



GEICO for your business, too.

Running a business takes a lot of hard work. We're here to make it easier by helping you save time and money. **Get a quote today**.



Commercial Auto



General Liability



Business Owner's Policy



Professional Liability



Workers' Compensation



geico.com/business | 1-866-509-9444 | Local Office

President's message

Happy 115th birthday, fellow Rotarians and members of the family of Rotary!

Much has changed in the world since 1905. Then, the global population was roughly 1.7 billion. Today, it is 7.7 billion. There were 5 telephones per 100 people in the United States 115 years ago. In 2020, it is estimated that 96 percent of the U.S. population has a cellphone — and both China and India have more than a billion cellphones in use.

In the 115 years since Rotary was founded, seemingly everything has changed except Rotary values. We began, and remain, committed to fellowship, integrity, diversity, service, and leadership. While our Service Above Self motto dates to 1911, the ethos behind those words had already been ingrained by Rotary's founders.

As the pace of change worldwide continues to accelerate, the need for Rotary service is greater than ever. It's one thing to read about service projects, quite another to see them in action and to see the grateful faces of people who have benefited from them. Rotary projects change lives and connect the world. And over the past year, I have seen some amazing Rotary projects in action.

Gay and I visited Japan's Fukushima prefecture last year. Few places in the world have had to deal with the kind of devastation that visited Fukushima in March 2011, when a tsunami touched off by an earthquake led to disaster at a nuclear power plant. But the story of Fukushima today is not one of destruction; it is one of hope and renewal. Rotary grants have helped improve access to medical and mental health care for victims of the disaster and reduced the isolation of these communities by sharing the experiences of people from other parts of the world who have also recovered from disasters. Our grants have also helped to foster self-motivation and encourage sustainable long-term community recovery across the region.

In Shanghai, I learned about the Careers in Care program. This helps migrant workers fill the need for skilled professionals in elder care facilities. After taking a course, trainees receive certification to boost their

employment prospects, while the care industry benefits from an expanded talent pool. Rotary projects like this are successful because they address a local need, and they have the potential to attract local government funding to sustain their impact.

And in Guatemala, Gay and I went to Sumpango. Global grants there provide mechanical cows to produce soy milk; an improved water distribution system; water filters; clean compost latrines; family gardens; support for income generation; and training in WASH and literacy programs. The food items sold there not only provide nutrition to women and children, but also create a source of income for local women.

In every area of focus, and in every part of the world, Rotary projects are improving lives and helping communities adapt in a time of rapid change. As we celebrate another great year for Rotary, let us rededicate ourselves to strengthening the connections that make our service so impactful. We will make lives better as *Rotary Connects the World*.

In every area of focus, and in every part of the world, Rotary projects are improving lives and helping communities adapt in a time of rapid change.

In Sumpango, Guatemala, workers demonstrate the mechanical cow. Many children in Guatemala are lactose intolerant, and soy milk is a substitute for cow's milk.

MARK DANIEL MALONEY

President, Rotary International



Vol. 198, No. 8 contents

FEBRUARY



ON THE COVER Charles Nkurunziza peruses one of the 19,000 volumes at the Kigali Public Library, the first public library in Rwanda. Photography by Andrew Esiebo

- 1 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- INBOX
- 8 EDITOR'S NOTE

11 our world

- · Earl of sandwiches
- · O&A with Pat Rains
- People of action around the globe
- · Halfway around the world in 36 days
- · Snapshot: Ascunción, Paraguay
- February events

23 viewpoints

· Braking news

55 our clubs

- · Service in Stumptown
- · 4 questions about programs of scale grants
- · Club innovation: Downtown Franklin, Tennessee
- · Convention countdown: Convenient cuisine
- · Message from the trustee chair
- Rotarian Action Groups
- · Rotary forms alliance with **Toastmasters**
- · Eradication of wild poliovirus type 3 celebrated
- · In memoriam
- Crossword

64 LAST LOOK

features

26 MORE THAN A LIBRARY

After the 1994 genocide, Rotarians led a successful campaign to build Rwanda's first public library. It's now a lively gathering place and a bastion against ignorance and tyranny.

By Jina Moore Photography by Andrew Esiebo



66 The library came at the right time. ""

Jenipher Ingabire

36 RWANDA'S NOT-SO-DISTANT HORROR

The Rotarian went to Rwanda 10 years after the genocide and described both the horror and the hope as Rotarians sought to rebuild. The story is as powerful now as it was in 2004.

By Tom Clynes

42 HOW TO TELL FACT FROM FICTION...

... and trust the news again. Professional fact-checkers share their techniques.

By Kim Lisagor Bisheff Illustrations by Joan Wong

50 TOWARD A MORE LASTING PEACE

With a new peace center in Africa, a reimagined peace fellowship program, and ambitious plans for the future, Rotary International advances its push for global harmony.

By Geoffrey Johnson

OPPOSITE Ned Morris of the Rotary Club of Walla Walla, Washington, went to Paraguay with a response team for ShelterBox, a Rotary partner, after severe flooding displaced thousands of people. See page 18 Photography by Alyce Henson / Rotary International

ABOVE Since it was chartered in 2000, the Rotary Club of Kigali-Virunga was dedicated to bringing a public library to Rwanda. From left, members Paul Masterjerb, Jenipher Ingabire, and Saudah Nalule. Photography by Andrew Esiebo

...Rotarian

JOHN REZEK Editor in chief

JENNIFER MOODY Art director

JENNY LLAKMANI Managing editor

GEOFFREY JOHNSON Senior editor

HANK SARTIN Senior editor

DIANA SCHOBERG Senior staff writer

JOHN M. CUNNINGHAM Associate editor

NANCY WATKINS Copy editor

VANESSA GLAVINSKAS Contributing editor

MARC DUKES Production manager

JOE CANE Design & production assistant

CYNTHIA EDBROOKE Senior editorial coordinator

KATIE MCCOY Circulation manager

Send ad inquiries and materials to: Marc Dukes, The Rotarian, One Rotary Center, 1560 Sherman Ave., 14th floor, Evanston, IL 60201; phone 847-866-3092; email adv@rotary.org

Media kit: rotary.org/mediakit

To contact us: The Rotarian, One Rotary Center, 1560 Sherman Ave., Evanston, IL 60201; phone 847-866-3206; email rotarian@rotary.org

Website: therotarian.com

To submit an article: Send stories, queries, tips, and photographs by mail or email (high-resolution digital images only). We assume no responsibility for unsolicited materials.

To subscribe: Twelve issues at US\$12 a year (USA, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands); \$16 a year (Canada); \$24 a year (elsewhere). Contact the Circulation Department (phone 847-424-5217 or -5216; email data@rotary.org) for details and for airmail rates. Gift subscriptions available at the same rates.

To send an address change: Enclose old address label, postal code, and Rotary club, and send to the Circulation Department or email data@rotary.org. Postmaster: Send all address changes to Circulation Department, *The Rotarian*, One Rotary Center, 1560 Sherman Ave., Evanston, IL 60201. Call the Contact Center: USA, Canada, and Virgin Islands (toll-free) 866-976-8279. Elsewhere: 847-866-3000, ext. 8999.

Unless otherwise noted: All images are copyright ©2020 by Rotary International or are used with permission.

Published monthly by Rotary International. The Rotarian® is a registered trademark of Rotary International. Copyright @2020 by Rotary International. All rights reserved. Periodicals postage paid at Evanston, III., USA, and additional mailing offices, Canada Publications Mail Agreement No. 1381644, Canadian return address: MSI, PO Box 2600, Mississauga, ON L4T OA8. This is the February 2020 issue, volume 198, number 8, of The Rotarian (ISSN 0035-838X). Publication number: USPS 548-810.

General Officers of Rotary International

2019-20

President

MARK DANIEL MALONEY Decatur, Alabama, USA

President-elect

HOLGER KNAACK Herzogtum Lauenburg-Mölln, Germany

Vice President

OLAYINKA HAKEEM BABALOLA Trans Amadi, Nigeria

Treasurer

DAVID D. STOVALL Hall County, Georgia, USA

Directors

FRANCESCO AREZZO Ragusa, Italy

TONY (JAMES ANTHONY) BLACK Dunoon, Scotland

JEFFRY CADORETTE Media, Pennsylvania, USA

MÁRIO CÉSAR MARTINS Santo André, Brazil

DE CAMARGO

LAWRENCE A. DIMMITT Topeka, Kansas, USA

RAFAEL M. GARCIA III Pasig, Philippines

JAN LUCAS KET Purmerend, The Netherlands

KYUN KIM Busan-Dongrae, Korea

FLOYD A. LANCIA Anthony Wayne (Fort Wayne), Indiana, USA

AKIRA MIKI Himeji, Japan BHARAT S. PANDYA Borivli, India KAMAL SANGHVI Dhanbad, India

JOHRITA SOLARI Anaheim, California, USA

STEPHANIE A. URCHICK McMurray, Pennsylvania, USA

PIOTR WYGNAŃCZUK Gdynia, Poland

JOHN P. HEWKO General Secretary

Kyiv, Ukraine

Trustees of The Rotary Foundation

2019-20

Chair

GARY C.K. HUANG Taipei, Taiwan

Chair-elect

K.R. RAVINDRAN Colombo, Sri Lanka

Vice Chair

KENNETH M. SCHUPPERT JR. Decatur, Alabama, USA

Trustees

JORGE AUFRANC Guatemala Sur, Guatemala BRENDA M. CRESSEY Paso Robles, California, USA

HIPÓLITO S. FERREIRA Contagem-Cidade Industrial, Brazil

JOHN F. GERM Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA

PER HØYEN Aarup, Denmark

JENNIFER E. JONES Windsor-Roseland, Ontario, Canada

SEIJI KITA Urawa East, Japan

JULIA D. PHELPS Amesbury, Massachusetts, USA

IAN H.S. RISELEY Sandringham, Australia

GULAM VAHANVATY Bombay, India

MICHAEL F. WEBB Mendip, England

SANGKOO YUN Sae Hanyang, Korea

JOHN P. HEWKO General Secretary

Kyiv, Ukraine



Leaders in giving

Paul Harris Society members contributed over \$30 million to The Rotary Foundation in 2018-19, allowing Rotarians to fund extraordinary projects and activities close to home and around the world. Join our community of 23,000 global members who are fulfilling Rotary's promises with their annual donations.



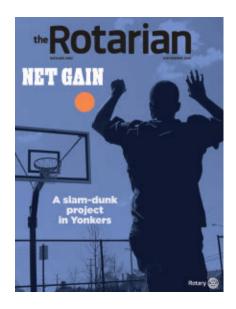
LEARN MORE: rotary.org/phs

The meaning of fellowship

The story of Rotarians helping Karen Purdue after a fire at her laundry business ["What Happens When You Say Yes to Rotary," August] struck a chord.

The night before Halloween in 1998, an arsonist set fire to our home and it burned to the ground. Thankfully, no one was hurt.

My family lived with friends for a week, then moved into a hotel. The first Saturday in the hotel, I was awakened early by the telephone. It was John, a member of my club, the Rotary Club of Willowdale, in Toronto. The conversation went something like this: "Hi, this is John. If you need furniture, I have furniture." You see, John was the owner of a chain of high-end furniture stores in the area. He explained that he would be traveling but that when I was ready, I was to call the store, and whatever furniture I needed would be delivered. A week or so later, after we had rented a house, I called the store. The furniture we needed was delivered the next day.



After the fire, my family's life was chaos. I needed to regain some sense of normalcy and stability. I was president of my Rotary club at the time, and each month, all the club presidents in the district met at what was called the "presidents' club." There was a meeting the week after the fire, and I decided to go, despite all the chaos. I arrived about an hour late. When I walked into the room, all the other presidents spontaneously stood and applauded in a show of support. It was a very touching moment, and one I will never forget.

I have had many other wonderful times in the 30-plus years that I have been a Rotarian, but these two episodes typify for me what Rotary fellowship is all about. **PETER D. VANEK** Toronto

Going for the win-win

In the November issue, the letter from David B. Wartman of Calgary, Alberta, stated that "the negotiation process and the art of compromise are what make the result 'fair to all." Compromise is certainly a possible outcome of negotiating, but the preferred outcome would be collaboration. This is where both parties get their needs met, creating a win-win solution to a problem or a deal. In this instance, both parties will have maximized their outcome. Yes, each side may make concessions, but they each gain more than they concede.

With compromise, the parties have arrived at a minimally acceptable solution that requires both parties to concede certain interests. While both sides are OK with this, and it is fair to all because they both agree, there is a potentially better solution.

To get to the win-win solution would require a greater commitment of time, communication, and understanding, and the desire to maximize their outcomes. Anything less than these outcomes would mean there is a winner and a loser, and would be considered bargaining, not negotiating.

GARY NICHOLS

Oviedo, Florida

Messages about polio

Compliments and thanks for John Sever's explanation of the new strategy to end polio in the 4 Questions feature in the October issue. His presentation should make every reader excited and conversant about polio eradication. The bare facts woven into a concise narrative of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative history, current situation, and future are a rare

and meaningful simplification of a complex global undertaking.

NORM VELIQUETTE

Elk Rapids, Michigan

President Mark Daniel Maloney's message about ending polio [October] is the most important and timely message that I have ever read in your magazine. I commend President Maloney for his clarity in what we must do and finish in our 40-year undertaking and responsibility for ending this horrible disease forever!

MERLE H. LOCH

Warren, Michigan

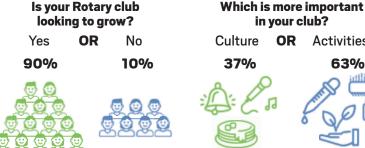
Keep the peace

I appreciate the goal of Tom Sauer ["A New Debate on Nuclear Arms," October]. However,

Overheard on social media

The Rotary Club of Halifax Harbourside, Nova Scotia, went from 22 to 60 members in three years. We talked to District 7820 Governor Louisa Horne in our November issue about how her club made itself irresistible.

and we polled readers on Instagram to ask about their own clubs' efforts:



Is your club actively pursuing diversity, equity, and inclusion? **OR**

Yes

78%

22%





Activities

63%



No

How does your club welcome prospective members?

"Drinking some beer after the meeting."

"Including them in club activities and ensuring they participate."

"Making them feel part of the club and doing follow-ups when they don't come."

"We have a separate WhatsApp group for prospective members and a director assigned."

"Everyone is assigned a mentor for one year."

Check out Rotary International's Instagram story on 6 February for an interactive poll about fake news.

history tells us that there are always bad nations that want nuclear weapons to rain terror on the rest of the world. A.Q. Khan of Pakistan provided technology to Iran, Libya, and North Korea. Iran worked on it. Libya surrendered its equipment. North Korea got the bomb.

