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MARCH 2020

IN THE FIELD WITH BOB QUINN

Reimagining the future of farming

VENEZUELA

Three stories from the refugee crisis

HOLGER KNAACK

A conversation with Rotary's president-elect

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President's message

Dear fellow Rotarians and members of the family of Rotary,

March is the month we celebrate Rotaract — and this has been quite a year for our young partners in service.

Last spring, the Council on Legislation elevated Rotaract in our constitution: Rotary International is now the association of both Rotary clubs and Rotaract clubs. Then in October, the Rotary Board of Directors eliminated the artificial Rotaract age limit and took other steps to break down barriers that were preventing Rotaract from growing in some parts of the world.

These steps were long overdue, because Rotaract is a vision of what Rotary must become. Not only do we need to open our doors to our young colleagues, but we also have to open our ears and minds to the Rotary experience they find most engaging. That is one of the best ways we will meaningfully grow Rotary.

Not only do we need to open our doors to our young colleagues, but we also have to open our ears and minds to the Rotary experience they find most engaging.

When I say grow Rotary, I mean it in many ways. We need to grow our service and to grow the impact of our projects. Most importantly, however, we need to grow our membership, so that we can achieve more. Rotaractors provide this opportunity, not only because they can transition to Rotary at the time that is right for them, but also because they understand what it will take to attract others like them.

Business as usual will not work for us anymore. Bringing in more members to replace the ones we lose is not the answer. It is like pouring more water into a bucket full of holes. We need to address the root causes of member loss in many parts of the world: member engagement that is not what it should be, and our member demographic that skews steadily older.

It is time to make some fundamental changes. We already know what the barriers are to an engaged and diverse membership. It is time to act on what we know: creating new membership models, opening new paths to Rotary membership, and building new Rotary and Rotaract clubs where the existing clubs do not meet a current need.

New club models represent an opportunity to connect with a more diverse group of individuals — particularly those who are unable or unwilling to join our traditional clubs. While new club models have been emerging for some time, it is up to district governors to make them a reality. In January at the International Assembly, our incoming district governors took part in an exercise called Build Your Own Club Model. It was a wonderful experience that put them in the right frame of mind for the work ahead.

Ultimately, however, it will be up to Rotaractors and young Rotarians to create new club models that are most meaningful to the next generation. We may think we know what young people want from Rotary clubs in the future, but I am confident that what young people say will surprise us. It will be our job to support their innovation, for it will help us grow Rotary as *Rotary Connects the World*.

MARK DANIEL MALONEY
President, Rotary International


OCTOPUS
Rotary

Vol. 198, No. 9

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MARCH

features

> **"There's no wrong age to become a Rotarian."**
>
> — Rotary President-elect Holger Knaack

ON THE COVER Bob Quinn is out to prove that organic agriculture can be both profitable for farmers and good for rural communities.
Photography by NashCO

OPPOSITE Holger Knaack, with his wife, Susanne, near their home in Ratzeburg, Germany, believes in trusting young people to steer Rotary into the future.
Photography by Samuel Zuder

ABOVE Eduardo José Campechano Escalona, his wife, Isabel, and their children, Andrés and Isabella, are safe in Peru after fleeing Venezuela in 2017. He stays in touch with the members of his former Rotary club in Barquisimeto.
Photography by Florence Goupil

the Rotarian

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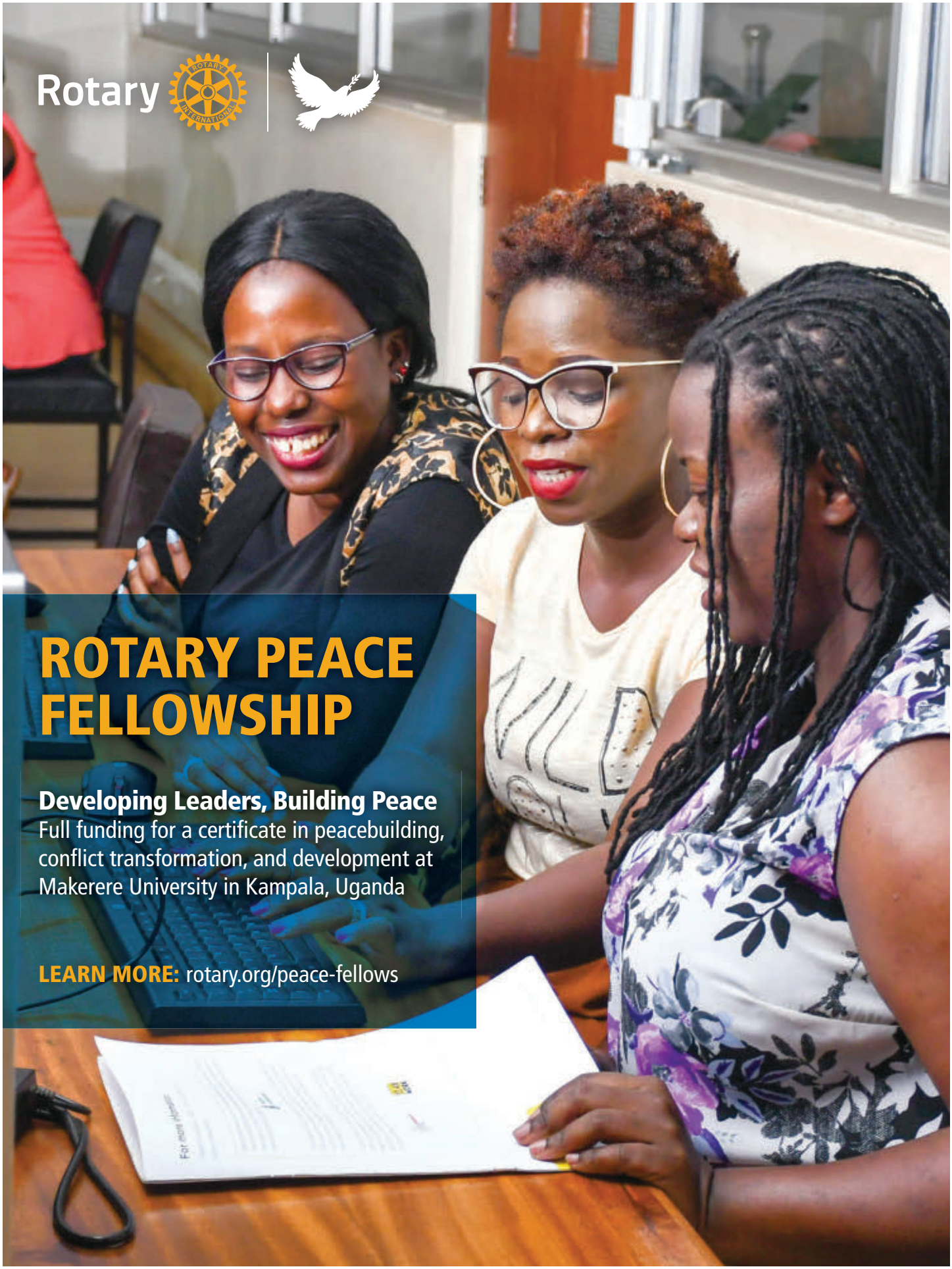
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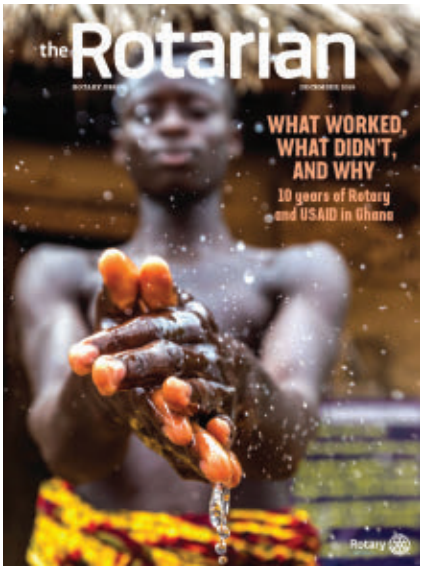
Successful partnerships



The December article "The Sustainability Challenge" brought back memories. In 2000, I participated in a National Immunization Day [giving polio vaccine to children] in Accra, Ghana. While we were in Ghana, one of our team members connected with a Canadian Rotarian who was living in Accra and working on a Rotary Foundation grant to provide clean water for villages in the Ho region.

