

Rotary

JUNE 2024

MAGAZINE

Solar power generates
health care gains
page 14

Land trust sparks
Milwaukee's
riverfront
restoration
page 42

Alumni award
gravitates
to Italian
physicist
page 52

2024 PHOTO AWARDS

Golden moments

14 photographs that light up our world

page 26

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RENOWNED ARCHAEOLOGISTS



Dr. Mostafa Waziri
One of Egypt's Heads
of Antiquities

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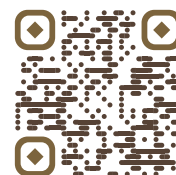
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SIMONA PINTON
Italy, District 2060

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OCCUPATION:

Lawyer and senior research fellow, international criminal law and human rights



WHAT ARE ROTARY MEMBERS SAYING ABOUT SIMONA?

“Thanks to Simona Pinton’s contribution, we were able to focus well on the area of intervention. Through her preliminary analysis, we understood that our project had the requirements of interest and novelty regarding a very sensitive topic in Italy and the world. Her support helped us to carefully evaluate the cooperating associations and pay attention to the evaluation of the social context on which the project operates and collect data for measuring the results.”

— PRIMA (prevenzione intervento maltrattamento) global grant project committee members from the Rotary Clubs of Roma Cassia, District 2080 (Italy), and Tunis Méditerranée, District 9010 (Tunisia)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



1. During a country visit to Mongolia, RI President Gordon McInally tries his hand at falconry, an ancient practice in the region. 2. McInally (second from left) and leaders of District 3450 give the thumbs up during preparations for the Macau Grand Prix in November. 3. While visiting Nassau, Bahamas, for a Rotary institute, McInally drops by an environmental project run by Rotary members. 4. McInally shares a moment with Kenyan Rotarian and Rotaractor Kennedy Gayah on the sidelines of a Rotary institute in Lusaka, Zambia. 5. McInally and his wife, Heather, greet Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square.



6



10



7



8



9

6. The McInallys visit with Rotary leaders in Bhubaneswar, known as India's "temple city." 7. A student works on a puzzle with McInally at a school for young people with disabilities in South Africa that is supported by Rotary clubs. 8. McInally works on his forehand at a demonstration space for tennis players who use wheelchairs while in Rome for a Rotary institute. 9. During a tour of Africa, McInally presents Malawi's president, Lazarus Chakwera, with a quach, a Scottish gift of friendship. 10. The McInallys join the fun at the July Fourth parade in Evanston, Illinois, home of the Rotary International headquarters.

The honor of a lifetime

It's customary for a Rotary president in the final month in office to recap the past year on this page, and I am proud of all we have achieved together. But I want to focus on our future, and that begins with polio.

We have reached an astonishing 3 billion children with the polio vaccine, and we have averted an estimated 20 million cases of paralysis. But it's not enough. We must continue supporting the End Polio Now campaign to reach zero cases and keep our promise to the world's children.

Polio is not our only global commitment. In fact, Rotary has been working toward global peace even longer. Spreading Positive Peace through service projects and Rotary Peace Centers around the world is more important than ever.

We must also continue to build peace from within, and that begins with supporting mental health and wellness among our fellow Rotary members and the communities we serve. Rotary has an opportunity to help build a global mental health system that currently does not exist, and I urge all members to consider joining the Rotary Action Group on Mental Health Initiatives to keep up the momentum we began this year.

It's been the honor of a lifetime to serve as your president. You have given Heather and me memories we will cherish forever. I look forward to our continued friendship and our collective commitment to *Create Hope in the World*.

R. GORDON R. MCINALLY
President, Rotary International





YOU ARE HERE: Vienna

GREETING: Grüß Gott

THE IMPERIAL PALACE: The Hofburg is one of the world's largest palace complexes, encompassing 2,600 rooms and 19 courtyards over its 59 acres. Located in the heart of Austria's capital city of Vienna, the palace served as the residence and seat of Habsburg monarchs who ruled much of Europe between the 13th and early 20th centuries. It is now the official seat of the president of Austria.

ST. MICHAEL WING: Named after the church it faces, the Michaelertrakt, or St. Michael Wing, dominates the north facade of the Hofburg palace. The semi-circle facade, pictured here, has three impressive bronze domes and offers a splendid portal into the sprawling palace grounds. An imperial coat of arms, carried by two guardian angels, presides over the central gate.

ROTARY IN AUSTRIA: The Rotary Club of Vienna, the first club in Austria, was chartered in 1925. There are 167 Rotary clubs and 35 Rotaract clubs in the country. — WEN HUANG

Rotary

MAGAZINE

June 2024

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CONTENTS

June 2024
Vol. 202, No. 12

FEATURES

26

2024 Photo Awards

Vision quest: Rotary members fan out across the globe to capture the light

42

A watershed moment

The Rotary Club of Milwaukee revitalized its city's riverfront with a contribution from a local landowner — a strategy that could work in other communities

By **Diana Schoberg**
Photography by **Jeff Marini**

On the cover: A morning scene along the sacred Yamuna River in northern India where Hindus perform purification rites.
Photo by Hansruedi Frutiger, Rotary Club of Gombak, Kuala Lumpur



64

- 2 **President's message**
- 4 **Welcome**

CONNECT

- 10 **Staff corner**
- 11 **Letters to the editor**

OUR WORLD

- 14 **A healthy glow**
Solar energy isn't just good for the environment — it's expanding access to health care
- 17 **Both sides now**
A doctor brings her personal and professional perspective to issues of mental health
- 18 **People of action around the globe**
- 20 **An investment in Rotary's future**
Rotary Youth Exchange runs entirely on volunteers like you
- 22 **Life behind the lens**
For an Army veteran, photography — and Rotary — have opened up the world








OUR CLUBS

- 50 **Virtual visit**
Rotary Club of Beirut Pax Potentia, Lebanon
- 52 **Where are they now?**
Rotary's latest alumni award honoree pursues scientific and societal progress
- 54 **Calendar**
- 56 **Handbook**
Tartan's checkered past: How a centuries-old Scottish textile became a global fashion
- 58 **Rotary Fellowships**
- 59 **Trustee chair's message**
- 62 **Crossword**
- 64 **For the sweetest sweet moments**
In France, chouquettes are at the center of the good times

ILLUSTRATION: HARRIET SEED; PHOTOGRAPH: (OPPOSITE) JEFF MARINI



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The editors welcome comments on items published in the magazine but reserve the right to edit for style and length. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors or Rotary International leadership, nor do the editors take responsibility for errors of fact that may be expressed by the writers.

STAFF CORNER

Diego Campos

Photo editor

My interest in photography started in high school. I attended Chicago's competitive Whitney M. Young Magnet High School, where I volunteered to be a photographer for the school's yearbook. I thought taking pictures would be super fun, so I got myself a point-and-shoot camera. The gig lasted a few months.

I started experimenting with fashion photography because of the influence of my older sister, who was into fashion and art. I began following fashion and fashion photography blogs. My school friends would model for my photos. I'd have them bring suitcases of clothes. My sister would do their hair and makeup for the shoots. Looking back, those shoots seemed like a disaster, but they were my first attempt at fashion photography. I made a portfolio and presented it to various modeling agencies.

Those endeavors led me to New York City, where I enrolled in the Parsons School of Design. Initially, I saw photography as more of a mechanical tool than a high form of artistic expression. As I started exploring photography genres, my perspective changed. While taking classes, I would work on my fashion photography portfolio on the weekends, networking with makeup stylists and models and interning with established fashion photographers such as Alexi Lubomirski.

I interned with Vogue magazine in my sophomore year, researching imagery for certain topics. I attended art meetings and witnessed how the editorial team made image decisions. I saw the legendary *Vogue* editor Anna Wintour a few times. It was intimidating because of everything I had heard about her. The movie *The Devil Wears Prada* portrays a character inspired by Wintour as a tough boss, but in reality she was friendly and



very relaxed. She was a hands-on boss. If she didn't like a specific layout, she'd give notes or ask for changes to articles.

After graduating, I became a photo researcher for *Elle* and *Marie Claire*, two iconic women's fashion magazines. I had the chance to work with a group of talented graphic designers, writers, art directors, and editors. The collaboration was the most exciting part.

I found Rotary as I decided to challenge myself with more meaningful work. I moved back to Chicago in February 2020, just as COVID-19 started. I handle photo production, research, and licensing for Rotary and *Rotary* magazine.

I discovered flamenco dancing during the COVID lockdown. While taking online dance classes, I formed my own virtual social community. My teacher, who is based in Madrid now, did a lot of one-on-one training with me. There's such a strong sense of emotion attached to the dance. It feels so empowering. I auditioned for Ensemble Español, a Chicago-based Spanish dancing company, and became an apprentice dancer. Performing onstage was very exciting but involved lots of hard work. I just want to keep training and hope to choreograph a few dances for myself.

I've had a fascination with Japan and Japanese culture like I do with photography since I was little, and I've been learning to speak Japanese, which is at the intermediate level now. As the child of Mexican immigrants, I also speak Spanish and love Latin culture. ■

Letters to the editor

GIFT IDEAS

I have to agree with Sylvia Whitlock when it comes to presenting gifts of thanks [“Gift exchange,” Letters to the editor, March]. No one really wants another crystal vase or plaque to hang on an office wall.

Our Rotary club presents a simple certificate with a promise to make a donation in the person’s name to The Rotary Foundation. The recipients are always surprised and grateful for such a meaningful gift.

We believe this is much more appreciated than a gift that will not mean as much as what The Rotary Foundation does with donations made by each club.

Rhonda Brady, Tehachapi, California

When my club recently discussed an appropriate way to thank presenters, we were inspired by a conversation our president had with a small group of neighbors who are retired. Each month they identify a local cause and figure out how they can most support its needs through volunteering or collecting items. In this way, they support smaller causes and educate themselves about the needs of their community.

Based on this idea, members voted to provide a donation to every 501(c)(3) organization that presents at our meetings. As a club, we felt it a simple and more effective way to show our appreciation and provide support. I encourage thoughtful consideration of Sylvia Whitlock’s suggestions and challenge all clubs to find other ways to give thanks to those who spend their time educating us.

Lyn Mueller, Blythewood, South Carolina

There are several ways to acknowledge speakers in more productive ways. One year, our club asked the local public library what books were on its wish list. We purchased 12 books, one for each month, and told speakers that a book would be donated to the library in their honor.

Another option is to inform speakers that a gift to End Polio Now will be made in their honor. Or give them reusable grocery bags with the Rotary logo, which would help eliminate use of plastic bags.

Melanie Payne Bolender,

Mount Vernon, Ohio



SPREAD THE WORD

I am responding to the letter that portrayed some of the articles in the Food Issue [December] as condescending [“Please don’t condescend,” March]. As Rotarians, we are encouraged to share *Rotary* magazine with others by placing it in medical offices and businesses, not only to inform others about Rotary, but also to share educational information.

Shortly after I received the Food Issue, my 12-year-old grandniece asked me why plant-based diets are being “pushed” so much. After giving her the issue, she reported that she had not known much of what she read. I was happy to enlighten a young person who is now armed with information to make good choices and is more aware of issues around the world. For this reason, I appreciate all *Rotary* articles, even if I, myself, already know the content.

Karen Weiss, DeLand, Florida

I do not believe it is condescending to suggest we change some of our habits for the good of future generations, especially when those changes will be beneficial to all concerned. If we want to grow Rotary membership, we have to show the next generation that we are working on the things *they* care about, like climate change.

This has certainly worked for our

OVERHEARD ON SOCIAL MEDIA

In February, we wrote about Community Action for Fresh Water, a new collaborative initiative between Rotary and the United Nations Environment Programme. The article mentioned Rotaractor Eunice Kamau’s participation in the cleanup of a lake in Kenya.

Eunice Kamau’s dedication to preserving Lake Naivasha is truly inspiring! Her involvement ... showcases the power of grassroots initiatives in safeguarding our environment.

Superpowers for Good
▶ [via LinkedIn](#)

Excited to start planning an environmental project like this with my own Rotary group this year!
#NorthCreekRotary
Nicole Otness
▶ [via LinkedIn](#)

CONNECT

club. In 2017, members started a Rotary climate action team.

We have educated our own club members and presented to some 75 other clubs on the impacts of climate change on Rotary's good work in the world. We have partnered with our city to install the first public electric vehicle charging stations in our downtown, which resulted in lots of good PR. We have encouraged the city to develop a Climate Action Plan, which it has now adopted. Other climate projects are in the works. In a small town of 20,000 residents, we have 148 club members, with 30 on the climate action team.

To learn more about the Rotary Club of Northfield or our climate action team, email me at luckyduck49@gmail.com. We are happy to share!

Alan Anderson, Northfield, Minnesota

COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS

Your article on Rotary's involvement at COP28 ["Rotary steps up at UN climate conference," March] was interesting, and I was glad to see so many Rotarians and Rotaractors participating in the conference. Unfortunately, the article omitted another impressive group of participants: Rotary global grant scholars, who are making a significant impact on climate issues in their regions.

Mira Dzhakshylykova from Kyrgyzstan is a global grant scholar who graduated from the Water Cooperation and Diplomacy master's program [a collaboration between the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education in the Netherlands, the University for Peace in Costa Rica, and Oregon State University]. While at COP28, she met up with several other global grant scholars who studied water issues related to their home countries. She expressed delight at seeing Rotary's involvement in the conference.

Pamela S. Russell, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida



PEACE PLANS

In the February issue, RI President-elect Stephanie Urchick talks about "healing a divided world through Positive Peace" ["Simply irresistible"]. What is Positive Peace? As defined by the Institute for Economics and Peace, it is "the attitudes, institutions, and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies."