Eliminating all nuclear arms would only weaken nations that can deter such aggression. The U.S. arsenal is for deterrence, to keep the peace. If you want peace, work to make sure nations like these never get the bomb.

LARRY S. PARSONS

Valencia, California



We highlighted Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio in our October issue.

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 responsi-

bility for errors of fact that may be expressed by the writers.

Follow us to get updates, share stories with your networks, and tell us what you think.

The Rotarian, One Rotary Center, 1560 Sherman Ave., Evanston, IL 60201 USA

WEBSITE therotarian.com

twitter.com/rotary



EMAIL yourletters@rotary.org

oinstagram.com/rotaryinternational

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.



A message from the editor in chief **JOHN REZEK**

A library fosters confidence, and I grew to love what it permitted me to do.

spent a lot of time in the old Chicago Public Library, a magnificent structure that has since been transformed into the Chicago Cultural Center, which is something very different from what I remember. It is still a building with domes and rotundas and curving stairways. It was designed to inspire awe with its opulent materials (Italian and Irish marble), the world's largest Tiffany dome, and lovely polished wood and brass. But then it had books, and it functioned as a no-nonsense library.

I found it very welcoming. At 15, I took it to be a place where serious work was happening and where I could take my research seriously. I knew how to behave there. I quickly found comfort in the library's flanneled hush.

The second floor was filled with book stacks, massive dark tables with shaded brass lamps, and chairs spaced at respectful intervals. Above stretched mosaic arches of lovely tans and emerald greens.

I was there to research my first long-form term paper. We were given a full semester to produce it. We were also handed a copy of Kate Turabian's guide to writing research papers, and we were encouraged to start early in January so that we could have our papers ready by May.

It was usually dark and cold outside when I started my commute to the library on afternoons and Saturdays. I became fluent in finding what I needed in the card catalog. I wrote notes on 3-by-5 cards and assembled bibliographical lists of secondary sources. I kept a diary of questions, problems, and insights in a bound notebook. I commandeered a corner of one of the tables and, over time, it became my spot.

By March, the weather and the light had improved, and I had made substantial progress in my research. The writing then was easy. A library fosters confidence, and I grew to love what it permitted me to do. I kept going there even though I no longer needed access to the books.

I was remembering this when David Alexander, the chief communications officer at Rotary International, first told us about seeing the Kigali Public Library in Rwanda and hearing how it came to be. Inspired by Alexander's report, we asked writer Jina Moore and photographer Andrew Esiebo to investigate further. We've called their story "More Than a Library," and no matter which library we're talking about, that's always the case.

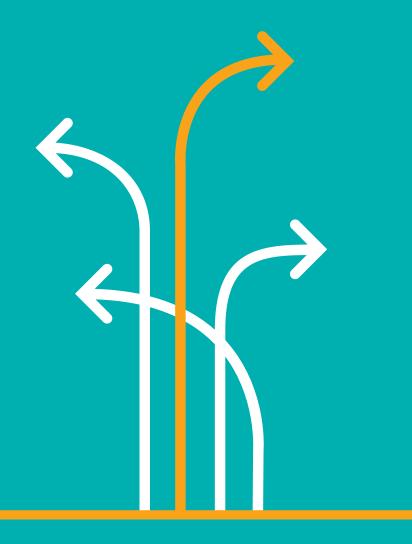
shiplyer



PROMOTE PEACE

Building a peaceful world begins in our own backyards. That's why Rotary brings communities together to learn from our differences, gain new perspectives, and form stronger connections. Promoting peace through understanding — that's what people of action do. Learn more at Rotary.org.





TAKE YOUR CLUB IN A NEW DIRECTION

Is your club flexible and ready for the future?

New resources on Satellite Clubs, Passport Clubs, and Corporate Membership can help you create an experience that works for every member.

LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR OPTIONS
AT ROTARY.ORG/FLEXIBILITY





he has already arranged helpings of venison and cherry terrine, Tuscan cured salmon, four varieties of sourdough bread, several chutneys, and what he calls "the finest Reuben sandwiches this side of the Danube."

Carlson, a member of the Rotary Club of San Carlos, California, has prepared nearly all the dishes in this sumptuous gourmet spread, including the pastrami (lots of it), a product of teamwork with a fellow Rotarian who smoked it for 16 hours. About 120 guests are mixing and mingling between bites at his home on a bright September afternoon. They have paid \$80 to attend this annual bash, and many have donated more. They know the funds will go toward transforming a dilapidated earthen ditch high up in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco into a sturdy concrete-lined irrigation aqueduct. The project will allow the people in the remote village of Ait Daoud to feed a steady flow of water to their crops.

In his 20s, as a Peace Corps volunteer, Carlson lived and worked in Ait Daoud, seven hours by car from Marrakech. He became conversant in the local dialect and developed a deep affection for the



When it is completed, the aqueduct will run for nearly 2 miles, providing enough water to irrigate the fields of Ait Daoud and two adjacent villages.



This year's fundraiser brought together Rotarians from area clubs as well as some non-Rotarians. In addition to the homemade charcuterie and fine cheeses, they enjoyed sampling from two kegs of local craft beer.

village and for the bighearted Berber culture that sustained it. "A wise elder, Si Abderahmen, told me, 'Always pack a warm lunch for the road," he recalls. "He said, 'I speak not of foodstuffs, but of generosity.' When you hike to a distant village as a nomadic Berber, he said, your reputation will precede you. Expecting and trusting you to be generous in return, people will welcome you into their homes to share their food, fresh from the fire."

That lesson of reciprocity had profound meaning for Carlson as he matured, married his wife, Suzanne, became the father of two boys, and chose a career in intellectual property law. At a meeting with his family's lawyer, who had Rotary plaques on his office wall, Carlson inquired about the organization and learned that it was a community of people who share his values.

And he never lost his itch to repay the Ait Daoud residents for their kindness to him. "I wanted to do a water project for the village, so I organized our first Reubens party in 2016 to raise funds. Suddenly I had almost \$20,000 - now what?" he says. "But when I calculated the cost of building a functional aqueduct, it was like a punch in the gut. That is where the true power of Rotary kicked in."

Carlson went to Bay Area clubs and to the District 5150 assembly to talk about the San Carlos club's project in Morocco; he secured donations from more than a dozen clubs. With district designated funds and other contributions, they soon had \$200,000.

When Carlson and his family went to Ait Daoud in December 2016 to see for themselves what needed to be done.

"A wise elder told me, 'Always pack a warm lunch for the road." ??

their visit spurred the government to send a crew to build the first third of the aqueduct.

With Rotary support, construction of the next section of the aqueduct is underway. Inevitably there will be obstacles, but for a man who single-handedly turns out dozens of dishes for 100-plus guests, learns to speak Berber and Arabic, and persuades over a dozen clubs to help out with a project, creating an aqueduct out of a dirt ditch is duck soup.

-STEPHEN YAFA

66 I think the 'local beverage' movement is a real thing. "J

Pat Rains



Pat Rains and Brian Borngesser met a decade ago as members of the Rotary Club of Roswell, Georgia. The two 20-somethings bonded over a shared interest in brewing their own beer. Over time, their do-it-yourself/drinkit-yourself collaboration led to the creation of Gate City Brewing Co. (The name derives from an old nickname for Atlanta; Roswell is an Atlanta suburb.) The Brewers Association named Gate City one of the fastest-growing breweries in the country in 2017.

Now - as you would expect from a brewery founded by a couple of Rotarians - Gate City is giving back. Proceeds from its Freedom Fighter IPA are donated to three groups fighting human trafficking: Wellspring Living, Out of Darkness, and End Human Trafficking Now. "Atlanta is one of the top cities for human trafficking in the country," Rains says. "We want to bring awareness to the issue." Freedom Fighter's label also features information about trafficking.

THE ROTARIAN: When did you start brewing your own beer?

RAINS: I grew up in Portland, Oregon, which is considered the microbrew capital of the world. Growing up with all these microbreweries around, I took it for granted how good we had it. About a year after college, I moved to Atlanta for work, and I struggled to find the styles of craft beer I could drink in Oregon. What got me home brewing was trying to make some of the styles I used to drink.

TR: How did you go from home brewing to running a business?

RAINS: After I met Brian, we'd share tips and tricks. A couple of years in, I turned my garage into a mini-microbrewery. Our beers started winning some awards and we thought, "Hey, maybe this can be something

We got our federal license to brew at a large scale in 2014 and went from brewing about 30 gallons at a time in my garage to our first commercial system, which was a 100-gallon system. After about a year, we moved and purchased a system that brews 1,000 gallons per batch. We've grown exponentially.

TR: How is running a brewery different from your previous career?

RAINS: The craft beer industry is like no other industry I've ever seen. In 2014, when we were starting, there were around 3,000 breweries in the country. This year, there will be over 8,000. But while we've seen the number of breweries explode, it's not a cutthroat industry. We do a collaboration with Variant, a neighboring brewery, called Walking Distance. Our breweries are less than a mile apart, so we walk from one location to the other. It's a very collaborative industry.

TR: Why do you think that is?

RAINS: The industry believes "a rising tide lifts all ships": A beer drinker might like one beer at my place and another beer at another place. You're not competing with these guys; you're working with them. If a guy around the corner needs a bag of grain, he can pick up the phone and call me.

Also, the industry is moving more toward the hyperlocal. Instead of trying to be national breweries or national brands, new startups are more focused on the neighborhood brewery concept. We have the "local food" movement, and I think the "local beverage" movement is a real thing. People really enjoy being able to identify the person who is making the drink that they love and shake his hand. We're seeing that throughout the country as craft beer grows. It's a new frontier.

-FRITZ LENNEMAN



About \$8 billion was spent on prosthetics and orthotics globally in 2017.

Mexico

In Mexico City, the Rotary Club of La Villa Ciudad de México partnered with MediPrint Mexico, a 3D-printed prosthetics manufacturer, to supply limbs to give people newfound mobility. "We have already delivered two prostheses," notes club member Laila Irene Sánchez Medrano. One recipient was Alberto Gutiérrez Rojas, a member of the Rotary Club of Alameda-Ciudad de México, whose leg was partially amputated because of complications from diabetes. The two Rotary clubs collaborated on fundraising for Gutiérrez's prosthesis. The La Villa club remains engaged in fundraising, with the aim of delivering more prostheses to people who need them.

Paraguay

With hard work and about \$500, the Rotaract Club of Asunción converted a patch of a garbagestrewn field into a vegetable plot designed to teach disadvantaged teens about sustainable agriculture. In March, a team from the club met at the field outside the Don Bosco Róga educational center, a Salesian Missions facility in Lambaré serving children and adolescents. They tilled soil and planted crops. Rotaractor Nery Vera, who directed the effort, says the project nurtured teamwork and raised awareness about a healthy and nutritious diet, among other benefits.

Tanzania

During rainy season in Marangu, a village in the southeastern foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro, the rivers overflow, cutting off access to markets, schools, and hospitals. The dearth of pedestrian crossings has led to many drownings. To address this, members of the Rotary Club of Marangu have overseen the construction of a dozen bridges since 2012. "Our members identify areas that look as though they could do with a new footbridge and meet with the local village elders to ascertain needs," says club member Jackie Brice-Bennett. After the crossings — at a cost of about \$4.000 each — are constructed. the villages take responsibility for maintenance, Brice-Bennett says.



United Kingdom

In August, some 5,000 kite enthusiasts - flyers and fans alike assembled at Therfield Heath, a chalk grassland habitat, in Royston, Hertfordshire, their eyes on a horizon alight with brightly colored kites. This was the 19th such festival unspooled by the Rotary Club of Royston; the event itself dates back another decade.

A modest entry fee of about \$4.50 for adults — children 14 and under attended free - raised about \$9,000. The majority went to Acorn House, which provides accommodation to families of children admitted to Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge. Families enjoyed picnics on the grass while

watching the professional kite flyers, and kids had the chance to make and fly kites of their own. "The event has become a regular fixture in the social life of the town, and it's the 36-member club's biggest fundraising venture," says club member Neil Heywood. "Running the festival is very much a team effort, involving practically every member." Every year a member serves as event manager, while others take responsibility for signage, managing booths, parking, and physical facilities. Last year's event also included a display of vintage vehicles and a teddy bear parachute drop that organizers hailed as a "fur-raising experience."

Philippines

The Rotary Club of Manila Magic and the Rotaract Club of Manila inaugurated monthly medical visits at a child care center in Tondo, one of their city's most crowded and hardscrabble slums. The program, begun in October 2018, taps volunteer professionals, including five doctors led by Lee Roi Buenaventura, a club member. They are joined by two Rotaractor nurses and three dentists who are members of the Rotaract Club of University of the East, College of Dentistry, Hundreds of patients have benefited from the visits and from medicines purchased by Rotarians and their families.

- BRAD WEBBER

The Philippines' doctor-to-population ratio is 1 to 784.

our world













Halfway around the world in 36 days

ON 2 JUNE 2019, Lee Harman and Bill Ward set off from the Great Wall of China outside Beijing. Their destination, the Place Vendôme in Paris, lay 9,779 bumpy, muddy, dusty miles away. Their vehicle: a car built before either of them was born. This was Day 1 of the Peking to Paris Motor Challenge, also known as P2P, a classic car rally that re-creates a 1907 race famed as one of the first automobile endurance events.

Harman and Ward's P2P story began at a 2016 Christmas party of Morgan Owners Group Northwest - a club for enthusiasts of classic cars made by England's Morgan Motor Co. After a couple of fellow "Morganeers" discussed their own experience doing P2P, Harman and Ward were captivated. Harman, a longtime member of the Rotary Club of Arlington, Washington, suggested doing the rally to raise money for polio eradication. "I'm a physician, and I've been involved with PolioPlus since I was a brand-new Rotarian," he says.

There was just one problem: "We didn't have a car between us that was appropriate for that kind of exercise," says Ward, a

retired U.S. Army field artillery officer who worked for the Washington state government. After much searching, they found a beauty: a 1931 Ford Model A Victoria which they dubbed "Miss Vicky" - that already had some of the safety upgrades necessary for their epic journey. But there was much more tinkering to come.

Over the next two years, Harman and Ward made 54 major modifications to Miss Vicky. "The car was pretty much to-

When they crossed the finish line in central Paris on 7 July. Harman and Ward had raised an estimated \$50,000 for End Polio Now.

tally rebuilt with new parts or new pieces, including auxiliary fuel tanks and fuel systems and on and on," Harman says. The original suspension got extra attention and replacement parts.