Two years later, I was fortunate enough to return to Ghana with other Rotarians to view the results of the grant. During our four weeks in Ho, we visited villages that had boreholes that were funded by the grant, and some that did not yet have clean water. Several of us had the opportunity to teach sanitation in a few of the villages that had Rotary boreholes. We also went to meetings of the local village water and sanitation committees and participated in borehole pump repair sessions. I saw the partnership between Rotary and several Ghanaian governmental agencies that made this grant successful.

In 2004, I returned to Ho with two educators to see if we could help with literacy projects. I visited some of the villages that I had seen two years earlier and was pleased to see that all of the boreholes were still functional. During follow-up visits to some of the villages, Rotarians in Ghana started talking to residents about other needs, resulting in additional projects including several school buildings, latrines, and vocational training. The grant had more than met its goals.

The grant touched lives not only in Ghana, but also in District 5190, my home district. My club, Reno Sunrise, helped fund the grant. I gave presentations at Rotary clubs around District 5190 and at several other service clubs. I also gave a presentation to a group of hydrology students at the University of Nevada at Reno. This resulted in a faculty member joining my club, and several years later that faculty member took some of his students to Ghana to work on a clean water project.

JON S. GREENE *Sparks, Nevada*

Thank you for your article covering efforts in Ghana. Water, sanitation, and hygiene projects in developing countries are difficult, and sustainability is a real problem. I have over five decades of experience in this area, so I have some idea of the difficulties. My charity, Needful Provision Inc. (NPI), has been doing development projects overseas since 1995, and my charitable works started in 1959 in South Vietnam.

The safe disposal of human waste by rural and tribal residents in developing areas is a major health issue. NPI seeks to solve this problem using community composting-type toilets under village management and a ticketing system that allows users access to a local community center. We have found this approach to sanitation to be effective long term.

NPI has created and proven a number of innovative development technologies that we will share with Rotary clubs seeking to undertake assistance projects overseas.

DAVID NUTTLE
Dolores, Colorado

Polio's effects

I contracted polio in 1952 and spent that summer in an iron lung. I was eight years of age. I do not use either of my arms and my left hand. I have some dexterity in my right hand. Your article "The Price of Polio" [November] brought realities to light.

I'm writing to recommend that *The Rotarian* run additional articles about polio survivors. When I go to Rotary clubs speaking for PolioPlus, only the older members remember the fear of the annual epidemics and their friends who caught the virus. *The Rotarian* provides the perfect vehicle for reflecting that historical anxiety and reality as well as the more recent disabling impact of polio on populations in the Indian subcontinent, Nigeria, and environs.

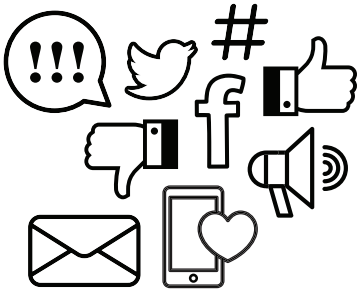
The most important reason we must eradicate polio now is that otherwise it is inevitable that the virus will spread through normal travel to populations who have not maintained proper vaccination levels for a variety of reasons. We have an opportunity now and we must act.

More of my story in video form can be seen on the Partnering for Peace homepage, partneringforpeace.org.

My thanks to your staff for making *The Rotarian* the quality magazine that represents Rotary so well.

PHILIP WILSON
Leonia, New Jersey

Overheard on social media

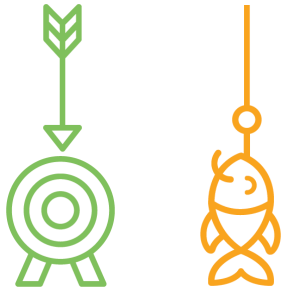


We talked to Felix Heintz, chair and founder of the Rotarian Metalhead Fellowship, in our December issue, and we polled readers on Instagram to ask about what fellowships they would like to see.

What kind of fellowship would you like to start?

Do your fellow Rotary club members share your hobbies?

Yes **75%** **OR** No **25%**



Check out Rotary International's Instagram story on 4 MARCH for an interactive poll about RI President-elect Holger Knaack.

Disarming article

Tom Sauer was right on with nuclear weapons being a great danger to humanity ["A New Debate on Nuclear Arms," Our World, October].

Unfortunately, deterrence doesn't work against accidents, miscalculations, or terrorists, be they making a nuclear weapon or dirty bomb (conventional weapon with radioactive material), or controlling a nuclear weapon through cyberwarfare. Do nuclear weapons pass The Four-Way Test? Are they fair to all concerned? Will they build goodwill and better friendships? Will they be beneficial to all concerned? The climate crisis and nuclear weapons are existential threats to humanity, and Rotarians need to urge their countries to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, as more than 30 states have already ratified it.

RICHARD DENTON
Sudbury, Ontario

Recommended reading

I thought your selection of recommended books in the December issue was more than excellent ["Service Above Shelf," Our World]. All 20 sound well worth reading. Also, I found the story on Rotary and USAID in Ghana to be interesting and highly informative. It shows clearly how those two major organizations have cooperated to help provide potable water and acceptable sanitation where they are badly needed.

KENNETH D. WEISS
Derwood, Maryland

Correction: *In "A grand (and great-grand) tradition"(December), we ran an illustration of Nowroji Vazifdar, a member of the Rotary Club of Bombay, India, that depicted him smoking a pipe. Mr. Vazifdar, as a Parsi Zoroastrian, did not smoke. We regret the error and sincerely apologize to the Vazifdar family.*

In the same story, we would also like to clarify that all five Rotarian generations of Ann Parker's family were on one side of her family.

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

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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

I've worked with Joe Cane for many years, since before we joined the staff of *The Rotarian*. He is listed on our masthead as the design and production assistant, a designation especially narrow in his case. He makes sure our pages are put together right and look great. When we supply him with more words than are called for on a layout, he surprises us by making everything fit. What others call kerning seems in his hands more akin to alchemy. And Joe can do it like nobody's business.

