants you walking around and passing it on to other people.

If the coronavirus doesn't evolve as fast as influenza, does that mean that if enough people get vaccinated, there will be fewer variants, and we won't have to get a shot every year? Or am I asking you something that we just don't know yet?

You're asking something we just don't know yet. The strategy is to vaccinate as much as we can and cut down the transmission, and that should cut down on the variants. But you have to remember that influenza is totally different than the coronavirus, except that they're both RNA viruses. We thought the coronavirus was going to be seasonal because it tended to have peaks that correlated with winter, but now we're seeing that it also has peaks correlating with summer. So in that sense, it's not exactly like the pattern of transmission of influenza. Influenza shifts and drifts on an annual basis, and flu vaccines are composed to match what strain is circulating. And that may eventually become what we see with the coronavirus. But because it's a new virus, its transmission patterns related to seasonality and to other dynamic forces are not really clear. We don't know how long a person's immunity from the shot will last.

Can the strategies that Rotarians have used with polio be applied to COVID-19?

There are experiences and infrastructure that will be helpful: the emergency operations centers, for example, in Nigeria. And also the cold chain logistics and management of the shipment of vaccines, and the vaccination campaigns and the messaging — although the message is different, and it's a different age group.

What Rotary has done with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative has been absolutely phenomenal. With our 36,000 clubs, we've mobilized populations and community leaders all over the world. Rotarians can work fast and know how to get resources where they are needed most.

“You're seeing a lot of great work by Rotarians across the board, and it's very heartening. There's a lot of altruism and community spirit.”

As the vaccine rollout continues, how concerned should we be about outbreaks of variants?

If I had a crystal ball, I could tell you. There are a lot of questions about variants. Variants will always evolve, although the coronavirus mutates more slowly than influenza, and more slowly by far than HIV. But it is an RNA virus [which mutates more rapidly than a DNA virus]. So the more it transmits,

How else can Rotary clubs help with COVID-19 vaccinations?

Clubs are promoting vaccines through publicity and advocacy, and Rotary members who have a medical background are helping with the actual shot administration. We have great experience in logistics, and our members are helping with traffic and sign-up and reception at vaccination sites, depending on the club. It's been very hands-on for Rotarians.

Is there a model for equitable distribution, or is that something we'll need to invent? If you had to start from scratch, what would that look like?

The thinking behind the rollout in the United States primarily came from the National Academy of Medicine. Their recommendation was focused on who had the greatest morbidity and mortality from the disease. So first you have health care workers, because they're continuously at risk and your health care system will break down if you cannot protect them. And then there was a large discussion about the disproportionate risk for communities of color and public-facing workers, especially wage workers, and for the elderly. They looked at the burden of disease and used that to form a decision on what equitable distribution would look like. That would be a little bit different for every society.

We know what we don't mean when we talk about equitable. We don't mean that vaccines only go to the wealthier class that can pay for it. Or to important politicians who happen to have access to it because they jumped the line. We've seen what inequitable distribution can look like.

Is there a vision for equitable distribution where we'd look globally at the burden of disease?

I think our information basis is pretty imperfect. But focusing on countries that have high transmission would make strategic sense. The barriers to doing that have been remarkable. There has been a lot of talk about some countries that have three to five times the number of doses reserved as their population. And that's the process that COVAX [a global public-private partnership to secure and distribute COVID-19 vaccines] is trying to orchestrate more equitably to ensure vaccine access for low- and lower middle-income countries.

Where will Rotary fit into the long-term recovery from COVID-19 — things like educa-

tion, mental health, and other needs that might come after the crisis part is over?

That's exactly where Rotary's impact could be the strongest. But it will be different in each place. I certainly see economic recovery as part of what we will be addressing. There are some other areas as well. In February, the United Nations Security Council called for a global ceasefire in order to allow for vaccinations. I see Rotary as being part of that peace effort. In the environmental arena, we know that deforestation and the wildlife trade have led to the emergence of these kinds of pathogens, and Rotary can be involved there as well. If you look at our areas of focus, you can't find one that hasn't been impacted by this pandemic.

“ In the environmental arena, we know that deforestation and the wildlife trade have led to the emergence of these kinds of pathogens, and Rotary can be involved there as well.”

Did you foresee a health crisis like COVID-19 coming? And did the world react the way that you thought it would?

Everyone knew that a respiratory pathogen could be dangerous. No one had planned for complete science denialism in leadership, which we have seen [in some countries]. I have colleagues who had worked very closely on the pandemic plans that had been in place, and that playbook was thrown out. No one foresaw that. Everyone assumed that if you have all of these plans and you have a pretty good idea of what you need to do, you'll do it. We need to be a lot more conscious of the political economy than we have been as a scientific group.

I think the big lesson we have learned is that science-based leadership is critically important. You need to have the very top of your government supporting the very best measures that society can take to protect itself. That has to be really clear and it has to be said many, many times.

#RotaryResponds

Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors all stepped up to help during the pandemic. In the photos on these and preceding pages, you can see some of the people who volunteered and the projects they organized. They include members of the Interact Club of Sunrise Christian High, Ghana, and the Rotaract clubs of Ho, Ghana; University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ghana; and Warszawa Frydryk Chopin, Poland. Also represented here are the Rotary clubs of North Jefferson and Gardendale, Alabama; Boa Vista-Çaçari, Teresina-Fátima, and Vargem Grande Paulista-Conecta, Brazil; Guayaquil Norte and Tsachila de Santo Domingo, Ecuador; Meaux, France; Evanston Lighthouse, Illinois; Madras Next Gen, India; Trenton, North Carolina; Metro Naga, Philippines; Singapore; Plainview, Texas; and Valera, Venezuela; as well as members of Rotary in districts 3040 (India), 3281 (Bangladesh), and 9212 (Kenya).



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MEETINGS MADE MODERN

In April, the *Washington Post* published an article titled “What We’ll Keep.” Eleven writers looked at aspects of life during the pandemic that they’d like to see continue, such as the flexibility to telecommute, a deeper appreciation for essential workers, and more time spent in nature.

Staying home to slow the spread of COVID-19 disrupted our daily routines — but it changed some things for the better. Now we’re at a collective crossroads. As society reopens, how can we use what we’ve learned to make our lives better? How do we improve upon what we used to accept as “normal”?

When Rotary surveyed its members at the end of 2020, 75 percent of Rotarians reported that their clubs were mainly meeting online during the pandemic, while 18 percent were mostly meeting in person. A small number of clubs had stopped meeting altogether.

weren’t as bothered by the switch. One who has embraced it is Jenny Stotts.

Stotts helped charter the Rotary Club of Athens Sunrise, Ohio, in 2016. The club met in a coffee shop until the pandemic shut down in-person meetings. They then shifted to Zoom, which became helpful to Stotts when the club’s 7 a.m. meetings began to conflict with her kids’ schedules. She appreciated the opportunity to multitask, dialing in to the virtual meeting while driving her children to school. That’s the kind of flexibility she hopes the club will continue to offer.

“When I hear that we’re ‘going back,’ I gently say, ‘No, we’re doing what’s next,’” Stotts says. “I know people are really Zoom fatigued. But it’s not Zoom that’s bad. It’s all the time people have been spending on it that wears you out.”

“Videoconferencing is here to stay,” predicts Jeremy Bailenson, director of Stanford University’s Virtual Human Interaction Lab — not only for organizations like Rotary but for workplaces as well. “Zoom has the potential to continue to drive productivity and reduce carbon emissions by replacing the commute,” he wrote in the journal *Technology, Mind, and Behavior* in February.