Building Positive Peace is important. We in Rotary can expand our peacekeeping efforts to include helping to improve the institute's Global Peace Index, which measures the level of peacefulness on the planet across three domains: the level of societal safety and security, the extent of ongoing domestic and international conflict, and the degree of militarization.

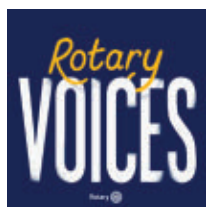
Rotary clubs can work to create sustainable peace in our communities through educational initiatives such as the Rotary Positive Peace Academy, the Ending War 101 program, the Peace on Earth by 2030 program, and the Peace Pole Project. We can also support [proposals through] the Council on Resolutions to have Rotary International educate members about preventing war through a strengthened United Nations and supporting UN resolutions.

Richard Denton, Sudbury, Ontario

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ON THE PODCAST

Dr. Peter Salk is a son of Dr. Jonas Salk, who developed the polio vaccine, and the director of the Jonas Salk Legacy Foundation. On a recent episode of the *Rotary Voices* podcast, he spoke about his father's work and the ongoing importance of immunization. Listen at on.rotary.org/podcast.



TOGETHER, WE

LEARN

Thriving communities know that literacy builds secure futures. That's why Rotary clubs support programs that encourage a lifelong love of reading. Learning together to strengthen the places we call home – that's what people of action do.

Learn more at Rotary.org

SOLAR POWER

A healthy glow

Solar energy isn't just good for the environment — it's expanding access to health care

A lot of babies are born at the Alokpatsa Community-Based Health Planning and Services compound, a health center in eastern Ghana. And for years, a lot of those babies were born in the dark.

“We didn’t have any power. What we had were lamps and candles,” says Nelson Addy, a former facility team leader at the center in the Oti region. “When the woman delivering had a tear and we wanted to suture, we found it very difficult. We had to strain our eyes with our phone [flashlights] to do the suturing.”

That changed when the Rotary Club of Accra-Spintex, of the Greater Accra region of Ghana, installed a new solar power system at the center. The project included a complete rewiring and, crucially, plenty of lights.

“In the surgical ward, we made sure there would be no need for them to use [phone] lights,” says Nortse Amarteifio, the president of the Accra-Spintex club, whose solar company donated labor and some materials for the \$21,000 installation. “We also put in solar streetlights all around the compound and on the street in front of the hospital.”

One of the first mothers to give birth after the installation was so

delighted with the upgrades, Addy says, she used “Solar” as the name for one of her children. “It felt like it was all planned by nature for the child to see the first light installed in Alokpatsa,” he says.

Solar energy previously had powered the Alokpatsa health center, but that system was no longer working. Clinic staff members were excited for the return of a solar system. The Alokpatsa installation is one of numerous Rotary projects using solar power to improve access to health care around the world. In the past dozen years, Rotary clubs have installed solar power systems in health centers in Nepal, Haiti, Pakistan, Mexico, Armenia, India, and many African countries — and there’s much more to do. An estimated 1 billion people in lower-income countries are served by health facilities that lack reliable electricity or have no electricity at all, according to a 2023 report by the World Health Organization. In sub-Saharan Africa, only half of hospitals have reliable electricity. Extreme weather, often connected to climate change, is exacerbating the problem, increasing energy costs and damaging power grids.

“Off-grid health facilities need to have access to clean, reliable energy

An estimated 1 billion people in lower-income countries are served by health facilities that lack reliable electricity or have no electricity at all.

Visit the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group at esrag.org to learn more about solar energy solutions and get involved.

17
A doctor’s mental health mission

20
How to volunteer with Youth Exchange

22
A life behind the lens



In 2021, the Rotary Club of Accra-Spintex installed a new solar power system at the Alokpatsa Community-Based Health Planning and Services compound in eastern Ghana. For years, many babies had been born there by the light of candles and cellphone flashlights because of unreliable power.

solutions,” says Luciana Mermet, who works for the United Nations Development Programme as the manager of the Global Fund Partnership and Health Systems Team, HIV and Health Group. “And we’re not talking only about solutions in rural areas. Urban areas can also have unreliable power grids. If you don’t have affordable and sustained energy access, you will have situations where you’re delivering [babies] in candlelight or where you’re unable to refrigerate the health commodities you need to provide care.”

Women giving birth in rural areas are among the most affected by such inadequacies, according to the WHO report. It was this problem that galvanized Annie Ninyesiga, president of the Rotary Club of Bwebajja, Uganda, to get a solar system installed at a rural health center in her country. Her club secured a Rotary Foundation global grant in partnership with the Rotary Club of Aarau, Switzerland, to pay for the \$76,000 maternal and child health project, which also provided medical equipment, an ambulance, and training for health workers, village health team members, and traditional birth attendants.

“This center serves a very big



population in hard-to-reach areas,” Ninyesiga says. “We thought it was important that the people have access to, at least, the basic maternal and child health support.” She adds that solar is superior to the area’s hydroelectric power grid. “The hydroelectric power is not reliable. It’s on and off,” she says. “Sometimes it can’t even charge a mobile phone. Sometimes it provides light but can’t run any equipment.”

Not only do solar panels keep lights shining and equipment functioning, they reduce electrical bills and cut down on the need for generators fueled by expensive — and

climate-unfriendly — gasoline. Health facilities then have more funds for patient care. By installing a solar power system at Hospital Bienfaisance in Pignon, Haiti, a Rotary project significantly lowered the hospital’s \$4,000 monthly gasoline costs.

Even in areas where there are few or no health centers, solar power can bring health care to people in a very literal way. A few solar panels can enable a doctor to convert a van or trailer into a mobile clinic to serve remote areas.

Solar power is also revolutionizing vaccine storage. Many vaccines



Left: Workers install solar panels at the Alokpatsa Community-Based Health Planning and Services compound in Ghana.

Above: Rotary members in Uganda, including (from left) Joseph Ssuuna, Joseph Ssengooba, and Charlotte Atukunda, led a solar project at a rural health center.

must be stored at temperatures of 36 to 46 degrees Fahrenheit (2 to 8 degrees Celsius). The oral polio vaccine can be stored at this temperature for six months. In areas with limited or no electricity, or frequent power outages, vaccine refrigerators are often powered by kerosene. They can work only if there's fuel available, so there may be periods when no vaccines can be stored. Also, this type of refrigerator often provides uneven cooling, spoiling the vaccines inside.

"Sometimes the fridge might not be functioning perfectly — the control is erratic," says Souleymane Kone, team lead for WHO's Essential Programme on Immunization. "During the night the temperature might drop down to -1 Celsius [30 Fahrenheit] sometimes, and in the daytime it will go up, exposing the vaccine to excessive heat."

In 2015 Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, one of Rotary's partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initia-

tive, found that up to 90 percent of health facilities in some countries were equipped with old, obsolete, or broken refrigerators. Since then, Gavi, UNICEF (another GPEI partner), and other NGOs have focused on transitioning to solar direct drive refrigerators. First introduced in 2010, these refrigerators are powered directly by the sun without using batteries. The solar energy freezes water or another freezable substance to make an "ice bank" inside the unit that maintains the right temperature after the sun goes down. Costing around \$4,000, a fridge can keep vaccines cold for three days or more without the sun shining.

"It is critical for us, especially when looking at increasing the coverage of routine immunizations, that we have a sufficient cold chain storage capacity at all different levels, including the remote areas, including places where there are frequent power fluctuations," says Anahitta Shirzad, a health specialist

with UNICEF's Immunization Supply Chain program.

"The solar direct drive refrigerators come in very, very handy," Shirzad says. "They have supported [our goal of] reaching the unreached. We're looking at the last mile."

Solar direct drive technology works best with motors such as those used in fans or pumps, while many installations that power whole buildings use solar batteries to store excess energy. At Alokpatsa, the Rotary club solar installation makes it possible to operate a water pump, a sterilizer, and a refrigerator that stores vaccines for two other facilities in the area. It also powers a humbler, but still welcome, piece of equipment: an iron.

"When the lights came, I was able to iron my uniform," Addy says. "Everyone in the community would now see me as a professional. I felt so happy. I don't even know how to express this happiness."

— ETELKA LEHOCZKY

BY THE NUMBERS

675 million
People worldwide without electricity

22,000
Square miles of solar panels — about the size of Lake Michigan — that would be needed to power the entire U.S.

33%
Share of solar electricity worldwide generated in China

Short takes

The 2023 Interact Awards went to the Interact clubs of Kuen Cheng High School, Malaysia (video); Portola High School, California (photo); and Cairo New Town, Egypt (essay).

A recent movie, *One Life*, stars Anthony Hopkins as Nicholas Winton, a Rotarian who helped rescue hundreds of Jewish children from Czechoslovakia in 1939.





PROFILE

Both sides now

A doctor brings her personal and professional perspective to issues of mental health

Dr. Pallavi Gowda
Rotary Club of Potomac Passport, Maryland

Pallavi Gowda was born in rural India in January 1979; her mother died 48 hours later of complications from childbirth. Considered a cursed child, Gowda wouldn't be reunited with her father and stepmother, who had immigrated to the United States, for another six years. The meeting was a disappointment. "There were no warm embraces or affectionate expressions," recalls Gowda, who was forced to adapt to a new language and culture and a daunting family dynamic.

As would happen often, Gowda surmounted the challenges confronting her. "Although it was very difficult, it's given me perspective," she says. "I can empathize [with others] and say, 'Your situation today doesn't determine who you're going to be in the future.'"

Her life's achievements are proof. A mother of two, a doctor, and the charter president of the Rotary Club of Potomac Passport, Gowda is on the board of the Rotary Action Group on Mental Health Initiatives. There, she created a toolkit for Rotary clubs that want to talk about mental health at their meetings that is based on her experiences as a U.S. Army-trained physician involved in suicide prevention and as a person who has battled severe depression herself.

Now she's intent on using the broad reach of Rotary to address three "actionable concepts" identified by the mental health action group: raise awareness, break stigmas, and increase access to care. "I love the global impact of what Rotary can do," Gowda says. "And given my experience of growing up in a poor setting, I know what Rotary can do for people who otherwise wouldn't have a chance." — GEOFFREY JOHNSON

For mental health toolkits, go to ragonmentalhealth.org.

In March, Rotary launched a pilot collaboration with George Mason University's Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution.



U.S. citizens can apply for the Peace Corps Virtual Service Pilot, an opportunity to collaborate online on short-term international projects: peacecorps.gov/volunteer/virtual-service-pilot.

The deadline for Rotary club officers to nominate their club for a Rotary Citation is 30 June. Learn more at rotary.org/citation.

People of action around the globe

By Brad Webber

United States

Thanks to the foresight of the Rotary Club of Bucyrus, Ohio, students were outfitted with 6,600 pairs of glasses for the 8 April total solar eclipse. In late 2022, with the eclipse still nearly two years away, “we talked about how neat it would be to get solar eclipse glasses for every school in our county for their students for the big event,” says Julie Rexroad, a club member, Interact club adviser, and science teacher at Wynford Local Schools. Once the club approved the \$4,300 purchase, members designed, ordered, stored, and eventually delivered the glasses, purchased online from a company recommended by a local astronomy club. “Our location in Ohio is in the totality zone, and it is a once-in-a-lifetime event for most,” Rexroad says. For those missing out, northern Ohio can always look forward to 2099.

1806

Last total solar eclipse visible in Ohio



Canada

Atop homemade toboggans crafted out of cardboard and tape, about 80 thrill seekers sledged down a hill during a timed contest of the Rotaract Club of North Simcoe, Ontario, in February. The challenge is held in conjunction with the town of Penetanguishene’s Winterama carnival, a 76-year-old tradition, and is open to competitors at no cost, attracting as many as 160 each year. “We’ve seen so many amazing sleds, and each year they get even better,” Club President Elana Durtnall says. The club awards prizes for categories such as most creative, most team spirit, and fastest sled, with the speediest clocked at about 28 kilometers per hour (17 mph) by the radar of auxiliary officers of the Ontario Provincial Police. Club members handle tasks such as registration, social media promotion, sponsorship acquisition, and assistance with building a Rotaract cardboard toboggan used to promote the event in a parade held the previous day.

98%

Amount of corrugated cardboard in Ontario households that is recycled



England

Rotary clubs in District 1200 offer a full menu of skills tests in disciplines including writing, speaking, music, technology, and more, but the Young Chef event is among the most popular. At a district-level qualifier directed by connoisseurs in the Rotary Club of Burnham-on-Sea in February, seven high school students whipped up three-course menus in two hours. The victorious victuals included venison steaks accompanied by fondant sweet potato, pea puree with juniper berry red wine sauce, and strawberry mille-feuille, a puff pastry dessert. The winning chef and a runner-up advanced to the regional final in Cardiff, Wales, in March. "We find it a rewarding competition for us as well as the contestants," says Jane Gibbs, a Burnham-on-Sea club member who has organized Young Chef assemblies for more than a dozen years.



9

Michelin three-star restaurants in the United Kingdom

Rotary Club of Burnham-on-Sea 

India

India is home to 1 of every 8 people with the trait for thalassemia, an inherited blood disorder when the body doesn't make enough hemoglobin, the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen throughout the body. While mild forms might not need treatment, other cases could require frequent blood transfusions to provide healthy red blood cells to manage anemia and resulting fatigue. The Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City is promoting awareness and treatment of the disease with its thalassemia-free India initiative. In February the club coordinated an educational event attended by 50 young women and mothers in Sonarpur, West Bengal. The gathering was one of dozens of such events since 2022, reports club member Subhojit Roy. Besides its focus on encouraging screening and delivering its message to young adults and rural residents, the club lobbied thousands of provincial legislators and members of the Indian Parliament to promote testing and government funding of treatment, he says.

Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City 



300 million+

Carriers of the thalassemia trait worldwide



Malaysia

After providing food and medicine to villagers in Nyamok during the pandemic, the Rotary Club of Metro Kuala Lumpur heightened its assistance to the impoverished community in Pahang state, a five-hour drive from the club base. Rotarians embarked on a project to construct three toilets as well as five kitchens and washing areas for food preparation for the Orang Asli Indigenous people. The club lined up a District 3300 grant, other sponsors, and volunteers and then plotted the logistics, including the acquisition of plywood, bricks, cement, and tools, along with the three trucks used to deliver the materials along muddy roads into the remote village. After three days of construction with help from community members, the job was complete, club member Jennifer Lim says. Members installed more ceramic tiles in March to improve the appearance of the toilet facilities, Lim says.

12.6%

Portion of Malaysians who belong to Indigenous groups

Rotary Club of Metro Kuala Lumpur 

GOODWILL

An investment in Rotary's future

Rotary Youth Exchange runs entirely on volunteers like you

As a Rotary Youth Exchange student from Sweden in the 1970s, Olof Frisk chose to study in Colorado because he wanted to ski. But it was meeting the other exchange students in the district that carved his life's path.

At that moment, he knew he wanted to become a Rotarian. He went on to join a Rotary club and serve as club president, chair of his district's Youth Exchange committee, and then chair of the multidistrict Youth Exchange committee overseeing the program throughout Sweden. Today, as governor of District 2340, Frisk remains involved in the program and believes volunteering to help Youth Exchange grow is an investment in Rotary's future.

"If you haven't been involved in a Youth Exchange and seen the interaction of the kids, you don't realize how important this program is," says Frisk. "Students from all over the world become leaders and are friendly with each other. This is the original thought behind peacebuilding."

Inspired to get involved? Unlike other exchange programs, Rotary Youth Exchange runs entirely on volunteers, so extra hands are always in demand. Roles exist at both the club and district levels.

Hosting

By far the greatest need is for host families. If your district already has a program, approach your club's committee chair. Like all Rotary and non-Rotary volunteers working with young people, host families need to complete an application, criminal background check, reference check, and in-person interview.

"It's the best place to start. It gives you

Rotary members, their families, and the community are important parts of a successful exchange. Want to get involved? Visit rotary.org/youthexchange, download the Rotary Youth Exchange Handbook, or contact youthexchange@rotary.org to be connected with your district's Youth Exchange leadership.

a great perspective if you are going to be coordinating the program at any other level," says Sabrina Barreto, a counselor for Youth Exchange students in District 4500 (Brazil) who went on both short- and long-term exchanges.

Barreto's mother, Emanuelle, a member of the Rotary Club of Natal-Potiguar, chairs the district's Youth Exchange committee and has hosted more than 40 students, starting when Sabrina was a year old. Emanuelle Barreto says another way to get involved is to volunteer as a counselor.

Counselors

Clubs assign a counselor who serves as a liaison for the student, club, host family, and community at large. The counselor is the student's primary Rotary contact, easing the transition into the country and the community through regular, direct interactions throughout the exchange.

A Rotary counselor can't hold a role of authority over the student's exchange (for example, the person can't be a member of a student's host family, school principal, club president, or district or club Youth Exchange officer). And counselors must be able to respond to any problems or concerns that may arise, including anything from students' simple questions about navigating their new town to rare instances of abuse or harassment.

"It's very important for the counselor to build a connection with the student," says Emanuelle Barreto. "We are not just talking about taking them for coffee or a sandwich or to a movie. You've got to get to know them and spend time with them. Sometimes that means being together just doing nothing."

Serving on a committee

If you already have some experience, consider serving on your club or district Youth Exchange committee. A club committee plans, implements, and supports all activities involved in sending and hosting long- and short-term exchange students.

As a member of a club committee, you will attend district Youth Exchange meetings, establish expectations for how students will participate in club meetings and activities, obtain feedback from students, and notify the district's Youth Exchange chair of any issues or concerns.

On the district level, committee members work with the district governor and the district's youth protection officer to supervise the entire district's program. A youth protection officer is responsible for fostering safe environments across all youth programs. For this role, you'll need professional experience handling abuse and harassment issues, as well as a familiarity with RI policies and relevant local and national laws.

Some districts band together to form a multidistrict Youth Exchange committee to streamline administrative duties over a larger region. Each multidistrict group operates differently, but many arrange training for volunteers and orientation for students, process applications and visa paperwork, negotiate group rates for travel and insurance, and promote the program in their region.

Supporting cast

If none of the above roles fits your time and talents, consider helping spread the word about the program. "There are so many things to be done," says Sabrina Barreto. "There are relationships to build with clubs, families, and other districts. You don't necessarily need to be involved with teenagers. There is a role for everyone."

No matter the role, the work is fulfilling.

"I've had no better feeling than to see the kids that I have trained on the other side of the world accomplishing great things," she says. "Just speaking about it gives me goose bumps. It makes me so proud of them." — ARNOLD R. GRAHL

Emanuelle and Sabrina Barreto share more of their Youth Exchange experience at blog.rotary.org.



EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR

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ESSAY

Life behind the lens

For an Army veteran, photography — and Rotary — have opened up the world

By Ed Zirkle



In high school, a girl who lived across the street caught my eye. Hoping for a date, I visited her often in our suburban Chicago neighborhood. But she had a brother who was into taking photos, and I quickly found that photography was more interesting to me than the girl. I ended up spending more time with her brother, bought myself an Argus C3 camera, and started down my photographic path.

My teenage romance never panned out, but I fell in love with photography. It has since consumed my adult life.

In college at the University of Louisville in Kentucky, I took classes in photography and interned at *The Courier-Journal*, one of the great Midwestern newspapers, known for its fearless investigative reporting. Subsequently, I grasped the technology and the chemistry of darkrooms as a “lab rat” at the *Evansville Sunday Courier and Press* in Indiana.

In the 1960s and ’70s, almost every city or small town in the U.S. had at least one newspaper. Social and political issues like the racial integration of schools or the Vietnam War drove the news cycle. Many great journalists emerged from regional papers. At *The Courier-Journal*, I worked under William Hall Strode III, the photo editor who helped bring home a Pulitzer Prize in 1976 for

coverage of the court-ordered busing of students to desegregate schools in Jefferson County, Kentucky. From him and other prominent photojournalists, I learned how to tell stories with images that shed light on big questions of politics, war, and social evolution.

I landed my first steady job as a photojournalist at the *News Journal* in Mansfield, Ohio, a daily newspaper. I had five or six assignments a day, most of which were typical for a small city: taking portraits of local business leaders or residents who distinguished themselves in the local economy, in sports, or in community leadership. But every now and then, glamorous assignments came my way, like covering the concerts of Led Zeppelin or Frank Sinatra. I relished them. In March 1975, my editor sent me to photograph Muhammad Ali, the world heavyweight champion. He was in Ohio to take on Chuck Wepner in a fight that became the inspiration for the 1976 *Rocky* film. Ali defeated him with 19 seconds left in the 15th round.

I remember bypassing Ali’s handler, who tried to block us from taking pictures during his training bouts, to get close-ups of him chatting with fans and signing autographs in his robe. The photos captured another side of the ferocious fighter — he was gentle and engaging too.

BETWEEN 1969 AND 1972, I took a leave from my newspaper job to join the Army. These were the climactic years of the Vietnam War. I had a low draft number — 18, if you can believe that — and I had heard that if you enlisted instead of waiting, you could choose what you were going to do in the Army.

Because I was a photographer and I had taken German in high school, I figured I was going to be like James Bond and spy on East Germany from Berlin. But when the Army gave me an aptitude test, they discovered I had no gift for languages. That left me with two choices: mechanic or military police.

“Mechanic!” I said.

I ended up at Fort Bragg in North Carolina, but when my commanding officer found out I was a photographer, he dispatched me on helicopters and airplanes to document sea landing exercises, paratrooper jumps, and live-fire demonstrations. I was getting a firsthand education in combat operations.

But my subsequent assignment to the Criminal Investigation Division was a sobering encounter with the darkest side of the human spirit. For two years, I photographed any major cases involving military personnel on or off post. For example, I assisted with the investigation of Jeffrey MacDonald, a former Army Special Forces physician, who was convicted of the 1970 murders of his pregnant wife



Opposite: A rider hangs on during the 2023 Gallup Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial in Gallup, New Mexico. **Left:** Jackie Gleason, Jack Nicklaus, Roger Maltbie, Bob Hope, former President Gerald Ford, and Glen Campbell at a 1977 golf tournament in Ohio. **Above:** Sarah Palin at a campaign stop in 2008.

and two daughters. He is serving three life sentences, and his case was made into a TV drama miniseries.

Hollywood tends to glamorize crime and forensics. But the real-life experience can be rough. With each investigation, I would photograph the crime scene, then spend hours processing the film and looking deeply into the negatives, some of which recorded gruesome details. Those images stay with you, affecting me in ways I didn't realize or understand until years later.

After returning to the newspaper, I started having nightmares, became argumentative, and lost interest in connecting with people. A few years ago, a medical staff member at the Department of Veterans Affairs learned about my experience at the Criminal Investigation Division and handed me a mental health questionnaire. I checked off three-quarters of the page. The staff member reviewed the results and said, "Oh, you have PTSD."

A diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder explained a lot. The VA offered

me treatment. But photography has become the best part of my PTSD therapy, offering me an outlet to express my emotions. My assignments propel me out of the house and out of my isolation.

I FOUND ROTARY, OR IT FOUND ME, in the 1990s. My dad, who had also settled in Columbus, Ohio, introduced me. That's how I found the Rotary Club of Whitehall-Bexley.

It surprised me. The people. The connections, not just locally, but internationally. Mine was a fun club, even though a bit old-school — the members were fastidious about attendance, sure, and they liked everyone to wear their Rotary pins. But their friendship and dedication to community service inspired me. I soon became the international committee chair.

In 1997, I went to Nicaragua where our club sponsored a project to support surgeries for children with conditions such as cleft lip and cleft palate. I photographed a girl whose hands had

been damaged through abuse; they were forced into a fire. The burns had healed, but her hands remained closed like fists due to internal damage. Doctors used a technique to open her hands. It was miraculous.

After Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, I contacted Rotarians there. I think part of the reason I went to Ukraine was for a chance to test myself and get back in a military environment. There were a lot of emotions tied up in it.

Photography has become the best part of my PTSD therapy, offering me an outlet to express my emotions.



Life in wartime: More than a year into Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a woman sits in her apartment near Kharkiv, where she endured the loss of water, heat, and electricity until volunteers moved her to a safe place.

I spent 10 days roaming with my camera and notebook from the capital, Kyiv, to Kharkiv, a frequent target of Russia's missile attacks, and then down to Odesa, the southwestern seaport. I slept on trains through the night and when I reached my destination, a Rotarian would be there to meet me.

I took many photos in Ukraine, of the destruction, the great architecture, and the warehouses where supplies donated to Rotary were prepared for distribution. But the photos of everyday people were even more compelling: wedding couples, people sharing meals amid the threats of war, old men playing chess in the square. Their resilience deeply moved me.

As the war intensified, I went back. A Rotarian lent me her mother's car. As I drove around Kharkiv, I made many connections with Ukrainian soldiers. We exchanged military patches. That connection among people who served in the military can be found anywhere, but it was intensely felt among the brave and dedicated soldiers of Ukraine.

BEING A PHOTOGRAPHER gives you permission to be curious and meet new people. It offers you access. You ask people to talk to you and show you their way of life. Oftentimes they invite you in.

Politicians, in particular, understand the art of connection. I learned that while covering the presidential campaign of John Glenn, the astronaut turned politician in Ohio, or Hillary Rodham Clinton, or Sarah Palin. Glenn introduced me to his whole family, and my photographs captured his public and private sides, which I think helped people relate to him.

My brother and I are science fiction fans. We once spotted the world-famous physicist Stephen Hawking at Joshua Tree National Park in California. I got my camera and walked up to a woman standing by the van. "Is he ...?" Before I got the sentence out, she interrupted. "Yes, it is."

"Can I take a picture of him?" I asked. "Go ask him."

He was sitting near an edge of the mountain that overlooked the Coachella Valley. And I asked him. He nodded.

I got six frames before he wheeled away. Capturing that moment stayed with me forever.

Observation is critical. We can discover wonders where we least expect them. A good photographer is invisible, quietly documenting subjects without them paying attention or without making them feel uncomfortable. Building trust with subjects is also important. I spent nearly a decade visiting the close-knit Amish community and documenting, with permission, the traditional lifestyle in a modern world. Many Amish people prefer not to pose for photos, so I was careful not to intrude during my visits.

At present, I have a lot of projects going. Special Olympics. Portraits of World War II veterans (the stories they tell!). I go to Gallup, New Mexico, for an annual Native American arts and culture celebration.

Rotary and photography have opened the world to me. They saved me after I got out of the service. They kept me out among people. They still do. ■



Lunch pail bunch: Zirkle spent nearly a decade visiting a close-knit Amish community in Ohio and documenting, with permission, the traditional lifestyle in a modern world.