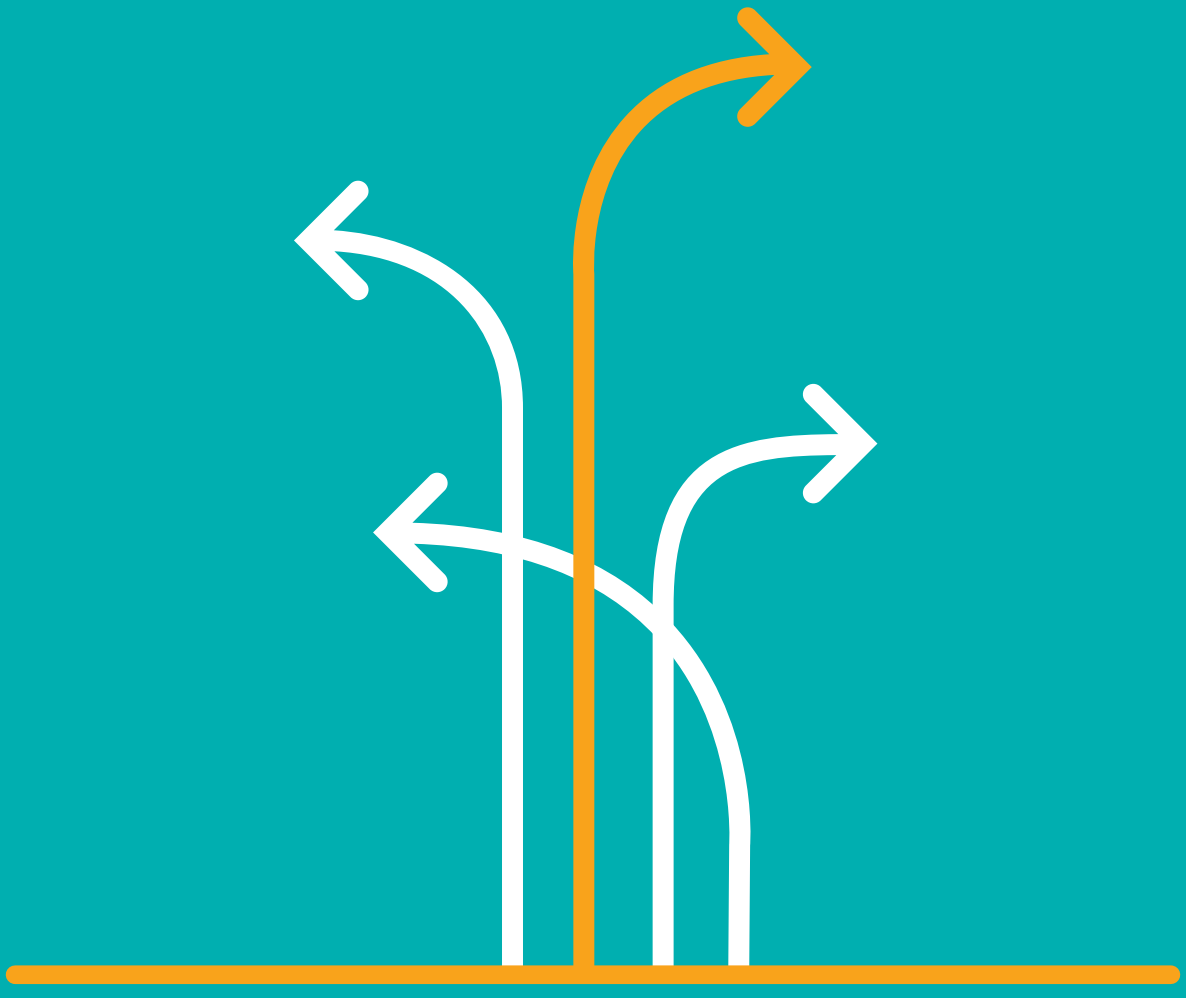
Joe looks at things. He notices what others may not. He appreciates what is before his eyes — and he finds ways to celebrate and share what he discovers. This comes in many forms. He stops by Hewn, an Evanston bakery that uses locally sourced grains, and treats us to warm slices of its bread with some interesting cheese on the side. Similarly, he is an accomplished cook who tinkers with Italian cuisine. He has become familiar with biodynamic wines and single-grove olive oils. He grew up with a knowledge of textiles, Oriental and otherwise. He has pointed out to me the fine points of antique Navajo weaving. He knows the territory because he himself is a fine weaver.

Joe grew up in Rhode Island and spent time in Little Compton, where he's still on a first-name basis with the fishmongers. He earned a BFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University and studied painting with the esteemed Domingo Barreres. Joe extended his training, devoting his life to noticing things. In addition to the professional applications, this skill expresses itself in finding, for example, a lovely but discarded Japanese print in an alley, or a startled coyote making its way along Chicago's lakefront.

Joe looks at things. He notices what others may not.

And so, when Joe was working on the pages of our profile of Bob Quinn, he noticed a photo on page 41 that included a box of one of his favorite premium pastas: Monograno Felicetti fusilli from Italy. It was made from the organic Kamut wheat that Quinn grows on his Montana farm. Small world, right — though perhaps not in Rotary, where we shouldn't be surprised by the tightly woven connections that flourish here. What connects Bob Quinn and Riccardo Felicetti, whose 112-year-old company makes this pasta? A dedication to the best wheat and a strong friendship fostered by that dedication.

Things like this remind me that it's a wonder-filled world we live in, especially when we have Joe to help us notice what's in it.



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ADRIENNE NORMAN

Global perspective

RUTGER MAZEL
Rotary Club of Amsterdam-Nachtwacht, The Netherlands

When 18-year-old Dutch high school student Rutger Mazel arrived in Modbury, Australia, for his Rotary Youth Exchange year in 1987, he thought, "What am I doing here at the other end of the world? I want to go back." Fortunately, his panic didn't last long. "Only the first day I was homesick, and after that, never again," he

continued from page 11

says. Mazel bonded with his host family. And he soon found a local network of friendly Rotarians.

After he returned from Australia, he continued to make international connections, and he found that the practice he had gotten speaking English during his exchange year, as well as the global perspective he had gained, came in handy while he earned his master's degree in history at the Netherlands' Leiden University.

A year later, when Mazel launched his broadcasting career with the Dutch public broadcaster NOS and was sent to Washington, D.C., Rotary once again played a part in his life. "I thought, 'I deal with diplomats and journalists. Where do I find real Washingtonians?'" he recalls. "I thought, 'Well, there must be a Rotary club.'" And of course there was, just as there was in Brussels when work took him there a few years later.

Mazel now lives in Amsterdam, where he continues to produce and edit stories for NOS — and to participate in Rotary. He is the governor of District 1580 and serves on the leadership team of the multidistrict Rotary Youth Exchange program in the Netherlands.

He hopes to expand the roster of countries where students go. "The United States and the South American countries are very popular, but I hope we can also try to connect with more African and Asian countries, where Rotary is growing," he says. "We can use Youth Exchange to open better connections there."

Wherever Rotary exchanges take place, Mazel says he knows those students will benefit as much as he did all those years ago. "The career I pursued as a foreign news editor was shaped by this experience, by having been an exchange student — not being afraid to speak another language, making connections, and putting your network to use," he says. "You fly to the end of the world and you see they do things differently there."

—ANNE FORD

Brick by brick

PLANNING A CLUB PROJECT, members of the Rotaract Club of Bugolobi, Uganda, thought big. They found a way to touch on all six areas of focus in the 1000smiles project, which has been an annual feature on the club's calendar since 2014.

In the Bushenyi district in western Uganda, the Rotaractors have built a new pit latrine at Munanura Primary School, which has over 200 students. They have also collaborated with the National Water and Sewerage Corp. on a large-scale water project, including digging borehole wells, that will have an impact on people within a 15-mile radius.

But the Rotaractors wanted to do more for the students at the school. They have distributed new uniforms and scholastic materials to students, supplied desks, and given the teachers mattresses in appreciation for their work. The Rotaractors also offer career guidance for students.

The project's reach extends into the community. The club held a medical camp, for which dentists, ophthalmologists, and general practitioners volunteered their time. Special attention was paid to maternal and child health; there were free cervical cancer screenings for women and deworming for the children. "Mama kits" were distributed to pregnant women, who were also educated about breastfeeding, diet, exercise, and child care.

As the project has gone on, the club has refined and improved its approach. In previous years, it provided sanitary pads and liquid soap, but now it teaches members of the community to make reusable sanitary pads and liquid soap, which keeps residents engaged in the project and gives them skills they can use in the future.

To encourage community economic development, the club has provided farm equipment and seeds. It has emphasized empowering women through education in modern farming techniques.

To promote peace, the club has run workshops for local leaders in best practices in conflict resolution, with an emphasis on curbing gender-based violence and crime.

The Rotaractors have been able to pursue this ambitious agenda by collaborating with the Rotary Club of Bushenyi and with other Rotaract clubs. And the club has included local leaders to make it more likely that the government will remain engaged in the project. Involving government agencies helped the club to secure much of the financial support it needed. In 2019, the endeavor was recognized with a Rotaract Outstanding Project Award.

As the project has gone on, the club has refined and improved its approach.