It also saves money, a factor the corporate world has seized upon. In 2020, Mark Zuckerberg

“With Zoom meetings came the opportunity for resourceful clubs to recruit world-renowned speakers.”

But even though the majority of clubs successfully adapted to virtual meetings, Zoom repeatedly was mentioned as a source of fatigue and frustration, especially among a segment of surveyed members who had belonged to Rotary for seven years or more. Some newer members, however,

predicted that over the next five to 10 years, half of Facebook's workforce could be remote. Google offers a hybrid work model that encourages staff to come into the office three days per week for collaboration and allows most employees the freedom to work remotely the other two.

Stotts, who serves as District 6690 membership chair, hopes that Rotary clubs also continue to take advantage of videoconferencing — not just to offer flexibility to current members but also to engage new ones. "It's part of that bigger inclusion message," she says. "It's time to ask: Who's missing from this club and why? Maybe virtual makes sense for them. This is the ideal time to focus on giving people more ways to join."

Crisis brings opportunity

Last September, Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, took time away from advising the U.S. government on its pandemic response in order to speak virtually at a Rotary club meeting held inside a garage. (Yes, a garage.)

The meeting was at the home of Jim Marggraff, a member of the Rotary Club of Lamorinda Sunrise, California, and the setup — though simple — was well-ventilated and allowed those who chose to attend in person enough room for social distancing. "With Zoom meetings came the opportunity for resourceful clubs to recruit world-renowned speakers," Marggraff says. Because Fauci was able to present via video, the club's meeting location was not a limiting factor. Other presenters at the meeting included then-RI President Holger Knaack as well as leaders from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Health Organization.

Marggraff recorded the meeting — including the in-person aspects — so he could share how the concept works; he also put together a tutorial to help other clubs hold their own hybrid meetings. "The idea was to produce a video to help clubs see how easy it can be to host a hybrid or virtual/in-person meeting — one that brings people together physically while giving remote members simultaneous access to the meeting," Marggraff says. (View the garage meeting and the tutorial at tgig.org.)

Marggraff, an inventor and entrepreneur, is best known for creating LeapFrog's popular LeapPad system, which helps children develop reading and math skills. Now he's focusing on helping Rotary clubs through a nonprofit he founded, The Global Impact Group (TGIG), which is run by Rotary

members and aims to help nonprofits make better use of technology.

The expanded accessibility provided by virtual meetings is a perk for members who, in the tradition of attending make-up meetings while away from home, simply want to visit different clubs, as well as for members who might not be able to attend in-person meetings because of health concerns or time conflicts. Jim Simmermon is one Rotarian who has taken full advantage of the options opened up by virtual meetings.

Simmermon, who is 95 and lives in a retirement home in Pennsylvania, attends his regular Tuesday meeting of the Rotary Club of Oakmont Verona, Pennsylvania, via Zoom. Then on Wednesdays, he joins the online meeting of another club where he used to be a member, and every Thursday he attends another online meeting, this time of his

“It's time to ask: Who's missing from this club and why? Maybe virtual makes sense for them.”

son's Rotary Club of Highlands Ranch (Littleton), Colorado. "I like attending Rotary meetings; it gives me a lift," Simmermon says. "It doesn't matter how old you are. Anyone can do Zoom."

Scott Doll, who serves as CEO of TGIG, predicts that in the wake of the "Zoom boom," new technologies will make it easier to add a virtual component to any meeting. "Face-to-face contact will always be desirable," says Doll, a member of the Rotary Club of Alpharetta, Georgia. "But I also think we're going to see advances in virtual meetings and hybrid tech that will make it far more user-friendly and accepted as one of the primary ways we meet" — be it for business, pleasure, or civic good.

Meeting the challenge

"We have to use three to four different internet connections to hold a hybrid club meeting, in case one goes down," says Diehdra Potter, a member of the Rotary Club of Road Town, British Virgin Islands, which started holding blended virtual/in-person meetings in summer 2020. "We had members who really wanted the normalcy of being with fellow

HOW TO HOST A SUCCESSFUL VIRTUAL/IN-PERSON MEETING

Six tips from TGIG, a Rotarian-run nonprofit that helps clubs adopt new technologies

(an overhead view)



Use what you have
Many clubs already use a projector and big screen for in-person meetings. Use it to display the online audience or remote presenter to the group gathered in person.

Pay attention to the audio
Your online audience needs to be able to hear you. Download a step-by-step tutorial on how to set up the ideal audio environment at tgig.org.

Set up a tech team
Ask members to volunteer for a team that will set up and manage the technical aspects of the meeting each week.

Show the room
Use a webcam or even a smartphone as a separate camera to allow the online audience to see the people in the room.

Don't be afraid to ask questions
For personalized help, send an email to team@tgig.org.

Broadcast live
By placing a laptop on the lectern in front of the room, you can use its camera and microphone to allow your presenter to communicate with your online and in-person audiences simultaneously.

Yann Sadi / blindSALIDA

Rotarians,” Potter says. “But those in the at-risk group were not comfortable meeting in person.”

Potter, the club’s 2020-21 administrative director, says that even though she doesn’t consider herself particularly tech-savvy, she was determined to figure out a way to make meetings work for everyone. But with an unreliable internet connection at their outdoor meeting space — the patio of a restaurant — the new system took a while to perfect.

“At one of our sessions, our district governor said only three words before the internet went down and he was frozen,” Potter recalls. “We had to wait a few minutes and reset. But before you knew it, he cracked a joke and continued.” Since then, Potter has learned to utilize the venue’s two Wi-Fi networks as well as other connections, such as mobile hotspots, in order to manage the multiple laptops and phones required to film the in-person attendees and project the Zoom participants. The other available internet connections serve as backups.

Potter’s persistence has paid off: Overall attendance of club meetings is up by 35 percent. “We have additional members at home who log on,” she says. “Sometimes we’ll have 40 members from our club and 20 from other clubs — that includes Rotaract and Interact.” Many of those who attend virtually are on other Caribbean islands.

“When our borders closed to tourists, many of our members experienced losses in their businesses,” Potter says. “They had to shut down, or lay off staff. Without revenue, many were worried.” That’s one of the reasons Potter felt compelled to keep the club going. “We needed these meetings to take care of ourselves,” she says. Elvis Harrigan, a Road Town member, echoes that sentiment. “Since 2017, we’ve had multiple hurricanes, then COVID-19, and now a volcanic eruption on St. Vincent,” Harrigan says. “Through all of this, Rotary has been a source of stress relief.”

“Hybrid meetings may require a lot of planning, but it’s worth it because you have to reach people where they are,” Potter adds. “In difficult times, we can find joy in something we love — which is Rotary.”

What’s next

“People are changing, and priorities are getting reshuffled,” says Tom Thorfinnson, a member of the Rotary Club of Eden Prairie Noon, Minnesota, and Rotary International’s chief strategic officer. As people emerge from a year or more of isolation hoping to be more purposeful with how they spend

their time, Thorfinnson believes that clubs have an opportunity to lean in to Rotary’s core values of providing meaningful service opportunities and building relationships.

While most Rotarians reported that the COVID-19 pandemic has not affected their likelihood of remaining a member in the next year, about 9 percent of those surveyed said that it is less or much less likely that they will remain a member.

“Hybrid meetings may require a lot of planning, but it’s worth it because you have to reach people where they are. In difficult times, we can find joy in something we love — which is Rotary.”

While Zoom fatigue has played a role for some, so has the cost and time associated with being a member. That’s where keeping a virtual option could help clubs maintain their membership.