2024 PHOTO AWARDS

Vision quest

Rotary members fan out across the globe to capture the light

WINNER

● The Milky Way dazzles above Palouse Falls in eastern Washington state. The faint trails of three meteors appear in the upper center part of the image. The Palouse River carved this canyon more than 13,000 years ago, leaving behind a narrow cataract through which rushing water drops 200 feet.

BY KEITH MARSH

Rotary E-Club of Silicon Valley, California

Judges say: I love to shoot the night sky myself, and I know this shot is difficult from many perspectives. The meteors make it even more special. — *Tami Phillippi*

In March 2014, Thangavelu Saravanaraj, a member of the Rotary Club of Madurai North, India, accompanied Rotaractors volunteering at a tollbooth during a National Immunization Day in his hometown. Each time a bus stopped, the eager Rotaractors would hop on to administer polio drops to children. As one of the buses was about to roar away, volunteers spotted an unvaccinated baby inside. “They jumped to action,” recalls Saravanaraj. “As the mother brought the baby close to the window, one Rotaractor reached out to steady the child while another gave the drop.”

Saravanaraj, an avid photographer, captured the fleeting moment and submitted the photo for this magazine’s annual photography awards.

Nearly a decade later, we tracked down Saravanaraj, who now chairs the International Fellowship of Rotarian Photographers. Founded in 2012, the fellowship includes as members more than 1,400 professional and amateur photographers and photo enthusiasts around the world. They connect and share work through a lively Facebook page. Local chapters organize photo contests, workshops, and photography outings.

We worked with Saravanaraj to invite four fellowship members to judge this year’s *Rotary* magazine Photo Awards. In total, we received 856 entries covering a broad range of genres, from landscape and nature to portraits, events, and food. After the judges evaluated the technical skill and aesthetics of our finalists’ work, we selected 14 of the best images to share with you in this issue. They include a spectacular night photo of the Milky Way over a canyon in eastern Washington state, a novel campaign by Rotaractors in Nigeria to educate not just girls but their male peers about menstrual health, the tranquil birthplace of the Lord Buddha in Nepal, and an enchanting early morning scene in the holy city of Vrindavan in northern India pictured on the cover.

Saravanaraj says photography and Rotary have opened the world for fellowship members. “The Photo Awards enable us to share the work of Rotary members and learn from each other,” he says. “It is a new level of exposure.”



Madhumita Bishnu has been involved with wildlife photography for more than 15 years. That passion has taken her on safaris and to national parks in Australia, Canada, India, Kenya, and the U.S. She is a board member of the International Fellowship of Birdwatching Rotarians and the Rotary Fellowship of Wildlifers for Conservation. A past president of the Rotary E-Club of Melbourne, Australia, she currently lives in Kolkata, India.



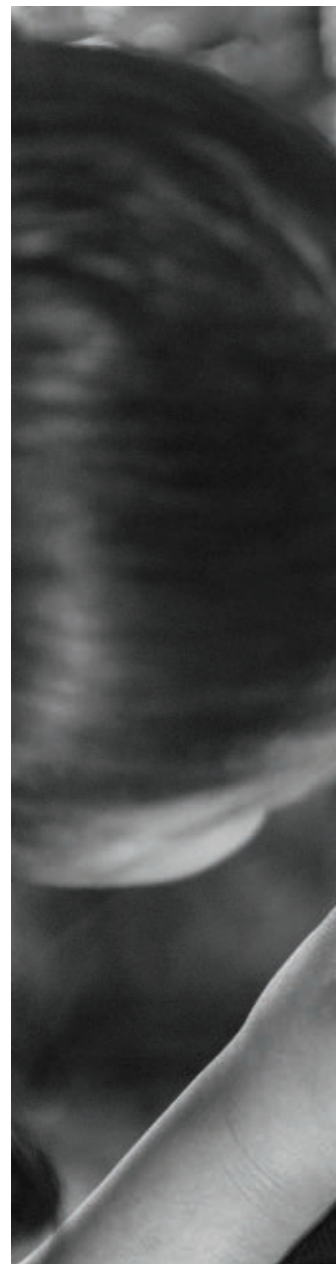
Tami Phillippi is the owner of a picture framing business in Eagan, Minnesota. She worked briefly as a news reporter and photographer and moved into similar corporate work before striking out on her own. Her passion is landscape and nature photography. She loves being outside in both fair and foul weather and finds photography to be the perfect excuse for a walk in the woods. Phillippi is a member of the Rotary Club of Eagan.



Lára Stefánsdóttir is a headmaster in an upper secondary school in Ólafsfjörður, Iceland. She holds an MFA in art photography and enjoys photographing forms in nature such as the northern lights, cliffs, stones, and landscapes. A member of the Rotary Club of Ólafsfjörður, she sees these annual awards as a way to peek into the surroundings of Rotary members, strengthening connections over borders and cultures.



Shankar Subramanian has pursued photography for 20 years and won several international awards. He is passionate about travel photography and has worked on assignments documenting self-help groups for minority women. He also does contemporary wedding photography. He is the founder of the photography company Pixel Hearts and a member of the Rotary Club of Bangalore Rajmahal Vilas, India.





● Friends paint the face of an excited Olga Alcaraz for Mexico's Día de los Muertos festivities in the town of Cofradía de Suchitlán. The high schoolers receive scholarships and academic support from Project Amigo, a nonprofit organization that began as a Rotary club project.

BY KEITH MARSH

Rotary E-Club of Silicon Valley,
California

Judges say: The image beautifully conveys the traditions and communal ties that characterize this celebration of life and those who died. The monochromatic treatment enhances the emotional depth and texture of the moment.
— Shankar Subramanian



WINNER
People of
Action

● Volunteer Ruth Ameh and members of the Rotaract Club of Abuja Wuse II educate students about menstruation at a school in Nigeria's capital. Their primary audience was not girls but boys. The initiative is reshaping boys' perceptions and behavior toward female classmates and fostering empathy.

BY JOSHUA UWAGBOI
Rotaract Club of Abuja Wuse II,
Nigeria

Judges say: The woman's expression is captivating. That is what attracted me most and that she is educating students on menstruation to build empathy among the boys.
— Madhumita Bishnu



● The Maya Devi Temple in Lumbini, Nepal, is part of an ancient complex revered as the birthplace of Siddhartha Gautama, the Lord Buddha. A place of pilgrimage since antiquity, the site includes a sacred pool and garden.

BY RAQUEL D’GARAY-JUNCAL
Rotary Club of Worldwide
Impact, District 1550

Judges say: The peace, the quiet, and the way the photographer weaves together the complementary primary colors of red/green and blue/yellow make this image very strong. — *Lára Stefánsdóttir*





● The dye-filled pits of the Chouara tannery burst with color in the ancient city of Fez, Morocco. In a process little changed for centuries, laborers prepare hides to be turned into leather goods in surrounding workshops.

BY LARRY WILSON

Rotary Club of Western
Henrico County, Virginia

Judges say: Well framed and good structure. The circular form of the dye containers and the lines that control how the eye moves over the image are irresistible. — *L.S.*

● The rising sun illuminates weathered sandstone hoodoos, the slender spires of rock at Bryce Canyon National Park in southwestern Utah.

BY LEIGH ANN WILSON
Rotary Club of York,
Pennsylvania

Judges say: This photograph captures a serene moment, showcasing the beauty and solitude of nature. The composition balances the canyon's rugged textures with the soft early morning light.
— S.S.







● A formation of T-34 Mentor aircraft tears across the sky during a practice run for the annual EAA AirVenture air show in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

BY ERIC STRAND

Rotary Club of Fergus Falls
Sunrise, Minnesota

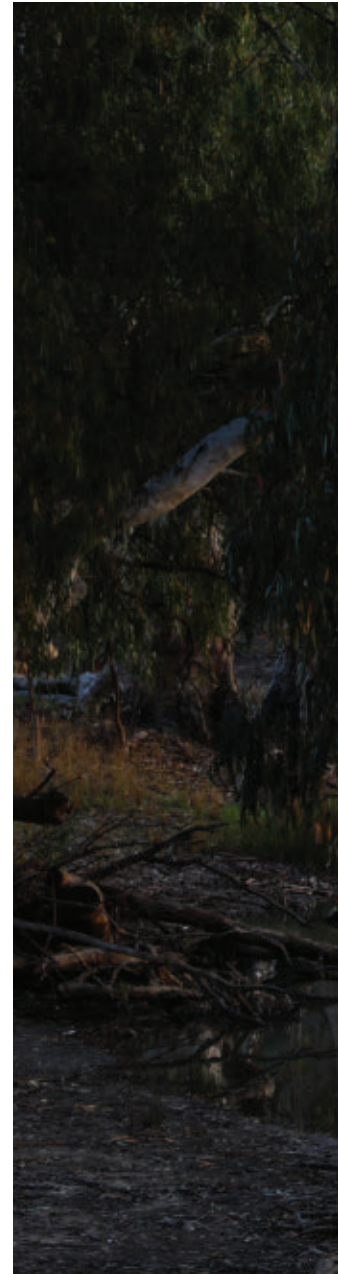
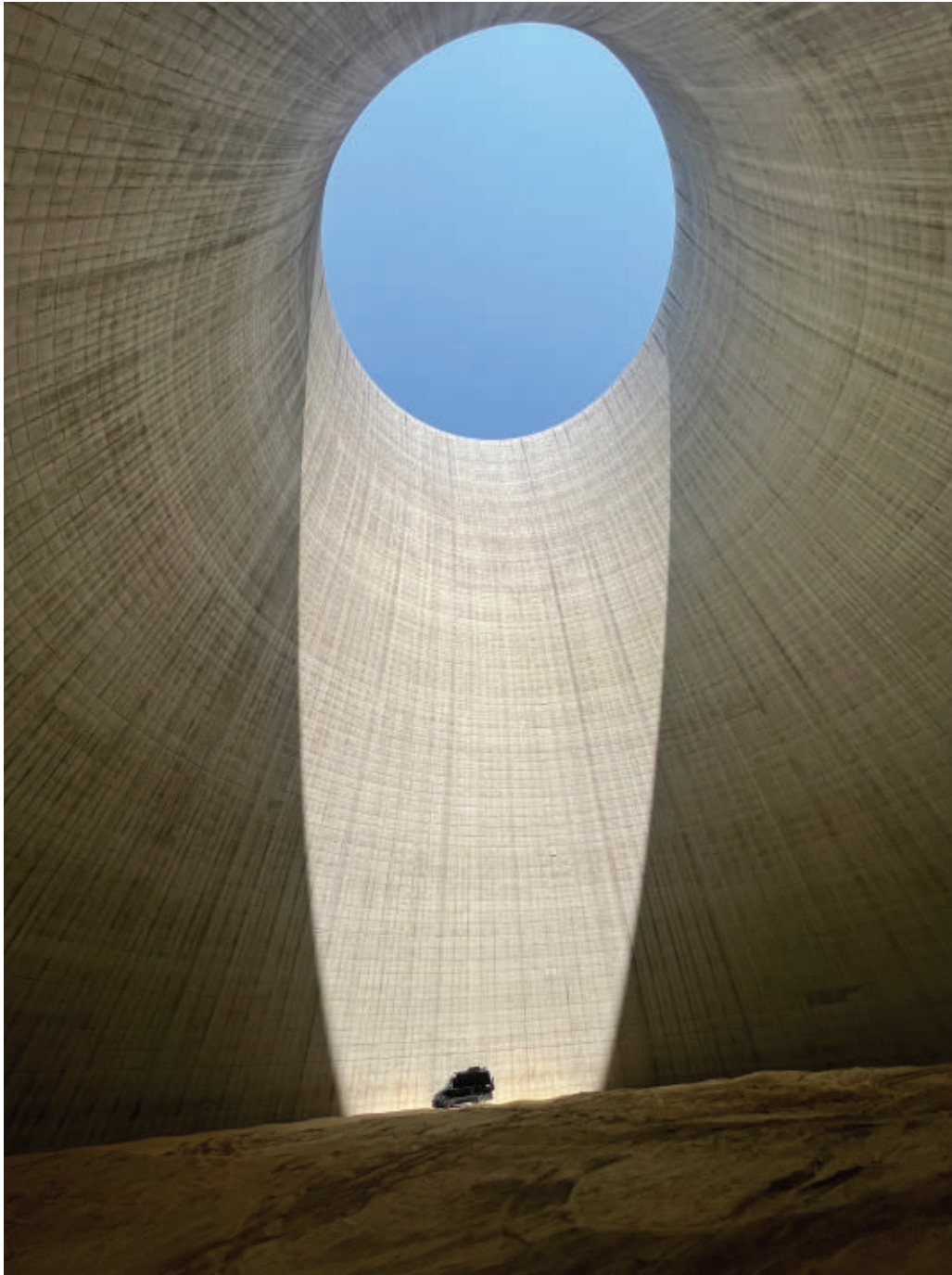
Judges say: The photographer demonstrates skill in timing and composition, and this perspective invites the viewer into the cockpit. We can almost feel the rush of air.

— S.S.

● Midday mystery: A shaft of sunlight illuminates a camper van improbably parked at the bottom of a cooling tower at a decommissioned power station in Meppen, Germany.

BY CLAUD MUCROW
Rotary Club of Steinfurt,
Germany

Judges say: I love the abstract nature of this image. I want to know where the photographer is and how he got that camper inside a power plant. — T.P.





● Captured on a cold, misty spring morning, the enchanted Yarrein Creek runs through a rural section of New South Wales, Australia. River red gum trees loom over the creek, seen here near the town of Moulamein.