To verify that Miss Vicky could handle traversing Asia and Europe, Harman

and Ward took it for what Ward called a "shakedown cruise" - a nautical term for a performance test of a ship. In 2018, they drove from Washington state to Toronto for the Rotary International Convention. "We went all the way up Pikes Peak and back to prove the car was ready," Harman says.

Car guys like Harman and Ward know what it takes to drive long distances. Harman's road warrior mentality even applies to other modes of transportation: He has flown a plane from London to Brisbane, Australia, and ridden a motorcycle from Kyiv, Ukraine, to Italy. But P2P isn't like other long-distance travel. In fact, it's not even a race - it's a rally. In this kind of competition, the goal each day is not to arrive first; it's to arrive at a specific location at a precise time. If a car arrives before or after its designated time, the team loses points, and at the end, the team with the fewest deductions wins. "If you show up early, it means you were speeding, and you get deducted a lot of points," Harman says. "If you show up on time, you get deducted no points. If you show up late, you











Lee Harman (at right in top left photo) and Bill Ward (at left) consulted with a Ford Model A guru in Texas before buying Miss Vicky. Restoring the car, they got help from a group of fellow gearheads on Camano Island, Washington, including a master mechanic for Model A's and Model T's. During the rally, when they weren't conducting major repairs or scrutinizing the detailed directions, they carried on extended conversations about "politics, air pollution, world population distribution, you name it," recalls Ward.

get deducted points, but not as many as if you show up early. By the third week we $had\,4,\!000\,demerits, but\,we\,were\,still\,fourth$ in our subgroup and 18th out of 31 in our group of vintage automobiles. We didn't do badly for novices."

Another difference between roadtripping and rallying is the role of the passenger. In a rally, the person in the passenger seat is in charge of more than music and snacks — he or she is the navigator, a vital role. Each P2P team is given a tour book with detailed instructions that are accurate to the hundredth of a kilometer. "To get from point A to point B, there might be 300 or 400 instructions per day," Harman says.

"We never failed to get lost going into a city or coming out of a city, because in most places we couldn't read the road signs and the instructions were very tight," Ward says. "You're doing 35 miles an hour in traffic on a four-lane street. If you're supposed to be in the left lane to turn but you're not, you've got to backtrack and come back around. Those kinds of things keep you pretty busy."

Breakdowns are also inevitable when you push an antique automobile to its limits. Along the route - which ran from China through Mongolia, Siberian Russia, Kazakhstan, back into Russia, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and France -Harman and Ward had to make plenty of roadside repairs. There was a dramatic tire blowout, two ruptured hydraulic brake lines, a blown head gasket, a tailpipe that fell off. Outside Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, the team was on a highway when it hit a speed bump at the bottom of a hill and caught air. "But it wasn't the first speed bump that got us," Harman says. "That speed bump launched us into a second speed bump. It was like skiing moguls. We came crashing down. The metal part of the Model A is attached to a wooden subframe, which we broke. The doors wouldn't close until we got it fixed."

But for all the rough roads, most of the accommodations were surprisingly highend - organizers put up the teams in luxury hotels. "One of the most luxurious places we stayed was in Erenhot, China," Har-

man says. "It was absolutely amazing." In the middle of Mongolia, hundreds of miles from any large town, the P2P participants camped out. Yet even here, teams enjoyed catered meals and bottles of fine wine at their campsites.

That was also the country that the two friends found most captivating. "Mongolia has magnificent scenery," Ward says. Harman agrees: "It's best described as what Montana must have looked like 150 years ago - no fencing, desolate and beautiful, just gorgeous."

After 36 days, Miss Vicky crossed the finish line in central Paris on 7 July. Harman and Ward had raised an estimated \$50,000 for End Polio Now, and they had accomplished their two other goals: "One, arrive in Paris having driven the whole route by ourselves under our own power," Harman says. "There were 106 entrants: 103 made it to Paris, 21 under their own power who had never been towed or had ignominiously ridden on the back of a flatbed truck. Vicky was one of the 21."

The second goal? "Arrive in Paris still friends." -FRITZ LENNEMAN







FEBRUARY events

15-29 Go for the greens

EVENT: Hole in One Shootout

HOST: Rotary Club of Chandler-Horizon, Arizona

WHAT IT BENEFITS: Local charities

WHAT IT IS: On 15-17, 21-23, and 28-29 February, spend \$1 a ball at the San Marcos Golf Course and play

> golf with a chance to win daily prizes. Those who qualify will compete in the finals on 1 March, with a \$100,000 prize if someone makes a hole-in-one.

Runnin' in the night

EVENT: Twilight 5K Run

HOSTS: Five Rotary clubs in Lakeland, Florida

WHAT IT BENEFITS: Common Ground Playground, an inclusive

playground

WHAT IT IS: Participants run (or walk) around scenic

Lake Hollingsworth. There are short-distance events for kids. Participants receive ribbons and glow-in-the-dark bracelets, and food and drinks are available after the race.

8-9 Ice, ice, baby

EVENT: Ice Fishing Derby

HOST: Rotary Club of Meredith, New Hampshire

WHAT IT BENEFITS: Local charities

WHAT IT IS: If ice fishing is your thing, you can compete for bragging rights; the most successful anglers in

> various categories win cash prizes. If ice fishing is not your thing, you can still enter your name

for daily cash drawings.

21

Pre-Mardi Gras party

EVENT: WineQuest

HOST: Rotary Club of Huntsville, Texas

WHAT IT BENEFITS: Local homeless shelter and youth-related

projects

WHAT IT IS: Get a jump on Fat Tuesday with a tasting of wines

from around the world, including four from a local vineyard. Craft beer will be on hand as well, along with food from local restaurants and caterers.

27-29

Rotarians take the stage

EVENT: Variety Show

HOST: Rotary Club of Coldwater, Michigan

WHAT IT BENEFITS: Local and international charities

WHAT IT IS: Musical performances and comedy sketches are the draw at the historic Tibbits Opera House. More than \$30,000 is raised annually in this town of just 10,000 to fund local and international projects. This year's theme is "At the Movies."

Tell us about your event. Write to rotarian@rotary.org with "calendar" in the subject line.

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT AND BE INSPIRED.





Braking news

For just a day, step back from all the news that gives you fits

by FRANK BURES

n 1986, a man named Christopher Knight walked into the Maine woods and found an isolated spot to pitch a tent. He remained there until 2013, when he was caught stealing food from a summer camp. In all those years, the man known as the North Pond Hermit never talked to another person. His world was limited to his immediate surroundings.

When journalist Michael Finkel interviewed Knight for his book *The Stranger in the Woods: The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit,* he asked Knight what he

thought of the changes in technology since he had removed himself from contact with the modern world. Knight was unimpressed. "People earnestly say to me here, 'Mr. Knight, we have cell phones now, and you're going to really enjoy them.' That's their enticement for me to rejoin society. … I have no desire. And what about a text message? Isn't that just using a telephone as a telegraph? We're going backwards."

After Knight dropped out of society, there was a revolution in the way we get news: Every hour of every day, messages and alerts arrive in our computers and



on our phones. Most of us accept this as progress. But for 27 years, Knight existed in a bubble, even as the rest of us became more and more enmeshed in the flow of news speeding into our lives. We now spend an average of 11 hours a day "interacting with media," staring at our screens and reading about things happening far away.

In and of itself, this is not a bad thing. We need to be informed in order to help others who might need it. Yet there is a cost to this nonstop influx of news. Constantly monitoring the news can affect our emotional state, our energy level,

our mental health, and even our worldview.

Knight has likely never suffered from the condition known as headline stress disorder, or news fatigue. But many of us have: According to a 2019 survey by the American Psychological Association, 54 percent of people said that following the news causes them stress. And a 2018 study by the Pew Research Center found that 68 percent of Americans feel "exhausted" by their news consumption.

Among the many reasons that too much news might not be good for you, the most

significant is that news tends to be more negative than the world really is. We have an innate need to pay attention to bad news, because, in evolutionary terms, such information can be more important to our immediate survival. Scientists call this our "negativity bias."

We all know how hard it is to turn away from stories about terror attacks, hurricanes, shipwrecks, dying coral reefs, or whatever the disaster might be. But when we consume these stories continuously, it takes a serious toll on us. In 2015, researchers in Israel found that "increased frequency of viewing







RAM-Global Members Receive an Additional 20% Discount

Rotarian Malaria

June 05, 2020

Honolulu, Hawaii

Keynote Address

Dr. Philip Welkhoff Director for

Dr. Brendan Crabb

Worldwide Antimalarial Researcher Melbourne, Australia

A discussion on the on-going research to develop a malaria vaccine.

Dr. Nanthalile Mugala

Country Director, PATH Lusaka, Zambia

On research being done to block mosquito to human transmission.

John Fairhurst

The Global Fund Geneva, Switzerland Insight on the financing outlook for the control and elimination of malaria.

Afternoon Program

The afternoon program will provide a stimulating look into how Rotary is impacting malaria around the globe.

- In Africa
- · In Asia and the South Pacific
- · In the Americas

Presenting Sponsor





Why should you consider advertising in The Rotarian?

For one thing, we have loyal, engaged readers who spend a considerable amount of time with our magazine:

- **Eight in ten** (86%) read at least three of every four issues published.
- On average, readers spend 52 minutes with an issue.

Interested? Contact us.

adv@rotary.org

Based on 2018 GfK MRI reader survey data

newscasts" causes a jump in "uncontrolled fear, physiological hyperarousal, sleeping difficulties, and fearful thoughts" and makes a person 1.6 times more likely to experience at least one symptom of anxiety.

Psychologists Wendy Johnston and Graham Davey conducted another study, in which participants watched 14-minute segments of positive, negative, or neutral news. The viewers of negative news reported being more anxious and sad afterward than the two other groups. But the effect didn't stop there. It carried over into concerns about the participants' own lives, making them more likely to "catastrophize" personal concerns that had nothing to do with the news. As Davey writes, "not only are negatively valenced news broadcasts likely to make you sadder and more anxious, they are also likely to exacerbate your own personal worries and anxieties."

These days, negative news is all around us. It's in our pockets. It's in our cars. It's in the waiting room. We live in an ocean of bad stories, so it's no wonder many of us feel we are being swept away. Some 69 percent of Americans report that worrying about the future of the nation causes them stress. This is at a time when by many measures - education, income, life expectancy - we've never been better off.

In the past, news wasn't so immediate. By the time we read it in the paper, some time had passed, which allowed for a healthy feeling of distance. Much of what we read about today is also distant from us, in that it doesn't affect our daily lives. Paying undue heed can make us blind to many of the things that do matter.

This is not a new insight. In 1854, another would-be hermit named Henry David Thoreau put down similar sentiments in Walden, which he wrote while living in a cabin on a pond. In the book, he complained about our appetite for a constant influx of news.

"Hardly a man takes a half hour's nap

after dinner, but when he wakes he holds up his head and asks, 'What's the news?' as if the rest of mankind had stood his sentinels," he wrote, adding, "I am sure that I never read any memorable news in a newspaper."

Thoreau's position was extreme. He eschewed the news not because he wasn't interested, but because he didn't want to be distracted from the things that he thought mattered. "I went to the woods," he famously stated, "because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life."

The question for us is: Which facts are the essential ones? Is it knowing exactly which politicians are up in the polls, or that a building has burned down, or whether a hurricane has made landfall? It's no wonder we have trouble appreciating the simple pleasures our life has to offer.

When I think back to my own best days, times that seem truly joyful, they are times when past tragedies and future disasters didn't seem to matter: a sunny picnic with my wife in a New Zealand vineyard; holding my newborn daughter for the first time; playing soccer with friends in a park in Italy; skipping rocks on Lake Superior with my girls. In those times, I was just there.

None of which is to say that we shouldn't read the news. But to let tomorrow's worries overwhelm today's joys is a bad bargain. To save the future, first we need to save the present.

"Let us spend one day as deliberately as Nature," Thoreau wrote, "and not be thrown off the track by every nutshell and mosquito's wing that falls on the rails."

You don't have to hide in the woods to do that. All you need to do is spend one day without the news. By the end of it, I can guarantee, the world will already feel a little better. ■

Frank Bures is the author of The Geography of Madness and a frequent contributor to The Rotarian.

SPONSOR THE 2020 HONOLU

Convention sponsorship provides great visibility to businesses and nonprofit organizations to engage with 25,000 active Rotary members around the world.

SPONSORSHIP CAN INCLUDE:

Exhibit space in the House of Friendship Opportunity to hold or sponsor a breakout session Chance to work with Rotary to create a custom campaign

Fill out your information online to discuss the benefits of investing in a Rotary sponsorship: riconventionsponsorship.com/contact-us





Advertise in The Rotarian

adv@rotary.org

Α	S	Р		В	Α	R	Ν		S	0	М	В	E	R
R	С	Α		0	Н	1	0		Α	R	0	U	S	Ε
С	0	Ν	F	L	1	C	T		D	1	M	М	Е	D
Α	R	1	Α	L		E	R	0	D	Е				
D	Е	N	Т		P	R	E	٧	Е	N	T	1	0	N
E	R	1	Е	Р	Α			Ε	Ν	T	1	Т	L	Е
				F	L	0	0	R			K	1.	E	٧
	Р	Е	Α	C	Е	В	U	1	L	D	1	Ν	G	
Ε	Α	R	L			Т	1	T	U	S				
Α	L	A	В	A	M	Α			L	L	В	Е	Α	N
R	0	Т	Α	R	Υ	1	N	T	L		Ε	Ν	D	0
				D	0	N	0	R		T	Α	R	0	T
1	Ν	S	Т	Е	Р		F	Е	В	R	U	Α	R	Υ
1	0	L	Α	N	1		Α	٧	1	Α		G	E	Е
1	G	0	Т	T	Α		T	1	D	Y		Е	S	T

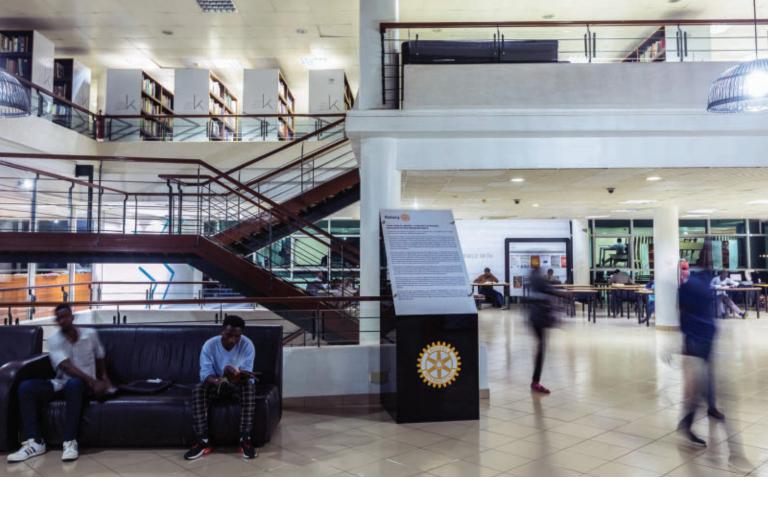




MORE THAN aLIBRARY

After the genocide of 1994, Rotarians led a successful campaign to build Rwanda's first public library. A bastion against ignorance and tyranny, it has become a gathering place where a culture of reading, the arts, and democracy thrives.

