

# Rotary

PEOPLE of ACTION



# SMILE

THIS WEEK AT ROTARY . . . Monday, September 21, 2020

## Geopolitics in the Age of Covid-19

**Speaker: General John R. Allen, USMC, Ret. President & CEO, Brookings Institution**

John R. Allen currently serves as the 8th president of the Brookings Institution. He is a retired U.S. Marine Corps four-star general and former commander of the NATO International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces in Afghanistan. Prior to his role at Brookings, Allen served as senior advisor to the secretary of defense on Middle East Security and as special presidential envoy to the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL. Allen is the first Marine to command a theater of war, as well as the first Marine to be named commandant of midshipmen for the U.S. Naval Academy. He holds a Bachelor of Science in operations analysis from the U.S. Naval Academy, a Master of Arts in national security studies from Georgetown University, a Master of Science in strategic intelligence from the Defense Intelligence College, and a Master of Science in national security strategy from the National Defense University. We will be joined at our Zoom meeting by members of: The Dayton Council on World Affairs, Centerville Washington History, and The Southwest Ohio Chapter, U. S. Naval Academy Alumni Association.



**Chair of the Day: Jim Gallagher**

Rotary Calendar



September 21 Gen. John Allen, USMC, Ret., President & CEO, Brookings Institution in Washington, DC

**September 24 Board of Directors Meeting 12 Noon**

September 28 Mayor Nan Whaley

October 5 Carolyn Jones

October 19 Jeff Hoagland, Dayton Development Coalition

**October 22 Board of Directors Meeting 12 Noon**

**October 28 Foundation Trustee Meeting 4:00 P.M.**

**PLEASE NOTE WE WILL  
CONTINUE TO HOLD ZOOM  
VIRTUAL MEETINGS EACH  
MONDAY AT 12 NOON.**

### This Happened Last Monday

The Dayton Rotary meeting for Monday, September 14th started with a brief welcome by President Brian Martin. President Martin asked that Rotarians keep fellow Rotarian, Amy Radachi in your thoughts as she lost her father this past week.

President Martin turned the meeting over to Bill Nance for the invocation, four-way test, pledge and news at noon. Bill noted that it has been requested that Rotarians stand, if able, for the pledge of allegiance, even while at home.

Bill then welcomed Secretary, Kim Bramlage for the recognition of visitors, visiting Rotarians, birthday's, and DAY 10's. Guests and visiting Rotarians for this week included: Dayton Mayor, Nan Whaley, Derek Petrey, VP for the Dayton Council on World Affairs; Cassaundra Bronner, Librarian; Von Shannon for Dayton Council on World Affairs

Kim also noted that the next virtual Dayton rotary breakfast. It will be on Friday at 8:00 AM.

Given the tight schedule for the meeting, Kim quickly recognized Rotarian's birthdays for both last week and this week. Those birthday's include: Laura Erbaugh (Sept. 9), Roger Vanderhorst (Sept. 9), Donna Childs (Sept. 14th), Honorary Rotarian, County Commissioner Debbie Liberman (Sept. 15), Diane Ewing (Sept. 20th), & Cindy Gardner (Sept. 16)

DAY 10's for this week included: Debbie Liberman, via Carolyn Rice, wanted to tell everyone she is held up on another zoom meeting, but with us in spirit. She pledges a Day 59 for her birthday tomorrow!!! Glenn Costie: Day 10 for Brian Martin in recognition or work with United Way that was recently announced. Nora Vondrell shared that SISCA is having a Poop show this week where you get a chance to win \$10,000. Get your tickets soon! Diane Ewing Day 100 toward her next Paul Harris for DBJ's diversity awards where Brian was identified as an outstanding diversity champion. Cindy Gardner did a day 100 for her birthday. Jessica Barry gave a Day 10 to thank those of you who reached out to her over the last week to congratulate us on getting Kettering City Council's approval to purchase land for student housing. They are very excited about what this project will do for our future students! Shaun Yu did a Day-20 for WDPR's Fall Membership Campaign which is now underway. Support your local, commercial-free, news-free, full-time classical music station. 937-222-9377(WDPR) or go to [discoverclassical.org](http://discoverclassical.org). Mention "Dayton Rotary" so I can give a big shout-out to our club!

...Continued on page 3

## Rotary International Theme 2020-2021



**Greg Birkemeyer**  
District Governor 6670  
Rotary Club of Dayton

## The Mission of Rotary International

To support its member clubs in fulfilling the Object of Rotary by:

- Fostering unity among member clubs;
- Strengthening and expanding Rotary around the world;
- Communicating worldwide the work of Rotary; and providing a system of international administration.