BY DAVID REDFEARN

Rotary Club of Moreland,
Australia

Judges say: This image is almost surreal. I love the reflections, and I'm drawn to the hazy fogginess. I can feel the cool, damp air. — *T.P.*

● A cyclone of silverside fish in Indonesia's Misool Marine Reserve mimics a starry sky behind a colorful collage of other marine life: fusiliers, butterflyfish, anthias, cardinalfish, feather stars, and corals. The 300,000-acre conservation area includes no-take zones that prohibit all extractive practices, such as fishing and collecting turtle eggs.

BY BONNIE WONG

Rotary Club of Wanchai,
Hong Kong

Judges say: This image captures the expression in the eyes of the fish in the foreground so well. Very clear and sharp. The small fish give the impression of lights.
— M.B.





● A duo of traditional Dunhuang dancers depict the flying apsaras, celestial beings in the Buddhist religion, during a performance in Hsinchu County, Taiwan. Each performer is carrying a pipa, an ancient Chinese stringed instrument resembling a lute.

BY TIN YU YU

Spouse of Yi-Cheng Chen
Rotary Club of Taipei Asia Link,
Taiwan

Judges say: The light illuminating the dancers gives this photo a dreamlike feel. It captures a sense of happiness.
— M.B.

● Otto Dollinger, an ophthalmologist and a member of the German Rotary Volunteer Doctors, examines a child's eyes at the Holy Family Hospital in Techiman, Ghana. The volunteers are part of a multidistrict association that has been working for 25 years to improve health care in Ghana; it also works in India and Nepal.

BY FLORIAN QUANZ
Rotary Club of Hamburg-
International, Germany

Judges say: The image nicely captures the light emitted through the doctor's glass instrument, which signifies to me the gift of a doctor bringing light to his young patient.
— T.P.





● The first warmth of summer becomes an irresistible invitation for residents of the island of Favignana, off the coast of Sicily, to head to the water. Calamoni Beach comes alive with color as people bask in the sun, relax under umbrellas, have fun on the sand, and enjoy their first swim of the season.

BY LUCA VENTURI
Rotary Club of Siena Est, Italy

Judges say: The spirit of community pervades this photograph. There are many stories within the image, which evokes some impressionist paintings, where you find something happening in different corners of the canvas. — *L.S.* ■



A watershed moment

The Rotary Club of Milwaukee revitalized its city's riverfront with a contribution from a local landowner — a strategy that could work in other communities



By Diana Schoberg
Photography by Jeff Marini



They are scenes from another time, and seemingly another place.

Beneath the hot summer sun, hours after they'd spent their morning mastering the breast stroke and the crawl, kids enjoy a carefree afternoon cavorting in a reservoir formed by the dam downstream. On other occasions, weekend mariners ply those same waters in canoes and rowboats, or more serious athletes, representatives of the rowing clubs that line the river's steep bluffs, compete in vigorous regattas. Daring merrymakers ascend the bluffs, pile into a large wooden craft, and swoosh down a waterslide, landing in the river with a gigantic splash. Flip the calendar ahead six months and cheering throngs, numbering as many as 20,000 people, marvel at the acrobatic antics of ski jumpers as they race at 80 miles per hour down those same bluffs. And where avid anglers in balmy months fished for pike and bass, skaters of all ages, bundled up against the winter cold, glide across the icebound river.

These may seem like faded snapshots from America's pastoral past. As noted in Eddee Daniel's *The Milwaukee River Greenway*, they are actually glimpses of the Milwaukee River at the turn of the 20th century as it coursed through what was then the 14th-largest city in the United States. The river had been

the heart of Milwaukee from the times when Indigenous people traveled there to harvest wild rice, hunt waterfowl, and catch fish. Settlers of European descent dammed the river in 1835 to provide water to the mills and factories that sprang up along its banks, and in winter "Brew City" breweries harvested ice from

the river reservoir to cool the beer that patrons quaffed in summer at the beer gardens along the river's shores. The celebrated landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted designed Riverside Park, one of the many parks along the river, in the 1890s; it was home to, among other things, a pavilion and a curl-



ing rink. About a mile upstream was an amusement park that *The Milwaukee Journal* called a “brilliantly lighted wonder city.”

But even as children played and couples courted, trouble lurked beneath the water’s surface — or sometimes right on top of it. Filled with sewage runoff, the river had become Milwaukee’s de facto toilet. The situation was so bad that, in 1888, the city began “flushing” the river daily with water from Lake Michigan, using what was said to be the world’s largest pump. Even as the city invested in its nationally recognized sewer system, heavy rainfall frequently caused overflows, sending wastewater into the river. At the same time, as the shoreline factories thrived, the loads of toxic industrial waste destined for the river increased exponentially.

Inevitably, that idyllic waterfront playground disappeared, replaced by an unkempt wilderness. Drug trafficking and other crime became

the new pastimes for visitors to neglected Riverside Park. “When we were kids, we’d go there,” recalls Matt Haas, a member of the Rotary Club of Milwaukee. “It was this scary place to go on your bikes. All the trails were abandoned, and the ornate old streetlights didn’t work anymore. We thought it was haunted.”

But just as the wonderland vanished, so too did the blighted wasteland. Visit Riverside Park today and you will encounter a place magically transformed, all thanks to some dedicated Rotary members, their committed and farsighted partners, and an ingenious focus on conservation, land trusts, and generous eco-minded citizens — a miracle

formula that, with a few site-specific tweaks, can be applied anywhere.

It’s a sunny morning in May and, serenaded by the sound of chirping birds, members of the Rotary Club of Milwaukee swarm the riverside Coyote Hill. Beneath a cornflower blue sky, kids playfully bang trowels against rocks as their parents pull augers and gloves and drills from crates situated along a winding path that passes beneath a massive stone archway.

Caitlin Reinartz, the urban forester at Milwaukee’s Urban Ecology Center, wears a straw hat and leans on a shovel as she reviews the day’s tasks. Rotary members are here to plant more than 1,000 prairie grass

“We are really making a good change here today, one that’s going to last a lot longer than we will.”

↪ This massive stone archway was designed by Mario Costantini, a member of the Rotary Club of Milwaukee.

↑ “Over the years, Milwaukee Rotary has planted thousands and thousands of trees,” says urban forester Caitlin Reinartz.

seedlings, varieties like little and big bluestem, prairie dropseed, and switchgrass. Reinartz demonstrates the proper planting technique with a Virginia wildrye seedling. “This year it won’t grow much more than knee height,” she says in her booming voice. “Next year, after it overcomes its transplant shock, this baby is going to be 9 feet tall.”

The crowd oohs.

Reinartz explains the benefits of prairie grasses — how they provide habitat for birds and bees, sequester carbon, and remove pollutants from the air. “We are really making a good change here today, one that’s going

to last a lot longer than we will. This is going to be around for maybe 110 years,” she jokes, a nod to the club’s 110th anniversary. The crowd oohs again and gets to work.

The land where Rotary members are planting was once the site of the National Brake and Electric Co., which, after its incorporation in 1906, rapidly grew to employ 1,400 people in its machine shop, foundries, and other facilities. During World War I, the company produced heavy equipment for the war effort, but the boom was short-lived: The site closed during the Depression due to financial issues. By 1939, like

other locations along the river, the factory had been abandoned.

After a lapse of more than 30 years, things took a turn for the better with the 1972 passage of the Clean Water Act, which put the brakes on industrial pollution. In the 1980s and ’90s, the governor of Wisconsin created a task force to come up with a plan for the river, Milwaukee built new sewage tunnels to catch wastewater overflow during storms, and the dam came down. Concerned neighbors founded the Urban Ecology Center to decrease crime and bring life back to the Olmsted-designed Riverside Park.

In 1994, the Rotary Club of Milwaukee joined with the local Kiwanis club to create the River Revitalization Foundation, an urban land trust with a mission to protect and revitalize the river’s environmental corridor. The group also worked to make the land that had reemerged with the draining of the dam’s reservoir accessible to the public, and it lobbied to safeguard riparian habitats. To ensure that people could thoroughly enjoy this newfound nature, it helped implement zoning laws that restricted building heights in the “viewshed.”

The result is the 6-mile-long Milwaukee River Greenway, which, at 878 acres, is larger than New York City’s Central Park (another Olmsted-designed beauty). Today, from parts of the greenway, it can feel like you’re in a remote wilderness rather than in a river basin that’s home to 1.3 million people.

“In a lot of ways, it is an accident we have this,” says Matt Haas, who holds one of the Rotary seats on the River Revitalization Foundation’s board. “This whole river was a big toxic industrial waste dump. The fact that the dam came out and exposed all that land that had previously been under water, in combination with a bunch of these warehouse and manufacturing owners taking buildings down, basically freed up a bunch of green space that previously didn’t exist.”

That was just one piece of the Milwaukee club’s transformation of the city’s environmental landscape.

“It’s amazing we have this so close to the city. We were the glue that held this together for five years. We were committed to getting this done.”



➤ Milwaukee Rotarian Karen Hung shows off the prairie grasses she is preparing to plant.



In 2007, as the club was casting around for a project to mark its centennial in 2013, the Urban Ecology Center brought forward a proposal to expand Riverside Park. It was another opportune moment: Pieter Godfrey, an architect interested in historic preservation and materials reclamation, owned property immediately south of the park — the former National Brake and Electric Co. site — and he had been in conversation with the Urban Ecology Center about donating 4 acres of that land.

Rotarians pledged to raise \$400,000, the seed money for what ended up being an \$8 million endeavor that resulted in a 40-acre arboretum encompassing Riverside Park. Godfrey died in 2011, but his family donated the \$2 million parcel. Members of Rotary seeking additional funding for the project testified before the Wisconsin Legislature and helped land a \$1.3 million grant from the state Department of Natural Resources. The federal Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

provided nearly \$1 million, and many other public and private donations helped subsidize the now-flourishing urban paradise.

"It's amazing we have this so close to the city," says Mary McCormick, executive director of the Rotary Club of Milwaukee, as she looks out over the river and reflects on Rotary members' role in the creation of the greenway and the arboretum. "We were the glue that held this together for five years. We were committed to getting this done."

As she strolls along the riverside trails, McCormick stops periodically to chat with a birder, point out a canoe launch, and listen to a fly fisherman who's been having some luck with smallmouth bass. Among the goldenrod and rudbeckia flowers rise the thousands of trees planted over the years by Rotarians: white birch and silver maples, American sycamore and white walnut, to name only a few. A huge, downed tree and strategically placed branches cry out to be climbed. The U.S. Forest Service,

another partner in the project, has designated the arboretum as a national children's forest, one of only 22 in the country, and one of only three in a major urban area.

"You have to be an advocate for something," McCormick says. "We advocate for having vaccinations, we advocate for clean water, and we advocate for taking care of the land. We have done that, and we should do that as Rotarians. We need to protect the resources we have, and in some cases bring them back."

And there are ingenious methods of doing exactly that, which Rotary and Rotaract clubs around the country may want to duplicate.

As a former executive director of a land trust in northern Michigan, Kirt Manecke talked with landowners who were interested in preserving their property. "I'd ask them, 'What is your reason for doing this?' And they said, 'Well, I just love our land,'" he recalls. Or, he continues, they didn't want their kids to "slice and dice" their property for devel-

↑ Some of the newly planted and well-nurtured grasses will one day reach a height of 9 feet.



↑ Energetic Rotary members plant grass seedlings on Coyote Hill, which rose on the site of a former foundry.

opment when they died. The biggest problem Manecke, a member of the Rotary Club of Northville, Michigan, ran into was that people had no idea what options are available when it comes to land preservation.

More than half of all real-estate wealth in the U.S. — about \$23.3 trillion — is held by people ages 60 and older, according to the Federal Reserve. “That is a lot of value,” says Andrew Bowman, president and CEO of the Land Trust Alliance, a national land conservation organization that represents nearly 1,000 land trusts in the United States. “There could be a number of people in those generations that want

to preserve their land or keep their land in the state it is now, whether that’s for scenic beauty, a working farm, or a wildlife habitat. There’s a lot of different reasons people might preserve land, and these generations might do something to make sure their land stays that way.”

That’s where land trusts come in — and where Rotary clubs could too. These trusts, nonprofit organizations that partner with private landowners to permanently conserve their land, held more than 61 million acres in the United States at the end of 2020. That’s more land than is found in all of the country’s federally regulated national parks.

Land trusts might run on a national or international level, such as with the Nature Conservancy, or as community institutions, like Milwaukee’s River Revitalization Foundation. “It’s a natural synergy,” says Bowman, who was a Rotary Scholar at the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom in 1989-90. “Chances are there is an organization ready-made for Rotary members to work with.”

Rotary Foundation global grants weren’t available for the Milwaukee arboretum. But with the adoption of the environment as one of Rotary’s areas of focus, land preservation projects are now eligible for Foundation funding. “It checks all the boxes for Rotary,” Manecke says. “It’s important for kids. It’s important for the mind. It’s important for clean drinking water.” And, adds Bowman, it’s a “natural climate solution. Whatever your motivation is, there are all these side benefits.”


“People deserve to live in a city that is beautiful, that is green, that is healthy, that is safe. That was missing before Rotary planted this piece of land.”

Get involved

Rotary clubs and districts can financially support the preservation of land through Rotary Foundation global grants. Find out more about the Foundation's focus on protecting the environment at rotary.org/environment.

Don't re-create the wheel. Reach out to members of a local land trust to learn how to work with them. Rotary members can sit on land trust boards, and Rotary volunteers can participate in service days to care for lands. Land trust board members can make good speakers at club meetings to educate Rotary members on options for their own or family members' lands.

