

Rotary



E-Club of the Caribbean, 7020

Our Story

We collaborate
with clubs in
D7020
Rotary
Rotaract
Interact
Earlyact

Rotaractors hone
presentation skills



Young children
become published
authors



Interact teens
showcase creative
skills

Together
we help
Caribbean youth
reach
their
potential

When we join a meeting of Rotary E-Club of the Caribbean we find a diverse group of members connecting and calling in from around the world but they have more in common than it may at first appear. Our group currently represents 8 of the 10 island territories and nations in District 7020 and is typical of the unique blend of backgrounds and nationalities that is the essence of the region.

The club's philosophy, since its charter in August 2013, has been to concentrate the majority of its humanitarian efforts on the areas covered by District 7020. To this end, all of the members have a strong connection to the region, either as natives, residents or regular visitors and wish to support the island communities.

The club places particular emphasis on empowering Caribbean youth by offering them the opportunity to hone a variety of skills through participation in competitions. Over the years these contests have become popular with young people of all ages and, critically, enthusiastically endorsed and supported by many other clubs throughout the District. The success of these projects is heavily reliant on this support and for this, the club is most grateful. As members of an international organization, the club also participates in Global Grants and international projects which, to date, have supported 'Basic Literacy and Education' in India as well as 'Disease Prevention and Treatment' in Africa and Thailand.

The prime mover and Charter President, Kitty Bucsko, labored for more than a year to form this club. A difficult task which required bringing together a group of people who could understand the practicalities of meeting on line, as well as the challenge of undertaking practical projects. At that time, 'Zoom' was not a household word! Had it not been for the determination of Kitty and her small team, an E-Club in 7020 would not have been born until much later.

In the following pages you will meet our club members of 2021-22 and learn what Rotary means to them and how they travel and visit other clubs and take the opportunity to seek partners and promote the E-club's projects.

You will also be able to learn about our unique competitions and winners as well as find information about our international projects.

We hope you enjoy turning the pages and not only learning about some of the members but also become inspired by the continuing long term commitment to the Caribbean region.



Abigail

I officially joined Rotary in 2010 but I was exposed to our local club in Saint Barthélemy a few years prior. My husband comes from a Rotary family in France and was a charter member of the Saint Barth Club. For years I would participate as a volunteer, but as my participation as well as my organizational « input » grew, two members of our club sponsored my membership. I remember how proud I was at my induction ceremony. It was an amazing sensation! My first year I was elected secretary, contributing greatly as the exclusive anglophone in the club. I quickly became interested in the wider reach of Rotary international and, in particular, our club's relations with its district.

My most memorable moments in Rotary would begin with my induction itself. It was at a beautiful elegant restaurant, surrounded by loved ones and other rotarians. I immediately loved the protocol! Other milestones include when my daughter became the first Interact president, my son as an early actor and of course, the many district conferences, training and catching up with Rotarians I had met over the years.

As a Roving Rotarian, I've attended meetings in Italy, France, Saint Martin, Guadeloupe and most recently the United States.



Bonita

My Rotary voyage started in 2001, a good friend by the name of Liesa took me to several Rotary meetings of the Rotary Club of Sint Maarten. My happy moment was, when I walked into the Rotary meeting in June 2001 and was told that I was admitted to the Rotary Club of Sint Maarten. My Rotary Journey started and at the same moment the birth of many new family members. I served in different capacities on the Board such as, Vocational director, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary, Membership director, during my tenure as membership director I was very instrumental in chartering an Interact Club Rotary Club at the Milton Peters college on Sint Maarten, it was very joyful to see youngsters giving their time and commitment to do good, e.g. helping elderly, reading for the sick, giving to children in need and also learning how to work hard by raising funds. . An eager and dedicated group of youngsters, with a great mentality to do well in their society. They were also always enthusiastic and ready to assist their sponsoring club with projects. They come up with great ideas, different activities to raise funds and assist. Carwash and other creative activities were repeatedly done.

My family growth in rotary was rapidly and joyfully, all over the globe I got to meet new family members. Rotary not only opened doors for me through the world, but makes me reach the heart of so many in need. This was my change to serve above self.



Bonita

In my 20 plus years in Rotary I have so many moments to be glad about and that makes me blissful and gratified at the same time. First of all organizing a fundraising for purchasing equipment for the Medical Centre in Sint Maarten. This was a great event involving so many persons attending. Island wide the citizens saw the need and the fellowship, belief and trust in Rotary was visible on the island. With different food stand, from different countries, art and craft, games and more. A car raffle took place. The outcome and attendance was tremendous. his fundraising event was held at the Fort in Divi Little Bay, putting this together and seeing the outcome was indeed a memorable moment, moreover what was done with the proceeds. It was a great to raise so many funds to purchase the needed equipment and donate it to the hospital.

Other memorable moments are small things that were great for individuals such as a day out with the elderly on a day cruise around the island, with great food, dancing and goodies. Breakfast with the special need children of the Sister Brasília center. The fact that as Rotarian we can give “one to one” attention is a great accomplishment and satisfaction. Collecting goods and funds for Haiti after the earthquake is fulfilling. I was part of a Rotary team that worked hard to do a matching grant with a Rotary Club in the Netherlands, to get books and goods for a school in St. Maarten. Sharing dictionaries for the second graders was also heartwarming, the children were so happy to receive a book to call their very one.

Avoiding a court case by working as a mediator in the role as Umpire to mediate in a dispute between members in a club in the district was also fulfilling. Most of all is to see that the needs of the underprivileged are being dealt with. To see that one person is being helped, a student is able to get a rotary scholarship, getting the homeless and underprivileged children a gift for Christmas, pizza or a solid festive meal, is heartwarming. Their radiance of gratitude is gratifying. It encourages me to do more. The fact that I am part of doing “good” locally and globally is memorable.

Right: Visit to St. Martin Sunset Club



Bonita

“Roving” as a Rotarian, is secretly one of my favorite things in Rotary too. The fact that one can travel and meet family were ever in the world you go is so unique for me. Rotarians welcome you into their Rotary home as family. I visited a Rotary Club in Halifax- Prince Edward Island Canada, that was an awkward moment, because walking into the Room full of male Rotarians eighty plus, I could hear a pin drop. As jovial as I was I walked in happily to join my Rotary family in Halifax. First of all I was told that only males are allowed in the Club, but luckily I was permitted to stay and make a presentation. Eventually the Rotarians, posted a lot of question and applauded my visit. At the end I stayed for at least another 30 minutes and had several one to one, because they could not stop questing me about the tiny island I was from and the many rotary projects I shared with them.