“It cuts down on expenses to the member if you meet virtually twice a month and in person twice a month,” says Jeffry Cadorette, a past RI director who chaired a task force that evaluated how Rotary clubs and districts might best take advantage of virtual connectivity in the future. A hybrid club with a virtual option doesn’t have to be technologically complicated, he notes, and it could offer a more flexible alternative for members concerned about the cost and time it takes to commit to Rotary.

“Our traditional club models got us through our first 115 years,” Cadorette says. “But we are not going to be relevant a decade from now if we only depend on our breakfast, lunch, and dinner clubs. We need to honor our past but retool for the future.” ■

Follow Jim Simmermon’s lead and take advantage of the hybrid meeting model to make new connections, or strengthen the ones you have, with Rotary clubs and members around the world. Use the “Find a Club” tool at myrotary.org/club-search, which allows you to filter for clubs that meet in person, online, or both.

By Diana Schoberg

ESPRIT DE CORPS

Peace Corps volunteers and Rotary members find meaningful connections

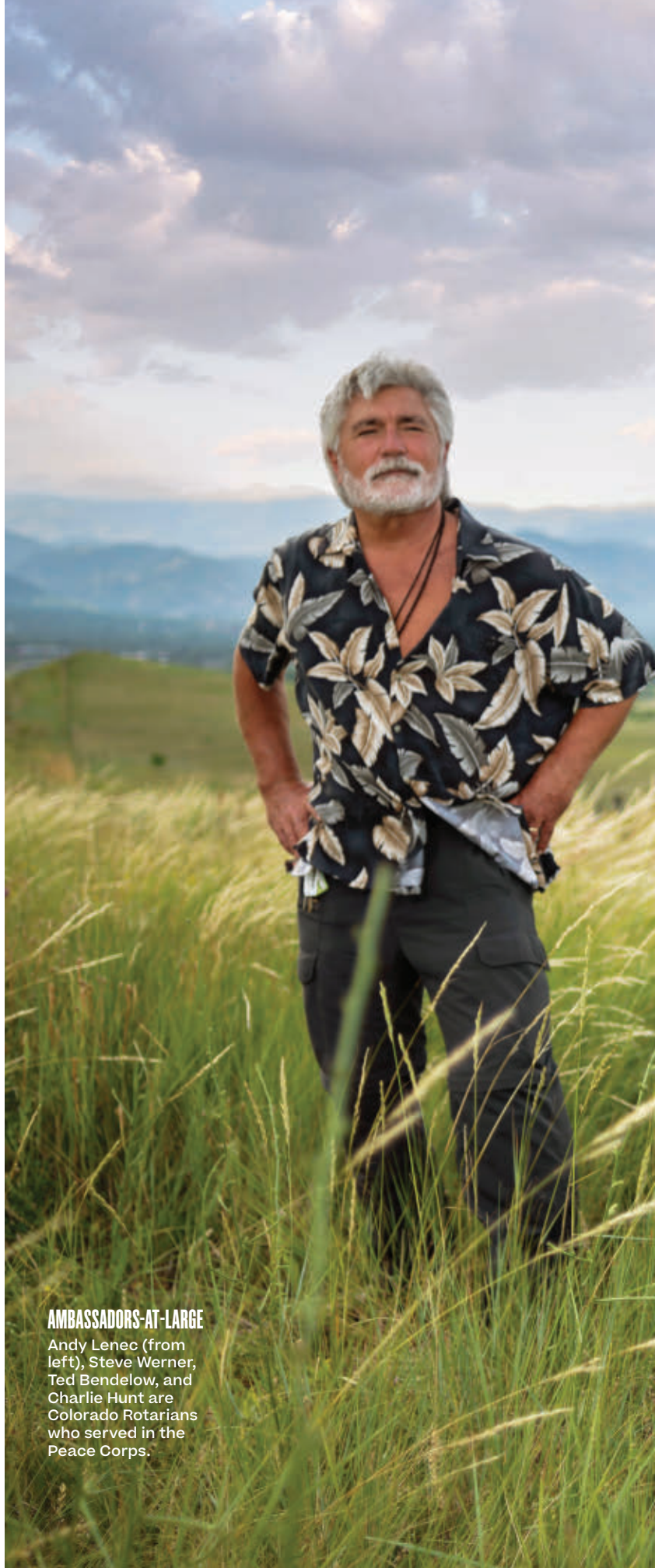
IN DECEMBER 2017, on his first night as a Peace Corps volunteer in the ancient North Macedonian city of Štip, Cal Mann was welcomed with a raucous party at a rustic cabin far outside of town. There was an abundance of food and drinks, and a boom box blared local music. As the party raged well past midnight, Mann watched, beer in hand. “I’m like, I can’t do this for two years, that’s for sure,” he recalls.

So you can understand his trepidation the next day when he found out a barbecue was in the works. Being a good sport and new to the city, he opted to go — a pivotal decision, it turns out. At the barbecue he struck up a conversation with a man named Zoran Kolev, who spoke English. As talk came around to Mann’s work as a Peace Corps volunteer, Kolev mentioned that there was a new service club in the city: the Rotary Club of Štip.

“He told me they had just started the club a few months before,” Mann says. “They didn’t really know what Rotary was, but someone had told them it was a good thing to do.” This was great news to Mann, who had been a Rotary member since 2004 (and who currently belongs to the Rotary E-Club of Silicon Valley).

“I was thrilled to have met someone involved in Rotary so I could tap into my experience there. And they were happy to have someone who knew what Rotary was.”

Mann’s primary assignment with the Peace Corps was to work with a legal clinic for Roma residents, but volunteers are encouraged to take on a side project. Rotary became his. “I had just linked up with a club of people with big networks in the community, and most spoke English,” Mann says. “I may be dumb, but I’m not stupid. I figured that’s a pretty good opportunity. I better jump on it.”

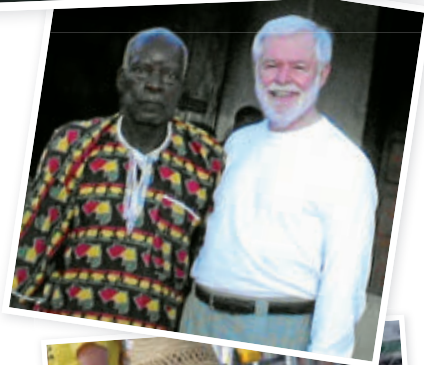


AMBASSADORS-AT-LARGE

Andy Lenec (from left), Steve Werner, Ted Bendelow, and Charlie Hunt are Colorado Rotarians who served in the Peace Corps.



Sean Boggs



Mann connected the club with a youth group and worked on small projects such as litter cleanups. When two Peace Corps volunteers in Štip who were teaching English needed more books, Mann talked to the club about finding a local distributor and also reached out to his friends at the Rotary Club of La Jolla, California, where he'd been a member previously, to connect them with the Štip club so that they could work together on the project.

Mann's supervisor at the Peace Corps took notice. By the end of 2019, Peace Corps Northern Macedonia had placed four Peace Corps volunteers with Rotary clubs in the country. "The clubs loved it because they got volunteers who were really knowledgeable in the area of community development and who had a lot of ideas, energy, time, and skills," Mann says. "The volunteers loved it because Rotary clubs immediately gave them a good connection to their community and a natural circle of friends."

It was a match made in heaven. Rotary and the Peace Corps seemed meant for one another — as subsequent developments would demonstrate.

←

TWO CORPS TALES

Charlie Hunt (center) and his wife, Nancy Cole, greet his host father, Pastor Kaltang Kai, as they end their Peace Corps service in Vanuatu.

During his service, Hunt helped organize a fishing workshop.

Hunt attending a chiefs' meeting; he was given the name "Masilae" when he arrived on the island of Émaé. "‘Silae' means 'man who helps' and 'Ma' means 'chief,' so technically I am a chief on the island," he explains.