> by Jina Moore photography by Andrew Esiebo



Above: A display inside the Kigali Public Library acknowledges the building as "a project of Rotary, dedicated to the Rwandan public." Opposite: Kigali Rotaractors use the library as a gathering space: (front row, from left) Paul Joseph, Jeremiah Thoronka, Gladys Keza, and Samuel Oluwapelumi; (back row) Abdel Essay, Hussinatu Bah, Abubakarr Barrie, and Foday Kargbo. Previous pages: A rooftop cafe with a spectacular view is one of the library's many nonliterary attractions. wenty-year-old Noella Umutoniwase and her friends have been hanging out at the library for as long as they can remember. They come to study in

its quiet spaces, chill at its rooftop cafe, or chat with friends in the garden. In fact, if you ask her whether she remembers Kigali before there was a library, Umutoniwase scrunches up her face in disbelief. "Before there was a library?" she asks, as if evoking the dawn of time.

For her, it might as well be. The brainchild of Rotarians in Rwanda, the Kigali Public Library was born, at least as an idea, not long after Umutoniwase herself. Back then, the Rotarians who proposed it must have seemed crazy. Only six years before, more than 800,000 people had been killed in an event known today as the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi. Farms and businesses were destroyed, basic infrastructure was broken, Rwandans were traumatized. A public library must have seemed like a strange priority.

But the members of the Rotary Club of Kigali-Virunga, Rwanda's first Englishspeaking club, thought the idea made sense. One of them was Beth Payne, an economic, commercial, and consular officer at the U.S. Embassy in Rwanda and a fan of libraries; she had put herself through law school partly by working at one. But it was more than a personal affection: "I had always believed that a free library is one of the cornerstones of America's democracy," she says. When the Rotary Club of Kigali-Virunga was chartered, in 2000, Rwanda was focused on its future — on ensuring peace and reconciliation, stability and security, and economic growth - and Payne believed it was the perfect time to think about how literacy and access to information could support those goals.

Payne taught a class about the internet to Rwandan businesspeople. "I watched

how they responded to this wealth of knowledge and information all of a sudden becoming available to them," she says. "So I suggested to our club that one of the ways to support stability and growth, even if it's not as direct as other ways, is by having a place where people can come and get information and knowledge. And that captured people's imaginations - although, I'll be honest, I was thinking of something a lot smaller."

Thinking small, however, wasn't something that the country's newest Rotary club wanted to do. Most of its members were Rwandans whose families had fled the country in 1959, in another episode of violence that many consider Rwanda's first genocide. They had grown up on stories of Rwanda and dreams of return, and now that they had arrived, they had ambitious ideas and limitless energy.

Gerald Mpyisi, the charter president of the Rotary Club of Kigali-Virunga and a key figure in the library's founding, was one of those people. He had grown up in Zimbabwe, gone to college in Uganda, and worked in Kenya, where he had loved the McMillan Library - Nairobi's oldest - a neoclassical edifice filled with literary treasures. He drew on the inspiration he had felt while wandering its stacks

"One of the ways to support stability and growth is by having a place where people can come and get information and knowledge. And that captured people's imaginations."

to galvanize his fellow club members. "Those of us who had lived outside knew the importance of libraries," Mpyisi says. "I said, 'Guys, let's think big. There's no public library in this country. Does anyone here know a country without a library?"

Building a library was a daunting undertaking. But the club was new, energetic, and ambitious, and the members felt buoyed by the scale of the project. "Everyone was in unison; everyone thought it was a great idea, even though we didn't have the means. But if you don't dream big, nothing becomes a reality," says Cally Alles, a member of the Rotary Club of Colombo, Sri Lanka, who lived in Rwanda for more than two decades and is now that country's honorary consul in Sri Lanka. As a member of the French-speaking Rotary Club of Kigali, Alles helped start the English-speaking Kigali-Virunga club to channel the energy of the country's earliest returnees, many of whom had grown up in Anglophone countries. The club received a \$2,000 Matching Grant from The Rotary Foundation for a computer and other items and decided to raise the construction funds itself, tapping support from then-U.S. Ambassador George McDade Staples, himself a member of the Kigali-







Virunga club, and the country's president, Paul Kagame, who was the guest of honor at the club's first fundraiser in November 2000. In one night, the club brought in \$250,000 in cash and pledges, about 20 percent of the project's total budget, Mpyisi says. "That boosted our morale," he says.

Rotarians carried the message abroad, and soon they and their friends were donating hundreds of books to the future library. The club began hosting monthly used book sales of duplicate or unneeded volumes, putting the proceeds toward the costs of construction. At the time, books in Rwanda were difficult to find, and prices were far beyond the reach of ordinary citizens, so the club's sales became hugely popular. Virtually all the books on offer would find homes, but some were more sought after than others. "This was when Americans were all getting rid of their encyclopedias," Payne recalls. "Imagine, in Rwanda back then, seeing a whole set of encyclopedias, and

you could buy it for \$5. People ate those encyclopedia sets up."

At one early book sale, President Kagame and his family showed up unannounced. His children picked out several books — and, Mpyisi remembers with a

> **"You cannot learn** when you're in trouble. Psychologically, you just can't. A library needs peace. ??

laugh, their father insisted on a receipt.

In fact, Kagame was a key figure in the library's evolution. In his personal capacity, he was among its first donors. Later, when the global economic crisis stalled the club's fundraising and slowed the library's construction, the president stepped in to help keep things moving, according to Paul Masterjerb, a member

Above: Nabu, a New York-based organization that champions literacy worldwide, has an office at the library, where it sponsors writing workshops and other events. Opposite: In the stacks, a patron reads a book titled Transforming Rwanda, one of the library's 19,000 volumes and 30,000 digital titles.



of the Kigali-Virunga club and the current chair of its library committee. In 2009, Masterjerb says, Kagame donated \$500,000 personally and asked the country's ministers of finance, infrastructure, education, and culture to make a plan and allocate funds to finish building the structure.

In 2012, the library opened its doors. It is managed as a public-private partnership between the Ministry of Education and Innovation Group, a local company that offers online and offline creative platforms to communities. The partnership is overseen by a board that includes representatives from the offices of the president and the prime minister, as well as the Imbuto Foundation, a private foundation of first lady Jeannette Kagame that promotes literacy and other programs. The Rotary Club of Kigali-Virunga also has a seat on the board, held by the club's library committee chair. Masterjerb says this form of partnership ironed out some early wrinkles in the library's day-to-day functioning. Now, he says, it's "perfect."

The Kigali Public Library has taken its place as a major institution in the nowbustling capital. On any given afternoon, the reading tables in the "study zone" are full of people in deep concentration, many of them secondary school or university students.

"The library came at the right time," says Jenipher Ingabire, the Kigali-Virunga club's current president. "We didn't have places you could sit down and read. During summer holidays, when my three children are at home, I take them to the library. We borrow books; sometimes we sit there and read together. For adults, I see it as an opportunity, as a good place for us as Rwandans. As a club, we are really proud to have built that place, for having come up with an idea that not everybody would have thought of at the time as a priority."

There are also older patrons for whom the library is part of a daily routine. Aime

Above: A boy inspects the robot he built at the library's robotic workshop. Opposite: Known as the "interactive zone," the library's ground floor has a large, colorful children's room, an internet cafe, and a self-quided language and culture lab called the Korea Corner. Next pages: A symbol of Rwanda's reconciliation, the library is an oasis of tranquility inside and out.

Byimana, 62, is one of them. He wants to start his own firm, and nearly every day for the past year, he has spent a few hours reading textbooks about information systems, corporate management, and business strategy. He finds the library, free and open to all, a hopeful and exciting place - and a reminder of how far Rwanda has come. "You cannot learn when you're in trouble. Psychologically, you just can't," he says. "A library needs peace."

Byimana doesn't have the money for the membership fee of 12,000 Rwandan francs, or about \$13, that is required to check books out of the library. But many patrons say they prefer to leave the books on the shelves — and hold on to an excuse to get out of the house and come to the library, where they can peruse the more than 19.000 volumes that are housed on three floors (the library also has 30,000 digital titles in its collection). Byimana spends his days upstairs in the study zone: that floor also holds a collection of French books and a corner that's

home to the Institut Français. The ground floor, or "interactive zone," has a large, colorful children's room, an internet cafe, and the Korea Corner, a kind of selfguided language and culture lab. The basement is the "collaboration zone," with a large conference room and smaller meeting rooms.

That is where Joseph Kalisa, current president of the Rotaract Club of KIE, coordinated the team that planned a national trauma symposium in February 2019 that brought together mental health practitioners, social workers, and community leaders. The symposium, the first of its kind in Rwanda, was one of the events held in 2019 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the genocide, and Kalisa says the library was a key force in making the symposium possible. "The planning team chose the Kigali Public Library for its neutrality," he says. "We were 15 or 20 people from different organizations and NGOs, and we felt it was important to work from a neutral

space where no one would be seen to be taking the lead. We all felt most comfortable at the library because it's a public place suitable for equal discussion between equal parties."

A thriving culture of arts and literature

66 We all felt most comfortable at the library because it's a public place suitable for equal discussion between equal parties."

has also blossomed here. Huza Press, the first independent publisher in Rwanda, got its start in a library conference room in 2015. For several years, Huza Press offered a literary prize to encourage Rwandans to write their own stories and to identify emerging talent. Last year, on the library's rooftop exhibition and events space, the publisher launched RadioBook



Rwanda, a three-part audiovisual chapbook series of new fables written in the tradition of Rwanda's old tales, the kind that Huza founder Louise Umutoni grew up listening to her parents read at bedtime. "The library is a space that's been created as a celebration of books, as a celebration of storytelling, as a celebration of literature," says Umutoni, who grew up in Uganda. "We've worked hard to reinforce that and to use the space that celebrates what we do as a publisher."

"The regimes that were here knew that the best way to rule over people was to keep them ignorant. If you have a library accessible to everyone, it's much harder. 99

Solange Impanoyimana feels the same loyalty, born of the same appreciation. She's a co-founder of Generation Rise, a local nongovernmental organization that uses literature as the foundation of a leadership curriculum that teaches girls in secondary school self-expression, confidence, and creativity through discussions, debates, and journaling about books. "The library promotes the culture of reading and helps people understand that reading is important, especially in the lives of young people," Impanoyimana says. "When young people have access to books, they are exposed to different opinions, different stories, different places. They train their minds to imagine new things or to be creative, not to find themselves locked in one place. The more they read, the more they can believe in different possibilities, not just what they have seen in their families."

Creating "a culture of reading" is precisely what Paul Masterjerb and his fellow Rotarians had in mind nearly 20 years ago. Though the young generation that fills the library's corridors today doesn't think in these terms, its elders believe that literacy is one of the most powerful tools to help fight the divisions that led to so much tragedy in the past. "The Rotarians thought that we need to boost a reading culture in our society so that the people can know more about what has been written historically in the world, and then they won't be pulled so much toward committing genocide," Masterjerb says.

Mpyisi, who chaired the club's library committee for six years, says that preventing another genocide was "at the core of our thinking" from the start. "You know, it was easy for simple-minded people to be influenced by bad government. The reason why people were so quick to kill their own people was because the majority of the people in the country were illiterate. For them, any word that comes from the government at any level, that is the gospel truth," he says. "The regimes that were here knew that the best way to rule over people was to keep them ignorant. If you have a library accessible to everyone, it's much harder to keep people ignorant."

For Nancy Wanny Mpadu, a 24-yearold medical student at the University of Rwanda, the tranquility that the library nurtures and protects for those who spend time there is like sunlight or oxygen — part of the invisible fabric of everyday Rwanda. She was born after the genocide, and heavy words like "reconciliation" and "stability" don't weigh on her the way they do on the generation before her. For Mpadu, another value stands out: equality. When she first walked past the library a year or so ago, she didn't know what it was or how it worked. "They told me the place is free for anyone to use," she says. "And I feel good seeing so many people here. I even see my senior colleagues here, senior doctors. It's a place any person, big or small, can come and mix with anyone else a place that's equal for everybody." ■

Jina Moore, formerly the East Africa bureau chief for the New York Times, has been reporting from Africa for 15 years.





RWANDA'S not-so-distant **HORROR**

Ten years after the genocide in Rwanda, a journalist traveled to the country on special assignment for *The Rotarian*. His story, which ran in our December 2004 issue, conveys the horror he encountered, as well as the hope — including the initial efforts by Rotarians to provide Rwanda with its first public library. His report is as powerful today as it was then; we reprint it here in a slightly condensed form.

by Tom Clynes



wanda's hills rise above the heat and humidity of equatorial Africa in a soft green patchwork of terraced farms, connected by winding roads and red-dirt footpaths. Everywhere along these roads and trails, you see friends and neighbors stopping to shake hands, share smiles, laugh, and chat.

The beauty and conviviality of today's Rwanda make it all the more difficult to imagine the country as the setting of one of the 20th century's darkest episodes. In April 1994, ethnic Hutu extremists initiated a well-organized campaign of genocide against the Tutsi minority that resulted in more than 800,000 deaths. The victims — who included moderate Hutus as well as Tutsis — were mostly hacked to death by machete-wielding gangs while United Nations peacekeepers stood aside, under orders not to intervene.

In April 2004, as the country prepared to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the genocide, I traveled to Rwanda to meet with Rotarians actively working to rebuild their clubs and their nation. After flying into the capital, Kigali, I drove south toward the university town of Butare. Along the way I passed roadside memorials to victims and work gangs of genocidaires, the pink-shirted prisoners whose trials are, in most cases, still pending.

The perpetrators and victims came from all segments of society, and indeed, no Rwandan family was untouched by the genocide. But what about Rwanda's Rotarians? Before 1994, Kigali and Butare had active clubs, with projects focusing on health, education, and other humanitarian services. As I traveled along the tightly winding roads, I wondered if the bonds forged in Rotary had managed to transcend the madness of ethnic hatred. As the country degenerated into a sea of brutality, had Rotary stood as an island of reason?