I was living in Dubai for nearly two years where I regularly attended meetings of the Rotary Club of Jumeirah in 2007. I went back to visit that Club in 2018 were I was received with a warm welcome by my Arabic family of Rotary again. Living in Quito Ecuador for a couple months, it wasn't hard to find a Rotary family, although the club in Quito was an only Spanish speaking club I felt very welcome. I visit different Clubs in the Netherlands, Curacao, Bahamas to mention a view. I am so grateful to Rotary that I have family and friends wherever I go over the world.

Far and away the most pleasant networking moments were at the Rotary conventions. My first international convention was in Chicago USA in 2005 where we celebrated 100 year of Rotary. I got goose bumps reaching in Chicago at the RI conference, it was truly a living Rotary dream. Attending a conference of that magnitude is and was overwhelming. People from different walks of life, many countries and cultures, different languages, all around were Rotary booths and stands, exciting and well-known speakers a great program, breakout sessions, black tie events, lunches and things too numerous to mention were going on. Every moment was a learning experience and joyful at the same time. The friendliness of all the people, was amazing. Regardless of all the differences, I felt the similarities and belonging. The fact that so many people with a common goal were in one place, was simply amazing.

In 2008, I went to Salt Lake City Utah, USA convention, then to Los Angeles USA and my last convention was in 2009 in Birmingham, England. All the conventions made me feel the urge and need to do more, it feels like a wakeup call and a refreshment and the same time. After attending the conferences, I felt charged. The same counts for the District conferences. Happily I am able to assist our District Governor Louis here in Sint Maarten because I am part of the organizing committee.

Camille

Rotary has not only opened doors for me throughout the world, but enabled me reach the hearts of so many in need. I aspire to Serve Above Self.

I joined Rotary as a way to give back humanitarian service to a well needed cause, network with like-minded persons and engaging in social activities.

There are opportunities for growth and development in both my personal and professional life as the training opportunities expand beyond Rotary.



Dawn

I joined Haiti, going there to work in 1997 for a major health care and development organization, Hopital Albert Schweitzer. My boss at the time was a member of the Rotary Club of St. Marc, Haiti and through him local Rotarians had access to HAS Rotary contacts and detailed say, not just a rubberstamp role, in Rotary grants that the hospital wanted to propose. When he left HAS, I joined the club to ensure that Haitian Rotarians had a strong voice and supervision in these projects.



Dawn

Once I joined, I found Rotary to be a nearly perfect way to meet Haitian professionals and build a network of local friends independent of my employer. That is not easy to do in a place where you have no personal car, and without people to introduce you to new contacts. Rotary became a key friendship maker.

I went home from Haiti on 'second shift vacation' in early January 2010. On the 12th I was presenting to a friend's Rotary club in Hammond, Indiana on the water and sanitation work that the Rotary Club of Verrettes and HAS were doing. I seem to remember (though I might be mixing two different memories) that I had just tripped over a stair and broken a toe at my brother's house, so I was limping along. The club was fine with me presenting barefoot!

But as my folks and I were driving back to Cincinnati, I got a call from a Canadian Rotary friend on my Haitian phone. He asked me if I had heard about the earthquake in Port-au-Prince and asked how bad the damage was. I hadn't heard of it yet and inquired what the magnitude of the quake was. When he said 7.0, I knew it would be bad.

Unable to get back to Haiti, I spent the next month getting information from my staff whenever I could, and speaking to Rotary Clubs and others whom I knew so I could organize supplies and assistance. The clubs I spoke with were very concerned about their fellow Rotarians and about Haiti, and very willing to help. I was very glad to be a Rotarian in those days!

Denison (Denís)

When a friend first invited me to go to a Rotary meeting, I had a close to zero idea of what Rotary is. When I realized that I knew quite a few Rotarians and was welcomed, well, cordially, and that the meeting pretty much spanned the community in interests and professions, my opinion started forming positively. Plus, the food was pretty good, the location---at a beach front restaurant---just fine, and it was an evening dinner meeting.

Briefly, my friend became my sponsor, I joined Rotary, and within a year I became club treasurer.

St. Thomas at the time had 3 other clubs, and Rotarians were encouraged to visit around. Rotarian Roving is really sort of baked into the organization. And I did, especially enjoying working on hands-on community projects with other clubs.

That was 27 years, 2 club presidencies and 2 clubs ago, and continues even to this day, though physical roving is on a temporary hiatus for pandemic reasons. And yet Rotary roving continues through internet visits and action groups on-line, and is still enjoyable.



Denison (Denís)

The Rotary Club of St. Thomas-East, my previous club, annually funded the President and Secretary elects travel and hotel expenses to both the District Conference and the International Conference in my early membership years. In my first club presidency that meant St. Thomas and Indianapolis. Also, our traditions encouraged an incoming administration to generate a new project for club focus. I decided that the neediest in our district should be our attention, and that was Haiti.

While browsing the enticing vendor exhibits at the International Conference, accompanied by VP elect Corinne Van Renselaer of my club, two exhibitors' offerings stood out as possible pieces to the puzzle: A foldable, portable, durable low cost solar stove that would eliminate the need to gather wood for fuel; Packaged dry and tasty low price and fully nutritious meals that shipped easily in quantity, lasted a long time and required no refrigeration. Several Rotarians from Haiti joined us at the exhibits, as well as DG Mulo Alwani and Sarla.

An Idea emerged: Provide an ongoing and sustainable school lunch program for Haitian schoolchildren. This addressed children's hunger and poverty and literacy problems and could elicit the involvement of Haitian Rotarians, so also an international project.

I took the ideas back to the Board who enthusiastically voted to adopt it as a club project and just as enthusiastically told me I'd have to raise the funding and run it.

So I did....



Denison (Denis)

I made presentations to the other 3 STT Rotary clubs and to Inner Wheel, was generously rewarded and the project started. I devised the logistics and shipping and purchase of the food and arranged with our Haitian partners for a school of several hundred to receive the meals. This was no easy task. There was almost no internet or email in 1998 in the Caribbean, and phone and fax communications were weak, sometimes impossible, even on St. Thomas.

We applied for an RI \$25,000 Health and Humanities Children's Opportunities Grant with my presentation material, backed by DG Garfield Thomas, and it was awarded. We expanded the fund-raising effort district wide with a rewarding response. The project went into high gear.

The following year, I was invited to present to the District Conference and DG Bobby Bodden adopted the project for district support, appointing me Deputy Chair of the Hunger and Poverty Committee.