Ted Bendelow with his friend Flumo, whom he met while serving in the Peace Corps in Liberia.

The Peace Corps is only one part of Bendelow's lifetime of service.

IT WAS AN IMPROMPTU SPEECH by John F. Kennedy, just weeks before the 1960 presidential election, that catapulted the idea of a volunteer corps of Americans into public consciousness. Speaking from the steps of the student union at the University of Michigan, he challenged students, who had been waiting until well after midnight for his arrival, to contribute part of their life to service. The idea took hold, and hundreds of students signed petitions pledging to volunteer. In March 1961, President Kennedy signed an executive order creating the Peace Corps. "‘Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country' was very real for me," says Ted Bendelow, a member of the Rotary Club of Mead, Colorado, who joined the Peace Corps six months after Kennedy's assassination and served in Liberia from 1964 to 1966.

In the 60 years since its creation, more than 240,000 Americans have served in the Peace Corps. Chances are there might be a returned Peace Corps volunteer (known as an RPCV) in your club or district. "They pop up in Rotary more than you might think," says Charlie Hunt, a member of the Rotary Club of Denver Lodo, who served in Vanuatu from 2006 to 2008. Hunt recalls attending a Rotary club meeting while traveling to another part of the United States and hearing an opinionated academic speaking about Iran. "A Rotarian took her to task," Hunt says. "He said he had spent two years in Iran. He had been a Peace Corps volunteer."

The relationship between Rotary International and the Peace Corps, made official with a 2014 partnership agreement, has its foundation in the organizations' shared values. The mission of the Peace Corps — "to promote world peace and friendship" — is one Rotary has embraced for more than 100 years. And the Peace Corps' chief areas of focus — agriculture, community economic development, education, environment, health, and youth in development — have much in common with Rotary's.

The Peace Corps has three goals: providing training for men and women in interested host countries; helping people in those countries to better understand Americans; and helping Americans to better understand other peoples. Service, therefore, is meant to continue once volunteers return home. "The third goal is not necessarily just about telling stories about your Peace Corps experience," Hunt says. "It's about being active in your

community and how you can best take the things you've done in the Peace Corps and apply them when you come back."

Steve Werner, a member of the Rotary Club of Denver Southeast and a Peace Corps volunteer in Korea from 1976 to 1978, recalls a meeting in the early 1990s with JFK's brother-in-law Sargent Shriver, who had served as the first director of the Peace Corps. Then the board chair for the National Peace Corps Association, Werner stopped by Shriver's office to have him sign some fundraising letters, a task he thought would take only 15 minutes. But Shriver was in the mood to talk. "He told me that the vision was that once a Peace Corps volunteer, we would always be a Peace Corps volunteer," Werner says. "We would continue to serve after we got home to be examples to our fellow Americans. It was a big part of my motivation for becoming a Rotarian."

Werner served another tour as a Peace Corps volunteer in the country of Georgia in 2016, this time with Peace Corps Response. While similar in approach to the two-year traditional program, Peace Corps Response assignments are shorter (generally 9-12 months) and involve higher impact projects geared to volunteers with more technical expertise in a particular program area.

ELSEWHERE IN 2016, Andy Lenec was listening to NPR with his son when he heard an interview with the oldest active Peace Corps volunteer at the time: 87-year-old Alice Carter, who had just finished her first year in Morocco. "I'd been a Rotarian for over 25 years and service is second nature to me," Lenec says. "I looked at my son, and he said, 'Go for it, Dad.' The next thing I know, I'm filling out the Peace Corps application form online."

Lenec was assigned to Truskavets, a small city in western Ukraine near the Polish border where a Rotary club had applied for a Peace Corps volunteer in partnership with the city government and library. The club was small but committed. "Because of economic struggles, Rotary in Ukraine can cost as much as one month's salary for annual dues," Lenec says. "Many just cannot afford it. So a club of what used to be 20 was down to maybe 4."

Once in Truskavets, Lenec decided that he wanted his side project for the Peace Corps to involve young people. He proposed an international youth conference to the Rotarians, and they jumped at the idea,



PEACE PARTNER

Kim Dixon, who served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the country of Georgia, is president of the nonprofit Partnering for Peace.

Sean Boggs

as did the city's mayor. As Lenec traveled to other Rotary clubs to encourage them to support the conference, a Rotarian asked if the conference could be turned into a Rotary Youth Leadership Awards event, which was defunct in the country. Lenec had been involved in RYLA for years and had seen the impact it makes on youth. Now he had a new goal: "We were going to revive RYLA in Ukraine," he says.

Unfortunately, Lenec became ill while planning the event and had to return to Colorado, where he is now a member of the Rotary Club of Denver Lodo. But another Peace Corps volunteer in Ukraine, Shannon Carter, stepped in and worked with Rotarians to keep the momentum going. During the summer of 2019, the RYLA took place; 17 young people from Ukraine, Japan, and Armenia participated.

241,000

Number of people who have served in the Peace Corps over the past 60 years

3

Percent of current volunteers over age 50

27

Average volunteer age

**As of 30 September 2020*



“It cemented faith in the program,” Carter says. Carter then helped organize a virtual RYLA in 2020 with more than 700 registered participants.

Unlike Lenec with his decades of Rotary experience, Carter had none. But she soon discovered how valuable the Rotary network would be, both with RYLA and her future projects. Following up on work Lenec had done to raise awareness of the RYLA project with clubs in North America, Carter was introduced to Gordon Crann, a member of the Rotary Club of Hamilton After Five, Ontario. Crann, who has an extensive global network as past chair of both the Rotary Action Group for Peace and the Rotary Action Group for Community and Economic Development, offered to help Carter promote RYLA. Then he went one step further: He suggested she

also apply for a Rotary Peace Fellowship.

“I was very impressed by Shannon and her organizational ability,” Crann says. “She was the key person in bringing everything together, and this was an international effort. Peace Corps volunteers have shown they have a commitment to Service Above Self by taking time off [for public service], when they could be making a lot more money in jobs in the United States.”

Carter applied, and today she is a Rotary Peace Fellow at the University of Bradford, England, and a member of the Rotaract Club of Lviv International, Ukraine. “I went into RYLA anticipating personal growth, but I didn’t foresee the international network I would gain that would provide future opportunities like the Rotary Peace Fellowship,” Carter says. “My experience as a Peace Corps

volunteer cemented my confidence in myself and made me realize we are fully able to do what we want in life.”

One of the driving forces behind the Rotary-Peace Corps partnership at the international level is a group of returned Peace Corps volunteers from Colorado who named themselves the “Tiger Team,” after a dog owned by one of its members. The group began meeting in November 2009 at the instigation of Sue Fox, a past president of the Rotary Club of Denver and a returned Peace Corps volunteer who served in Liberia from 1968 to 1970. Fox recognized the potential for the two groups; as she told a local business magazine at the time, “RPCVs and Rotarians are kindred spir-



→
MEMORIES OF UKRAINE

Andy Lenec (far left) with Rotary members, teachers, and students when he was posted as a Peace Corps volunteer in Truskavets, Ukraine.



Shannon Carter on an overnight train ride during a field trip with the young people of Zolotonosha, Ukraine, where she served as a Peace Corps youth development volunteer.



Carter (right) applauds at her 2017 swearing-in ceremony after the first 10 weeks of training.



Some of the young people who Carter worked with decided to go out into the community and give hugs to people. “They saw it on social media and wanted to do it,” she says.



Carter (right) with Valentina Borchenkova, her primary contact in Ukraine. “She was my entire life source when I first arrived,” Carter says.