## The Mission of Dayton Rotary

The Rotary Club of Dayton is a fellowship of diverse business and professional leaders who commit their time and talent to staying informed and serving the club, the community and the world.

**Rotary Club of Dayton, Ohio**  
**40 South Perry Street Suite 110**  
**Dayton, Ohio 45402**

Phone: (937) 228-3331

Fax: (937) 331-5406

Email: [contact@daytonrotary.com](mailto:contact@daytonrotary.com)

Website: [www.daytonrotary.com](http://www.daytonrotary.com)

## 2020-2021 Officers and Directors

|               |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| Brian Martin  | President                |
| Shaun Yu      | President-Elect          |
| Walt Hibner   | Vice-President           |
| Kim Bramlage  | Secretary                |
| Randy Domigan | Treasurer                |
| Jean Maychack | Immediate Past President |
| Frank Scott   | Director (2022)          |
| Lisa Wagner   | Director (2022)          |
| Diane Farrell | Director (2021)          |
| Becky Benná   | Director (2021)          |
| Brad Roediger | Director (2021)          |
| Laura Erbaugh | Executive Director       |

## Birthday Wishes



Heather Martin  
937-271-4349  
September 22



Lisa Hanson  
937-222-2787  
September 23



Dave Bilbrey  
937-228-0046  
September 25



Judith Francis  
937-898-7300  
September 26



Scott MacDonald  
937-229-4618  
September 27



Ray Monell  
937-429-9441  
September 27

## Dayton Rotary Virtual Breakfast Friday September 18th @ 8AM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88981745350?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88981745350?pwd=c2wzNFg3SUI6UVpDUkdVUldMcUtkZz09)

[pwd=c2wzNFg3SUI6UVpDUkdVUldMcUtkZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88981745350?pwd=c2wzNFg3SUI6UVpDUkdVUldMcUtkZz09)

Meeting ID: 889 8174 5350

Passcode: 841820

**Breakfast is BYOB -**

**Bring Your Own Breakfast/Coffee**

**It's a Great Time to catch up with fellow Rotarians**



## Foundation Contributions in the Bank

Steve Naas  
Jacquie Powell  
Steve Conklin  
Gary Gottschlich  
John Lyman  
Frank Kivuyo  
Lisa Holmes

Ken Herr  
Alisa Zink  
Bill Weaner  
Evelyn Davidson  
Ken May  
Chuck Vella  
Sean O'Regan

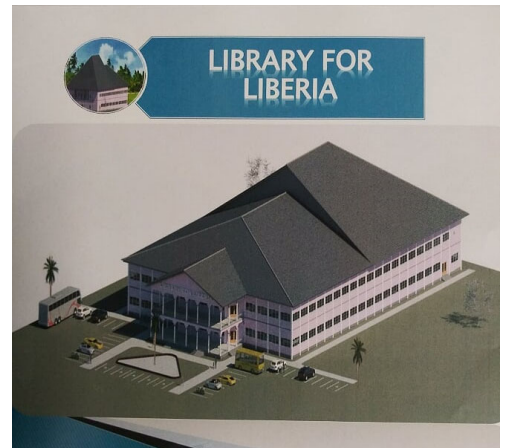


**Thank You!**

## This Happened Last Monday Continued

Susan Hayes shared Book Club meets tomorrow from 6:30-8:00 PM via Zoom. We are discussing the book *The Pioneers* by David McCullough. I will be sending out the Zoom information this afternoon. We use the same Rotary Zoom number. Looking forward to a dynamic discussion. That concluded all of Kim's announcements, now the meeting was turned back to President Brian Martin who then turned the meeting over to Alan Pippenger for a special remembrance ceremony. Frank Devlyn served as President of Rotary International in 2000-2001 and was a member of Rotary Club in Mexico City. On July 17, 2000 President Devlyn was and remains the only International President to ever attend a Dayton Rotary Club Meeting. President Frank attended the first meeting of Dayton Rotary President, Alan Pippenger which set a high standard for programs to follow throughout the year. President Frank talked on his international theme, "Create Awareness- Take Action" along with welcoming a few new members and bestowing a few Paul Harris Fellowships. During his visit to Dayton, President Frank visited the clubs service project which was restoring homes for at-risk youth just south of Miami Valley Hospital, on Frank Street. He also attended a reception in the Oregon District and NCR hosted President Frank overnight at Moraine Farm. After leaving Dayton, President Frank was on his way Rome to entertain an audience with Pope John Paul II. Alan gave a Day 100 and asked for a moment of silence was honored for past International President Frank Devlyn.