I personally ran the project for more than two years until Haiti finally defeated it by devolving into a difficult period and it became impossible to secure shipments at the port of entry.

The project was a success. We delivered more than 300,000 meals providing school lunch to hundreds of schoolchildren for years.

Grit, determination and Rotarians.

Lastly, I count as significant achievements being a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, club president twice, club treasurer, numerous committee chairs, helping rebuild a club after total hurricane destruction, 16 years as a board member, a club member for 27 years and meeting some of the finest people in the world.





Diana

As I begin to write this Rotary 26 year journey, I know there will be many gaps in my memory!! However, I think the travelling I have been fortunate enough to do and the Rotary friendships and experiences I have enjoyed along the way serves as a perfect example of what Rotary can do for us all and what fulfilment it can provide.

So, let's get started. My involvement started in 1979 in Tortola when Roger joined Rotary and, like all the other partners at that time, I became an active volunteer in events and fundraisers. We then moved to Fiji and Rotary in Suva provided both of us with an introduction to many people within the community and an opportunity to learn about the fascinating Fijian culture. Moving then to the UK in 1984, I was able to meet more Rotarians but also to join Inner Wheel. Little did I know that, when moving back to the US Virgin Islands in 1987, I had the opportunity to join Inner Wheel in St. Thomas and eventually become President in 1990 and District Vice Chair in 1992.

Diana



Above RC Charlotte Amalie
Left Inner Wheel Annual Picnic
Below Installed as District Governor
by RI President Ray Klinginsmith



During all this time I had been unable to work due to work permit restrictions but in January 1994, we opened our own business and two months later, I was invited to join the Rotary Club of Charlotte Amalie. During my 20 years with that club, I became President in 2001, Assistant Governor in 2004 and District Governor in 2010.

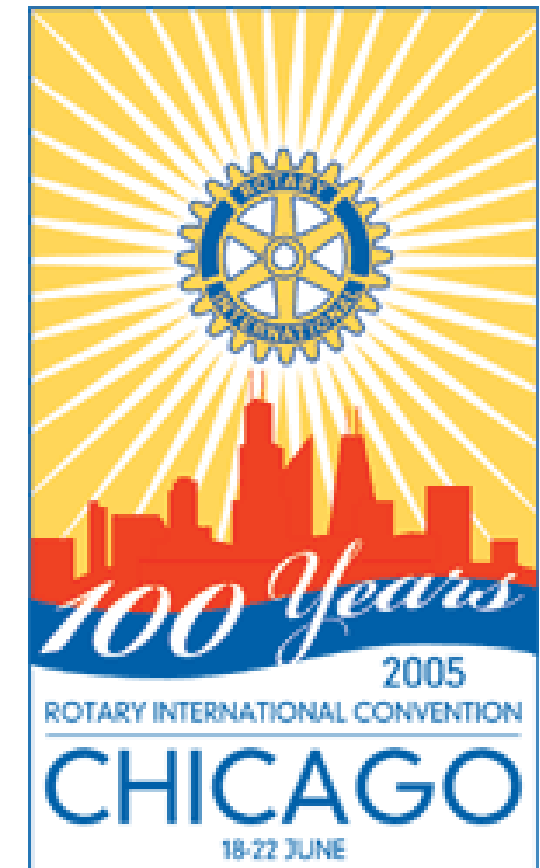
My involvement within District 7020 has taken me to all 16 islands and over 80 clubs. Of course, the conferences in this district are renowned for their hospitality! I have seen that for myself at 13 of those events and each of them brought their own unique personality. When attending conferences in other districts, the special 7020 atmosphere is definitely lacking! I have been to 5 others in the USA and the UK, 3 as RI President's Representative and 2 others as a visitor.

Joining the E-Club in 2013 has broadened the scope for all members to meet and interact with Rotarians and other interesting presenters from around the world. Recently the pandemic has caused so many clubs to meet online that it was easy to visit anywhere and everywhere.

Diana

Of course, the International Conventions held around the globe are all unique and I have been lucky enough to attend 9 of them, all in the USA or Europe, with the entertainment ranging from dancing horses in San Antonio, Celtic Thunder in Montreal to West End Theatre performance in Birmingham.

The lesser known and smaller Presidential Conferences are interesting as the focus is usually built around one of the areas of in which Rotary works, I have attended 2, one in Salt Lake City in 2001 and one in Cannes in 2016. They are a great place to find partners for projects!



Diana

Anyone who has visited Rotary Center in Evanston will have been impressed by the organization's staff and facilities. I have also had the opportunity to visit Country Office in Kenya and Uganda and the Rotary Great Britain and Ireland headquarters in Alcester. These centers provide support and guidance to clubs within their countries and organize nation-wide meetings and events and sometimes projects.



Above Rotary Headquarters, Evanston
Below Rotary Club One, Chicago



Diana



I now realise there has been a common thread of enthusiasm with which Rotarians share ideas and are willing to support the adaptation of a fresh approach to them has enable me to take pride in my involvement in making them come to life.

As a leader in my club and then district, I thought it important to provide ways to enthuse and motivate members. So as a club leader in 2001, I used the age-old primary school motivator of ‘stars stickers’ sticking stars on the name badges of members each month to recognize their involvement in club activities; and presenting certificates for Shooting Stars, Super Stars and Mega Stars at year end. I was amazed, and somewhat amused, at how grown Rotarians still became excited about getting stars for their work!

As a last-minute idea in 2010, I took the concept of many districts which award a ‘Club of the Year’. I thought that it would be unfair in our district to try and compare the successes of a small rural club in Haiti to a somewhat cosmopolitan club in Cayman so I launched what I thought would be a one-year program called ‘Club of the Month’ only to find that 11 years later it still engenders enthusiasm and a good deal of friendly rivalry within the district!

The adaptation of Rotary GBI nation-wide competitions of Young Writer, Young Photographer and Youth Speaks has been enthusiastically endorsed by E-Club members. Their support for and efforts in Butterfly, PICS and ROAR has created and maintained these staple, annual projects. I am most grateful and proud to be a part of these successes which help to empower Caribbean youth.

Diana

Of course, we all appreciate recognition, be it personal or public, it is all significant. Receiving a Paul Harris Award from the Rotary Club of St. Thomas in 1989, before I was a Rotarian, was particularly rewarding. As it also was, in 2011, to receive the Person of the Year award recognition presented annually to a member of the USVI community by the Rotary Club of St. Thomas II. Rotary International presents only 10 of the prestigious Service Above Self awards worldwide each year. Receiving this RI recognition was an exceptional and humbling moment. I am proud to have the honour of wearing the special pin.