Laws around land ownership vary by country. Find a U.S.-based land trust at landtrustalliance.org/land-trusts, and resources for other countries are available through the International Land Conservation Network at landconservationnetwork.org.

 **Paige Radke scrapes her shovel** across the soil, pulls a little bluestem seedling out of its pot, and plants it in Coyote Hill. A past president of the Rotaract Club of Milwaukee and now a member of the Milwaukee Rotary club, Radke was drawn to Rotary because she enjoys volunteering, and her passion is the environment. When a seat on the River Revitalization Foundation board opened up, club executive director McCormick asked her to take it.

"We feel good about what we're doing," says Radke, taking in views from the hill. "This could have been built into condos with riverfront views. It's important to the ecosystem, and it's maintaining that ability for the public to access the green spaces in urban environments."

Construction on the arboretum began in 2010 and included capping off the contaminated soil of the former factory to create the hill Rotary members are planting this day. The

arboretum, which opened in 2013, is owned by Milwaukee County and managed by the Urban Ecology Center. Rotary members continued to be involved, and today, in part because of their efforts and the work of more than 2,000 volunteers, the arboretum is home to tens of thousands of new plants, including trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers, and a dozen distinct ecosystems. That includes a re-created oak savanna, once common to the area.

After finishing up their planting

project on Coyote Hill, about 60 people gather around Reinartz. "People deserve to live in a city that is beautiful, that is green, that is healthy, that is safe," says the urban forester. "That was missing before Rotary planted this piece of land. With friends like you, I think the future of this spot is really bright and beautiful."

A monarch butterfly floats behind Reinartz, and the prairie grasses wave in the breeze, as if to whisper, *This is our place — and this is our time.* ■

↑ With her passion for the environment, Milwaukee club member Paige Radke welcomes the opportunity to preserve and enhance an urban green space.



OUR CLUBS

VIRTUAL VISIT

Peace generation

Rotary Club of Beirut
Pax Potentia, Lebanon

Like many young professionals in Lebanon, Anhal Kozhaya was ready to take his place among the latest generation to flee the country's troubles — not war this time but an economic crisis that has driven widespread poverty, social unrest, and a collapse of public services. Then, he had second thoughts.

“Rotary is, honestly speaking, what kept me here in Lebanon,” says the 22-year-old, who works as an administrative officer at the British Embassy in Beirut. “Rotary is what kept me motivated and inspired and always wanting more for my country. If that wasn’t the case, I would have left this country a long time ago and wouldn’t have thought twice about coming back.”

Kozhaya is president of the Rotary Club of Beirut Pax Potentia, or “the power of peace” in Latin. The year-old club, which focuses on peacebuilding, has its origins in a project funded by a Rotary Foundation global grant. Another notable attribute: Its 17 members have an average age of 23, a young demographic that’s leaving Lebanon in high numbers.

Lebanon, once known as the Switzerland of the Middle East for its status as a regional banking center, has experienced waves of emigration over the past half-century. Those migrations started with the 1975-90 civil war and have accelerated during an economic crisis beginning in 2019 that has fueled triple-digit inflation, shut down the banking sector, and pushed millions into poverty.

Rotary clubs in Lebanon have stepped in to provide critical services, and the new club is furthering those efforts through a peacebuilding framework. Its young members are steeped in the principles of Positive Peace, an approach that seeks to foster the institutions, attitudes, and conditions that can allow peace to flourish.

The club’s first public event was an international conference on youths as agents of peace that helped generate ideas for projects. The club, chartered in June 2023, typically meets weekly either online or in a coworking space in Beirut. Its members are so committed that even those who’ve had to move overseas to Italy, Malta, and Belgium to study continue to log on when they can.

In the background of the economic crisis, Lebanon also remains deeply divided along sectarian lines more than three decades after its devastating civil war. Today, 18 recognized religious sects compete for power in a fractious political system, with near-constant interference by neighboring countries.

Lebanon’s challenges need to be examined in relation to Positive Peace, Kozhaya says. “You cannot talk about

the environment without addressing peace,” he explains. “You cannot talk about women’s rights, tolerance, human rights, and community economic development without bringing in a peacebuilding perspective.”

For one project, club members have visited the Maryam and Martha Community, an organization helping women and girls who have experienced gender-based violence. They raised funds for the organization and collected donations, including food, basic hygiene products, and clothing.

In February, they hosted a workshop on the relationship between peacebuilding and theater. Among its other aims, the club is planning another peace conference, a fashion show with an emphasis on inclusion and diversity, and a scholarship fund focused on peacebuilding. Members also want to mentor high school students.

Mentorship from older Rotarians is what brought the club into being. Mona Jarudi, a member of Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan, and fellow Rotarian George Beyrouti applied for a global grant that delivered peacebuilding training to young people within their Rotary district in 2021. They worked with NewGen Peacebuilders, an education and training skills program led by Rotary Peace Fellow Patricia Shafer.

“Lebanon is a multisectorial, highly politicized country, and the youth need a way to express their opinions that are different than those of their parents or different than their surroundings,” Jarudi says. “The students themselves chose the topics they wanted to work on. And de-



Members of the Rotary Club of Beirut Pax Potentia, including (from left) Elissa Tabet, Jeanne d'Arc Davoulbeuyukian, Noor Akoum, and Anhal Kozhaya, are steeped in the principles of Positive Peace.

spite everything, including internet problems, electricity problems, fuel shortages, you name it, those students never missed a beat.”

Jarudi encouraged some of those NewGen alumni, including Kozhaya, to create a Rotary club. As interest grew, the students and young professionals would spend time on the weekends at Jarudi's apartment overlooking Beirut to prepare their club for its charter.

Bayan Fakhri, 21, another of those founding members, is studying for her master's in international politics in Belgium but makes sure to join the club's online events. She is surprised by how much the club has opened up her perspectives related to peace and what can be achieved at the community level. “We're not policymakers. We're trying to promote the idea of peace from a tangible perspective to people around us, to our communities, and even to the world,” she says.

For member Elise Korban, 31, the club is a place where she can mix her artistic

interests with her peacebuilding passions. She works at a human rights nonprofit organization and has a background in visual arts, architecture, and social science.

Korban, who has had difficult discussions with her father about his experiences in the civil war, believes it's important for artists to help foster a collective memory about Lebanon's history. “Our history books stop after World War II,” she says. “The civil war is not in the books because there are different points of view. So as artists we are responsible to give a collective memory to these events.”

A shared vision of the future is important too. “I believe Rotarians are the torchbearers and they bring light to communities where they are present,” Kozhaya says. “Beirut has been the subject of much violence and yet it is a phoenix that has risen from the ashes so many times. Our work with Rotary offers a message to everyone in Lebanon that we have a duty to work within a framework of peace.” — DHRUTI SHAH

MAKE YOUR CLUB A PEACEBUILDING POWERHOUSE

Want to explore ways your club can get involved in peacebuilding? The Rotary Action Group for Peace offers Rotary members ideas, resources, and support to advance peace. Here is a sample:

- Plant a peace pole and hold a dedication ceremony to engage your members and community on peacebuilding and Positive Peace.
- Take the Rotary Positive Peace Academy free online course.
- Search the action group's curated list of peace programs that Rotary members can use in their communities for everyone from pre-K students to adults.
- Join the Peacebuilder Club program by committing to engage in dialogues and projects that promote Positive Peace.
- Support the work of Rotary Peace Fellowship alumni in your area.
- Volunteer with Rotary Youth Exchange and inspire young leaders to serve as catalysts for peace and social justice.

To learn more and get involved, visit rotaryactiongroupforpeace.org.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

An innovator with impact

Rotary's latest alumni award honoree pursues scientific and societal progress



Gaetano Scamarco is a member of the Rotary Club of Bari, Italy, the same club that sponsored his Ambassadorial Scholarship.

Alone in a lab one night about 30 years ago, Gaetano Scamarco experienced something every scientist yearns for. After months of failed experiments, minuscule adjustments, and stubborn faith, he finally made a breakthrough: His newly designed laser actually worked.

“I saw the signal from the measurement instruments skyrocket off the scale,” recalls Scamarco, the recipient of the 2023-24 Rotary Alumni Global Service Award. “Initially, due to fatigue, I thought it was caused by interference. But then I realized that — *Bingo!* — my superlattice quantum cascade microlaser, which I had designed and longed for so many times, was finally working. It was an indescribable joy.”

Scamarco’s bingo moment was all the more exciting for where it took place: Nokia Bell Labs, the world-renowned innovation hub headquartered in Murray Hill, New Jersey. In the century since Bell Labs (as it was formerly known) was founded, it contributed to the development of the transistor, the laser, the solar cell, and the Unix computer operating system.

For Scamarco, the place was close to paradise. “I had been traveling and working in Germany and Italy, but that atmosphere was unique,” he says. “Everybody was working and playing and dreaming simultaneously.”

Scamarco had long yearned to study at Nokia Bell Labs. He got his PhD in experimental physics from the University of Bari Aldo Moro in Italy, focusing on lasers and semiconductors. The chance to pursue his research at the celebrated facility came when a fellow scientist, who would become his mentor there, told him about The Rotary Foundation’s Ambassadorial Scholarship program. He applied for and won a scholarship, and he was soon on his way to New Jersey.

“This opportunity,” he says, “was akin to a soccer player being called up to the national team, opening a world of possibilities for me and my family.”

Those possibilities ultimately went beyond the scientific realm.

Photograph by Camillo Pasquarelli

Ten years after his laser breakthrough, Scamarcio was invited to join the Rotary Club of Bari, in Italy's Apulia region, the same club that had sponsored his scholarship. Discovering Rotary's sense of shared purpose sparked a commitment to service that fires him to this day.

"Engagement with Rotary fosters positive transformations not only for our neighbors, but also for ourselves," he says. "The five core values of Rotary — integrity, diversity, fellowship, service, and leadership — form an interconnected framework. Personally, if I were to pinpoint what resonates most deeply with me, it would undoubtedly be the pursuit of leadership. Within the Rotary context, the call for collaboration is inherently tied to setting a personal example."

Scamarcio's belief in the power of leadership has influenced his Rotary activities and his professional pursuits. As the president of his club in 2013-14, he spearheaded Rotary Meets the Road, a project to help homeless people in Bari. Devising a workable strategy required qualities similar to those needed in the laboratory, such as the patience for trial and error.

"We started putting a lot of ideas on the table and finally came up with the idea of using a camper to distribute food in a dignified and hygienic way," he says. "But that was just the starting point. Other organizations wanted to use the

camper as a headquarters to give medical support, and then people began offering legal support. The project really exploded and went beyond the initial idea."

To get their new vehicle on the road, Scamarcio and his club conducted some diplomatic outreach. They obtained the cooperation of the other Rotary clubs in Bari, Rotary members throughout the district, officials of Bari's city government, and representatives of a local public transit company. "The success of this service underscores the power of synergy and collective action in addressing social issues," he says.

Scamarcio was later able to draw on his scientific background for another service project. He created a smartphone app to help people with disabilities navigate Bari's streets. Called Bari4All, it received the Significant Achievement Award from Rotary International Past President Ron D. Burton. Scamarcio's work to help the citizens of Bari also led to him being honored with the city's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Scamarcio uses both his scientific and interpersonal skills in his work as a physics researcher and teacher. Besides inventing the superlattice quantum cascade micro-laser, which is now used in systems for environmental monitoring and quantum physics, he recently contributed to the development of a single-molecule, transistor-type sensor that can be used for early

detection of life-threatening diseases. "This new technique has a great potential to detect the presence of antigens which are correlated with problems like cancer," he says. "We've used it to detect the precursor of pancreatic cancer."

Meanwhile, he has had the satisfaction of teaching more than 1,000 physics students as a professor at the University of Bari Aldo Moro. He also coordinated the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards for his district in 2016, 2017, and 2022. "The interaction with about 45 young future leaders has been very rewarding, and a great experience for them and for us all," he says.

Observing members of younger generations, he's been struck by their "profound hunger for ethics" and desire for professional and moral role models. "I've observed a significant interest among young people in ethical issues, such as community development and environmental sustainability amid technological advancements," he says. He's particularly impressed by his students' conscientious vision of their role in shaping society and protecting the environment.

"Sharing and teaching these ethical perspectives to young minds has been an immensely gratifying aspect of my career," he says. "I aspire to leverage the platform of Rotary to further enrich and empower future generations."

— ETELKA LEHOCZKY

PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY OF GAETANO SCAMARCIO



From left: Scamarcio's Ambassadorial Scholarship took him to Nokia Bell Labs in New Jersey; Scamarcio poses with Rotary members from what was then District 7470, which hosted him during his fruitful years of research in the United States.

Gaetano Scamarcio

- **PhD in experimental physics,** University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy, 1989
- **Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar,** 1994-95
- **Rotary Alumni Global Service Award,** 2023-24

CALENDAR

June & July events

SOMETHING SPECIAL BREWING

Event: Rocklin Brewfest
Host: Rotary Club of South Placer (Rocklin), California
What it benefits: Local and international projects
Date: 1 June

Craft beer aficionados won't want to miss this opportunity to sip samples from over 35 breweries along with a selection of wine and ciders. There's even a competition for talented home brewers. The event, held at a community park, includes live music, games, and food trucks. For an additional ticket price, a VIP pass gives people earlier admission and access to an air-conditioned lounge, among other perks.