THE NEXT STEP

Shannon Carter became a Rotary Peace Fellow following her Peace Corps service in Ukraine.

its, seeking the same goals embodied in Rotary’s motto, Service Above Self.”

The Tiger Team expanded to include other Rotarians as well as returned Peace Corps volunteers who were not affiliated with Rotary. Their group, which became the organization Partnering for Peace, proposed to Rotary International and the Peace Corps administration that a formal alliance be established between the two organizations. That step was taken in May 2014, and the partnership was recently renewed for another three years.

“What really drove us initially was the concern for people in the countries where the Peace Corps and Rotary work,” says Werner, one of the original Tiger Team members. “By working together, we could create bigger, more sustainable projects.”

Through the partnership, the Rotary

and Peace Corps global networks are encouraged to share their resources and knowledge to boost the impact of development projects globally. There are many ways Peace Corps volunteers and Rotary members can support each other, whether before, during, or after a Peace Corps assignment. (See “How to Work with a Peace Corps Volunteer,” page 55.) Hunt, for example, speaks at a send-off brunch hosted by the local Peace Corps recruiter every year to encourage volunteers to connect with their home Rotary club before they go overseas. Bendelow connected a Rotary club embarking on a service project in Nicaragua with Peace Corps volunteers who had served in the country and could advise the Rotarians on cultural norms. Lenec, Carter, and Mann saw their efforts as Peace Corps

Top photo courtesy of Andy Lenec; Third photo from top: Efreim Lukatsky; all others courtesy of Shannon Carter



← SNAPSHOTS FROM ŠTIP

Cal Mann (back right) with Peace Corps staff and Rotary members in North Macedonia, celebrating their collaboration.

Mann attended a cultural event held by the Yuruk ethnic community near the town of Radoviš.

The charter president of the Rotary Club of Štip, Zoran Kolev, exchanges club banners with Mann at the meeting that marked the club's first six months.

Rotary Club of Štip members review Rotary-donated English-language children's storybooks with representatives from the Goce Delčev-Štip primary school.

Students register for the regional English-language spelling bee in Štip. Nationwide, more than 3,000 students participate in this highly competitive contest, which is facilitated by volunteers from the Peace Corps and Rotary.

volunteers amplified when they worked with Rotary clubs. And it's been Hunt's experience that returned Peace Corps volunteers make great club speakers. "Typically what volunteers find is that when they talk about their experience with friends, their friends' eyes glaze over," Hunt says. "Getting in front of Rotary clubs is more cathartic."

Kim Dixon knows all about that. After she returned to North Carolina from her 2014-16 Peace Corps assignment in Georgia, she spoke at five Rotary clubs about her experiences. "The Rotary clubs were most welcoming and interested," she says. "They all invited me to join their clubs and also were waiting for an 'ask' for a funding project. I didn't have a project at the time, but now I know better."

In 2019, Dixon joined the Rotary Club of Raleigh Midtown, finding it an easy

way to connect with like-minded people and continue serving her community. "Being away for several years, I didn't have the connections anymore to find nonprofits to support," she says. "Rotary just dropped in my lap like a present."

As 2020 began, Mann was making great progress with his initiative to connect Peace Corps volunteers and Rotary members in North Macedonia. The posting of four volunteers to a Rotary club in their assignment city was going so well that the organization was planning to have 10 more volunteers in the next cohort join up with Rotary clubs. Mann signed on for another year of Peace Corps service to see the initiative through. Then, one day in March, his country director called him into



PATH TO PEACE

Cal Mann served as a Peace Corps volunteer in North Macedonia. "[The partnership] is a huge opportunity for Rotary members and Peace Corps volunteers on the grassroots level to work together effectively," he says.



Photos courtesy of Cal Mann



Ian Tuttle

HOW TO WORK WITH A PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER

The Peace Corps sends U.S. citizens abroad to promote international understanding and tackle pressing needs, many of which align with Rotary's areas of focus. Involving a Peace Corps volunteer in your club project can help increase its impact and sustainability. Many Peace Corps volunteers enter service as Rotaractors or Rotarians or become involved with Rotary after their service. There are opportunities to engage with them before, during, or after their Peace Corps assignment. Read on for some ideas.

If you are a Rotary club in a country that hosts Peace Corps volunteers:

- Invite the Peace Corps volunteer working in your community to a club meeting or to visit a club project.
- If your club is located in a capital city, where most Peace Corps country offices are located, invite the Peace Corps country director to a club meeting.
- Speak at Peace Corps volunteers' pre- or mid-service trainings to let them know about ways they can connect with Rotary during their assignment.
- Partner with a Peace Corps volunteer on a humanitarian project.
- Help a Peace Corps volunteer in your community by facilitating connections.

If you are a Rotary club in the United States:

- Host a Peace Corps recruiter as a speaker at your club meeting or conference, or host or speak at a Peace Corps send-off party.
- Connect with a Peace Corps volunteer from your area before they leave for their service to talk about opportunities for supporting their work.
- Invite a returned volunteer as a speaker at your club meeting.
- Host a welcome-back party to begin engaging with returned volunteers.
- Ask a returned volunteer to share their expertise on a project or provide cultural coaching.

Rotary and the Peace Corps have published a toolkit with more ideas and resources. Find it at on.rotary.org/3uQ5TTB.

Celebrate Rotary and the Peace Corps in September

Partnering for Peace, a grassroots effort led by individuals from the Peace Corps community and Rotary members around the world, is hosting a weeklong event 20-26 September to highlight the Rotary-Peace Corps partnership. The celebration will include a webinar featuring RI General Secretary John Hewko and Peace Corps Acting Director Carol Spahn. For more information and ideas on how to create a program, visit partneringforpeace.org. For more information about Partnering for Peace, email info@partneringforpeace.org.

his office. Earlier in the week, Mann had floated the idea of staying on for a fourth year, and now he joked about the quick response.

The country director didn't laugh. Instead, as Mann recalls, he said, "I have an option for you: You can get on a plane in 12 hours or 36 hours, but you have to get on a plane." Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Peace Corps was suspending operations globally for the first time in its history. All volunteers needed to go home.

Only two weeks earlier, Mann had moved to Skopje, the country's capital. He had a new bed he hadn't even slept in yet, but 36 hours later he was on his way back to California. In all, the Peace Corps evacuated nearly 7,000 people in 60 countries, many in remote villages, in 10 days. "I'm an optimist

by nature," Mann says. "But I was really naively optimistic, so much so that I didn't unpack my bags for three days. I thought they'd call me and tell me I'm coming back."

Over the past year, Mann has been mentoring Rotaractors and speaking at Rotary clubs about his Peace Corps experience. He was nominated (as was Hunt) for the 2021 Lillian Carter Award, which is given to outstanding individuals who serve in the Peace Corps at age 50 or older. But the minute he can go back to North Macedonia, he's prepared. As he chats over Zoom, he glances at a nearby closet. "I took everything out of that closet and put everything I need for the Peace Corps in there, including luggage," he says. "When the fire drill goes off, I can pack faster than anybody. I'm ready to go." ■

OUR CLUBS

VIRTUAL VISIT

Small but mighty

Rotary Club of Dermott-South Chicot, Arkansas

As chair of the Rotary Club of Dermott-South Chicot, Arkansas, Demetria Edwards leads a group of 10 Rotarians who have spent their first two years together exploring what Rotary can do for their small community. The club has been punching well above its weight with a variety of projects that focus on veterans, students, and senior citizens.

The club is a satellite of the Rotary Club of Dermott; both are located in Chicot County, a rural area in the southeastern corner of Arkansas with about 10,000 residents. The county is in the heart of the Mississippi Delta region, and before the Civil War it was home to a large number of enslaved people — the 1860 census puts the figure at 7,512. Today, more than 50 percent of the population is African American.