Rotarians also take pride in the achievements of others so, of course, I take particular pride of seeing Roger recognized for the international projects he quietly, effectively and consistently works on. The close friendship he has with Rotarians such as Levy in Uganda is heart-warming and it is an honour to share in some of his successes of seeking ways to help rural communities living under challenging conditions.

The Rotary Family has been a major part of my life for over 40 years. There have been warm welcomes with so many faces in so many places resulting in so many lasting friendships.

I have learned about other's needs in other cultures and grown from the experience. Thankyou Rotary!



John



For past 25 years have lived on St John, USVI. Being invited to St John Rotary in 2002 I realized that here was a group of movers and shakers – now branded as People of Action. I served as Secretary and President, led a major grant project and created a 501(c)(3) foundation for the club. After I left I was drawn to the eClub by my past friendship with PP Kitty and PDG Diana. In addition to continued service I have my Rotary family with its fellowship, and I can put some of my many years of technical knowledge and non-profit management to use. I am ably supported by my wife Lee, who upon retirement swore to never go to any kind of meeting, but will roll up her sleeves to help out anywhere else.

My year (2006-2007) as President of RCStJ was mostly forgettable, but our local involvement with St John Rescue (StJ Rescue), a volunteer organization, led to my memorable moment five years later. It turned out that there was no source of medical oxygen on St John and taking a truck over on the barge to St Thomas with empty bottles and going back to get the filled ones was onerous in normal times, but in the case of a storm the Coast Guard would close the ports and there would be no boat at all. StJ Rescue was but one of five oxygen users on St John. The Island Clinic, Fire Service, EMS, and National Park Service all needed oxygen in their service, to say nothing of individual residents who required supplemental oxygen. StJ Rescue had identified an oxygen generator which would serve but it would cost over \$52,000 delivered. This appeared to RCStJ to be a verifiable need and we combined with StJ Rescue to raise funds and seek a Major Grant from TRF.

John

With guidance and advice from PP Roger I put together a Major Grant proposal with our international partner, The EClub of Puerto Rico and the Americas. Two DG “classmates” of PDG Diana, Jody Light and John Richardson of D7530 and D7000 respectively, actively sought DDF for our project. D7020 was very generous with DDF. We even got support from Jody’s club, RC of Buckhannon, WV. The grant was approved by TRF, the oxygen generator was secretly shipped to St John. It was believed that the Health Department on St Thomas was planning to hi-jack the generator for their own use. Safely in our hands, volunteers from StJ Rescue and RCStJ and the manufacturer installed it and got it running. Members of the EClub of Puerto Rico y Las Americas flew over to the USVI to join us for the ribbon cutting. That was in 2012 and the clinic and first responders of St John continue to this day to have self-sufficient oxygen. Truly a sustainable and worthwhile accomplishment, which I believe pales in comparison to the complexity of the project that AG Roger and Rtn Wein have taken on in Ethiopia. Let’s support them in every way possible, it is a lot of work!

Over the years as I traveled I have visited, or tried to visit local clubs in the area. It is discouraging that the Club Listings are not up to date, but Rotary allows a makeup where you go to the stated meeting place and time and there is no meeting. So I got makeups from RC Tysons Corner Virginia as they were not meeting that week, and from a club in St Francis, Guadeloupe which was nowhere to be found.

DG Jeremy and Michele in St. John



Roger in Lisbon for the convention

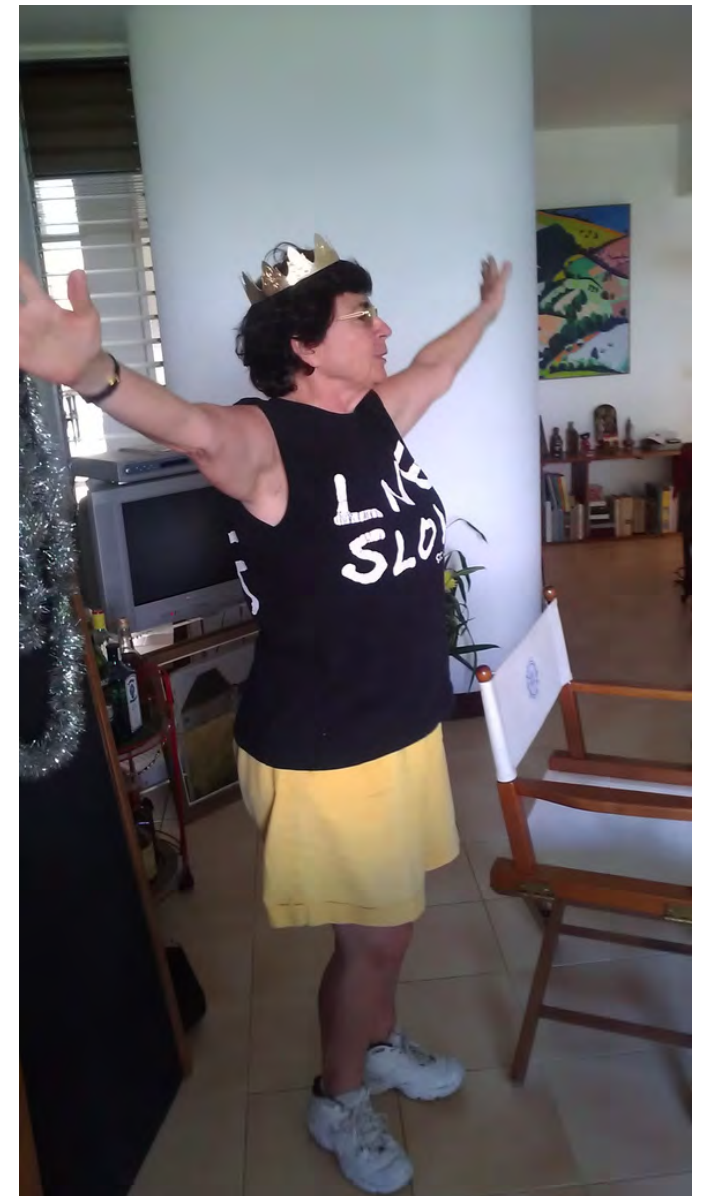


John

I was successful in attending meetings in Burke Virginia, Leesburg Virginia (with a friend who was a member there), and a very memorable meeting in Guadeloupe with my good friend Henriette Raccah. Her friend invited us to his club, in an elegant setting in a fine restaurant, cocktails before the meeting, 4 course luncheon with wines, and Henriette sitting next to me translating all the while. I was invited to speak and my topic was Major Grants as I had just completed one. Henriette provided the necessary translation of my words. This was where I first saw the SAA conduct the meeting and it seemed to be very efficient. The President had words to say but did not preside. I was not accustomed to that but it seemed to work ... the President has enough to do without having to run the meeting. I can say that without Henriette with me it would have been pretty awkward event for me and my wife as our French is pretty poor (well, Lee reads it pretty well but cannot figure out which letters are pronounced and which are not, so she does not speak it or hear well enough to follow conversations.) Me, I had two years in High School 60 years ago and a year in college almost that long ago. I'm pretty good with menus and directions, but not conversational French. I mix French, Spanish and Portuguese and Latin words together

I have also visited online with many clubs in and out of our district and indeed partnered with the eClub in Puerto Rico for a Major Grant with the RC St John when I was President there. And my tenure as District Secretary for DG Diana exposed me to so many clubs and members of the district.