—HANK SARTIN

ROTARACT CLUB OF BUGOLOBI

> **“If you ask a person about a disability, they should get to control that conversation.”**
>
> ***Sarah Tuberty***

Flight path

Sarah Tuberty is used to strangers asking her personal questions. “I have a limb difference,” she says. “I was born ‘missing’ fingers on my left hand.” She understands that many people think this makes her damaged or lacking. They ask what’s wrong with her. Tuberty, a Rotary Youth Exchange alumna and a member of the Rotaract Club of Boston University Sargent College of Health & Rehab, wants them to see that that difference doesn’t make her lesser. She has made advocacy a part of her life. As a flight attendant and, as of December, a registered occupational therapist, she wants to educate people who may not have encountered people with disabilities in their everyday lives, and she wants to help those with limb differences find ways to adapt. She has trained to be an aerial artist, performing acrobatics while hanging from fabric and ropes, and she hopes to integrate aerial arts into her occupational therapy practice.

THE ROTARIAN: How does your limb difference affect how people treat you?

TUBERTY: People ask what happened. I’ll say I was born this way. And for some reason, people don’t like that answer. They want to hear that there was an accident. Then they ask how I can do various things. There’s a judgment that often comes with it, as if to say, “I don’t know how you think you are ever going to do that.” And the answer is, I do those things differently. When I am on the airplane doing my job as a flight attendant, people will ask, “How can you be here? How can you take care of these things?” The answer is that I can do these things. That’s my job.

TR: Do you get tired of having to give an explanation?

TUBERTY: I have chosen to take on advocacy as part of my life, so I have chosen to explain myself. The questions can be exhausting, but people are curious and I want to educate them. People should think about it this way: If you ask a person about a disability, they should get to control that conversation and choose how much to talk about it. It’s about their body and their identity.

TR: How did you get interested in circus and aerial arts?

TUBERTY: It happened when I started my graduate program in occupational therapy at Boston University. Given that school was going to be a very brainwork-heavy environment, I knew I needed to move. So I signed up for a class in the recreation department. And I fell in love with it. I was a ballerina for a long time in my childhood, so dance felt very natural. After two years, I did a performance my final semester at BU, and it was really the first time that I was proud of my body and how my body moved. I was able to think of myself as someone who is strong.

TR: How do you imagine integrating this into occupational therapy?

TUBERTY: Everyone always says do what makes you happy, and the aerial arts make me incredibly happy. I am not ashamed of my hand, though I spent a large part of my life feeling that way. I want to give that feeling to other people who have differences with their bodies or other disabilities. I especially want to work with young people. For them there is so much pressure about what their bodies look like. I’d love to work on building up self-esteem, so they can be proud of who they are. I was already looking for nontraditional ways that I could work in occupational therapy. I don’t have a set path for this, but I’m really excited.

—HANK SARTIN

VIKTOR MILLER GAUSA

People of action around the globe

EU member states granted citizenship to 825,000 people in 2017.

Haiti

At age 16, Odette Constant moved with her family to New York state from Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital. After the devastating earthquake on 12 January 2010, Constant helped establish Haiti Health & Rehabilitation, an organization dedicated to instruction, health promotion, nutrition education, and community hygiene development. Beginning in late 2017, Constant focused her efforts on a makeshift Haitian orphanage, where she saw children in dire need. Constant relocated the children to a new house and took charge.

The Rotary E-Club of Florida, which welcomed Constant as a member in 2019, supports the orphanage with marketing and promotional ideas.

Ghana

Observing increased flooding caused by garbage-clogged drainage systems, the Rotaract Club of Ho got to work. Aided by funds and labor from Rotaract clubs in Ghana, Togo, and Uganda, and the Rotary Club of Lomé-Zénith in Togo, the Rotaractors installed 10 waste bins at key spots in the city last July. "We had 130 volunteers participating," says Prince Kotoko, president of the 27-member Ho club. The project was followed by a cleanup exercise on 28 September, when volunteers desilted gutters. "It was by far the largest cleanup to take place in the township, with close to 300 volunteers."

Finland

Members of the Rotary Club of Helsinki International have mentored more than 110 immigrants and refugees, many of them from Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, and Syria, since 2017. The immigrants receive job training and assistance on résumé writing and adapting to a new culture. After completing the program, arranged through the Hanken School of Economics and affiliated with the Stockholm School of Economics executive education program, the graduates are given the option of three months of work training at Finnish companies, says Sam-Erik Ruttmann, a club member. "After the training, three have gotten a full-time job out of the program," Ruttmann says.

ROTARY CLUB OF KAMLOOPS WEST

Canada

After years of providing financial support for the B.C. Wildlife Park, members of the Rotary Club of Kamloops West, British Columbia, staked out territory of their own in the 106-acre preserve. Enhancing a habitat that is home to cougars, lynx, bobcats, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, arctic wolves, and snakes, the club inaugurated a pollinator garden designed to attract hummingbirds, butterflies, bees, and desirable bugs.

During the District 5060 conference last May in Kamloops, 40 volunteers, including Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Rotary Youth Exchange participants from Districts 5040 and 5060, laid dirt and planted foxglove, tulips, lavender, woolly thyme, Russian sage, and coneflowers. "Many plants were chosen for their attraction for pollinators and drought tolerance," Sherry Chamberlain, the immediate past governor of District 5040 and a Kamloops West club member, says of the $2,300 project. The Rotary clubs of Kamloops and Kamloops Daybreak, also big supporters of the park, contributed funds and labor. "Afterward, our two districts met at the site for a social to mix and mingle." In October, club members returned to spread more dirt and gravel, and installed more plants, fencing, and a bench at a cost of about $3,800.

Sri Lanka

To celebrate our canine companions, the Rotaract Club of Colombo Central held a dog walk and carnival that attracted 200 dogs and their owners in October. The festivities included a dog show and contests for best-dressed dog, best trick, and most popular pooch. Organizers circulated a petition to update Sri Lanka's outdated Cruelty to Animals Act. Along with signatures of participants, the paw prints of the dogs were taken to indicate their participation and support toward amendment of the laws, according to club member Pramodha Weerasekara. Proposed amendments include prison time for causing the intentional death of an animal.

— BRAD WEBBER

The American Kennel Club recognizes 193 breeds of dogs.

Opening the world

IN 2003, GREG BARTZ of the Rotary Club of White Bear Lake, Minnesota, got a call from a Rotarian he knew. "He needed someone to drive some Russians down to the federal courthouse," Bartz remembers.

Bartz took the delegation of five Russian judges and a translator to the courthouse in Minneapolis, where they attended meetings, talked to American judges, and learned about how the U.S. judicial system works. The group spent a total of five days traveling around the region, visiting state and county courts. Their trip was part of the Open World program, founded in 1999 by then-Librarian of Congress James Billington.

After the Soviet Union collapsed, Billington "felt that young Russian leaders would benefit from meeting their American counterparts and seeing how the free market and democracy work," says Natalia Kunzer, Rotary's Open World program officer. And he saw Rotary as a key partner in making his vision a reality. He recruited the organization to help administer the program in the United States, with clubs across the country organizing visits and hosting delegations.

"Open World is the best-kept secret in Rotary," says Kunzer, adding that many people have never heard of the program. "And it's unusual because Rotary International is a grantee organization, not a grantor. We receive the grant to fund this program and reimburse clubs for the expenses of participating."

Since the Open World Leadership Center was founded 20 years ago as a congressional agency, the program has brought

"After Open World, I had a lot of ideas. I wanted to share my knowledge with other people."

delegates to the United States from places such as Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Uzbekistan. Rotary clubs in 280 U.S. cities have hosted nearly 4,000 of the program's more than 29,000 total delegates.

Delegations typically spend 10 days in the United States, beginning with two days in Washington, D.C. In their host city, they participate in programs related to a specific field, with time built into the schedule for tourist and cultural activities. The exchanges are geared toward the exchange of knowledge; last year, 31 delegations learned about subjects including energy efficiency, women in politics, pediatric trauma, rural tourism, smart cities, and watershed management. Billington's original vision focused on three main areas: accountable government, social and health issues, and special education, which remain at the core of the program today.