The satellite club meets in Lake Village, the county seat. The idea for starting a Rotary club there came from Bill Fish, who was at the time a member of the Rotary Club of Dermott and the pastor of a church in Lake Village. Fish,

now a member of the Rotary Club of Hot Springs Village in central Arkansas and governor-elect of District 6170, recruited Edwards and others for the satellite club through his church.

As the group of potential members worked to get the club off the ground, they faced a challenge when Fish retired and moved out of the area. Robert Thompson, the 2019-20 governor of District 6170, stepped in to help, and the satellite club was chartered in August 2019.

Small clubs can have a big impact, Thompson says, especially in smaller communities where club members not only know their neighbors but understand their needs. “Most small-club communities are really appreciative of the presence of Rotary,” he adds.

Monthly service projects have been a hallmark of the Dermott-South Chicot club. Members focus on The Four-Way Test during the planning process, especially the third question: Will it build goodwill and better friendships? The club strives to reach all parts of the community. In March, for instance, it sponsored meals for veterans through two events — an annual spaghetti dinner at the local Catholic church and a fish dinner organized with the chamber of commerce.

Feeding people has been a consistent theme for the club. When schools were closed to in-person learning because of the COVID-19 pandemic, members wanted to help children who would normally receive some of their meals at school. They cooked and packaged meals at a member’s home and distributed them at a drive-up event aimed at families but open to anyone in need. Club members

Get into orbit

A satellite club holds its own meetings, has its own bylaws, and sponsors its own projects. Once it reaches 20 members, a satellite club can apply for a charter to become a stand-alone Rotary club, or it can continue as a satellite club for as long as members choose. Satellite club members are regular Rotarians and are also members of the sponsor club.

▶ **2013** Year Rotary introduced satellite clubs as a transitional option toward creating an independent Rotary club

▶ **8** Number of members needed to start a satellite club

▶ **1,068** Number of active satellite clubs

▶ **2019** Year the Dermott-South Chicot club launched

▶ **1925** Year the Rotary Club of Dermott was first chartered

Learn more about satellite clubs and other flexible club models at [rotary.org/document/club-types](https://www.rotary.org/document/club-types).

also looked out for older people who were stuck at home during the pandemic by hand-delivering pies to seniors. One member, Bobbie Green, says the project showed her how the club can make a difference in someone’s life. “I saw how happy people were just to get a pie,” she says. “They were so thrilled that someone thought about them.”



The club also focuses on literacy and young people; it recently sponsored an essay contest for students ages 12 to 18, with two laptop computers as prizes. Members have set up three Little Free Libraries to encourage reading and to create a point of contact with young readers. And Edwards is hoping to start a youth book club with help from a district grant her Rotary club received to buy books; she hopes it will be a launching pad for an Interact club at the local high school. “We would like to cultivate a group of young people who want to build leadership skills,” Edwards explains. “We want the Interact club to do two an-

“When I saw the Rotary club feeding the community and helping children, I thought this was something I wanted to be a part of.”

Timothy Ivy

nual community service projects, one local and one global, to help them see beyond their own small community.”

The Dermott-South Chicot club boasts three generations of the Edwards family among its ranks: Demetria Edwards’ mother, Lillie Edwards, and grandmother Ella Edwards are both members. “My family was always involved in doing something in the community for whoever needed help,” says Lillie Edwards. Demetria Edwards adds, “I am the club chair by title, but the one who keeps us on task is my 93-year-old grandmother. She kept us going during the pandemic.” When indoor meetings were curtailed, members continued to meet outside, often gathering on Ella Edwards’ patio. Ella Edwards also helps with recruiting and recently persuaded the town’s mayor, Joe Dan Yee, to become the club’s first male member.

Carlissa Edwards, a relative newcomer to Lake Village and sister-in-law to Demetria Edwards, is another new member. When she lived in a larger city, she says, she tended to meet up with friends at Starbucks: “We didn’t look for clubs to be a part of. But when I moved to Lake Village

and asked, ‘What is there to do?’ people told me to join a club or a church. When I saw the Rotary club feeding the community and helping children, I thought this was something I wanted to be a part of.”

The Rotarians promote their club’s work on social media to engage the community and attract new members. Until recently, all the members were African American women. Demetria Edwards is proud of those charter members but wants to continue to grow. “We want to be very intentional about expanding and diversifying our club. We want to promote cross-cultural understanding,” she says, adding: “Maya Angelou is from Arkansas, and she said, ‘In diversity there is beauty and there is strength.’ We want to gather young people and adults and have real conversations around diversity, and do things together to address issues in our community.” — SUSIE L. MA

Members of the Rotary Club of Dermott-South Chicot at one of the Little Free Libraries they have placed in their community. From left: Demetria Edwards, Carlissa Edwards, Joe Dan Yee, Ella Edwards, Lillie Edwards, and Bobbie Green.

FOUR QUESTIONS

Alumni committees

A district alumni committee chair gives advice on engaging past program participants



Nianna Gustovich
Rotary Club of
McAllen Evening,
Texas

1 What prompted you to get involved in your district's alumni committee?

I went to France on a Group Study Exchange and became a Rotarian after I returned. Rotary alumni — who include past participants in Rotaract, vocational training teams (VTTs), Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), Youth Exchange, peace fellowships, and other programs — have the potential to do something fantastic, but only a small percentage of them become Rotarians. Losing so many of our alums is a tragedy; consider everything that Rotary has invested in these people, myself included, and everything they've gained from their experience — leadership training, cultural competence, language ability, vocational skills. I want to change that attrition; it's one of the reasons I wanted to serve as alumni committee chair.

2 The Rotary Alumni Global Service Award honors one exemplary alumnus every year. You nominated Elaine Hernandez, who won the award in 2019-20. How did that come about?

I was on Rotary's website looking for some information related to my committee work and I came across a description of the award. I learned that any Rotarian could nominate someone. It's not necessary to be an alum or a member of a committee. It said the recipient should be someone who has distinguished themselves in their profession and performed great amounts of service locally and internationally. I immediately thought of Elaine — she met all the criteria. She had studied in Mexico with the Youth Exchange program in 1970-71. (Read more about Hernandez's career and service in Rotary in the December 2020 issue of this magazine.) When we submitted Elaine's nomination and she won, we were so proud, we were busting buttons.

The award brings so much satisfaction to your club and district, and it highlights the value that alumni bring to the organization. Elaine truly exemplifies the tenets of Rotary, and she's a great example to the rest of us.

3 What kind of work do district alumni committees do?

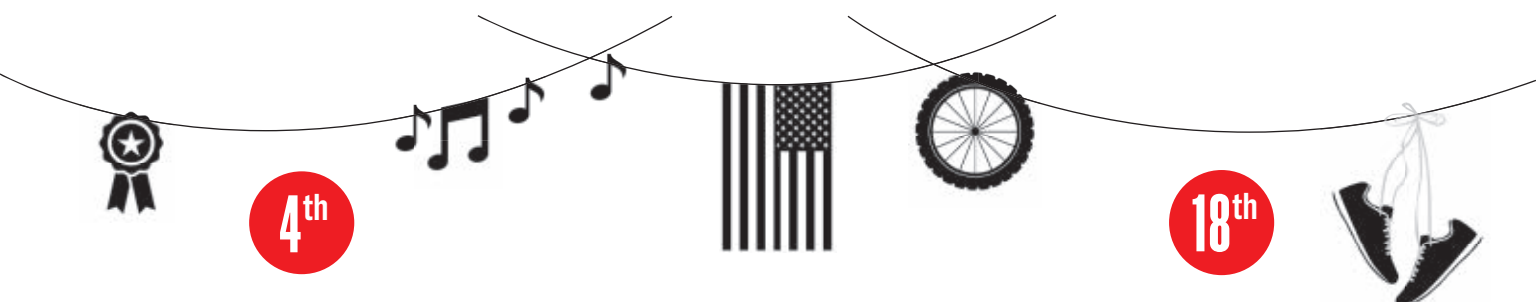
We go out and find alumni and try to get them plugged into where they may belong in Rotary. Maybe they were not ready to become a club member back then, but they could be ready now. It can be a challenge because many of the email addresses we have for alumni are old. We're trying to get clubs involved in updating their contact information, and we're also working on building a larger database so we have a centralized location where clubs can input information on their alumni. I have a lot of support from our district governor, the membership chair, and the Rotary Foundation team in our district. Everybody is on the lookout for alumni now.