President Martin turned over to Carolyn Rice to present the Irv Bieser Peace Award. On behalf of the Peace Committee, Carolyn shared they decided to create this award. Falling in line with club tradition, the meeting following September 11th traditionally has included some sort of peace building aspect to the program. This year the Peace Committee wanted to take this time to award the inaugural Irv Bieser Peace Award to someone who demonstrates Peace and ending Conflict. This award will be given periodically to a member of the greater community who reflects such values. Carolyn shared that the inaugural recipient's of the Irv Bieser Peace Award go to Veleta Jenkins and Darius Ricks, co-founders of Library for Africa. Carolyn also recognized Irv's wife Tracey joined the meeting along with Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley to celebrate all the work of Irv and recognize Veleta and Darius for the work they are doing in Monrovia, Liberia- one of Dayton's sister cities. Carolyn then turned the meeting over to Leronda Jackson who was the chair of the day to introduce the guest speakers for the meeting. Leronda shared that she met Ms. Jenkins at a luncheon where she shared that she has been a school teacher for many years and was now sending books to Africa as part of a non-profit organization. Leronda then turned the meeting over to Darius and Veleta for their presentation. Veleta started out by sharing how the organization started which was with a box of old books sitting on the a classroom floor and a student asking her not to throw the books away. That student, Darius Ricks, was a former student of Ms. Jenkins when she was teaching at Dayton Job Corp. who was from Liberia. Darius asked if he could have those books because the people in Liberia need these books. That box of books turned into what is now, "Library for Africa" Organization and the plan to build a 21st century modern library in Liberia. Darius then joined the meeting to provide some context about life in Liberia. Darius shared that when Ms. Jenkins was trying to get rid of the books, he



couldn't allow her to do that when he knew back in Liberia they had no books like these and they could use them. Darius went on to share that there are no schools with libraries or public libraries because they can't afford them. The entire county has no public library. After sharing his story with Ms. Jenkins they began working together to send thousands and thousands of books to Liberia. Total number of books sent to Liberia today is around 2700. They then made efforts to help schools in Liberia establish libraries with the help from teachers. When Darius finished his time at Dayton Job Corp., he asked "what next?". Together they wanted to change an entire country through education and empowerment. They created the organization, "Library for Africa". After graduation, Darius went back to Liberia for a month where he worked with an architect to help create plans for the library. With their own money, Ms. Jenkins and Darius has purchased 2 acres of land in Liberia.



## This Happened Last Monday Continued...

Veleta proceeded through a series of slides showing the process of collecting the books, taking the books to the shipping company, labeling the barrels or books. The entire shipping process took over 2 months before the children in Liberia received the books. Veleta went on to share that when Darius gave her a tour of the school she really felt that if they could show people what is possible through Library for Africa with this one school others can step up to help other communities in the country.



Now fast forward to COVID 19, Veleta was planning to travel to Liberia in November to do the ground breaking for the library. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic this had to be delayed, but Darius shared with Veleta that the

people of the community were also struggling to find food so the Library for Africa team deployed teams into the communities they serve with rice, hand sanitizer, water buckets to let the community know they are not alone. This is still being done on a weekly basis.

In closing Veleta shared that she was “just a teacher that wanted to do good in the world”. Veleta’s exposure to immigrant and refugee students as a teacher allowed her to learn so much more about the struggles and challenges the children of these countries- especially Liberia faced. As a mother, a teacher, as a human being- it impacted her greatly. That’s what led her to help lead this charge. Veleta noted that they are not a large company, they don’t have a lot of money, but we are changing lives one book at a time and we are asking other good people to help



change those lives as well. When Library for Africa gets the library built, it will be history and that is the legacy they want to leave behind. It will be the first library in Liberia.

At this time there were some questions from Rotarians. The first question was, How can people donate books? Veleta shared that they are not accepting books due to the cost of shipping books and the time. At this point there is nowhere to house those books. Right now they are trying to secure donations to get the library in Liberia built. It will be a 21st century technology-based library so that students can have access to hot spots, ipads, kindles, so students can have access to the world. Tracy Bieser made a comment at the meeting. She noted that

her late husband Irv would be so honored for the work Veleta is doing and for the award that Dayton Rotary has created in his name. A few others asked about where to make donations. Veleta shared that their website ([www.libraryforafrica.org](http://www.libraryforafrica.org)), CashApp (LibraryForAfrica) and mail donations to Library for Africa PO Box 208, Englewood, OH 45322. There is also a GoFundMe account. Veleta also shared her personal phone number for anyone who wanted to talk more about Library for Africa. Her number is 937-901-3726. President Brian noted that Rotary is going to look into adding “breakout rooms” to future zoom meetings. He also added the Shaun Yu is leading a committee looking into future opportunities with Sinclair and meeting in smaller groups.