Rotary clubs in Russia and Ukraine have started to participate by recommending delegates. For 10 years, the White Bear Lake club has worked with the Rotary Club of Krasnoyarsk-Yenisei, Russia, building a relationship that has resulted in collaborations beyond the Open World program, including between the University of Minnesota and Krasnoyarsk State Pedagogical University. It has also resulted in lasting friendships. "In my club, I have a waiting list to host participants," Bartz says. "My club loves hosting. We have very dear friends in Russia now. From my perspective, it's been life-changing and very fulfilling."

COURTESY OF GREG BARTZ

The Open World program emphasizes education for the delegates, but there is time for fun too. Delegates from a 2019 program in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, which focused on music therapy, enjoyed a trip to St. Paul and Minneapolis. The 2012 delegates (at right) met athletes competing in the 2012 Paralympic Nordic Skiing World Cup.

Bartz has seen tangible results of this exchange firsthand. "In the White Bear Lake high school, they have a room where kids with special needs can make greeting cards," he says. "They've got embossing stamps and decorative things. They make these greeting cards and sell them. And at one of the schools I visited in Russia, they're doing that now."

According to Kunzer, this is the kind of collaboration Rotary is aiming for. "There is a relationship we're trying to create between Rotary clubs," she says. "It's a golden opportunity to engage clubs in other countries."

Another club that has taken advantage of that opportunity is the Rotary Club of Winfield, Kansas, which hosted delegations nominated by the Rotary Club of Novosibirsk-Initiative, Russia, in 2016 and 2018. These exchanges focused on alternative energy and helping visually impaired children. "Before we can participate in the Open World program, we have to make a project proposal," says Ekaterina Tashlykova, a Rotarian and ophthalmological surgeon from Novosibirsk. The Novosibirsk-Initiative club proposed building a "sensory room" in a local kindergarten for visually impaired children. So in 2015, she and five other delegates traveled to Missouri to research how American schools and workplaces had created such rooms. When they got back to Russia, they refurbished a room in the kindergarten with new windows and fresh paint and equipped it with a range of activities for the children. "Now the students can play with sand, for sand therapy. They can listen to music. They draw and touch different materials. We made a special space for sensory equipment," she says.

The next year, the club sent a group to research alternative energy, with an eye toward building a smart "eco-house," for which the club is still raising funds. More recently, a group came to the United States to research retinopathy of prematurity, an eye condition affecting some prematurely born babies. The Novosibirsk City Clinical Perinatal Center had a facility for early detection that needed updating. In the United States, the delegation visited the neonatal intensive care unit at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita, heard presentations on telemedicine, heard lectures by ophthalmologists, and toured Envision, an organization that helps blind and visually impaired people.

After returning to Russia, they reorganized the medical center's early detection room, added a new therapy — an intravitreal injection that helps prevent further retina degeneration — and improved screening and treatment. "After Open World, I had a lot of ideas," says Tashlykova. "I wanted to share my knowledge with other people. I think other delegates had the same feeling. It's a big opportunity for people who want to reach for something."

For those who take part in Open World, the personal connections are often as important as the professional ones. "I don't want to get too fluffy here," Bartz says, "but I'm looking for world peace. And how do you do that? You do it one person at a time. That's something that Rotary gives us: the opportunity to have relationships with people who live elsewhere and speak another language and maybe look different. But we're all the same in the end. Rotary is our connector and that's a fabulous thing."

—FRANK BURES


Rotary

SNAPSHOT
Elbląg, Poland

As part of the Rotary Club of Elbląg Centrum's Healthy Teeth Project, club member Dorota Wcisła helps kindergartners practice good brushing technique. The project, which began in 2016, last year reached over 1,000 children, including students at 15 kindergartens and two elementary schools. The club educates the children about the importance of dental hygiene and distributes tooth-brushing kits, which include a toothbrush, toothpaste, a cup, and a brochure about dental hygiene for their parents.

MONIKA ŁOZIŃSKA / ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

MARCH events

7
B9 ... who has B9?

EVENT: Black Tie Bingo

HOST: Rotary Club of Riverside Sunrise, California

WHAT IT BENEFITS: Literacy programs and fighting youth trafficking

WHAT IT IS: Get gussied up and play some good old-fashioned bingo. There will also be silent and live auctions, an elegant dinner served at the beautiful Victoria Club, and cash prizes for the game winners.

14-15
Screen grab

EVENT: Cable TV Charity Auction

HOST: Rotary Club of Middleboro, Massachusetts

WHAT IT BENEFITS: Local charities and scholarships

WHAT IT IS: Sometimes you don't want to go to a fancy fundraiser. This auction is broadcast on local public access channels at designated times over two days; viewers call in bids from the comfort of their homes.

21
Deliciousness for a cause

EVENT: Wine & Food Tasting

HOST: Rotary Club of Amelia Island Sunrise, Florida

WHAT IT BENEFITS: Local charities and scholarships

WHAT IT IS: This fundraiser features cuisine from local restaurants and wines from the Amelia Island Wine Co. In past years, attendees have seen a dance performance by a flash mob of Rotarians. Don't miss this year's event — you never know what might happen!

28
Unselfish shellfish

EVENT: Shrimp Fest of South Texas

HOSTS: Rotary clubs of Harlingen, Harlingen Sunburst, North Harlingen, and San Benito, Texas

WHAT IT BENEFITS: Local scholarships and community projects

WHAT IT IS: At this lively festival, local restaurants will showcase their signature shrimp dishes in small bites, paired with beer and wine. Attendees can move and groove to the sounds of local bands while perusing the silent auction items.

31
From A to Z

EVENT: Dictionary Day

HOST: Rotary Club of Las Cruces (Rio Grande), New Mexico

WHAT IT BENEFITS: Local elementary school students

WHAT IT IS: About 50 Rotarians with their friends and families will deliver more than 2,000 dictionaries to third graders in 25 local schools. Over the past 12 years, they've given out more than 20,000 dictionaries.

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

Bound together

While you're holding a book, the book is holding you

by DAVID SARASOHN

RICHARD MIA

The image looks like a million other family travel photos: two adults and a 10-year-old at a historic destination — in this case England's Greenwich Observatory, the place where you could say time starts. But on close examination, the picture has a fourth element: a just-published *Harry Potter* novel, as big as the 10-year-old is small. Holding his place, the kid's finger has disappeared into the book, and from the expression on his face, so has he.

We may have been in Greenwich, but my son was at Hogwarts.

A long time before, when I was about his size, I had torn through *Treasure Island*, dealing with words I didn't recognize by either skipping over them or trying to sound them out, producing outlandish internal pronunciations that fortunately nobody ever heard. A bit later, I flung myself at James Michener's *Potter*-weight *Hawaii*, with passages I still remember more sharply than things I read last week.

But in the years since Greenwich Mean Time became the standard measure of the moment, technology has surged past the binding together of printed pages. Information now moves with the form and speed of electronic impulses. Yet books persist, much like that kid refusing to be budged from the world his imagination has conjured. "Every time there is a new innovation, they predict the death of the book," Michael Herrmann, the owner of Gibson's Bookstore in Concord, New Hampshire, said recently. "But the book is a perfect technology. Like the shark, it hasn't changed and continues to thrive."

The newest challenges to the printed book range from 500 channels of television and the boundless resources of the internet to the small plastic devices, the weight and thickness of a slice of pizza, that can display multiple volumes. The threats at one time appeared lethal: In the first decade of this century, the number of U.S. bookstores, both chain and independent, dropped sharply. All over America, bookstores were closing down, their spaces turning into nail salons and hot yoga studios.

But over the past decade, the number of independent bookstores across the country has rebounded — shooting up from 1,651 to 2,524, with sales rising steadily. This resurgence is not about "information," or what the tech folks call "content." It's about actual books, ink on paper, that not only send words out but pull people in. Bookstores are drawing people back to the comfort of print.