One of the first Rotarians I spoke to, Guus Van Balen, shook his head. A member of the Rotary Club of Butare in 1994, he offered a frank recollection that may come as a shock. "Unfortunately," Van Balen said, "what we can say is that one half of our club's members murdered the other half."

mong Rwanda's institutions, both eminent and workaday, the local clubs were hardly alone in their actions during the genocide. The government, the media, even the churches played their parts. Priests and nuns turned on each other, and teachers killed students. Spouses in mixed marriages attacked each other and their in-laws.

At first, some observers dismissed the killing as a spontaneous orgy of tribal violence. But the campaign had, in fact, been planned for more than a year. Thousands of Hutus trained for and willingly participated in the mass murder, convinced by authorities that it was necessary for their own survival. Van Balen, a Dutch expatriate, was evacuated in the first days of the violence. Tutsis and moderate Hutus who hadn't escaped or been killed immediately went into hiding. Among them was Fidele Sebulikoko, the president of the Rotary Club of Kigali. A Hutu who was married to a Tutsi, Sebulikoko was discovered by the militias and killed, along with his wife and children.

The genocide lasted 100 days, ending only when a force of exiled Tutsis invaded and gained control of the country. The collapse of the government set into motion an exodus of Hutus, both innocent civilians and genocidaires. As they retreated, the militias burned villages and looted hospitals and government offices. So absolute was Rwanda's misery that many survivors considered themselves unlucky to have been left alive.

By mid-1994, Rwanda's green hills were awash in wretchedness and despair, in desperate need of the sort of help that Rotarians had so often been willing and able to provide. But there were no Rotarians left.

ver so slowly, Rwanda's darkness began to lift. The new government encouraged reconciliation and invited Rwandans of all ethnicities to return home. Van Balen, who returned to find his adopted country a shambles, said he cannot begin to describe the depth of his grief, disappointment, and disgust. "I was missing a lot of friends from Rotary," he said. "And even now, I still can't forget them. When I look at a photo album, I see people who were killed, and the people who killed them. Some of them are still overseas, running from justice."

Van Balen began to rebuild his life, as Rwandans began to rebuild their country. But it would be several years before Van Balen could think seriously about rebuilding Rotary. "When you are a Rotarian, you say you are all comrades and friends," he said. "But to see results like this, it was very hard to believe in Rotary anymore. In fact, it was hard for me to believe in anything at all."

he genocide of 1994 was the culminating episode in a long series of conflicts between the majority Hutus and the minority Tutsis. Rotarian John Nyombayire had left Rwanda during a flareup in 1962, settling in the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire). He served as governor of District 9150 in 1990-91.

In 1994, shortly after the end of the genocide, Nyombayire brought his family back to Rwanda. Among his dreams for his recovering homeland was the revival of Rotary, which had a history in Rwanda dating to 1966. "The club's image in Rwanda was not good," said Nyombayire, "so restarting was very difficult. We set up Kigali first [in 1994], then I went to Butare to speak to Guus."

At first, Van Balen resisted, but Nyombayire was persistent. "Eventually, John convinced me that you can't stop your life," Van Balen said. "He told me that you have to go on. There was so much work to be done, and so many people who needed help." Of the Butare club's 45 members in 1994, only Van Balen was present in 1998 when RI granted special permission to re-form the club with just 11 members, under the sponsorship of the Rotary Club of Kigali.

Over a few days, I visited several Rotarian projects in the Butare area, including housing, water facilities, hospitals, and schools. An elderly woman, hearing that a delegation from Rotary had arrived, scurried from her garden to meet us. She began to weep as she gestured at her new house. "Merci," she said, clutching our hands. "Thank you."

In and around Kigali, I visited an impressive array of Rotary endeavors, including schools, orphanages, hospitals, and public health projects. In 1994, Kigali's Sainte-Famille cathedral became infamous when its pastor, Wenceslas Munyeshyaka, aided in the murders of hundreds of parishioners. Now, the church's grounds are a center for healing. Rotarian funds provide food for orphaned children, indigent elderly, and adults with mental illness.

Out of 30 members in the Kigali club in early 1994, only six remained in August of that year, when the club was re-established. Now, the city's Rotarians have spun off new Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact clubs. Clearly, Rotary is on the move again in Kigali — and people all over the country are feeling its influence.

few miles west of Butare, the site of the Murambi Technical School occupies a broad plateau with a view of the surrounding hills. In late April 1994, some 50,000 Tutsis converged on the campus, told to go there for their own protection. But militias soon appeared on the surrounding hills and began attacking. Over the next two days virtually everyone on the campus was killed with machetes, hand grenades, clubs, and guns.

For the past 10 years, most of the bodies have lain where they dropped, the flesh falling away and leaving, finally, only bones and scraps of clothing flapping in the wind. Now, the remains are being collected and housed inside a new memorial building, built with international funds. Sixty kilometers to the northeast, there are no plans to move the bones from the floor of the Catholic church at Ntarama, where some 5,000 people died. Beneath the church's wooden pews are mounds of human remains: femurs, backbones, and ribcages, scattered among bits of clothing and children's shoes. At the front of the church, a ray of sun angles in from a broken window, spotlighting an altar topped by a cross and a single, cracked human skull.

These rough memorials are part of Rwanda's attempt to recover.

When I visited Nyamata, the site of another

massacre, several bodies had recently been exhumed and brought to the now-abandoned church. The caretaker, who lost his wife and six of his eight children in the genocide, unlocked the door, then hurried away as I stepped inside. The smell of death immediately enveloped me, squeezing the breath from my lungs. Atop blue tarpaulins lay two dozen bodies, twisted and partially decomposed. On many, the fatal wounds were still clearly visible.

I had come to Nyamata looking for answers. But instead, I found my capacity to understand overwhelmed. What could convince human beings to visit such cruelty on their neighbors? And how could those who had the power to stop it refuse to step in?

"Pas des mots," reads an entry in a guestbook at the memorial. There are no words ...

ith a light rain tapping at the top of her umbrella, Sonja Hoekstra-Foss walked across a new concrete floor at a bustling construction site near the center of Kigali. Hoekstra-Foss is president of the Rotary Club of Kigali-Virunga, which is leading the effort to build Rwanda's first public library. "I don't think an older club would have dared to do it," said Hoekstra-Foss. "It was too ambitious."

While the project is spearheaded by the club, it is deeply symbolic to all Rwandan Rotarians and to those who support it. "In much of the world," said Hoekstra-Foss, "we take public libraries for granted. But here, many people do not even understand what a public library is. This is a country that has never had one."

According to many observers, illiteracy and isolation were primary enablers of the genocide. Most Rwandans had no access to information beyond the government-controlled radio, and no access to books or publications that might have offered alternative ideas. In such a closed society, Hutu extremists found it relatively easy to manipulate the population.

"We all know that ignorance had an upper hand in the genocide," says Rotarian James Vuningoma, a journalist and past president of the Kigali-Virunga club. "If we can give people education and bring them information from outside, it's less likely that it could happen again."

Gerald Mpyisi, also a past president of the Kigali-Virunga club, chairs the library committee. "By the end of the year," Mpyisi says, "the structure should be complete. As soon as we get the additional funding we can start to outfit it with furniture, books, computers, and video. Then, in Rwanda, the tools of knowledge will begin to replace the tools of destruction."

ometimes visitors ask me if I am Hutu or Tutsi," Dr. Jean-Baptiste Habyalinana told me, on my last night in Rwanda. "I tell them, 'I'm Rwandese.'" Habyalinana is the president of the Kigali-Mont Jali club; he's also president of Rwanda's National Unity and Reconciliation Commission. "Since 1994, the change in spirit here has been extraordinary. Most Rwandans are behind the efforts for unity and reconciliation, and the result is now a peaceful country where the traditional hospitality of Rwandans to foreigners has been revived."

"But unfortunately," said Cally Alles, a past president of the Kigali club, "people have this great fear of Rwanda. This negative image will change if people visit our country, so we invite Rotarians and people everywhere to do so. They will see that this is a safe place, that we have low crime and low levels of corruption. We have mountain gorillas and beautiful national parks, and we have a friendly, welcoming culture."

All of these things are true. But as a first-time visitor, what most strikes me is the fact that in Rwanda, more than perhaps anywhere else on earth today, one has the chance to witness such resonant examples of humanity at its very worst — and its very best. Among the latter are Rwanda's new generation of Rotarians, who have dedicated themselves to repairing their country's shredded soul. Here, in the cooling embers of one of humanity's most horrific episodes, a few passionate people returned to salvage what they could and begin again.

"Nearly everything was lost," said John Nyombayire. "But the spirit of Rotary somehow survived."





How to tell fact from fiction

ournalist Dan Mac Guill was working at his home office in Maryland last August when he got a news tip from a colleague: A photo of a Democratic congresswoman was circulating on Twitter. It appeared to show her at a press conference amid a group of armed terrorists. She was smiling.

The Twitter replies ranged from skepticism ("This is verifiable as a real photograph?") to condemnation ("The enemy is here") to something in between ("I blew it up. ... If it is photoshop they did an amazing job"). Many comments were too hate-filled to bear repeating.

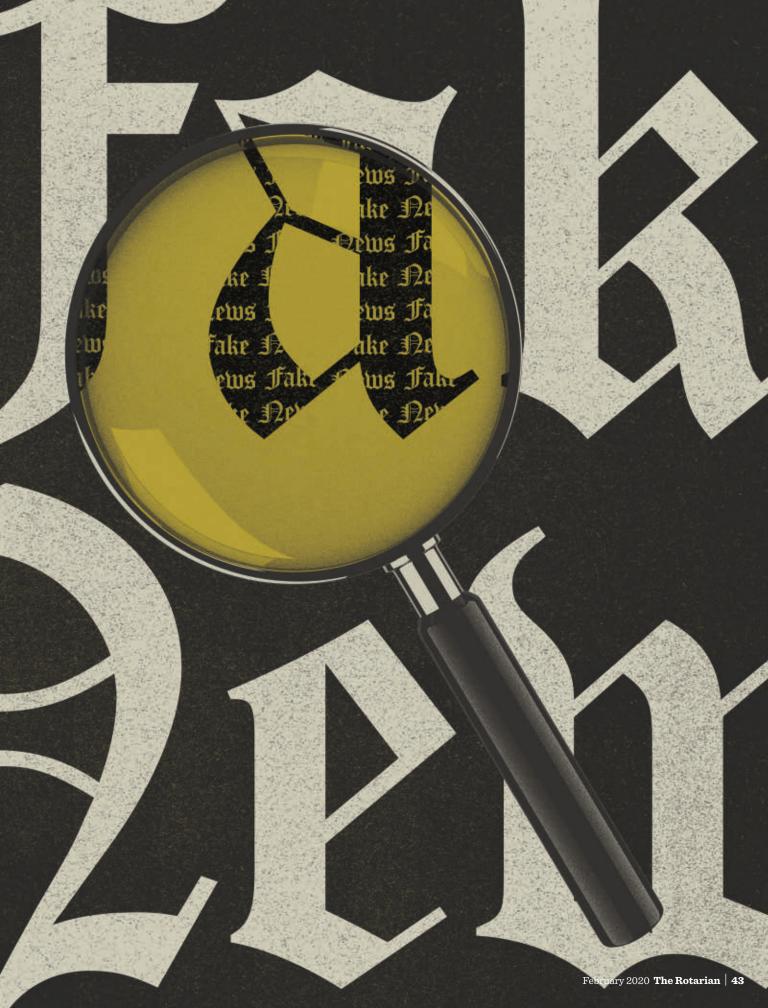
The reactions caught Mac Guill's attention right away. "If you see people who seem to genuinely believe that a sitting member of Congress is or has been a terrorist, then that's worth pursuing," he says.

Mac Guill, who works for the factchecking website Snopes, suspected that this was yet another digital misinformation attack against U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, who has been a frequent target of online trolls since she became one of the first two Muslim women elected to Congress, in 2018. Just the previous week, in fact, Snopes had debunked a photo caption that falsely claimed that Omar had attended a "jihad academy." The photo, which appears to show a woman in a headscarf holding a rifle, was taken before Omar was born. But that didn't stop it from gaining traction on social media.

Though Mac Guill was pretty sure the newer image was also a fake, he knew it

and trust the news again

by Kim Lisagor Bisheff illustrations by Joan Wong



would require research to settle the matter. "You can't always make the assumption that what's obvious to you is obvious to everybody else," he says. "Especially if people have certain biases that they might not even be conscious of, they might look at that image and say, 'Well, look at it; it's clearly her, and she's been caught.' And then you have somebody else saying, 'She's a sitting member of Congress. There's no way this is real.' People approach this content from different starting points."

So he got to work.

deas and memes like these can go viral very quickly, exacerbating the ideological divide between groups with opposing political viewpoints. As Republicans and Democrats increasingly consume news from partisan sources, an individual's political affiliation has become a strong indicator of whom they trust and what information they identify as factual.

Rotarians strive to abide by The Four-Way Test. So when we read something inflammatory, what guides

"You can't always make the assumption that what's obvious to you is obvious to everybody else."

> our decision to believe it? Do we trust what we read because it is the truth? Because it's fair to all concerned? Or because it validates our existing worldview? Rotarians have an obligation to set aside partisan assumptions in pursuit of truth and fairness. A good start would be to acknowledge that we are all susceptible to misinformation. (In fact, studies have shown that the older we are, the more likely we are to be duped.) And

we can choose to start listening to the experts who have been trying for decades to help us sort manipulation from satire, opinion from fact, and fiction from truth.

he history of debunking misinformation far predates this political era. Snopes has been at it for 25 years, since long before "fake news" was on the public's radar. CEO David Mikkelson launched the website in 1995 to tackle urban legends. Some of those early myths seem harmless today - like the one about the *Poltergeist* curse, which claimed that several of the 1982 horror movie's cast members had since died under suspicious circumstances, or the one that correlated Super Bowl wins with stock market performance. The intensity and frequency of misinformation spiked after 9/11, when the internet, which was itself just taking off, became flooded with conspiracies and hoaxes, and factchecking became an increasingly serious endeavor.

The next big bump came with

the rise of social media. Facebook and Twitter enabled fake news to travel farther and faster, and fact-checkers struggled to keep up. Over the years, Snopes has been joined by new fact-checking organizations, including

FactCheck.org, PolitiFact, and similar endeavors worldwide.

In the months leading up to the 2016 U.S. presidential election, the misinformation circulating on social media had become intensely political and polarized. People on both sides of the political aisle had honed their social feeds to match their existing biases, and in doing so, they became prime targets for madeup posts that aimed to validate and reinforce those views.