4 What's your advice for clubs and districts that want to engage local alumni?

We have found success in holding what Rotary calls "reconnects." These gatherings involve inviting all of your known alumni to a reunion at which they can share their stories. We hold one in the fall and one in the spring at different locations in our district. During the pandemic, we're doing it online through Zoom. We're finding that more people will attend the virtual events than the in-person ones. We would have maybe four people show up at a restaurant, but that's how we found our core alumni group, who are now reaching out to others. For the online event, we livestreamed it on Facebook and we had a whole bunch of people. We also have an alumni page on Facebook. — PAUL ENGLEMAN

Learn more about Rotary alumni and get involved at rotary.org/alumni. Nominations for the Rotary Alumni Global Service Award are open through 15 September. Submit yours at rotary.org/awards.

September events



4th

LIFE IS A HIGHWAY

Event:
Cruising Downtown

Host:
Rotary Club of Manchester,
New Hampshire

What it benefits:
Local youth programs

What it is:
This car show features everything from lovingly maintained vintage automobiles to customized hot rods. Awards are given in a variety of categories; enjoy live entertainment and browse food and other vendors while rooting for your favorite cars.

4th to 18th

HATS OFF TO HEROES

Event:
Field of Honor

Host:
Rotary Club of Forest, Virginia

What it benefits:
Community projects

What it is:
A thousand U.S. flags will flutter in a grassy field to honor members of the military as well as first responders and health care workers who have served on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. The event kicks off with an opening ceremony on 5 September. “Taps” will be played nightly, and a special memorial service will take place on 11 September.

11th

CONCERT FOR A CAUSE

Event:
Rivertown Live

Host:
Rotary Club of Hastings Area,
Minnesota

What it benefits:
Local projects

What it is:
Lovers of live music will be in heaven during a day of tunes from a variety of artists. The two stages overlook the Mississippi River, and a variety of food and beverage trucks will be on hand, so bring your appetite.

18th

THROW ME FOR A LOOP

Event:
Loop de Loop 5K/10K/half marathon
run/walk

Host:
Rotary Club of Decorah, Iowa

What it benefits:
Local projects and charities

What it is:
The half-marathon route will take participants along the upper Iowa River; through wooded areas; past cornfields, a dairy farm, and a trout hatchery; and close to the nesting site of the famous Decorah bald eagles. The 5K and 10K routes will treat runners to a variety of Decorah sights as well.

25th

WOOHOO! LET’S RIDE!

Event:
Woohoomanity Challenge at the
Denver Century Ride

Host:
Rotary clubs of District 5450 (Colorado)

What it benefits:
Local projects

What it is:
Taking advantage of the Charitable Affiliate program of the Denver Century Ride, bicyclists who choose to take the Woohoomanity Challenge use their ride to fundraise for their club. Then they just have to tackle 100 miles with a hardcore climb up Lookout Mountain (riders can also choose 25-, 50-, and 85-mile options). Woohoo, time to climb!

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



TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

If you can dream it, you can do it

Malala Yousafzai is a young Pakistani activist for the education of girls and women. As a teenager, Malala, whom the world knows by her first name, courageously spoke out for the rights of girls to learn. Extremists in her country disagreed with Malala, and she was shot by a Taliban gunman on her way home from school.

But the attack didn't dissuade her; it made her more determined. As soon as she recuperated, she resumed her mission of education activism. Today the Malala Fund supports education through projects around the world.

Not only is Malala an inspiration for Rotary members, we also have some commonalities: a drive to do what is right, a passion for literacy, and the power to transform dreams into reality.

One of my life mottos is: If you can dream it, you can do it. This applies to everything Rotarians do, particularly with The Rotary Foundation. We literally make our dreams happen.

Like Malala, we know that literacy is, for many, the first step out of poverty. To put our vision into action, we first understand a community and the unique problems of its members, and then form a partnership with them. Next we join forces with others — exchanging ideas with clubs

in other districts, and working with people and organizations outside of Rotary.

Our solution, in the form of a district grant or global grant, will be tailored for that community. And if it's a Rotary grant, you can bet it will be well-planned, strategic, and most of all, sustainable. We want that gift of literacy to not be a one-time book donation but a plan to transform a community over time.

Over the years, I have seen countless literacy efforts in Rotary, from national programs to local projects. When the global COVID-19 pandemic hit last year, many clubs took action to help communities adjust to online schooling, including providing laptop computers. Rotary's solutions are endless, our volunteers tireless. And if I know Rotarians, I know that more solutions are being created as I write these words.

Rotary's passion for literacy and education projects is well-known. So is our commitment to make them happen. You, through Rotary, are a big part of helping people take their first step out of illiteracy, out of poverty, and into something much better. Remember, if you can dream it, you can do it — just like Malala.

JOHN F. GERM

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.

AWARD WINNERS

Rotaract projects take honors

The winners of the 2020-21 Rotaract Outstanding Project Awards were announced in April and celebrated during the virtual Rotaract Preconvention in June. Rotaract clubs and districts in 63 countries nominated a record 675 service projects, which were evaluated by RI staff and Rotaract Committee members on criteria including sustainability, community assessment, promotion, impact within Rotary’s areas of focus, involvement of multiple Rotaract clubs, and collaboration with Rotarians and local experts. Two projects were chosen as international awardees and six as regional awardees.

For more than 25 years, the Rotaract Outstanding Project Awards program has been an opportunity for Rotaract clubs to share their success with the global Rotary community and to inspire other clubs to develop sustainable and innovative projects. Because the nomination form is modeled after The Rotary Foundation’s global grant application, the process also helps prepare Rotaract clubs to apply for global grants, which they will be allowed to do starting 1 July. Learn more about Rotaract at rotary.org/rotaract.

INTERNATIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

Single club: Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, for creating and sustaining Sri Lanka’s largest educational audiobook library, as well as designing audio-based vocational training lessons to benefit visually impaired students.

Multiclub: Rotaract clubs in Southeast Asia for their You Are Not Alone mental health initiative, which reached more than 50,000 people with an approach that included local outreach and virtual educational workshops on suicide, cyberbullying, trauma, and depression.



▲ Top: An association of women farmers in the Philippines received hands-on training in hydroponic gardening from members of the Rotaract Club of Zamboanga City West. Bottom: Rotaractors in Southeast Asia created digital posters to spread awareness of their multiclub mental health initiative.

REGIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

Africa: Rotaract Club of Kololo, Uganda, for empowering women from five communities by donating sewing machines, providing financial training, and creating an investment club to pool resources and savings.

Asia-Pacific: Rotaract Club of Zamboanga City West, Philippines, for a project that introduced hydroponic gardening to an association of women farmers to help them increase their food security and generate income.