I also consider attending District Conferences the very best roving. I have attended in Turks and Caicos, St Martin, Jamaica, Caymans, St Thomas, Tortola – and maybe more (I am forgetful). One of the highlights is always the Home Hospitality event. Makes the whole trip worthwhile. I encourage all Rotarians to go whenever possible. Rotary becomes a bigger part of your life when you do!



Henriette at Home

Lou

My introduction to Rotary began in early 2013 in Anguilla when Kitty Buscko showed me a lovely little Butterfly Story book – 10 Stories of Good Deeds by Young, Emerging Writers in the Caribbean. The book was a Project of the Rotary E-Club of the Caribbean, 7020 – a Club that had yet to be chartered!

This lovely book was printed thanks to the generosity of Caribbean Associated Attorneys in Anguilla and Lime (BVI). I was very impressed! In August of 2013 I became a Charter Member!

The Rotary Club of Anguilla is very special to me. Their meetings are every Thurs at 6pm. This is the only terra club I have ever attended & I do so while on island every February, March & April.

I also enjoy the opportunity to help out with projects.

WITH MY SPONSOR, KITTY I WAS OFFICIALLY 'PINNED' BY AG REBECCA



Lou



**FAMILIAR FACES AT THE ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN
TORONTO, JUNE 2019**

Noteworthy Projects

- Food donations for hurricane relief
- In partnership with FLOW, provided computer repairs to schools
- A blood bank for the local hospital. The funds were raised by selling tickets for a half acre of land that had been donated for this purpose. Tickets sold for \$25.
- With help from local musician, Bankie Banx, a bus was purchased for special needs students
- Continual donations to school programs
- Building gazebos: one at a local primary school and one at Crocus Bay
- Rebuilding roof of Ebenezer Methodist church was another massive undertaking that was recently completed by pouring a cement roof

My husband John attends the Anguilla meetings as well as local Rotary events with me & was also at the R.I Convention in Toronto in 2018. He's been told everywhere he goes that he's part of the Rotary family and he does enjoy it all. He's not likely to ever become a member as his passion in volunteer service is with Amateur Radio. He's the Emergency Co-ordinator for Peterborough County & I assist him with that as well.

MAKING THE MOST OF THE TORONTO CONVENTION



Lou

This brings me to Peterborough District 7010 and the clubs we support. Closest to me is the Rotary Club of Peterborough Kawartha which meets every Thursday at 7:20 am at the Peterborough Golf & C. C. While this is just next door, it's way too early in the morning! A few of their many projects are

Kawartha Rotary RibFest, held for three days in early July at Millennium Park, downtown Peterborough. Admission is free, food is sold by travelling & local 'ribbers'.

There's a beer garden sponsored by local & other major breweries, musical entertainment, 50/50 draws



Lou

MusicFest @ Del Crary Park. Two free concerts a week, excellent variety of music. 50/50 tickets are sold by Rotary volunteers. As an example of dollars raised, on July 31st the lucky ticket winner took home just over \$3,800, and this was not one of the larger wins. There can be 16,000 or more people attend. The weather this summer has been fantastic so I suspect they will have broken records for attendance.



- 25 Little Free Libraries throughout Peterborough and surrounding area to celebrate the Club's 25th Anniversary. One is setup in our little park at the top of the street.
- \$100,000 donation to Hospice, Every Moment Matters campaign
- Annual Victoria Day Fireworks in Del Crary Park
- Sponsorship of a Syrian Refugee family who moved to Peterborough last year

Lou

The Rotary Club of Peterborough has luncheon meetings twice a month on the 2nd + 4th Monday at the Holiday Inn. This is a very social club – always something going on; everything from BBQ's, scotch tasting, golf tournaments, dinner theatre, even axe throwing!

This Club also participates in MusicFest at Del Crary Park & supports the One Roof Community Centre

Their biggest fundraiser is the Annual Rotary Carl Oake Swimathon. This year 25 teams participated in the pool at the YMCA and raised \$50,000 through pledges. Over the past 32 years, this event has raised more than \$1,000,000 to support local worthwhile causes such as 5 Counties Children's Foundation, The New Peterborough Regional Health Centre, the New YMCA, the YWCA Women's Crossroads Shelter, The Rotary Greenway Trail, and Easter Seals.



Homeward Bound Program is a program that helps inadequately-housed or homeless mother-led families earn college diplomas, start careers and achieve economic self-sufficiency. The program provides a 16 week college prep in math, English, computers, life skills, & financial literacy; Rent-geared-to-income housing for 4 yrs; Free on-site childcare & support for school age children; 2 yrs college tuition; 14 weeks unpaid professional internship to build experience and access to sustainable, living wage employment opportunities

This program is in partnership with the Peterborough Housing Corporation the YWCA Peterborough & partly funded by the Department for Women & Gender Equality



Lou

The Buddy Bench is a way for kids to find new friends or seek out support. Children who are looking for someone to play with or in need of support can sit on the bench, and that invites others to join them.

Rotary Education Centre at Riverview Park & Zoo also has a gift shop. It is interesting as it was made possible thru the estate of a long-term Rotarian.


Rotary Education Centre

Our new Guest Services building features a bright and well equipped multi-purpose classroom/meeting room with a view like no other! The Rotary Education Centre was made possible through the generous support of the Peterborough Rotary Club and the estate of long-term Rotarian, Clarence "Pug" Pugsly.



39th Annual
BEL Rotary Polar Plunge
 Sunday, February 3rd, 2019
www.belrotaryplunge.com

2019 Theme: *Hockey Plunge in Canada*




Grab your favorite team jersey and join us at Rotary Park in Ennismore as we take the plunge in support of a variety of charities and the local and international work of the Rotary Club of Bridgenorth-Ennismore-Lakefield.