In 2012, best-selling author Ann Patchett wrote in the *Atlantic*: "You may have heard the news that the independent bookstore is dead, that

books are dead, that maybe even reading is dead — to which I say: Pull up a chair, friend. I have a story to tell." Her story is that when the last independent new-book store in her hometown of Nashville, Tennessee, closed, Patchett — explaining that she didn't want to live in a town without a bookstore — joined with a couple of friends to open her own. With the help of some of her writer friends doing readings, Parnassus Books has been a dramatic success. "People still want books," she declared. "I've got the numbers to prove it."

In the summer of 2019, Patchett got still more proof of that: Amazon announced that it would open up its own bookstore across the street from Parnassus.

In Portland, Oregon, a place named Powell's City of Books covers an entire city block and rises three stories; it is not so much a bookstore as a neighborhood. People go to Powell's for diversion as much as for commerce, stopping in when they have a spare hour downtown or showing it off to out-of-town visitors. Powell's is a social location, a place of first dates that never have to worry about running out of words.

The lure is not only being surrounded by books, but also being insulated by them. People have a persistent interest in reading books, but they also like to talk about books, and to people who spend a lot of time around books. As Eric Ackland, proprietor of the new and booming Amazing Books and Records in Pittsburgh, told the *New York Times* last summer, "A bookstore clerk or owner is inevitably something of a therapist."

Like many people, I often go to Powell's for no particular reason, only to leave laden with purchases that an hour earlier I didn't know I needed. That kind of thing happens in bookshops; it's less frequent (for me, at any rate) in hardware stores.

With a physical book, you can easily leaf back a few chapters to remind yourself who a character is, and didn't she move to Chicago in Chapter 6? You can peek at the last page to make sure things end happily. You can write nasty comments in the margin, although libraries — and, to some degree, authors — really wish you wouldn't. Those things can be done on an iPad, but somehow the experience is not the same. "People spend so much time in front of a screen, they want to do something else," suggests Oren Teicher, recently retired CEO of the American Booksellers Association. "There is a very strong case to be made that reading a physical book is a fundamentally different experience from reading on a screen."

In 2019, the Hechinger Institute reported that, according to an analysis of 29 studies, students retained more from print than from screens, although the exact reason wasn't clear. Distraction? Eye movement? Deep brain function? My theory is based on the power of physical connection: While you're holding a book, the book is also holding you. It's the same reason that a kiss is better than a romantic movie. (Admittedly, I read about the survey on a screen.)

You can't exactly say books are beating back technology; people still stare obsessively at their cellphones as well as their 55-inch television screens. But books are holding their own, in bookstores as well as on nightstands. Those may in fact be the strongest redoubts of books, piled there to accompany people into sleep and to be ready when sleepers awake in the darkness from unnerving dreams.

Books are a comfort at such times, but as a perfect (and portable) technology, they also can accompany you into

People have a persistent interest in reading books, but they also like to talk about books.

other unsettling circumstances. I once brought a book to a biopsy, focusing on each line as small bits of me were being harvested. The doctor, somewhat taken aback, remarked that it must be quite a book. Actually, it was, but just by being a book, it was providing something I could never get from a podcast. Words on a page, carefully arranged to reach out to you, can distract you more thoroughly than voices in your head. You can listen to a podcast while driving, but it's a bad idea to try to read a book.

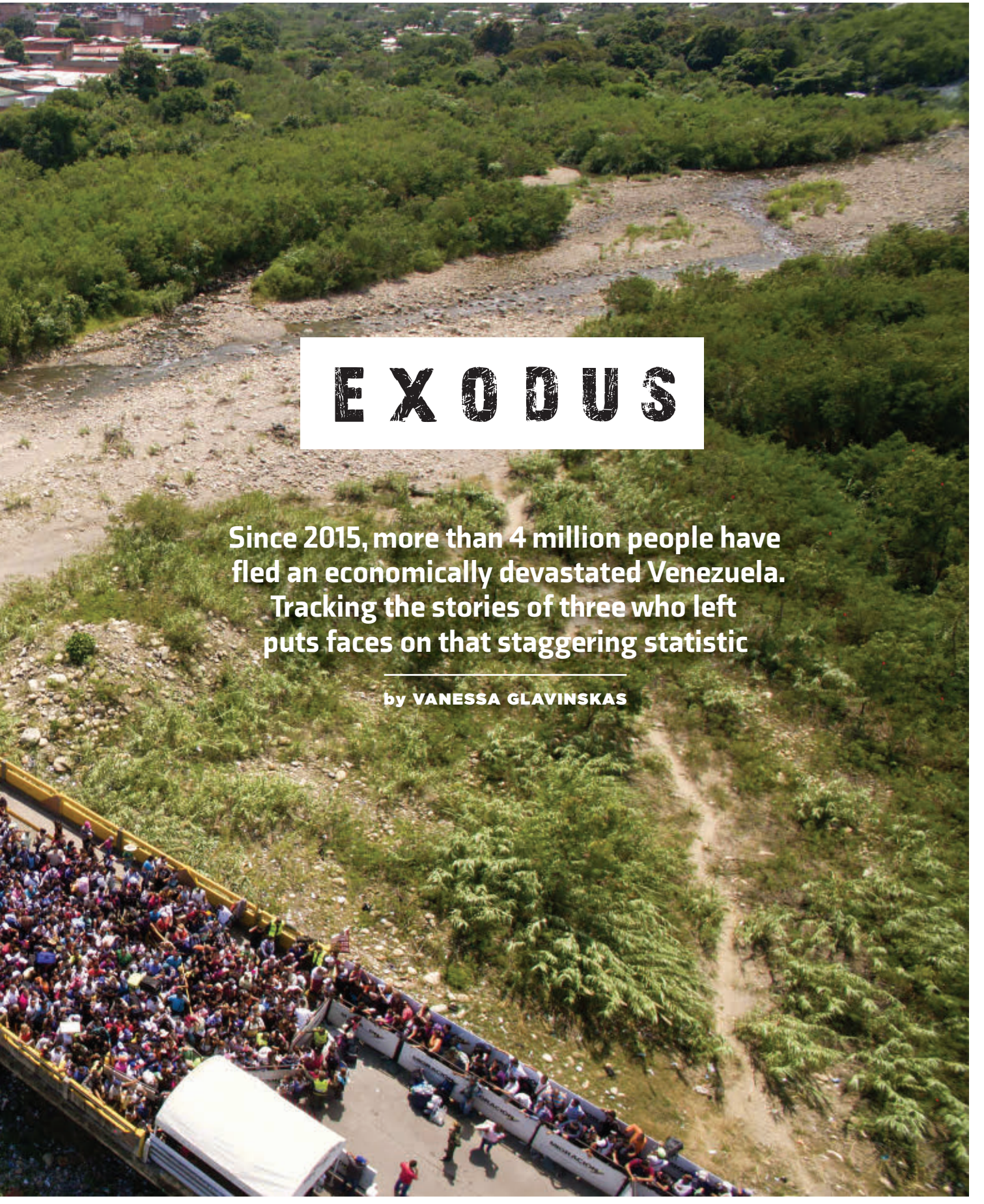
An estimated 5 million Americans meet regularly in book groups, as opposed to gathering for appliance critiques or in vodka tasting clubs, because talking about books is a way to talk about your life, in a sense that talking about Instagram simply isn't. Books have the power to bring people together.

Recently, dropping off a rental car at the Los Angeles airport, I got into a conversation with the 20-something rental agent about a scratch on the rear bumper — and I want to make this clear, I hit nothing; the scratch must have been there before. It seemed to me that the agent was leaning in a little close to me and my carry-on bag. Not seeking conflict, but feeling that the situation required some assertiveness, I asked her if there was a problem.

"Oh," she said. "I just wanted to see what you were reading." ■

David Sarasohn wrote about the enduring effects of a single act of kindness in our November issue. He lives in Portland, Oregon.

