



December 2018 edition

# The Huntington Rotarian

*Happy Holidays*



## Women in Rotary

Efforts to admit women in Rotary began in 1950 when a club in India proposed the elimination of the word "male" from the Constitution. The next effort was in 1964 when a club in Ceylon proposed admitting women into Rotary. Their efforts were withdrawn. Another effort was made in 1972 when a proposal was made at the Council on Legislation.

Three more proposals were submitted to the Council on Legislation in 1977 and a Brazilian club used a different proposal to admit women as honorary members. That same year the Rotary Club of Duarte, California actually admitted women as members, causing the club's membership in RI to be terminated. In 1980 several clubs attempted to have "male members" language removed from club constitutions.

Intervening years saw lawsuits filed and in 1987 The United States Supreme Court ruled that women could no longer be excluded from membership in Rotary. One wonders why it was clubs from other countries of the world that initiated efforts to include women.

### The Huntington Rotary Club

An excerpt from our club's *100 Years of Rotary*, "The announcement by Rotary International that women would be admitted to Rotary membership was met with mixed reviews by the local club. Marjorie Hiner was the first woman to be invited to membership in 1988. Seven women were Rotarians by the end of 1991. One of these 'first women', Kathy Branham became the first woman to serve as president of Rotary Club 300. She served a term in 1996-97 and again in 2006-07. Branham also served as Assistant District Governor from 1999-2001." We were ably led by Stephanie Pyle in 99-2000, Kay Schwob in 03-04, Jill Denman in 04-05, Louanne Kay in 07-08, Cindy Willour in 08-09, Annette Carrol in 11-12, Rose Wall in 14-15, Nicole Johnson in 16-17, and Cindy Krumanaker in 17-19.

I confess that I was neutral on the subject. Looking back I should have been loudly calling "come on in!"

*-Article written by Mel Ring*



13th Jim Hoffman

14th Rose Wall

16th Ben Davis

19th Billy Winter

23rd Lori Mickley

25th Chuck Homier

28th Tom Mills

# Inspirational Christmas Story

# The Christmas Truce

by David G. Stratman

From his book [\*We Can Change the World\*](#)

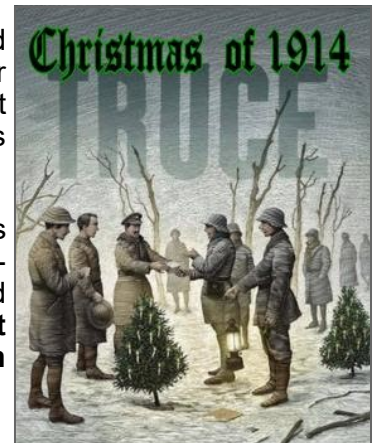
It was December 25, 1914, only 5 months into World War I. German, British, and French soldiers, already sick and tired of the senseless killing, disobeyed their superiors and fraternized with "the enemy" along two-thirds of the Western Front (a crime punishable by death in times of war). German troops held Christmas trees up out of the trenches with signs, "Merry Christmas."

"You no shoot, we no shoot." Thousands of troops streamed across a no-man's land strewn with rotting corpses. They sang Christmas carols, exchanged photographs of loved ones back home, shared rations, played football, even roasted some pigs. **Soldiers embraced men they had been trying to kill a few short hours before. They agreed to warn each other if the top brass forced them to fire their weapons, and to aim high.**

A shudder ran through the high command on either side. Here was disaster in the making: soldiers declaring their brotherhood with each other and refusing to fight. Generals on both sides declared this spontaneous peacemaking to be treasonous and subject to court martial. By March 1915 the fraternization movement had been eradicated and the killing machine put back in full operation. By the time of the armistice in 1918, fifteen million would be slaughtered.

Not many people have heard the story of the Christmas Truce. On Christmas Day, 1988, a story in the *Boston Globe* mentioned that a local FM radio host played "Christmas in the Trenches," a ballad about the Christmas Truce, several times and was startled by the effect. **The song became the most requested recording during the holidays in Boston on several FM stations.** "Even more startling than the number of requests I get is the reaction to the ballad afterward by callers who hadn't heard it before," said the radio host. "They telephone me deeply moved, sometimes in tears, asking, 'What the hell did I just hear?'"

You can probably guess why the callers were in tears. The Christmas Truce story goes against most of what we have been taught about people. It gives us a glimpse of the world as we wish it could be and says, "This really happened once." It reminds us of those thoughts we keep hidden away, out of range of the TV and newspaper stories that tell us how trivial and mean human life is. It is like hearing that our deepest wishes really are true: the world really could be different.




# December 2018

Disease and Treatment Month  
Program Chair: Joe Santa

# Rotary



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Club STRIVE	4 Rotary Day - Jonathon/Sarah Nahar—Rotary Peace Fellowship Thailand	5	6	7	8 Bell Ringing
9	10	11 Mike Gibbons, Area Scout for NY Yankees	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Huntington County Honors	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 No Club! 	26	27	28	29
30	31					