Plungers must raise a minimum of \$200 but are challenged to raise more.



Rotary Club of Bridgenorth-Ennismore-Lakefield

Charities - Community Groups - Churches - Individuals - Businesses - Schools - Service Organizations - Cause specific fundraising - All are welcome!



Lou

Rotary Club of Bridgenorth-Ennismore-Lakefield has tons of community service projects but their claim to fame is their Annual Polar Bear Plunge. They chop a huge hole in the ice and jump in wearing the themed costume of the yr. It's crazy! Hot tubs are setup nearby for warmups. PolarFest is an exciting family festival offering something for everyone to enjoy. A weekend full of laughter, friendly competition and the enjoyment of winter with a choice of activities for the young and the young at heart. Snowman Building Challenge, Lakefield Trail Night Hike, Candle Light Skate, Ice Cravings, Horse Drawn Sleigh Rides, fireworks by North Star Fireworks and for the very brave... the BEL Rotary Polar Plunge!



The final Club I attend is thin Rotary E-Club of Canada One, Chartered 23 Feb 2013 - from District 5370 in western Canada. I have to mention this Club as I met several members at the RIC in Toronto & do enjoy their weekly posted meetings that I receive every Sunday night.

In the spirit of an E-Club, they are from all around the world. Their recent projects focus on children/family support in Guatemala; Project Amigo in Mexico; a joint educational program with a Club in India; water and sanitation project in Honduras.

They also have a Thursday morning, half hour, 'FellowSip' visit where you can join in a coffee/zoom fellowship visit & this is always fun.

The Club is especially interested in their next District Conference when past President Jim Ferguson will become District Governor.

Final Comment - My cell phone wallet identifies me as a Rotarian & is much more visible than a small pin.

I get a lot of comments, questions and invitations when fellow Rotarians see this. Kind of like Denis' baseball hat!

Natasha (Auntie Tasha)

I joined Rotary in 2009 when a friend invited me to lunch a few times and then firmly planted me in the Youth Services Committee of Jamaica's 2nd oldest club – The Rotary Club of Montego Bay. At that time in my life, I was knee deep in children - hosting summer camps, co-ordinating children's events, writing a monthly children's newsletter and organising road trips with my 8 & 9 year old children, my friends and their children. There was so much fun to be had with young-ones, I just put on my Rotary pin and formalised the fun and I haven't stopped to this day.



Natasha

In 2020, inspired by Rotary International's first Caribbean President Barry Rassin and the introduction of the Environment as the 7th area of focus, I decided to broaden my horizons and join a more District 7020 focused club and transferred to the Rotary E-Club of the Caribbean where I have been enjoying weekly virtual meetings and Caribbean-wide signature projects with youth.



Over the past 13 years, there have been so many highs –

A city wide International Coastal Clean-up (ICC Beach Clean-up) with over 1,000 youth volunteers in 2016, involving Rotaract, Interact, Early Act, over a dozen local partners, organisations, clubs, associations, friends and family members. When the final count from eight sites was tallied at 1,023 volunteers, a dream had come true for me & my partner in beach-clean-up-crime, Outreach Officer of Montego Bay, Marine Park – Joshua Bailey, who had wished upon the 1,000 figure earlier that year.

Natasha's Timeline

- 2009 Joined the Rotary Club of Montego Bay
- 2011 DG's award for work with Early Act Clubs from DG Diana Grant
- 2016 Had largest ICC Beach clean-up with over 1,000 youth volunteers
- 2017 Awarded a PHF for work with youth
- 2018 President of Club (was pinned by Rotary International President Barry Rassin)
- 2019 DG's Platinum award for year of Presidency
- 2020 Transferred to Rotary E-Club of the Caribbean



Natasha's Dream



Paul

My earliest memory of Rotary, was when I was 9 years old; the Rotary Clubs in the Bahamas had a joint Fair called 'Rotarama'. It was held at Hobby Hall Horse Race track. It was an annual fair, with horse racing, games, rides, and other events. The USAF Thunderbirds (they were called the Blue Angels then) would fly over for the opening day. Proceeds went to the Boy Scouts, BASRA (Bahamas Air Sea Rescue Association) and the Salvation Army Youth Hostel & Workshop. Over 160 Rotarians participated. I remember it was during the summer, and my dad (Buddy Amoury) brought my brother Rich and I to the fair grounds to help build stalls for the games and such events like the ring toss. We mostly just carried things, but it was wonderful to see so many families helping and I was excited to be at the horse track because I loved animals. Then, on Saturday and Sunday Dad ran one of the stalls (I think it was one of the games but I don't remember, I only remember helping to hand out the prizes.

I have a lot of wonderful memories of Rotary, especially since I have become a Rotarian. However, my favorite memory was when I was a Rotarian at East Nassau and we had the Florida State University Flying High Circus come to Nassau. This was a huge event and we all had to pitch in. They did not have clowns, so I went to Donald Davis High School (we sponsored them as our High School) and recruited 5 Seniors to become clowns. I got the school to give them extra credit and allow them to miss school on the Friday of the event. The shows ran 2 at night on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and 2 matinees on Saturday.

My sister and I made the costumes, and I brought in makeup and props for them. I learned how to do the makeup and then, during the shows they performed. It was quite an event and I really enjoyed it. Most of all, it was my favorite time because we were able to use the donations to sponsor 2 kids to go to the University for 4 years. We did this every other year for 10 years (I missed the first one). In my last time, I was also the Promotional chair, and one of the things I had to do was help the man with the snake and Elephant. He was separate from FSU but he always came as an added attraction. He would give elephant rides and had a tent to show of a massive Boa that was 150lbs and 19 feet. I can still remember the call: "Mercy, mercy snakes alive, nineteen feet, one hundred and fifty pounds and its alive".

Paul



I have been to almost every club in the Bahamas, and several other clubs around the district. Also, I have been to clubs throughout the world, in Derbyshire England, who meet at the Cricket club and Jackets are required. In Arnhem Holland where it is very informal. Also, in Virginia there is the Springfield club which is a breakfast club. My favorite Club in Virginia is the Ashburn club. They are a small club and very much like a family as they are all close to one another. (Here I am pictured with Ashburn member, Jeff)

Since joining the E-club of the Caribbean, however, I have met with several clubs online, such as Rotary 1. Since COVID, many other clubs are having online meetings, so I have been joining in to them. Clubs like Rotary Club of East Nassau, Rotary Club of L.I.F.E in Jamaica, RC of St. Andrew, Jamaica, and of course our good friend Dominica's club; RC of Montego Bay Jamaica.