RAISE A GLASS

Event: Ojai Wine Festival
Host: Rotary Club of Ojai West, California
What it benefits: Local and international projects
Date: 15 June

In its 36th year, the festival takes place at a scenic recreation area that overlooks Lake Casitas. Attendees can try a variety of award-winning wines, as well as craft beers, spirits, and nonalcoholic drinks. The event also features gourmet food trucks, arts and crafts booths, and a lakeside dance party with live music. A silent auction offers the chance to bid on bottles of wine, private tastings, vineyard tours, and more.

PADDLES UP!

Event: Lethbridge Dragon Boat Festival
Host: Rotary clubs of Lethbridge, Lethbridge East, Lethbridge Mosaic, and Lethbridge Sunrise, Alberta
What it benefits: Local projects



RUN FOR RESEARCH

Event: Race to Remember
Host: Rotary Club of Albemarle, North Carolina
What it benefits: Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust (CART Fund)
Date: 8 June

About 100 runners and walkers are expected to participate in this race, which offers 5K and 1-mile routes that start in downtown Albemarle and wind through nearby residential neighborhoods. Top finishers are awarded medals, and all participants receive T-shirts. Since it began in 2022, the annual event has raised nearly \$30,000 for the CART Fund, a nonprofit administered by Rotary members that supports Alzheimer's research.

Dates: 21-23 June

Each year, more than 1,200 people across western Canada converge on the shore of Lethbridge's Henderson Lake to race in dragon boats, canoe-like vessels that can hold up to 20 paddlers. Thousands of others turn out to watch the competition during a weekend that includes musical performances, a kids' zone, food vendors, and a beer garden.

BIKING IS A BLAST

Event: Tour de Blast
Host: Rotary Club of Longview, Washington
What it benefits: Local nonprofits
Date: 22 June

This bicycle ride follows a highway from the town of Toutle into the heart of the Mount St. Helens blast zone, the area

directly affected by the volcano's 1980 eruption. Cyclists can choose from 39-, 54-, 66-, and 82-mile routes, with elevation gains ranging from 1,500 feet on the shortest route to 6,240 feet on the longest. Support provided during the ride includes staffed rest areas and on-course motorcycle aid. A pasta dinner awaits the finishers.

YOU LUCKY DUCK

Event: Great Duck Race
Host: Rotary Club of Westport Sunrise, Connecticut
What it benefits: Local and international nonprofits
Date: 29 June

For this popular fundraiser, the club sells thousands of yellow rubber ducks to float down a long slide on Westport's

town green. Owners of the 10 fastest ducks win cash prizes, including \$5,000 for first place. The race is part of jUNE Day, an annual event in which the town and the United Nations Association of Southwest Connecticut invite UN diplomats and staff from the organization's New York City headquarters for a day of recreation.

RUN FREE

Event: Centerville Freedom Run

Host: Rotary Club of Centerville-Farmington, Utah

What it benefits: Local and international nonprofits and youth programs

Date: 4 July

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the club's Independence Day race, which includes a 5K for adults and 1-mile and ¼-mile runs for children. About 1,000 people are expected to participate, and the top three male and female finishers in each of several age groups will win prizes provided by local businesses.

A SMALL-TOWN TRADITION

Event: Fourth of July Parade

Host: Rotary Club of Weaverville, California

What it benefits: Local scholarships

Date: 4 July

The annual parade, which the club has organized since 1976, is a highlight of Weaverville's Fourth of July celebration, a five-day affair that includes concerts, recreational activities, and a fireworks display. Spectators line Main Street as local dignitaries, bands, community groups, and other patriotic participants march through the historic gold-mining town.

DO IT FOR DEB

Event: Deb Beckett Memorial 5K

Host: Rotary Club of Williston, Vermont

What it benefits: Local projects

Date: 6 July

The annual Independence Day weekend race, which drew about 50 runners last year, starts at Williston Central School. Originally called the Firecracker Fun Run, the event was renamed in 2021 to honor Deb Beckett, a club member who died the year before. Beckett, an Army National Guard veteran who was



A CENTURY-OLD CELEBRATION

Event: The Sault's Summer Festival

Host: Rotary Club of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

What it benefits: Local nonprofits

Dates: 18-20 July

After its 100th anniversary was observed last year, this waterfront festival returns with three days of events and attractions, including an inflatables park, a car show, carnival rides, and a variety of musical acts. The schedule also includes a community parade and a 1-mile run in which participants are blasted with colored powder. Barbecue ribs and other food and drinks will be sold.

Williston's town clerk, was known for her enthusiasm for the town's Fourth of July festivities and had helped the club become involved in the event.

ALL EARS

Event: Corn Day

Host: Rotary Club of Mt. Carmel, Illinois

What it benefits: Local and international nonprofits, local projects, scholarships, and End Polio Now

Date: 7 July

The club is celebrating 60 years of organizing this community event, in which members prepare and serve meals of fried chicken, coleslaw, and all the fresh sweet corn you can eat. The corn is grown about 50 miles away and harvested the day before the feast. Diners

can enjoy their meal on-site or pick it up in a drive-through line to take home.

SUMMER FUN

Event: Geneseo Summer Festival

Host: Rotary Club of Geneseo, New York

What it benefits: Local projects and nonprofits

Dates: 12-13 July

First held in 1982, the festival has become a summer tradition in the Finger Lakes region of western New York state. People gather in a park in downtown Geneseo to listen to live music, patronize food and craft vendors, and take part in family-friendly games and activities. On Saturday morning, children march with stuffed animals in the Teddy Bear Parade. ■

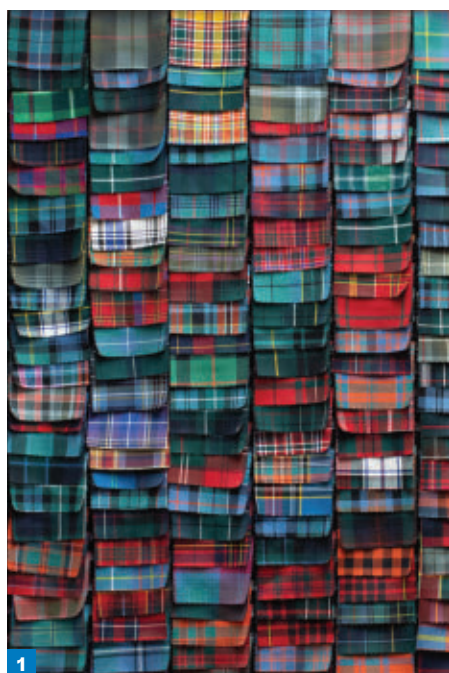
Tell us about your event. Write to magazine@rotary.org and put "calendar" in the subject line. Submissions must be received at least five months before the event to be considered for inclusion.

HANDBOOK

Tartan's checkered past

How a centuries-old Scottish textile became a global fashion

When Gordon McNally strode onstage at the 2023 Rotary International Convention in Melbourne to affirm his priorities as Rotary's next president, he wore a traditional tartan kilt in honor of his Scottish heritage. As McNally winds down his presidential term this month, we're looking into the history of tartan and what this iconic fabric means to Scotland — and the world. — JOHN M. CUNNINGHAM



It's all in the details

A tartan is a cloth, traditionally made of wool, with a pattern of intersecting vertical and horizontal stripes of different colors and widths. The Scottish Register of Tartans recognizes thousands of unique patterns (1), which are known as setts.

In many parts of the world, the word "tartan" is used interchangeably with "plaid" to mean any fabric that has a checked or crisscross pattern, but it more precisely refers to a particular style of plaid that originated in Scotland, with patterns that are often associated with Scottish clans. As it happens, the word "plaid" also comes from Scotland, where it has historically referred to a large piece of tartan worn over the shoulder.

Long used to make other traditional garments, such as kilts, tartan now appears in a wide range of modern apparel and accessories, including dresses, sweaters, scarves, and handbags.

Ancient origins

Textiles similar to tartan have existed since ancient times. In 1978 archaeologists in China found the mummified remains of a man who died about 1000 B.C. clothed in striped woolen leggings.

Tartan in Scotland is said to be at least 1,700 years old, the estimated age of a scrap of cloth with a simple checked pattern that was found in Falkirk. However, the earliest known example of a "true tartan" style, a more intricately patterned fragment extracted from a peat bog near Inverness, dates to the 16th century (2).

Back then, the durable fabric was everyday wear for people in the Scottish Highlands (3), made by local weavers from plant-dyed sheep wool. Since each weaver typically produced only one pattern and sold the material to people living nearby, some patterns came to be associated with specific regions.

The birth of a symbol

Tartan took on a new meaning in the wake of the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745-46, in which Charles Edward Stuart (4) attempted to usurp the British throne by military force. Many of the thousands of men he recruited for his army were tartan-clad Highlanders, and Stuart himself wore a tartan coat in battle. After the uprising was suppressed, the British government passed the Dress Act, which restricted the wearing of Highland dress.

Although tartan was not banned altogether, the crackdown solidified its status as a symbol of Scottish pride and resistance to the crown, even outside the Highlands. By the time the Dress Act was repealed in 1782, tartan had become fashionable in the Lowlands and among English people with Scottish sympathies. In the decades that followed, many Scottish clans claimed their own tartan patterns, which became important markers of identity.



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Royal regalia

In 1822, King George IV became the first British monarch to visit Scotland in over 150 years. To welcome him, author Sir Walter Scott organized a series of pageants that included clan chiefs in tartan. In a show of unity, George also wore a kilt and commissioned a portrait of himself in full Highland garb (5). Thirty years later, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert acquired a Scottish summer home, Balmoral Castle, and adopted a Balmoral tartan that the British royal family wears to this day (6).

With the imprimatur of the crown, the popular image of tartan shifted from an emblem of rebellion to a respectable British brand. Tartan also became popular internationally, aided in part by Scottish military regiments that spread across the globe during the colonial era. Another influencer was the early-20th-century entertainer Sir Harry Lauder (7), a member of the Rotary Club of Glasgow, who toured the world in a kilt.

A tartan for everyone

Meanwhile, the Industrial Revolution brought new technologies that enabled tartan to be produced on a mass scale, with more patterns than were previously imaginable.

For over a century, fashion designers and retailers have incorporated tartan into clothing and other consumer goods. A pattern of beige, black, red, and white used by the British luxury company Burberry (8), for instance, has become synonymous with the brand. In the 1970s, tartan recaptured some of its old subversive spirit when punk rock fans donned Queen Elizabeth II's personal pattern, the Royal Stewart tartan, to mock the monarchy.

Now, for a mere 70 pounds (about \$90), anyone can register a unique design with the Scottish Register of Tartans. Many U.S. states and all Canadian provinces have tartans. Canada recognizes the Maple Leaf tartan as an official national symbol — and 6 April as Tartan Day.

The Rotary connection

Rotary has its own tartan, too. Before the Rotary International Convention came to Glasgow in 1997, the Rotary Club of Glasgow worked with the Scottish Tartans Society to create a special tartan for the occasion (9, worn by Heather McNally). The design was based on the Glasgow District tartan, with added stripes of blue and gold. Edinburgh tailor Geoffrey Nicholsby was licensed to manufacture numerous items from the “Genuine Rotary Tartan,” from shirts and skirts to blankets and baseball caps.

The kilt that Gordon McNally wore in Melbourne, however, was made of a different tartan: the Gordon Modern (9), a predominantly green and blue pattern with black and yellow stripes. “Modern” in a tartan’s name refers to its color palette, which is generally darker and more vivid than those of “ancient” tartans due to the use of modern chemical dyes.

Rotary Fellowships

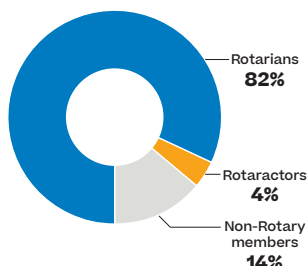
Rotary Fellowships are international groups whose members share a common interest. Being part of a fellowship is a way to make friends around the world, explore a hobby or profession, and enhance your Rotary experience. Membership in a fellowship is open to any interested individual. 📌 New fellowships are added frequently; for the most recent list, see rotary.org/fellowships. If your recreational or vocational interest isn't represented, contact rotaryfellowships@rotary.org to learn how to start a new group.

- 4x4 vehicles
- Antique automobiles
- Astrology
- Authors
- Badminton
- Bathhouse
- Beard and moustache
- Bee
- Beer
- Bird-watching
- Bowling
- Camping
- Caravanning
- Chess
- Coffee lovers
- Comedy
- Composting
- Computer users
- Corporate social responsibility
- Cricket
- Cultural heritage
- Curling
- Cybersecurity
- Cycling
- Doll lovers
- Draughts (checkers)
- E-clubs
- Editors and publishers
- Educators
- Egyptology
- Empowering women
- Entrepreneurs
- Esperanto
- Ethics
- Fashion
- Fine arts
- Fishing
- Flying
- Francophonie
- Genealogists
- Gift and estate planning
- Gin
- Global development
- Go
- Golf
- Gourmet cooking
- Graphic designers
- Health care professionals
- Hiking
- Home exchange
- Horseback riding
- Horse racing
- Hunting
- Internet
- Italian culture
- IT professionals
- Jazz
- Kites
- Latin culture
- Lawyers
- Leadership
- LGBT+
- Magicians
- Magna Graecia
- Mental wellness counselors
- Metalhead
- Metaverse
- Military veterans
- Motorcycling
- Music
- Old and rare books
- Palmwine
- Past district governors
- Past presidents, officers, and friends
- Peace fellows
- Performing arts
- Photographers
- Pickleball
- Public health
- Public speakers
- Quilters and fiber artists
- Railroads
- Real estate
- Recreational vehicles
- Rotary global history
- Rotary means business
- Rotary on pins
- Rotary on stamps
- Rowing
- Rugby fans
- Runners
- Scouting
- Scuba
- Shooting sport
- Skiing
- Startup investors
- Strategic planning
- Surfing
- Table tennis
- Tea lovers
- Tennis
- Total quality management
- Travel and hosting
- Triathlon
- Urban gardening
- Vegans
- Vintage collectibles
- Weather enthusiasts
- Whisk(e)y
- Wildlife conservation
- Wine
- Yachting
- Yoga
- Young Rotarians

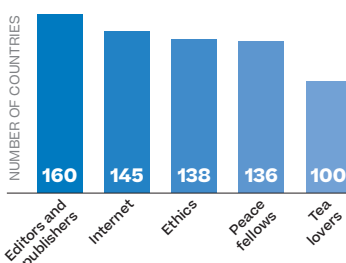
BY THE NUMBERS

Every year, Rotary Fellowships share statistics about their membership and activities with Rotary International. According to last year's Rotary Fellowships Annual Report, over 56,000 people belonged to 107 fellowships in 2022-23.