As journalists and academics began researching the phenomena that contributed to the spread of false information through social networks, stories emerged about Russian misinformation factories where hired trolls used fake social media identities to spread lies online. Reporters found hundreds of self-proclaimed "news" websites, based in the United States and abroad, that were deliberately publishing and spreading phony stories. The search term "fake news" started trending on Google. It has been a hot topic ever since — thanks in part to the fact that it is now often deployed to describe news someone doesn't like, rather than stories that are objectively not true.

nopes is busy these days. The site now has a staff of 15, most of whom are experienced journalists, working in home offices spread across three U.S. time zones. They keep regular business hours and communicate virtually via Slack throughout the day. Because they understand the importance of transparency in establishing readers' trust, they are open about their operations and editorial process.

The "Transparency" page on the Snopes website details that process, along with the organization's standards for sources. "We attempt to use non-partisan information and data sources (e.g., peer-reviewed journals, government agency statistics) as much as possible, and to alert readers that information and data from sources such as political advocacy organizations and partisan think tanks should be regarded with skepticism," it says. "Any published sources (both paper and digital) that we quote, link to, use as background information for, or otherwise reference in our fact checks are





listed in the Sources section at the foot of each fact check article."

Such transparency is consistent with the code of principles established by the International Fact-Checking Network, which maintains a list of 29 organizations that are in compliance. That list includes Snopes, whose website says it follows the network's principles "because we think being transparent with readers is the coolest."

When fact-checkers come across a suspicious photograph like the one of Omar, Mac Guill says, their first move is to take a step back and get an overview of the claim. "What exactly is the question that we are being asked?" he says. Is it: "Is this a real photograph? Does it show what it appears to show? What exactly does the image consist of? What do I actually need in order to come to a conclusion?"

Glancing at the photo, he noted that Omar was the only one smiling. "Without any fact-checking expertise, you can see that Omar is the only person in the room who is grinning ear to ear and appears to be very happy, whereas everyone else is looking very solemn or has their faces covered," he says. "That is very clearly out of place. That doesn't mean that it's a fake, but it's a clue."

One of Mac Guill's editors took a screenshot of the image and used Google to do a reverse image search. That turned up a photo of Omar taken by an Associated Press photographer in Washington, D.C., as she was walking to a meeting in the Capitol on 15 November 2018. Omar's head and facial expression were a perfect match. "That gave me a bit of a head start," Mac Guill says. "It made it clear to me that this image consists of two separate photographs, at least, sewn together using software."

To establish the truth about the image. Mac Guill needed to find both originals, identify their sources, and gather enough information to put them into context. He took another screenshot of the suspicious photograph and did his own Google reverse image search. It didn't take him long to find various images from a news conference with the same men sitting at the same table — without Omar. "You can fairly safely say at that stage, this is fairly solid evidence that her face was digitally added and superimposed on the original photograph, and it's a fake."

To eliminate all doubt, he tracked the source image to the websites where it had been published, and he quickly figured out that the original was a Reuters photo from a 2008 press conference. A person whose head was almost completely obscured by a headscarf sat in the position where Omar's face had been superimposed. "So there you've got it," Mac Guill says.

As fact-check detective work goes, this case was pretty straightforward, Mac Guill says. "Sometimes image searches can get complicated," he says. If a suspicious image was a still shot taken from a video, for example, it can take hours to uncover the original source. "I personally really enjoy that part of it. There's a sense of accomplishment when you're able to trace something back to its origins."

he manipulated Omar photo is an example of what experts call "fauxtography," which has been one of the most visited categories on Snopes over the past year, according to the site's vice president of operations, Vinny Green.

Another popular category is "junk news," or phony stories that are designed to draw traffic by intentionally misleading readers. Malicious entrepreneurs learned long ago that

they can generate website traffic by taking advantage of a human weakness: our tendency to react to information that triggers a strong emotional response. When we see something that makes us feel anger or fear, or something that validates an existing bias, we tend to respond to it without thinking. On social media, that means liking, sharing, "hearting," angry-facing, retweeting all before stopping to verify that the information we're spreading is correct.

When we see something that

makes us feel anger or fear, or something that validates an existing bias, we tend to respond to it without thinking.

As the tricksters who create fauxtography and junk news become more sophisticated, consumers are more easily duped. That's why "deepfakes," videos that have been manipulated to make individuals appear to be doing or saying things they did not actually do or say, are becoming a major concern among fact-checkers. Along the same lines are political quote memes, those boxes of text that contain quippy quotes attributed to politicians. They're tantalizingly shareable — and quite often wrong.

Political figures are common targets for all forms of misinformation, which is why Snopes has increased its focus on political content in recent years. While reader interest in political stories used to drop off between presidential elections, Green says, "politics has never left the tip of our culture's tongue in the past five years." As the 2020 election season heats up, the number of political hoaxes and the demand for political fact-checking are likely to increase accordingly.

At Snopes, the process for factchecking text-based content is similar to that for photos and videos. A staff member starts by trying to contact the source of the claim to ask for supporting documentation. They also contact individuals and organizations with direct knowledge of the subject. That reporting is backed up by research from news articles, journal articles,

Our main job: to learn how to consume media responsibly in this new media era.

books, interview transcripts, and statistical sources, all of which are cited in the writer's fact-checking story. At least one editor reviews the story and adds to the research as needed.

o matter how you define fake news or measure the political fallout, one major impact is clear: Its very existence has left readers disheartened and confused. A Pew Research Center study published in December 2016 found that 64 percent of adults said misinformation was causing "a great deal of confusion about the basic facts of current issues and events." In a 2019 update, that number went up to 67 percent, and 68 percent of the Americans surveyed said that fake news has affected their confidence in government.

A 2019 report by the Knight Commission on Trust, Media and Democracy found that Americans have far less faith in their institutions especially the media — than they did 50 years ago. It blames this "crisis of trust" on several factors, including the

overwhelming number of information sources available online; the increasingly blurred line between news and opinion; declining news budgets; attacks by politicians on the media; and Americans' inability to agree on what constitutes a fact.

"'Filter bubbles' make it possible for people to live in 'echo chambers,' exposed primarily to the information and opinions that are in accord with their own," the report says. "One result

> of this technique is to provide users with content that reinforces their pre-existing views while isolating them from alternative views, contributing to political polarization and a fragmentation of the body politic. In turn, increasing political polarization en-

courages people to remain isolated in ever-more-separate ideological silos, offline as well as online."

The problem is fixable, the report says, but it requires action by news organizations, tech companies - and us. Our main job: to learn how to consume media responsibly in this new media era. "My general advice to any news consumer or consumer of fact checks: Trust no one and nothing," says Snopes managing editor Doreen Marchionni, a former Seattle Times editor.

If a news story or image seems scary or outrageous, that's a red flag. If you see an image that doesn't contain a link, be suspicious. If someone shares a picture of a tweet that doesn't link to the actual tweet, it may be a fake. If an outlet publishing a story doesn't have a protocol for running corrections or retractions of erroneous information. it might not be a trustworthy source.

"Start by looking for sound, primary data on the source of the stuff that you want to share," Marchionni says. "See if you can find the original source of it." Google unfamiliar stories and websites to see if they've been flagged as fakes.

Use reverse image searches to find the earliest versions of suspicious images. Check independent, nonpartisan factchecking websites for help with difficult cases.

In the meantime, resist the urge to share. "It is your civic responsibility and your civic duty to do the right thing by your [fellow] citizens. In this context, that means don't share bad stuff," Marchionni says. "Don't share outrageous headlines and links unless you yourself know them to be true. If you can't suss out the truth of the thing, then, by all means, check our website."

But why should people trust Snopes? "Read up on our history. Look at the girth of our reporting across 25 years. Decide for yourself if you think we're trustworthy," Marchionni says. "I think we are, but basically the same rules apply when evaluating a potential meme by a white supremacist or evaluating a fact-checking organization that you look to in order to help you understand whether something's true or not."

Ultimately, the responsibility falls on each of us as consumers and sharers of news. "Misinformation has always been out there, since the dawn of humanity. What is different right now is social media," Marchionni says. "It's the act of sharing bad information that is creating this crisis we're in." ■

Kim Lisagor Bisheff worked as a factchecker in the late 1990s, when "factchecking" was still a politically neutral term. Over the past 20 years, she has reported for newspapers, magazines, books, and websites. Bisheff has taught journalism at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo since 2004. She teaches multimedia journalism and public affairs reporting and gives talks to campus and community groups on news literacy and fact-checking.



How to stop fake news, in three easy steps



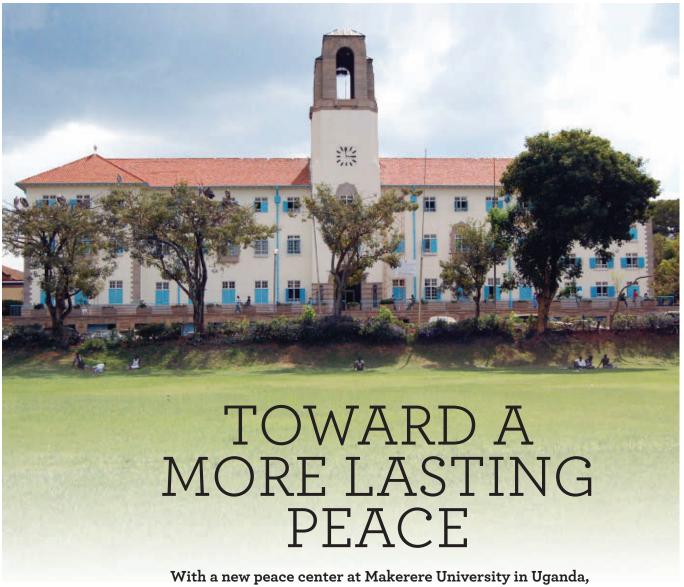
GUT-CHECK: Did the headline or image you just saw make you feel a strong emotion? Misinformation is designed to do just that. Before sharing, click the link and check it out. If you're unsure about it, don't share it or react to it.



FACT-CHECK: What is the original source of the information? Are any familiar news outlets publishing this story or photograph? Does a reverse image search turn up different sources for a suspicious image? What do independent, nonpartisan fact-checking sites like Snopes, PolitiFact, or FactCheck.org have to say?



READ REAL NEWS: News institutions like those we revered in the Watergate era are still producing top-quality journalism. Subscribe to a variety of reputable publications and get your information directly from those sources - not through social media.



a reimagined peace fellowship program, and ambitious plans for the future, Rotary International advances its push for global harmony

Since Rotary inaugurated its peace fellows program

in 2002, 810 students have graduated with master's degrees from one of five Rotary Peace Centers; an additional 514 have completed the certificate program from the peace center at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. These fellows have become thought leaders in the world of peace studies, but only a small fraction of them -148 — are from sub-Saharan Africa.

That's about to change. In January, Rotary announced a new peace center at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda - the first peace center in Africa - and a complete reimagining of the Rotary Peace Centers professional development certificate program. "This is a real bonus not just for Africa but for Rotary," says Bryn Styles, chair of the Rotary Peace Centers Committee. "It will increase our credibility in the area of peace."

The announcement was greeted enthusiastically in Kampala. "It was important for us to expand our expertise and our engagement in the area of conflict and peace," says Barnabas Nawangwe, vice chancellor at

bu GEOFFREY JOHNSON

Makerere University. "Partnering with an international organization like Rotary allows us to demonstrate on a global scale what we've been doing for 20 years in our local environment. What we've learned here we can use to confront strife in populations all over the world."

Rotary was seeking a program that draws from the regional expertise and experiences of those affected by conflict, says Jill Gunter, manager of the Rotary Peace Centers program. Makerere, which already offered a program in peace and conflict studies, was ideal because of its focus on local peacebuilding and conflict transformation. "The program will attract candidates dedicated to working for peace throughout Africa," Gunter says. "It helps that Uganda provides lessons in hosting refugees that the whole world can learn from — and Makerere showed a willingness and desire to adapt their programs to Rotary's needs and requirements."

Nawangwe expects local Rotarians to also play a big role in the success of the new center. "There are many clubs around Africa engaged in the cause of peace, so there is much they can offer," he says. "Makerere is located in the heart of the Great Lakes region, which has historically experienced the most strife in Africa. We've had frequent experience with conflict, which is why we established our peace program. We have a formidable faculty that understands and can educate others about conflict and peace." Nawangwe expects that peace fellows will do field studies in areas struggling with the aftermath of conflict, such as South Sudan and Rwanda. "We will talk with the communities there, finding out what happened, what has been done, and what remains to be done," he says.

Rotarians from the region had been "very keen" to land the new peace center, says Styles. "The new certificate program at Makerere will provide peace fellows with the education and hands-on experience that will allow them to go back to their communities with tools to create positive social change," he says.

When the first peace fellows begin their studies

at Makerere in January 2021, they will be introduced to Rotary's new yearlong certificate program in peacebuilding, conflict transformation, and development. The peace center at Chulalongkorn University, which has offered the three-month version of the certificate program, will also follow the new model.

"It was important to bring the certificate program into the larger peacebuilding ecosystem of Rotary," says Surichai Wun'Gaeo, the director of the Chulalongkorn peace center. "We also want to be more aligned with Positive Peace efforts and foster a holistic understanding of the relationship between peace and development. In the past, when we talked about peace, it was separate from development. Peace was considered a separate sector. Now we will move to a comprehensive approach to peacebuilding."

In the new model, each certificate program will accept a cohort of up to 20 peace fellows twice a year.

The online application for the 2021-22 peace fellowship is available beginning this month. Qualified candidates for the certificate program will be professionals with a minimum of five years of experience in peace

"Makerere will provide peace fellows with the education and hands-on experience that will allow them to go back to their communities with tools to create positive social change."

and development. They must be working on or have an idea for an initiative that promotes peace or social change in their workplace or community.

The program will begin with an online course to provide each of the incoming fellows with baseline knowledge on peace and development studies. It will also offer fellows the opportunity to share ideas about their peace and social change initiatives with one another.



POPHIA AGIRESAASI, GPJ UGANDA



A 10-week session will follow at the peace center, where fellows will work on their peace initiatives and create plans to bring them to fruition. After a review

"This is a real bonus not just for Africa but for Rotary. It will increase our credibility in the area of peace."

of the fundamentals of peacebuilding and conflict resolution, the curriculum will concentrate on human rights, governance, and the role of media in conflict. among other topics;

it will also help fellows develop practical skills, such as in mediation and negotiation. To build on Rotary's strategic partnership with the Institute for Economics and Peace, a one-week workshop will be devoted to the theory and practice of Positive Peace. Fellows will devote two weeks to field studies, an opportunity to engage in hands-on sessions of experiential learning. (At Makerere, for instance, it's proposed that fellows visit western Uganda and Kigali, Rwanda, to study ethnic strife and incidents of mass atrocities.) All this will occur within a regionally focused context, which could mean an emphasis on refugees, climate-induced conflict, and peacebuilding in divided societies.