However, of all the Rotary clubs I have been to, I cannot choose who I like the best because I just love being at any club meeting. I am always welcome all over the world in a fellowship that I can always depend on.

Roger

Rotary has been an important part of my life for over forty years and has enabled me to quickly enter communities as diverse as Fiji, the Virgin Islands (both) and the UK as I have moved around the world in my professional career. In that time I am grateful for the opportunity which Rotary has provided to me to be part of various Rotary funded projects which have had a significant beneficial impact on the lives and future prospects for many people - thanks to Rotary.

I am now in my forty third year as a Rotarian having been in five clubs, two of which I have joined twice, in five different countries over that time so finding one highlight among the many which I have experienced has been very hard.

However, I found one common denominator in the highlights of my Rotary journey. This is how the collective strength of Rotary has given me the opportunity to assist others in ways which would have been impossible on my own. I will single out my involvement in the Rotary Jaipur Limb (RJL) as an example of this.



Roger

At the Chicago centennial International Convention in 2005 I attended a breakout session of the Rotarians Against Landmines RAG which I found of great interest. The timing coincided with the height of the bloody insurgency by the Lord's Resistance Army in northern Uganda and their indiscriminate use of anti-personnel mines in agrarian communities. That spurred the thought as to what Rotary could do to assist the victims.

I brought the idea to my then club, RC St Thomas, and they supported a successful application for a Matching Grant in partnership with RC Lira in Uganda and some clubs and districts on the US mainland. This grant provided 150 amputees from northern Uganda to receive prosthetic limbs and paid for their travel and accommodation at the then nearest Rotary Jaipur Limb workshop many miles from their homes. Diana and I travelled to Uganda in 2007 to view the results and realised that a better long-term solution was to create a new workshop in northern Uganda. Through another Matching Grant this was achieved and the workshop was established in Lira.



Roger



All this led me to being involved in other Jaipur Limb projects, including a first for our district, the very important one in Pignon, Haiti following the devastating earthquake in Haiti in 2010.

All these projects require the generous support of other clubs and districts as well as the Rotary Foundation as the set up of a new workshop requires anything between \$50,000 and \$120,000 depending on the premises which are available or if a new building is required. This, in turn, requires presentations to clubs and the establishment of personal links and interest at those clubs in the work of RJL. Diana and I have enjoyed the opportunity this has provided to visit a large number of clubs, particularly in the UK, some of

whom have become longstanding supporters of RJL for which we are very grateful.

Our club is the International Host club for the latest project at Gondar University Hospital in Gondar, Ethiopia and I am also involved in three other potential projects in Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Gambia. The Covid pandemic has had an inevitable impact on the planning and execution of these projects and my particular involvement in the last three is to establish a method of distance training for the trainee technicians which will be pioneered in Gondar.

So, to return to my “common denominator” I mentioned in the second paragraph. Many people who had suffered life changing injuries have been returned to mobility and the ability to work thanks to Rotary and the Rotary Jaipur Limb charity. Only through Rotarians working together across the world, either raising money or organising the work to establish workshops, could this have been achieved.

Roger



Eye Care
in India



After forty plus years as a Rotarian, it is difficult to remember, much less encapsulate, my “Rovings” in a few words but here goes! I first joined Rotary in Tortola, BVI in January 1979 at the bidding of my then employer as it was thought important as part of my community involvement. At that time the RC Tortola was the only Rotary club in the BVI and had a membership of just 32, all male! They were however the great and the good of the island and their enthusiasm and commitment to Rotary was an excellent introduction for a new member to learn what Rotary was about and how, collectively, Rotarians make an impact. I was quickly elected as Treasurer on the basis that the bank manager was ideal for the function, a philosophy I found existed in the other clubs I joined over the coming years. In 1982 I was transferred to Fiji where I joined the RC Suva and, again, quickly became Treasurer. Fiji was a fascinating place to live and work and it was also my introduction to a much bigger club where committee functions were more important in order to run the club’s affairs efficiently. Then in 1984, came a transfer back to the UK where I joined the RC Cranleigh, (and yes Treasurer again!). Three very different clubs in makeup and tradition but all bound by a recognisable Rotary bond. RC Cranleigh was also an introduction to the idea of visiting other clubs due to the UK club tradition of “raids” which was an organised visit to another club by a group of members. Very enjoyable fellowship and an interesting way of seeing the small variances in how clubs operate even within a close geographic area.

Roger

Left: Opening of District Project in Lycee Philippe Guerrier School in Les Cayes, Haiti

Right: TRF Cadre Review of Sawyer water filter - Clean Water project in Belize



In 1987, it was, very gratefully, back to the Caribbean and the USVI where I joined RC St Thomas and I not only filled a number of Club positions, culminating in President in 2008-9, but also took the opportunity to visit the other clubs in St Thomas and St John. It was also the beginning of broadening my knowledge and experience within the district in starting to attend District Conferences of which I have now attended twelve. As “First Dude” to DG Diana in 2010-11, I was able to visit every club on every island in District 7020 which was an unforgettable experience.

Wherever we have travelled for business or vacation we have always sought out a Rotary club to visit. I have “made up” at clubs in the USA, UK, France, Spain, Kenya, Uganda, Australia, India, Belize and Ethiopia. How many in total? I have no idea!! I have also been able to visit the Rotary Centre in Evanston, the Rotary Great Britain and Ireland HQ in Alcester UK as well as the Country Offices of Rotary in both Kenya and Uganda.

Being a Rotarian has enabled me to participate in a number of projects both within 7020 and beyond which has brought improvement to the lives of many people. This has been through improved school facilities in Haiti and St Thomas, prosthetic limbs in Uganda, Kenya, Haiti and soon in Ethiopia, eye care in India and clean water in Haiti. It was involvement in projects like these that turned me from being merely a member of a Rotary club, which my employer decreed, to becoming a Rotarian!!