JUAN PABLO COHEN / LA OPINION



EXODUS

Since 2015, more than 4 million people have fled an economically devastated Venezuela. Tracking the stories of three who left puts faces on that staggering statistic

by VANESSA GLAVINSKAS

Héctor Herrera in Mexico City

Héctor Herrera was driving his father to José Tadeo Monagas International Airport in northeastern Venezuela when they approached a government food stand. Even at 5 a.m., the line was long. "I never thought I'd live in this misery," Herrera's father said. Suddenly a fight spilled out into the street in front of them as two men wrestled over a frozen chicken. "At that moment, my father said to me: 'Son, if you have the opportunity to leave, go,' " recalls Herrera. " 'I will miss you, and it will be difficult, but this is already as low as a person can live.' "

That was in the summer of 2015. A teacher, Herrera was 28 years old and a member of the Rotaract Club of Maturín Juanico. A city that boomed in the 1980s as the oil capital of eastern Venezuela, Maturín is now crippled by the country's collapse — an economic meltdown that, for the people living there, is worse than the Great Depression. According to a survey released in 2018, 9 out of 10 Venezuelans did not earn enough to buy food, and more than 17 million had fallen into extreme poverty. The BBC reported that desperate parents have been giving away their children rather than watch them starve.

Those conditions are fueling the biggest migration in the history of Latin America as more than 4 million people flee Venezuela. Economists say the country's collapse is the worst outside of war in at least 45 years, while the Brookings Institution predicts that Venezuela's refugee crisis will become "the largest and most underfunded in modern history." From a distance, those facts and statistics can be mind-numbing, obscuring the individuals caught up in this social and economic catastrophe. But the stark reality comes into focus in the stories of three people who fled.

Eduardo José Campechano Escalona, a Rotarian from Barquisimeto, fled to Peru after being targeted for speaking out against government policies. A onetime Rotary Youth Exchange student, Victoria Garcia Baffigo returned to the United States after her former host family grew concerned about her safety and her future in Venezuela. And taking his father's advice, Héctor Herrera left for Mexico with only $200 and the promise of a place to stay. Each of them had ties to Rotary, which in the end would be their hope and, to an extent, their salvation.

On 10 November 2015, the day Herrera left Venezuela, he took a photo of himself to remember the moment. "When I look at that picture now, I see fear, uncertainty, and sadness," he says. Fortunately, he knew Ferdinando Esquivel through Rotaract.

Herrera had met Esquivel, now a member of the Rotary Club of Zinacatepec, on a trip to Mexico in 2013. The two men became close friends, and Esquivel offered to help Herrera if he ever decided to leave Venezuela.

At the time, Herrera thought things would improve in his native country. But two years later, life was much worse. "The stores had nothing," he says. "Not even toilet paper." He had a passport, but without access to dollars, he couldn't buy a plane ticket. So Esquivel bought it for him and invited Herrera to stay with him in a small town near Toluca. After two weeks, Herrera thanked his friend and boarded a bus for the 40-mile ride to Mexico City, where he hoped to find a job that would give him a work visa.

When he got off the bus in Mexico City, Herrera started to panic. "Left? Right? I didn't know where to go," he recalls. "It felt like there was no floor beneath my feet." He found a place to sit and pulled out his cellphone to text Alonso Macedo, a friend he had met at a Rotary event in Mexico. Macedo had agreed to pick him up and let him stay with him for a few days. But what if he didn't come? Herrera thought. Where will I sleep tonight? And then, Macedo appeared.

> "My plan is to get my family out. I don't have any hope that things are going to change in Venezuela. The damage to the country has been huge."

"After that I looked for work every day — anything that would give me papers," Herrera says. "I couldn't sleep, so I'd get on the computer at night and search for jobs." Finally, a school run by Venezuelans that taught English asked him to come in for an interview, but the school was located four hours from Mexico City. Then another problem arose: He had nowhere to stay. His host was leaving on a trip.

"That night, it was storming," Herrera says. "I walked to a restaurant, opened my laptop, and started to send messages to people in Rotary and Rotaract whom I didn't know personally, but whom I had a connection with through Facebook." He had no choice but to ask strangers if they would be willing to take him in for the night. He finally got a response from Laura Martínez Montiel. They didn't know each other, but they had several mutual friends on social media through Rotaract. She gave him her address and told him to take a taxi.

PATO PORTILLO

Eduardo José Campechano Escalona in Trujillo, Peru

Herrera wrote back and explained he didn't have enough money, so they agreed to meet in a closer neighborhood where Martínez was heading to a Christmas party.

"I was in such a bad state," Herrera remembers. "I was all wet, and my clothes were dirty." He worried that Martínez would take one look at him and change her mind about hosting him. Instead, she took him back to her home and introduced him to her mother, who washed his clothes and fixed him something to eat. He explained that he had a job interview the next day, and together they mapped out how to get there on public transportation. At 6 a.m., Martínez gave him a ride to the metro.

When Herrera arrived for the interview, he saw a familiar face. It turned out he had reviewed the interviewer's thesis a few years earlier. After talking awhile, the interviewer asked if Herrera could start on Monday. "No," he replied, "I want to start today."

Herrera's job was to make hundreds of calls looking for clients for the school; if someone signed up, Herrera was paid a commission. He stayed with Martínez and her mother for another week and commuted four hours each way until he asked for an advance on his salary so he could rent an apartment closer to his job. "On 15 January, I got my first commission," he says. "It was a relief, because as of the 14th, I only had $2."

By April, Herrera was promoted to advertising manager, and in July, he finally received a work permit. Two years later, he found a job that better suited his teaching skills, working as a trainer for a company that advises businesses on streamlining their processes.

"I started giving lectures around this beautiful country," Herrera says. "But on 3 December 2018, I received an email from the national migration authority saying I had to leave Mexico in 20 days." A migratory alert had been issued for him after immigration authorities visited his previous employer, the English school. When they rang the bell, no one answered the door, so they flagged it as a fake company. "I could not believe it," Herrera says. "I was doing well, but now it was worse than the beginning because I no longer had papers. I had to start over."

> "It was painful to leave, but we are very grateful for the opportunity in this country. Now we feel safe."

For the past year, Herrera has been fighting the alert with the help of a public defender. Each day that it remains unresolved, he's at risk of being deported. He's seeking asylum to be able to stay, but with Venezuela's crisis worsening, his claim is one of thousands. "Mexico is now returning Venezuelans immediately when they arrive at the airport," Herrera says. Still, he says he will not give up. "Until I have my dream of a visa, I will not rest."

Eduardo José Campechano Escalona started having anxiety attacks in 2015. "There were constant riots in my city," says Campechano, a former member of the Rotary Club of Barquisimeto, Venezuela's fourth-largest city. "My children could not attend school or go out. They had to live literally locked up in our apartment."

Though he and his wife were university professors, their income no longer covered basic necessities. At the time, hyperinflation was 181 percent. (At the end of 2019, the International Monetary Fund estimated that the annual inflation rate was 200,000 percent.) What's more, several incidents led Campechano to believe the government was targeting him.

"I had questioned government policies," he explains. "[Government-issued] textbooks omitted parts of Venezuelan history and only highlighted facts related to the government of Hugo Chávez," the country's president from 1999 to 2013. After speaking out publicly about the inaccuracies and biases in the mandated textbooks, Campechano says that he started being denied access to grant funding. When he and his family decided to leave for Peru,

THE ORIGINS OF THE CRISIS

Venezuela's economic collapse intensified in 2014 when global oil prices fell sharply, prompting rapid economic decline in a country already dealing with political turmoil. At the time, Venezuela relied on its vast oil reserves for 96 percent of its export income and about half of the government's budget. To cover its expenses, the government started printing money, leading to hyperinflation. In 2018, Nicolás Maduro's re-election as president was widely criticized as fraudulent, prompting increased international sanctions that have further unraveled the economy and sparked a political standoff: More than 50 countries do not recognize Maduro as Venezuela's president.

A GROWING TREND

Estimated number of Venezuelan migrants and refugees

SOURCE: "Migration Trends in the Americas," International Organization for Migration / UN Migration, October 2019

FLORENCE GOUPIL

Campechano went to a state-run bank to get a credit card so he could access dollars for a plane ticket. Again, he was denied. "It was a way to intimidate me," he says. When he posted about it on social media, he received a threatening email.