At the end of the 10-week session, fellows will return to their jobs or communities and implement their initiatives over the next nine months. They will be assisted by a mentor chosen from members of the university's faculty or network of professionals. Fellows will also participate in interactive online learning sessions with other members of their cohort.

As the yearlong program concludes, fellows will return to the peace center for a one-week capstone session, where they will network, hear from prominent experts in the field of peace and development, and re-



flect and report on their initiatives. To foster a longterm affiliation with one another and with Rotary, the cohort returning for its final week will overlap with a new cohort starting its first on-site session. After the program concludes, graduates will continue to hone their leadership skills and reassemble periodically to provide updates, inspiration, and encouragement to one another, all with an eye toward creating a robust regional hub of peacebuilders.

Other changes still lie ahead for the Rotary peace programs. An enhanced master's degree program — one that concentrates more broadly on the link between peace and development and that is aligned with each of Rotary's six areas of focus — will be introduced in 2022, and two more peace centers offering the certificate program are expected to launch by 2030, one in Latin America or the Caribbean and a second in the Middle East or North Africa.



FOUR OF A KIND

Peggy Asseo likes to tell a story that illustrates the kind of generosity Rotary's peace programs are capable of inspiring. The director of planned and major gifts at Rotary International, Asseo was among a group of people at the 2019 Rotary International Convention in Hamburg discussing the new peace center planned for Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. Two of the people - Nigerian businessman Sir Emeka Offor and Howard Jeter, former U.S. ambassador to Nigeria — stepped aside for a private conversation. The two men returned to the group, and Jeter said that Offor would like to make a statement.

Asseo picks up the story from there: "Sir Emeka pulled out his checkbook and wrote a check from his foundation for \$250,000. He announced that he was making this gift to be used for startup costs relating to the new peace center and to support the recruitment of qualified Nigerian applicants. He concluded by saying, 'I hope my donation serves as an inspiration to other Africans to do the same for their countries."

It was an astonishing moment, even from a man known for his generosity. (Over the years, Offor has donated \$3 million to Rotary causes.) Yet it would prove not entirely uncommon. In Japan, after District 2760 made a \$250,000 donation to the Makerere peace center from District Designated Funds, Seishi Sakamoto of the Rotary Club of Nagoya Meita made a matching gift of \$250,000. By supporting the new peace center, he said, "we help to provide an important resource for creating peace and reducing conflict throughout Africa."

Five thousand miles away, on the other side of the Pacific Ocean, Joseph P. and Linda Grebmeier, members of the Rotary Club of King City, California, pledged a \$1 million life endowment to the new peace center, expressing the hope that their "commitment will help to support Rotary's peace programs in Africa and in our world."

From the beginning, Rotarians' generosity has kept pace with the progress of the peace centers. Since the centers' establishment in 2002, 7,000 donors have made 15,000 gifts or commitments to the program totaling \$172 million. "Rotarians came together to support the peace centers, just as they've come together to support global grants and Rotary's other humanitarian endeavors," says Asseo. "All of that happens because of donors."

Asseo is especially gratified that the gifts from Offor, Sakamoto, and the Grebmeiers originated in Africa, Asia, and North America. "These significant donations from three different continents represent a worldwide recognition of the value of Rotary having a peace center in Africa," she says.



What is your club doing? Every month, *The Rotarian* showcases:

- NEW MEMBERSHIP MODELS
- WAYS TO ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY
- PROJECT IDEAS
- FUNDRAISERS



Share your club's great new ideas. Email us at

club.innovations@rotary.org.



 $continued from\ page\ 55$

After hearing Moore's talk on the zoo's conservation efforts at a special off-site meeting of the Rotary Club of Portland, Maynard Orme approaches the microphone. "Do you think we're going to lose a lot of those endangered species, or can we save many of them?" he asks. "I'm just very curious, because it scares me to death."

Moore, who has spent decades studying our warming planet and booming population, says it scares him, too. But he adds: "You can't be a conservation biologist without being an optimist. I'm optimistic on some level that humans can change their behavior and can change technology so that all of those species don't go extinct."

If Moore's message is that humans can save the day, he is speaking to the right crowd. The Portland club, one of the largest Rotary clubs in the world with more than 200 members, has the people power to solve daunting problems locally and globally. The club's 22 committees work on issues such as homelessness, domestic violence, and

Ertmann wants to help members form a bond with Rotary that will stay with them no matter where they go.

global conflict. "The opportunities that we have in front of us to positively affect our communities with our service work as Rotarians - near and far - are truly limitless," Kate Ertmann said when she took office as club president.

Previous page: Portland club members (from left) Blake St. Onge, Kate Ertmann, Ruth G. Shelly, and Maynard Orme.

Members are heeding that call in a number of ways. The club's current showcase project is a youth treatment and activities center designed to address the roots of homelessness. Project 2020, developed in partnership with a regional nonprofit that provides child and family services, will be a community center that provides treatment services, recreation opportunities, and group meeting spaces for local families struggling with issues related to mental health, addiction, and housing instability.

Although Portland has its share of big-city problems, it feels less urban than some other big cities. Its downtown is flanked by lush residential neighborhoods where a disproportionate number of hardy bike commuters brave the often-wet weather to reduce their carbon footprint. The Rotary Club of Portland holds its regular meetings in the Grand Ballroom at the elegant Sentinel Hotel, which, like the club itself, dates to the early 1900s. It's within walking distance of Portland landmarks like Powell's Books and the Willamette River waterfront, as well as numerous places to stop for an artisanal doughnut, a locally roasted coffee, or a craft beer.

In addition to supporting the club's service goals, Ertmann has a broader mission for her presidential year: defining Rotary for today's Portlanders. "I want to clarify the public perception, across generations and industries, of who we are now in the 21st century," she said in late June.

Today, about a quarter of the club's members are women, and a third are under 50. The club's U40 program, a four-year-old leadership development program, brings in 10 to 12 under-40 members each year. Ertmann hopes that when those members see their peers in leadership roles, it will "get that snowball of representation rolling," she says. "If you don't see it, it doesn't seem as possible."

Blake St. Onge can attest to the program's success. He joined in 2015, when then-President Agustin Enriquez invited him to be part of the club's first U40 cohort. St. Onge's dad and grandfather had been Rotarians, but he had never looked into joining. "Through this U40 program, it was much better because it was joining with my peers," he says.

Each U40 member is paired with a Rotary mentor and elected to co-chair a club committee. St. Onge ended up cochairing the U40 program in 2017-18 and has chaired it ever since. "I really like that focus of the group, getting some younger and diverse folks into the organization," he says. "That's what the future is."

The day of the zoo meeting, Ertmann starts the proceedings as she always does, with a nod to the location's history. "I would like to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Clackamas, Cowlitz, and Chinook people, and pay our respect to elders both past and present," she says. The ritual was inspired by a similar action at the 2018 Rotary International Convention in Toronto; Ertmann adopted it to emphasize the importance of diversity and inclusivity.

After the conservation talk by the zoo director, Ertmann ends the meeting by thanking club members for taking time out of their busy lives to be there. Later, she explains the significance of that closing statement: "Society is different these days. The workplace is different." Millennials tend to change iobs and locations more frequently than previous generations, she says. Though she has no illusions of retaining all of those members long term, she wants to help them form a bond with Rotary that will stay with them no matter where

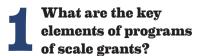
Her hope is that they learn to see Rotary as she does: as "a great volunteer plan for the rest of my life." -KIM LISAGOR BISHEFF



Programs of scale grants

with K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran

Chair-elect, Trustees of The Rotary Foundation



This is a new type of grant intended to provide measurable and sustainable solutions to issues affecting many people in a large geographic area. Every year, The Rotary Foundation will award a \$2 million grant to one project that aligns with one or more of Rotary's areas of focus. The grant will support project activities for three to five years.

These grants do not require an international Rotary partner. However, applicants are expected to work with partners outside Rotary, such as nongovernmental organizations, government entities, and private-sector institutions. These partners may assist Rotarians at any stage of program development, and we encourage them to contribute funding. While Rotary is required to have a leadership role, our partners must have "skin in the game."

Finally, proposals for this grant type must demonstrate that similar projects have been successfully implemented. In turn, it should be possible to replicate the grant-supported project in other communities with similar needs.

Why did Rotary create this new grant type? We wanted to complement the exist-

ing grant types with one that would benefit a much larger community. Programs of scale

grants challenge Rotarians to think big and to work with other organizations to find comprehensive solutions to large-scale issues. As we've learned from the PolioPlus program, if you want to make a significant impact, you need to have partners who are willing to jump in with you.

For example, in Sri Lanka, we have been working on a project to eliminate cervical cancer. My club, the Rotary Club of Colombo, had set up a cancer detection center. We then partnered with the Rotary Club of Birmingham, Alabama, on a global grant that funded HPV (human papillomavirus) testing machines. In addition, we brought in the University of Alabama at Birmingham to train staff, a leading telecom company to fund the construction of a new facility, and the Sri Lankan government to cover the cost of vaccines. In 2018, the project ensured that 83 percent of all 10-year-old girls in the country were vaccinated.

The power of Rotary is much greater when we partner with like-minded organizations. This project involves multiple partners at a national and international level that are working together to prevent disease on a massive scale. Programs of scale grants give Rotarians the opportunity to replicate achievements like this one.

How does the application process work?

Rotary clubs and districts are invited to submit a proposal for a fully developed program,

including proof of concept, baseline data from a community assessment, and ongoing monitoring and evaluation plans. Proposals are due 1 March. Those with the strongest proposals will then be invited to submit an application by 30 June.

Proposals and applications will be reviewed by a committee that includes members of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers and other subject-matter and grants experts. The Trustees will then consider the recommendations of the selection committee and will make the final award determination at their October meeting.

How will we measure the success of these grants?

The fundamental thing is that anything we do must benefit the community. Success will be measured in the ultimate impact of these grants on recipient communities. It will also be measured in Rotary's ability to position itself as a leader in implementing solutions to longstanding development issues, especially in partnership with other organizations that represent the values and aspirations of Rotarians.

- JOHN M. CUNNINGHAM

Interested in applying for a programs of scale grant? Go to my.rotary.org/programs-scale-grants.



Social network

Rotary Club of Downtown Franklin. Tennessee

Chartered: 2017 Original membership: 61

Membership: 145

BOOM TOWN:

Franklin, Tennessee, was ranked the eighth-fastest growing community in the United States in 2017, the same year the Nashville suburb of 80,000 people added its fourth Rotary club. A network of old acquaintances — golf buddies and families who knew one another through their children's sporting events — formed the nucleus of the Rotary Club of Downtown Franklin, devoted to cultivating friendship in a convivial, service-minded, and welcoming atmosphere.

For decades, the Rotary clubs of Franklin, Franklin At Breakfast, and Cool Springs have been a vital part of the fabric of the city. But many people who wanted to serve their community couldn't make those clubs' noon or morning meetings. So Lawrence Sullivan, a longtime noon club member, approached Mike Alday, who had dropped out of that club. "He knew there were people like me," says Alday. "With my business, I couldn't commit to the noon club." The group of people Sullivan contacted already had some connection to one another. "We weren't good friends, necessarily, but we all knew each other," says Alday, who became charter president of the club. "We thought we'd have 40 people and move around to bars and restaurants in town." But membership quickly more than doubled, growing to the point that tavern-hopping wouldn't be feasible. Although the group now meets at the Williamson County Enrichment Center, a parks department facility, an open bar and hors d'oeuvres remain an integral part of the program.

Tapping existing social networks led to a club with many couples joining together. Candida Cleve-Bannister, a longtime Rotary spouse whose work obligations prevented her from joining one of the daytime clubs, joined with her husband, Jerome Bannister. For Jerome, a past governor of District 6760 who had to leave the breakfast club because of a job change, the forming of the new club was fortuitous.

CLUB INNOVATION:

"Happy time" sessions, which run 30 minutes before evening meetings begin, allow for networking and encourage mingling. Appetizers and drinks mixed by club members who have been certified as servers offer a low-cost alternative to a full meal and keep dues to \$400 a year.

"We try to keep our dues low, bearing in mind that a lot of our members are couples," says Cleve-Bannister. "We're a fun club. There's no problem with somebody getting up and getting food or drink. We're casual." And because some committee work is undertaken during meetings, she notes, "we don't burden our members with extra time outside of the meeting."

The club helps out at events including a chili cook-off held in conjunction with Pumpkinfest, a local institution with a nearly four-decade history. The club's Jockeys & Juleps party netted about \$100,000 in its first two years, with part of the proceeds going toward My Friend's House, a transitional home

for at-risk teenage boys. The Rotarians play a role in the boys' lives through activities including bowling and "chef's nights," at which they all share a meal they have prepared together.

A key ingredient in the club's high level of project participation has been cooperation with other clubs. "All the clubs in town are supportive of each other," says Alday. "At the end of the day, we're all part of Rotary. We just meet at different times."

He adds: "When we do The

From top: Club members Kyle Lo Porto (from left), C.J. Monte, Kathy Reynolds, and Lorrie Graves participate in a Habitat for Humanity project; Reynolds gets to work.

Four-Way Test, we actually add a fifth element: We yell, 'Cheers!' The social aspect can't be overlooked." - BRAD WEBBER

Are you looking for more ideas on how your club can reinvent itself? Go to rotary.org/flexibility.

> To share your ideas with us, email club.innovations@rotary.org.



CONVENTION COUNTDOWN Convenient cuisine

hen you're in Honolulu for the Rotary International Convention from 6 to 10 June, you'll find that the city offers an incredible array of great restaurants. And you won't have to venture far from the Hawaii Convention Center to get a delicious meal.

For breakfast, Aloha Kitchen has standard fare such as eggs Benedict and omelets, but the house specialty is soufflé pancakes, an airy take on the breakfast classic. If you're up for a slightly longer walk (1.2 miles), the Nook offers some exotic twists on your morning meal, such as orange blossom pancakes, coconut caramel waffles, and mochi waffles made with rice flour.

Nearby lunch options span the globe, from Kickin' Kajun to Hokkaido Ramen Santouka and Do-ne Japanese Food. For dinner, Korean Kang Nam is a barbecue restaurant known for its yakiniku (grilled meat). Get a group together and order one of the combination platters.

For classic brewpub food — which in Hawaii means poke and seared ahi salad along with chicken wings, burgers, and pizza — try the Waikiki Brewing Co. and be sure to sample the beers.