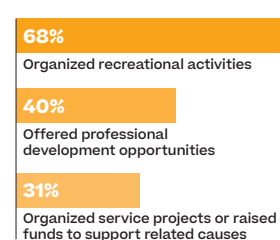
Most fellowship members were Rotarians.



Five fellowships reported members from at least 100 countries.



Fellowships engaged in a range of activities.





TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Thank you and keep dreaming big

Every June, we in Rotary look back at our accomplishments and plan for what's next. For me, this month is the end of seven years in Rotary leadership that began as president-elect of RI.

It's remarkable how far we have come during that time, and how much we've done through The Rotary Foundation. We wouldn't be where we are without your support and without you dreaming big.

A few months back, I saw these big dreams when I visited a hospital in India where doctors perform 4,200 pediatric heart surgeries a year thanks to a global grant. I will never forget the hospital in Taiwan where ambulances funded by another Foundation grant have doubled the survival rate for heart patients. And these examples barely scratch the surface; your Foundation awarded 1,098 global grants during the 2022-23 Rotary year. Think about the scale of that work — the magnitude of our impact.

Our Programs of Scale initiatives around the world are more proof of how big dreams are becoming reality. We have grant recipients working to end malaria in Zambia, reduce the mortality rate of mothers and infants in Nigeria, and eliminate cervical cancer in Egypt. Soon, our fourth program of scale will get started, dedicated to sustainable farming in India.

Through your support, our dream of spreading peace is growing, with the Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center set to welcome its first students at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul next year. And if we hadn't envisioned a better world and supported PolioPlus, would it have been possible that Nigeria would be declared polio-free, as it was in 2020?

This is why your support of the Foundation is so critical. We set an ambitious fundraising goal of \$500 million this year. We are well on our way to reaching the goal, and with the support of everyone reading this we'll make it. I'm especially counting on Rotary members who have not yet contributed. Whatever you give, know that your gift will make a difference, whether it's for polio eradication, literacy initiatives, peace education, or any other area in which Rotary excels.

These seven years have been a fantastic run for me. I have met so many passionate leaders in Rotary, Rotaract, Interact, and other members of our Rotary family. You have all inspired me with your drive and the big dreams you dare to dream.

All I can do is say thank you. I can't wait to see how far those Rotary dreams will take us in the years ahead.

BARRY RASSIN

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.



“Good engagement is when we give members meaningful opportunities to contribute, lead, and grow.”

The **ROTARY ACTION PLAN**

ENHANCE PARTICIPANT ENGAGEMENT

WITH LOUIE DE REAL

Meet Louie De Real, a member of the Rotary Club of San Francisco del Monte and the Rotaract Club of San Francisco Del Monte Malaya Achievers, Quezon City, Philippines. He has held multiple roles in Rotary and Rotaract for the past 13 years and is currently a member of the Rotary International Membership Growth Committee.

Q: What does effective engagement mean?

LOUIE: Good engagement is when we give members meaningful opportunities to contribute, lead, and grow. We can support engagement by asking our members what kind of personal and professional connections, mentorship, leadership development, or service opportunities they want — and then offering them.

When I was introduced to Rotaract, a Rotarian led the orientation meeting. I realized that this was an opportunity to work alongside business and community leaders and hear about their personal leadership and professional experiences. Young people can join many youth organizations, but it's rare to find organizations like Rotary, where you get to engage with different generations in programs and advocacies.

Q: What should every Rotary and Rotaract member know about engagement?

LOUIE: There are many reasons why we join Rotary: to build connections, do service, learn, or just to have fun. So my advice is to make sure that new and existing members know about all the program offerings available through Rotary.

I've seen in some clubs that members join to have fun, but the operating model of the club is primarily service, and they don't invest in having fun or building friendships. If I'm a new member, of course I'm interested in doing service. But if that's all you feed me every day, every year, I'll lose interest. And why offer just that when there are so many opportunities in the organization? Even if your club is struggling, you can [promote] the programs being offered at the district and multidistrict levels.

It comes down to us having conversations with our members: What interests you? What do you like to do in this club? We've got to invest in understanding our members' needs and model how we operate as a Rotary or Rotaract club based on that interest. That will solidify the reasons our members and participants choose to be part of Rotary and why they stay.

Q: Can you describe some opportunities for Rotaractors and Rotarians to collaborate?

LOUIE: As Rotaractors, we were invited to our sponsor Rotary club meetings, but we seemed to be there for superficial reasons. When I became club president, I suggested to our incoming Rotary club president that we plan projects together, not just join in on them. This allowed Rotaractors and Rotarians to get to know each other beyond just saying hi at meetings.

That started the mindset among our Rotarians that Rotaractors are not just nice to have, but an integral part of the membership experience. If we engage more with them, we can provide all members opportunities for mentorship and

mutual learning. It grew from there. Our Rotary club meetings are no longer exclusive to Rotarians; Rotaractors can join and even host a Rotary club meeting. Both Rotaractors and Rotarians also have opportunities for intergenerational learning, mentoring, partnerships, and relationship-building that can foster innovation.

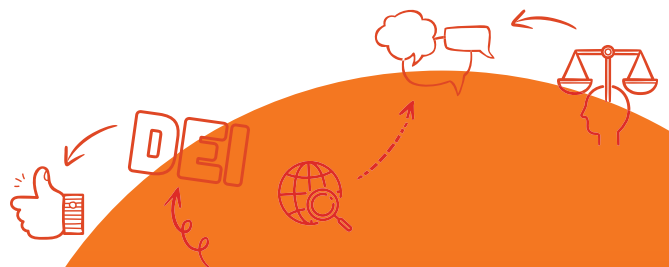
Q: As a member of a Rotaract and a Rotary club, what have you encountered in terms of engagement with each?

LOUIE: At the start, there was hesitation among our sponsor Rotary club members who didn't know whether we were there to engage or just there for support, financial or otherwise. Our approach as a Rotaract club was to let them know what we do through presentations and our newsletters, social media posts, and group chats. If they gain an interest in what we do, that's a start because there are new members also looking for opportunities to engage.

Q: Why should someone be part of Rotary or Rotaract?

LOUIE: In university, we're just learning from our professors. But if you join Rotaract, you also get to learn directly from people who have already accomplished things in their profession, their businesses, and in life. Not all organizations can offer the intergenerational learning that Rotary can.

When we talk about adults joining organizations like Rotary, motivations tend to be slightly different. Adults tend to be busy with their careers, but they also seek activities that will help them with their professional and personal development. Rotary can introduce you to people beyond your business circle who can help you in your profession or allow you to pursue dreams including serving communities or helping others.



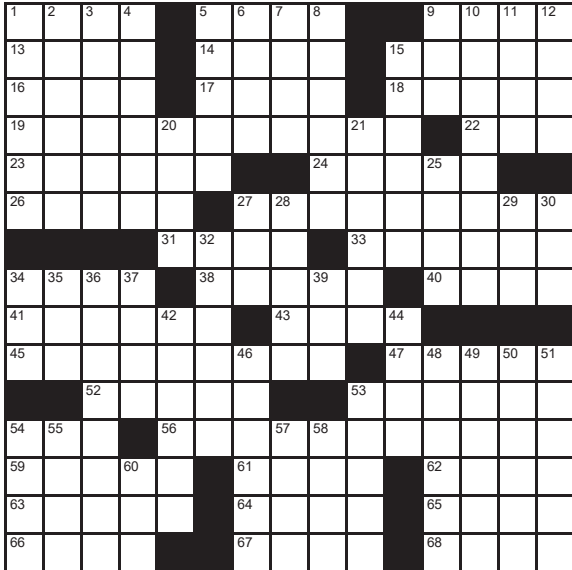
Learn what your club can do at
rotary.org/actionplan

Rotary 

CROSSWORD

Midyear honorees

By Victor Fleming
Rotary Club of Little Rock, Arkansas



Solution below

ACROSS

- 1 Strap on a pageant dress
- 5 A bunch
- 9 ____ B'rith
- 13 Kitchen addition?
- 14 Agitate
- 15 Denim pants
- 16 Like fine lines
- 17 Former photo firm ____ Mills
- 18 Pull together
- 19 Rotary groups celebrated in June
- 22 Ang, Peggy, or Spike
- 23 Crosses the threshold
- 24 Lacking
- 26 Course that's hardly challenging
- 27 Where 19-Across members are spread
- 31 Actor Schreiber
- 33 Allergy stimulant
- 34 Larger ____ life
- 38 SNL alum Cheri
- 40 "____ in the Clowns"
- 41 Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2022, e.g.
- 43 "Darn it all!"
- 45 What 19-Across members share
- 47 Bar, by law
- 52 Cold rhyming treat

- 53 Attendee's shout
- 54 Org. for drivers and putters
- 56 What Rotary members may do through 19-Across
- 59 Left ventricle neighbor
- 61 "Dies ____"
- 62 "I'd hate to break up ____"
- 63 Swift and Kelce
- 64 Football or songwriting
- 65 Osso buco meat
- 66 "When all ____ fails ..."
- 67 "Finished!"
- 68 Author ____ Stanley Gardner

DOWN

- 1 Fixed charge
- 2 Zeus' favorite child
- 3 Circus boosters?
- 4 Eagles member Don
- 5 Escalates
- 6 Palette choices
- 7 Dull
- 8 Prom attendee, often
- 9 "Big" clock in London
- 10 Manicurist's need
- 11 Card game fee
- 12 "Got it"

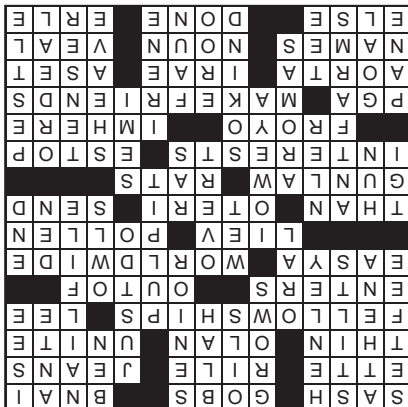
- 15 "____ it" (iconic Nike slogan)
- 20 Grad-school exam
- 21 Bully's place?
- 25 *Harry Potter* birds
- 27 Opposite of dry
- 28 Conspicuous
- 29 Lair
- 30 Butt
- 32 Casual debt acknowledgment
- 34 ____ Fridays
- 35 Attila follower
- 36 Myrmecologists' setups
- 37 Brave, Met, or Red
- 39 Coll. dorm supervisors
- 42 Appetite awakeners
- 44 Final intro?
- 46 Quite considerate
- 48 Gather into a bundle, as wheat
- 49 More in need of relaxation
- 50 Difficult experience
- 51 Mortar's partner
- 53 Castle of dance
- 54 Window part
- 55 Hockey highlight
- 57 Smack or switch ending
- 58 Goat-legged creature of myth
- 60 Casual shirt



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MENTOR

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

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

Rotary



PEOPLE OF ACTION



For the sweetest sweet moments

In France, chouquettes are at the center of the good times

France is known for its pastries, from macarons and madeleines to éclairs and pain au chocolat. But it's the deceptively simple chouquette that has captured the hearts of many French children and grown-ups alike. "The best part is seeing the kids and adults when they arrive home checking if it's really the homemade chouquettes cooking in the oven," says Françoise Bonnet.

So what is this sumptuous snack? Imagine unfilled mini cream puffs topped with crunchy pearl sugar. They can be enjoyed anytime, Bonnet says, at breakfast, when arriving at work, with a coffee, or as an after-school snack. "Chouquettes recall the sweetest sweet moments, like those of vacations, those of snacks, those of family celebrations," Bonnet says. "Making and preparing them myself at home is part of the family culinary tradition."

HOW-TO: Chouquettes are made using a choux pastry (pâte à choux); the word chouquettes loosely translates to little bits of choux. The pastry includes pantry staples like butter, water, flour, and eggs. "The main difficulty lies in preparing the choux pastry, which requires good technique to get the right consistency," Bonnet says. After it's piped onto a baking sheet and put in the oven, the dough puffs out as the water in the dough steams. "Once cooked, chouquettes are usually served warm, but they can also be eaten cold," Bonnet advises.

SUGARY SWEET: Chouquettes get their signature crunch from pearl sugar, a European specialty sugar that doesn't melt when it's baking. Readers in the U.S. and Canada can order it from a variety of online retailers.

— DIANA SCHOBERG

Françoise Bonnet
Rotary Club
of Merville-
Franceville-
Plage, France

What food is your region famous for? Tell us at magazine@rotary.org and you may see it in an upcoming issue.

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