Canada, Caribbean, and United States: Rotaract Club of Tortola, British Virgin Islands, for helping install in a local park an artificial tree that uses solar power to charge electronic devices, raising awareness of the benefits of alternative energy.

Central Asia, Europe, and Middle East: Rotaract Club of Tunis-Ennasr, Tunisia,

for leading a nine-club project that collected donations of hair in order to provide customized wigs to children undergoing chemotherapy. In the process, the clubs highlighted the psychological impact of cancer and combated cultural myths about hair.

Latin America: Rotaract Club of Itabuna Universitários, Brazil, for supporting a neighborhood that had no access to drinking water or basic sanitation by distributing ceramic filters, educating residents about water treatment methods, and getting public health authorities involved.

South Asia: Rotaract Club of Islamabad, Bangladesh, for Project Beacon, in which members renovated a Rotary-sponsored school and provided tutoring, guidance, and educational materials to students facing challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.

From top: Courtesy of the Rotaract Club of Zamboanga City West, Philippines; You Are Not Alone (YANA) Southeast Asia Mental Health Initiative

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HOUSTON CONVENTION

Cultural bonanza



Fotos593

Whether you are drawn to classical art or contemporary, photography or architecture, Houston has a museum for you. During the 2022 Rotary International Convention 4-8 June, plan a day trip to the city's museum district: Its 19 museums include the Contemporary Arts Museum; the Menil Collection, a 30-acre campus featuring free and fully accessible galleries; and Children's Museum Houston, one of the best of its kind in the United States.

With nearly 70,000 art pieces spread across three

buildings — which are connected by interactive art tunnels — the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, ranges from ancient art to 20th-century sculptures by Henri Matisse and Joan Miró. It isn't possible to view it all in one visit, so pace yourself and make a plan for what you most want to see.

The Rothko Chapel, commissioned by John and Dominique de Menil, who were known as pioneers of Houston's art scene, has been a must-see destination since it opened its doors in 1971.

Its 14 large abstract paintings by Mark Rothko and its intentional architectural choices are meant to provoke spiritual exploration and social change.

Ready to reconnect with nature? Head to the Houston Museum of Natural Science, where you can take a stroll through the Cockrell Butterfly

Center, peek underneath the Rainforest Conservatory's waterfall, and listen to entomologists speak about the plethora of creatures on display. And if you've always been curious about what cricket chips taste like, you're in luck — just grab a snack from the insect vending machine.

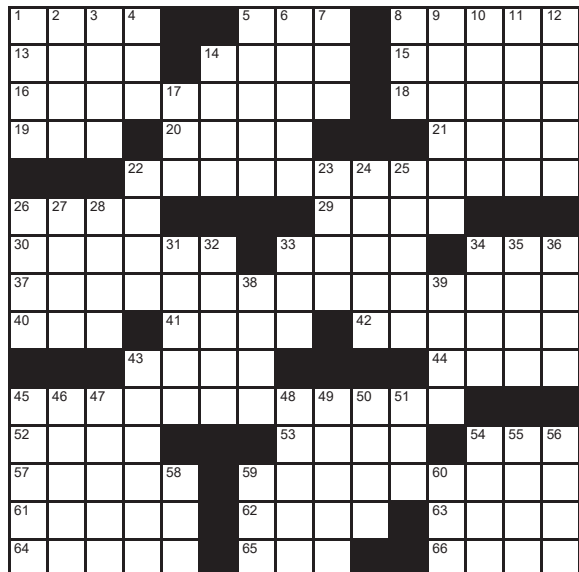
— MIYOKI WALKER

Learn more and register at convention.rotary.org.

CROSSWORD

Project parts (No. 5 in a series)

By Victor Fleming
Rotary Club of Little Rock, Arkansas



ACROSS

- 1 This spot
- 5 Little island
- 8 Bring down
- 13 Brain product
- 14 Surprised one's expression
- 15 Some jeans, familiarly
- 16 Possible components of a basic education and literacy project
- 18 Amino ___
- 19 Tetley beverage
- 20 Bruce or Laura
- 21 Away from the storm
- 22 Possible components ...
- 26 Breakfast fare
- 29 Grade sch. descriptor
- 30 Religious belief
- 33 "Bearded" bloomer
- 34 London restroom
- 37 Possible component ...
- 40 Afternoons, briefly
- 41 "Beware the ___ of March"
- 42 Annoying night noise maker
- 43 Inter ___ (among other things)
- 44 Chip's companion
- 45 Possible components ...

- 52 Pick up from the grapevine
- 53 Like a D, gradewise
- 54 Area used by ewes
- 57 Like the eight quarterfinalists in a certain tournament
- 59 Possible component ...
- 61 Assuage
- 62 Bug on a dog
- 63 French gal pal
- 64 *All That Jazz* director Bob
- 65 Son of Aga Khan
- 66 Anti-DUI org.

DOWN

- 1 Dagger handle
- 2 Falco of *Nurse Jackie*
- 3 Country music's McEntire
- 4 Corn serving
- 5 Songbird sound
- 6 "I'd like to see ___"
- 7 No counterpart
- 8 Miss. neighbor
- 9 Suggestion to an edgy sort
- 10 City in Spain
- 11 Less frequently played song on a 45 RPM
- 12 Cussing pair?
- 14 Locale of a Utah club that hosted a crossword program via Zoom in March

- 17 Big flap
- 22 High-style
- 23 Guam, for one, for short
- 24 Inventor Howe
- 25 Varnish stuff
- 26 Beginning of a URL
- 27 Interrupter's interjection
- 28 Coral and Red, for two
- 31 Con man's accomplice
- 32 News outlets
- 33 Possessive pronoun
- 34 Old Italian bread
- 35 Torts student, casually
- 36 Mean sort
- 38 Raise, as children
- 39 Dozes (off)
- 43 Vital vessels
- 45 Collection of papers
- 46 Violin kin
- 47 Flags down
- 48 Incantation, perhaps
- 49 Beehive output
- 50 Teeny quantity
- 51 For
- 54 Bean variety
- 55 Oklahoma city
- 56 Got older
- 58 Look at
- 59 Writer's deg.
- 60 Crash into

Solution on **page 10**



The sound of music

A Rotary member finds fellowship through song

Rod Fivelstad

Rotary Club of
Grass Valley,
California

Chair, International
Fellowship of
Rotarian Musicians

ONLINE: The International Fellowship of Rotarian Musicians has a virtual choir that meets via Zoom every Saturday morning. We've got singers from all over the world — India, the Caribbean, France, the UK, Canada, the United States. We send in individual recordings of our voices. You listen on earphones to the musical accompaniment on one computer, and then sing into another computer to record your voice. Then John Ackenhusen, our virtual choir director, puts all the tracks together and creates videos that we post on YouTube.

IN PRINT: There have been several editions of *Songs for the Rotary Club*. It's a wonderful songbook if you are from the United States. We are working on a new songbook, which we will make available online as a database, that will be far more international in nature. Sometimes on Saturday mornings, we choose a song or two out of this one. John plays the piano and we sing along to ourselves. We have a great deal of fun. We really have built an international friendship.

MUSIC MAN: Some of my earliest memories revolve around singing.

Before I was in school, I would sing along to my parents' 78 rpm records. By fourth grade I was ready to tackle a musical instrument, the trumpet, but I soon realized that you can't sing *and* play the trumpet unless you are Louis Armstrong. So trumpet lessons stopped, but school choir continued. The joy that music and singing bring to me is very difficult to describe. I sing with a male choir here in Grass Valley. Our signature song is "What Would I Do Without My Music?" COVID-19 certainly put a damper on music performance, but I have managed to keep on singing.

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