And for a cool snack between breakout sessions, head out for shave ice, a Hawaiian treat, at Snow - HANK SARTIN Factory and Ice Monster Hawaii.



Don't miss the 2020 Rotary **Convention in Honolulu. Register at** riconvention.org by 31 March to save.



A message from **Foundation Trustee Chair** Gary C.K. Huang

Ni hao, Rotarians!

Since ancient times, people have built communities around water. Having the ability to draw clean, fresh water from a well means that a village has staying power and the ability to endure hard times.

Wells are vital to people worldwide, but as a metaphor, they are just as powerful. What is The Rotary Foundation's "well"? From what source can we draw to replenish ourselves to keep up with all of the amazing global grants saving lives around the world?

The Rotary Foundation well is our Endowment, of course. We are building a very deep, strong well that will ensure funding for major projects for generations to come. A strong endowment will ensure the long-term financial stability of our Foundation and provide essential resources to help deliver even more outstanding humanitarian service into the future.

We are aiming high with the Building TRF Endowment: 2025 by 2025 initiative to build an endowment of \$2.025 billion by 2025. By then we expect the Foundation's Endowment to have a minimum of \$1 billion in net assets, with the balance in expectancies and bequest-type commitments.

Imagine the good we will be able to do with a \$2 billion Endowment! The investment earnings will provide about \$100 million annually for Rotarians to do all sorts of life-changing projects around the globe, year after year.

Together, we can make this happen. As much as the world changes around us, the well of The Rotary Foundation will stand the test of time and keep making a positive impact on the world.

Confucius took great pleasure from water. He said: "Great water can continuously move forward without stopping. It is so kind as to irrigate the lands everywhere it goes, yet it does not regard itself as having performed outstanding feats. It's just like virtue."

Speaking of accomplishments, the Rotary Club of Shanghai just celebrated the 100th anniversary of its founding. And the club just reached another great milestone: its first Arch Klumph Society member, Frank Yih. Gōng xǐ to our friends in Shanghai!

新 * * * */

Gary C.K. Huang

Rotarian Action Groups

Rotarian Action Groups help Rotary clubs and districts plan and carry out community development and humanitarian service projects in their areas of expertise. The groups are organized by Rotarians and Rotaractors with skills and a passion to serve in a particular field. Membership is open to Rotarians, their family members, and participants in and alumni of all Rotary and Rotary Foundation programs. Members have the opportunity to engage in meaningful service activities outside their clubs, districts, or countries. Draw on these groups to enhance your projects, engage members, and attract new ones. Find out more by emailing or visiting the website of the group you're interested in or by writing to actiongroups@rotary.org.

Addiction Prevention

rag-ap.org

Alzheimer's and Dementia

adrag.org

Blindness Prevention

rag4bp.org

Blood Donation

ourblooddrive.org

Clubfoot

rag4clubfoot.org

Diabetes

rag-diabetes.org

Disaster Assistance

dna-rag.com

Domestic Violence Prevention

ragfamsafe.org

Endangered Species

rag4es.org

Environmental Sustainability

esrag.org

Family Health and AIDS Prevention

rfha.org

Food Plant Solutions

foodplantsolutions.org

Health Education and Wellness

hewrag.org

Hearing

ifrahl.org

Hepatitis

ragforhepatitiseradication.org

Literacy

litrag.org

Malaria

remarag.net

Maternal and Child Health

rifpd.org

Mental Health

ragonmentalhealth.org

Microfinance and Community Development

ragm.org

Multiple Sclerosis

rotary-ragmsa.org

Peace

rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org

rotarypoliosurvivors.org

Slavery

ragas.online

Water and Sanitation

wasrag.org

Rotary forms alliance with **Toastmasters**

One of the reasons people join Rotary is to advance their personal and professional development. Rotarians seek opportunities not only to improve their communities but also to expand their skills, make new connections, and become stronger leaders.

Rotary and Rotaract members will be able to improve their leadership and communication skills through a new alliance with Toastmasters International, a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a network of 16,800 clubs in 143 countries. A leadership development curriculum created by Toastmasters, which will be hosted at Rotary's online learning center, will be based on self-assessment, independent study, applied projects, peer-to-peer feedback, and reflection. The first two courses are expected to be available in English later this year.

Learn more about Toastmasters and explore its resources and public speaking tips at toastmasters.org. For additional information about the Rotary-Toastmasters collaboration, visit rotary.org/partnerships or email toastmastersalliance@rotary.org.



Lark Doley, 2018-19 president of Toastmasters International, speaks at the 2019 Rotary International Convention in Hamburg.

Eradication of wild poliovirus type 3 celebrated on World Polio Day



ON WORLD POLIO DAY IN OCTOBER, Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative celebrated a milestone: confirmation that the type 3 strain of wild poliovirus has been eradicated globally. It is only the third human disease-causing pathogen that has ever been eradicated, after smallpox and the type 2 wild poliovirus strain. This means only the type 1 strain of wild poliovirus continues to affect children — a significant step toward the ultimate goal of eliminating polio altogether.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the World Health Organization, announced the historic achievement in a video address during Rotary's Online Global Update on 24 October. He said an independent commission of health experts had certified the eradication of the type 3 strain, which hasn't been detected anywhere in the world since Nigeria identified a case of polio caused by the strain in November 2012. The type 2 strain was certified as eradicated in 2015.

"That leaves just wild poliovirus type 1," Tedros said. He also commended Rotary's long fight against polio. "Everything [Rotary has] done has brought us to the brink of a polio-free world."

Tedros balanced the good news with a note of caution, saying that the biggest enemy of global eradication is complacency. He encouraged Rotary members to redouble their efforts.

"If we stopped now, the virus would resurge and could once again cause more than 200,000 new cases every year," he said. "We must stay the course. Together, we can make sure the children of the future only learn about polio in history books."

On the heels of the announcement, Rotary committed \$50 million in grants to help immunize nearly 40 million children and provide surveillance, technical assistance, and operational support for immunization activities. The grants will

support ongoing eradication efforts in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and several countries in Africa.

While only Afghanistan and Pakistan continue to report cases of wild poliovirus, the remaining challenges to global eradication have proven to be the most difficult. Some areas in those countries are difficult to get to and travel in, they are often not secure enough for vaccinators to do their work, and populations there are highly mobile.

"The eradication of wild poliovirus type 3 demonstrates tremendous progress, but there is still much work to be done as we address the increase in cases in Pakistan and Afghanistan," said Michael K. McGovern, chair of Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee. "In the face of challenges, reaching this benchmark shows us that polio eradication is possible, and it's important that we harness this momentum to secure the funding and political support needed to end polio for good."

Rotary's World Polio Day Online Global Update was streamed on Facebook in multiple languages and time zones around the world. The program, which was sponsored by UNICEF USA and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, featured TV presenter and Paralympic medalist Ade Adepitan, supermodel Isabeli Fontana, science educator Bill Nye, and actress Archie Panjabi, as well as never-before-seen footage of three Rotarians working to protect children from polio in their home countries of India, Pakistan, and Ukraine.

IN MEMORIAM

With deep regret, we report the deaths of the following Rotarians who have served RI as district governors:

JAMES HENDLEY SIMPSON JR.

Bryan, Texas, 1962-63

MARVIN G. BILLINGS

San Bernardino North, California, 1985-86

STANLEY A. BLACK

Greeley, Colorado, 1985-86

JOSEPH MCMULLIN SR.

Annapolis, Maryland, 1988-89

ALFRED J. STOJOWSKI

Wenatchee, Washington, 1988-89

JAMES A. ANDREWS

Cookeville Breakfast, Tennessee, 1992-93

JOHN LAWRENCE DASHER

Four Peaks (Fountain Hills), Arizona, 1992-93

SUN WOO NAM

Seongnam, Korea, 1992-93

MOHD ARIFF SHAFFIE

Ipoh, Malaysia, 1994-95

JACK TROUGHTON

West Ottawa, Ontario, 1994-95

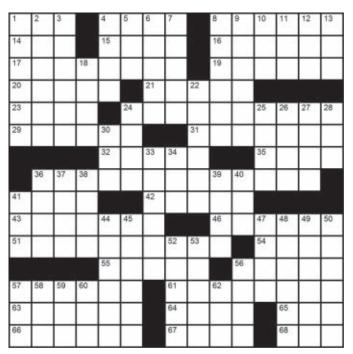
YOSHIFUMI MATSUDA

Fukuoka Higashi, Japan, 1995-96

NEWLY WORDED AREA OF FOCUS

by Victor Fleming

Rotary Club of Little Rock, Arkansas



Solution on page 25

Across

- 1 Cobra cousin
- 4 Silo neighbor
- 8 Mournful
- 14 Elvis' record label
- 15 Akron's home
- 16 Awaken
- 17 With 24-Across, part of an area of focus
- 19 Lessened the brightness of
- 20 Popular font
- 21 Lose some ground?
- 23 Body shop job
- 24 See 17-Across
- 29 It's halfway between Buffalo, NY, and Cleveland, OH
- 31 Give a right
- 32 Lift rider's choice
- 35 Chicken (deep-fried dish)
- 36 Part of an area of focus
- 41 Banjo player Scruggs
- 42 Shakespeare's ____ Andronicus
- 43 Auburn home
- 46 Maine clothing merchant
- **51** Org. with areas of focus **11** Ski follower?
- **54** "Inner" word form
- **55** Blood drive participant

- **56** Allegorical deck
- 57 Arch locale
- 61 Month with "36-Across 24 Color deficient and 17-/24-Across" as its area of focus
- 63 Historic Honolulu palace
- **64** Athletic shoe brand
- 65 Start to golf?
- **66** "This ____ see!" 67 Fairly large,
- as a sum
- 68 Winter hrs. in Cambridge

Down

- 1 Hangout for pinball wizards
- 2 She puts up points
- 3 Grilled sandwich on Italian bread
- weevil (cotton pest)
- **5** Tuna type, on menus
- 6 Kitchen gadget
- 7 __ _ Dame
- 8 Make unhappy
- 9 Align, in a way
- 10 Pop partner
- 12 Point opposite WSW
- 13 "Stop" color
- 18 It's preordained

- 22 "Get !" ("Stop your moaning!")
- 25 Carved Polynesian pendant
- **26** "Get ____ writing!"
- 27 Cassini of couture
- 28 Carson City st.
- 30 Sgt.'s subordinate
- 33 Gain possession of
- **34** Anjou affirmative
- 37 Middle of Q.E.D.
- 38 Dark Angel star Jessica
- **39** Calm
- 40 Broadband alternative
- 41 Anvil location
- 44 Burning with desire 45 Mr. Magoo's trait
- 47 Lover boy
- 48 Make very angry
- 49 Adulates
- 50 "Wait a little longer"
- **52** Food label phrase
- 53 Fountain in Rome
- 56 Cafeteria unit
- 57 Jr.'s son's designation
- 58 Egg beverage
- 59 Caution sign
- 60 Bit of body art, casually
- 62 Action on eBay





WHAT IS A PROGRAM OF SCALE?



Sustainable



Measurable



High Impact

PROGRAMS OF SCALE GRANTS are a new type of grant designed to respond to a community-identified need that benefits a large number of people, in a significant geographic area, with a sustainable evidence-based intervention and measurable outcomes and impact. These grants support activities that last three to five years and align with one or more of Rotary's areas of focus. **Learn more about this new grant type at rotary.org/grants.**





RECRUIT

Two big changes are coming up for the Rotary Peace Centers program: a new center in Uganda and an updated certificate program in peacebuilding, conflict transformation, and development. "We will move to a comprehensive approach to peacebuilding," Surichai Wun'Gaeo, director of the peace center at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, explains in our story "Toward a More Lasting Peace" on page 50.

At five of the centers, Rotary Peace Fellows pursue a master's degree, and at the two others -Chulalongkorn and the new one at Makerere University - they will take part in a yearlong certificate program. Applications for these programs open this month and are due by 31 May. Your club can recruit and recommend candidates; find out more at rotary.org/our-programs/ peace-fellowships.

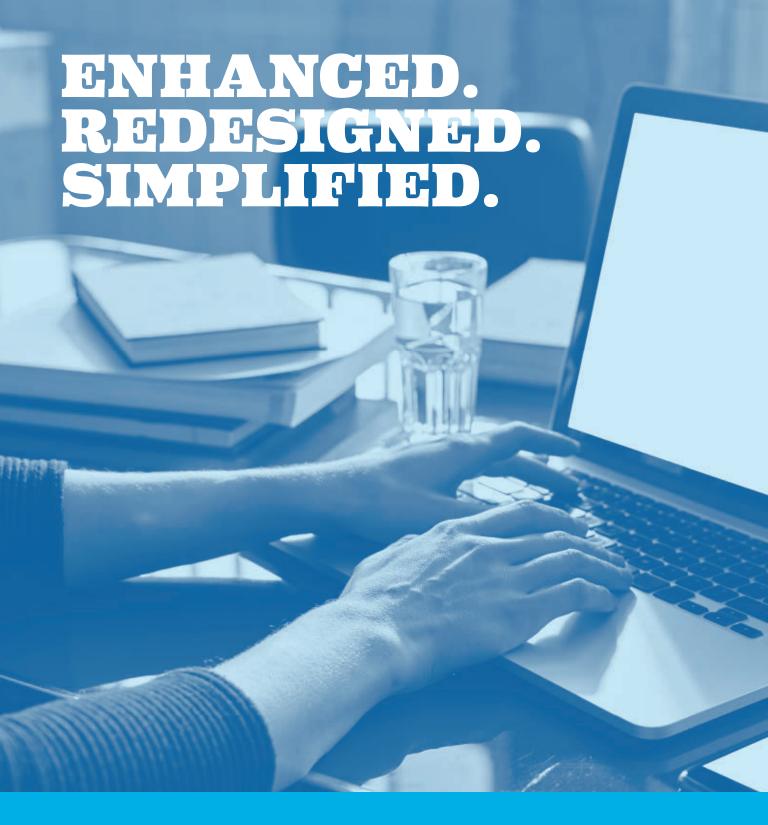
LEARN

Become involved in Rotary's peacebuilding efforts by enrolling in the Rotary Positive Peace Academy. The free online course was created through a strategic partnership between Rotary and the Institute for Economics and Peace to help Rotarians learn about Positive Peace and how to build it in their communities. Enroll at rotarypositivepeace.org.

DONATE

Support the Rotary Peace Centers and other peace initiatives through a gift to The Rotary Foundation. Contribute at rotary.org/donate.

The Duke-University of North Carolina Rotary Peace Center is one of seven peace centers worldwide. Applications open this month.



Welcome to the new ROTARY LEARNING CENTER

Enrich your Rotary experience and leadership by visiting the improved rotary.org/learn