Thank you, Rotary

Terry

I was asked to join the Rotary Club of St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands on Nov. 1, 1969 and was a member until September, 2017 when Hurricane Irma demolished our condo and I had no place to live, so had to abruptly leave St. Thomas. During my years I was involved in Rotary at all levels from Board Director, Secretary, VP and President and President of our Rotary Club Foundation. During my 6-year Presidency we achieved a level of \$750,000. towards our \$1,000,000. goal. Our aim was to reach the \$1M mark and then only use the interest to support our Rotary projects. For 51 years I was proud to be a Rotarian and I totally embraced "Service Above Self" and The Four-Way Test of the things we "think" "say" and "do". One of the most significant projects that I collaborated on was the delivery of 50 bicycles to deserving individuals in a wide age range from Port- au-Prince, Haiti. To witness these individuals who came to the conference center limping, hobbling, and in wheel chairs and to see them leave being highly mobile with their new bicycles brought tears to everyone's eyes. I could go on for 5,000 words and still not cover all the points of "Why I like to be a Rotarian",



Trisha

August 20, 2010 was when my Rotary Journey began. I started attending Rotaract Club meetings every Wednesday at Northern Caribbean University - Room RH404 on the Business Block. I took great pride in participating in club activities and taking the banner to meetings every Wednesday on behalf of the SAA.

On November 15, 2011, I officially joined the family of Rotary at the age of 20 after a year of actively participating in club activities and leading out special projects and initiatives.

My best Rotary moments were the ability to travel in my home country and overseas meeting other rotary club members and sharing our passions and ideas in an attempt to conquer the world and make it a better place.



Trisha

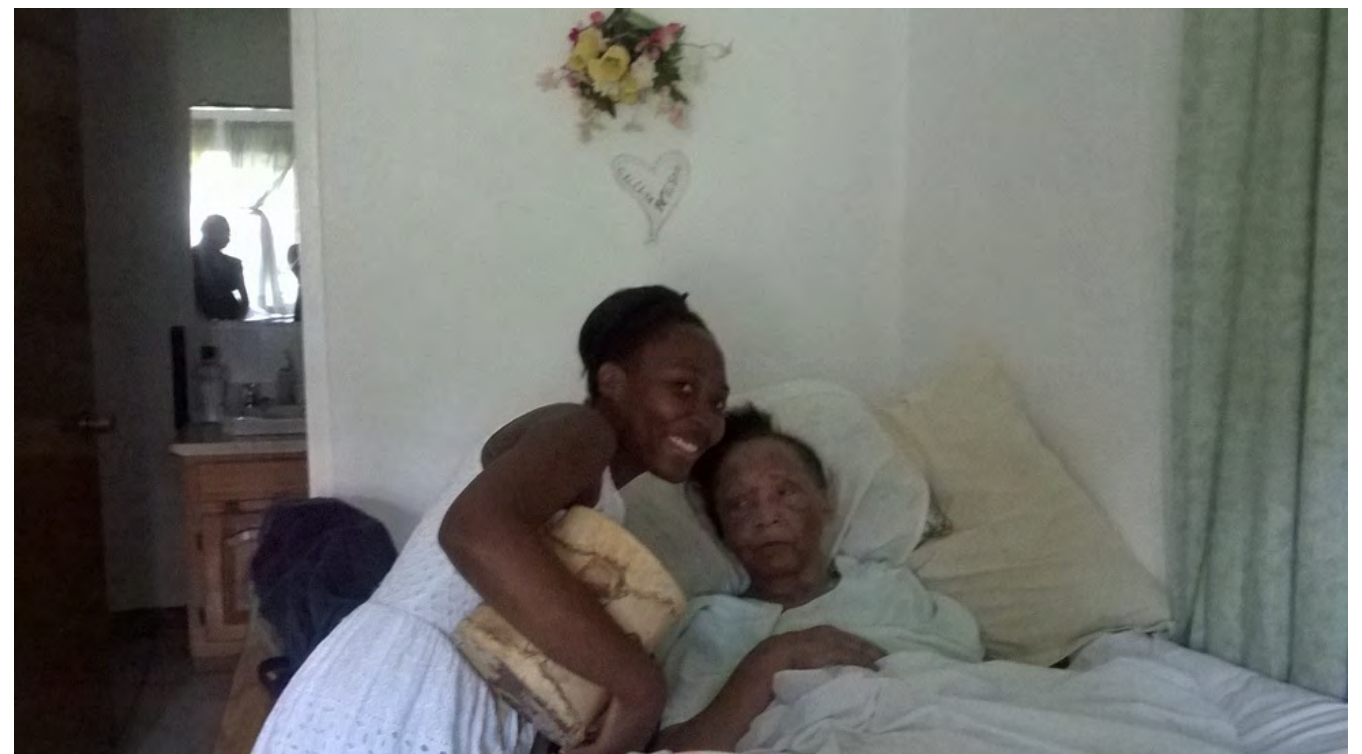
In 2016, I ventured on my own to Alberta Canada to partner with the Rotaract Club of the University of Alberta District 5370 to participate in their Ronald McDonald House project. While there, I cooked and did housekeeping for the children and staff. Ronald McDonald House Charities is an independent American non-profit organization whose stated mission is to create, find, and support programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children.



Trisha

As a Roving Rotarian, I visited clubs physically and virtually before the Pandemic: Rotary Club of Kingston, Rotary Club of Mandeville, Rotary Club of Cayman Blue, Rotaract Clubs of Kingston, New Kingston, Church Teachers College, Rotaract Club of Nigeria, Rotaract Club of South Carolina to name a few.

Why I joined Rotary and will continue to be a member even when life throws curveballs, is the ability to live up to the Mantra *Service Above Self*. When I think of Rotary, and market it to others the giving aspect is always considered first and foremost. Service comes in various forms and each of us has the power to connect and Serve others.



Trisha



Wein

All the interactions and fellowships I have with my fellow Rotarians is always enjoyable.

However, nothing tops my experience of a Rotary NID trip to Ethiopia, where I joined a group of Rotarians from the US and Canada, along with our fellow Rotarians from Ethiopia.

The excitement and overall feeling as I gave the first drops of Polio immunization to a child was truly amazing and made me proud to be a Rotarian.



Wein



Bonita's Dream

I am moved beyond words and my heart is still smiling, because I am humbled, grateful and most of all thankful to everyone who participated in my dream.

Being the President of the Rotary E club, 7020, for the year 2021-2022, makes me feel very proud, because of this excellent fine group of members.

My request to all members, to write our own Rotary E-club storybook is accomplished. Thank you all. Thank you to all the writers who can call themselves authors now. A special thank you goes to my silent guide, my example in Rotary, my dear Diana White. A big thank you to you Diana.

President Bonita Patricia Hart 2021-2022





Rotary

E-Club of the Caribbean, 7020

*We hope you have enjoyed
Our Story*

We collaborate
with clubs in
D7020
Rotary
Rotaract
Interact
Earlyact

Rotaractors hone
presentation skills



Young children
become published
authors



Interact teens
showcase creative
skills

Together
we help
Caribbean youth
reach
their
potential