Running out of options, Campechano asked a friend living abroad if he would be willing to buy him a plane ticket to Lima. Campechano had secured a position at Universidad César Vallejo in Trujillo, a city in northern Peru that he had often visited as a guest lecturer and where he had a work visa lined up.

Campechano moved to Peru in March 2017. Four months later, he brought his wife, their two adolescent children, and his mother-in-law, who was sick with cancer, to Peru. "During those first months, my family was the Rotary E-Club of Fusión Latina Distrito 4465," says Campechano. When his mother-in-law died, their Rotary family consoled and supported them.

Campechano remains connected to the members of his former club in Barquisimeto, and he says they are still engaging in service, despite the hard conditions. "There is no Youth Exchange program anymore," he says. "They are just trying to get basics, like food and medicine, to people." Alberto Avelino Camacaro Zerpa, a former governor of District 4380 in western Venezuela, estimates that 20 to 30 percent of the country's Rotary members and nearly 40 percent of its Rotaract members have left Venezuela. Yet many clubs continue to meet when members aren't limited by access to gasoline and electricity.

"It was painful to leave," Campechano says, "but we are very grateful for the opportunity in this country. Now we feel safe."

1.45 MILLION

NUMBER OF VENEZUELANS TAKEN IN BY COLOMBIA, THE MOST OF ANY COUNTRY

"I think everyone who returns home after studying abroad gets reverse culture shock," says Victoria Garcia Baffigo. "I had that, but worse."

After spending the 2015-16 school year living as a Rotary Youth Exchange student with Dave Siegfried and his family in Aurora, Illinois, Garcia went home to the rapidly deteriorating situation in Venezuela. "Some days we didn't have power for 10 hours," she says. Hyperinflation had gotten so bad that her family could afford very little at the supermarket.

One day the phone rang. The caller told them they had her brother and demanded money for his release. Thankfully, they didn't really have him, she says. Still, the call rattled the family.

Chris Olson, a member of the Rotary Club of Aurora Sunrise, had been monitoring the situation in Venezuela from Illinois. "Chris told us Victoria had gotten back to Venezuela and found things had changed dramatically from when

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Rotarians have started projects to help people fleeing Venezuela — and those who remain behind

BRAZIL: Welcoming displaced families

"A year ago, I was walking into a bakery in Brazil when a little girl came up to me and asked me to buy her some cake," recalls Vanderlei Lima Santana. At first, Santana said no. But the girl's mother explained that it was her daughter's ninth birthday and they had nothing to eat. He went inside and bought the girl, a Venezuelan migrant, a cupcake. "That day, I went home and cried," Santana says. "I knew I had to do more to help."

Since then, Santana and his club, the Rotary Club of Boa Vista-Caçari, have partnered with local nonprofits, religious organizations, and the government's Operação Acolhida (Operation Welcome) to offer daily meals, medications, and professional development opportunities to families arriving in northern Brazil from Venezuela. In November, Santana was honored at Rotary Day at the United Nations for his work leading this project. To learn more, contact Santana at **santana.delei@gmail.com.**

COLOMBIA: Offering hope to the walkers

They are called *los caminantes* — the walkers — and they are pouring into Colombia from Venezuela by the tens of thousands, looking for work, shelter, and food. "Imagine the psychological condition of a person who has to leave everything behind and walk for days," says Cristal Montañéz, a member of the Rotary E-Club of Houston.

A native Venezuelan and longtime activist, Montañéz has seen firsthand how the flood of refugees overwhelmed Colombia's social service organizations. Inspired to help, Montañéz and Isis Mejias, another Houston e-club member from Venezuela, created a project called Hope for Venezuelan Refugees; it distributes meals to migrants at several points along the route taken by *los caminantes*. The project is a partnership between the Houston e-club and the nonprofit Rise Against Hunger, which supplies the meals. To facilitate distribution, the e-club works with the Rotary Club of Cúcuta in Colombia along with several food banks and shelters along the route.

Mejias says that the Houston e-club wants to continue Hope for Venezuelan Refugees, but that it needs to raise enough money to cover the cost of administering the project (it's also counting on the continued cooperation of Rise Against Hunger). "Venezuelans are praying for the kindness of international organizations like Rotary," she says. To learn more, visit **mightycause.com/story/29ixvf.**

Cristal Montañéz feeds los caminantes.

VENEZUELA: Supporting communities

"Every day is harder," says José Bernardo Guevara Pulgar, who lives in Caracas, the capital of Venezuela. A human rights lawyer and member of the Rotary Club of Baruta/Las Mercedes, Guevara says he worries most about the lack of medicine. The cost of medical care has skyrocketed, making it unattainable even on a professional's salary. "Public health care is at the brink of collapse," he says. "People have to bring their own syringes, their own medicine. The government is not providing these things."

Despite the hard conditions, the majority of Rotary members have stayed in Venezuela, and many clubs continue to meet. "I'm going to stay here and fight for my country," says Francisco Morello, governor of Venezuela's District 4380. "Venezuela is going through the most difficult internal crisis in its history," adds Ricardo Diaz, governor of Venezuela's District 4370. "We need medicine and medical-surgical implements such as ultrasound scanners, glucometers, and blood pressure monitors." Diaz also expressed a need for wheelchairs, crutches, and walkers, regardless of their condition.

"I would ask Rotary clubs to not stop looking at our country," Diaz says. "Today we need your help. Tomorrow we will be the ones who can help you."

To learn more, contact Diaz at **ricardodiaz1964@hotmail.com.**

PHOTOS: CINDY CATONI

Victoria Garcia Baffigo in Aurora, Illinois

she left," says Charlie Schmalz, who, like Olson and Siegfried, is a member of the Aurora Sunrise club. "She had spent all that time studying here, and now her whole future was destroyed. It was a terrible thing. So a group of us got together and said we should do something."

"The first call that Chris made was to my mom, and then my mom talked to me about going back to the United States," Garcia says. "I didn't ever think about staying in the U.S. because my parents couldn't afford for me to get an education there, and I wanted to get my college degree."

Now Garcia had the opportunity to get her degree in the United States, fully paid through a fund the Aurora Sunrise club set up for her. "It's still hard for me to understand," she says. "I can't believe that people who are not family are doing this for me."

It took more than a year to make the arrangements. Much of that time was spent waiting to get a student visa. "Airlines started pulling out of Venezuela," says Schmalz's wife, Mary. "We were so close to Victoria getting the last papers, so Dave bought a seat on the chance that she could come. He bought the seat, and the day before the flight left, Victoria got her visa. It was a miracle."

Garcia is now in her third year of college, at Aurora University, majoring in biology and health science with a minor in biotechnology. She's the first person in her family to go to college. Though the original plan was to rotate host families, she has stayed with Charlie and Mary Schmalz for more than two years now. "We've bonded over board games and watching TV," Garcia says. Adds Mary: "She meshes so easily into our lifestyle. She's like a grandchild to us."

Still, the couple knows Garcia misses her family, so one Christmas, they surprised her with a ticket to visit her mother, who had recently migrated to Peru. When Garcia and her mother lived in Venezuela, they shared an apartment with her grandmother, who remains there. "Every evening, we used to sit on my grandmother's bed, and my mom, my grandma, and I would talk about our day," recalls Garcia. "Then I'd do homework and my mom would make dinner. My grandma and I used to read the same books and talk about them."

> "Some days we didn't have power for 10 hours," Garcia says. Hyperinflation had gotten so bad that her family could afford very little at the supermarket.

89%

SHARE OF VENEZUELANS WHO DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH INCOME TO BUY FOOD

Garcia is concerned about her grandmother's health, but her uncle, a member of the Rotary Club of Valencia, has been crossing into Colombia to get her medications. "My grandmother worries about getting food," Garcia says. "She worries a lot about money and if she'll have enough. It's really hard." Garcia hopes to see her grandmother again one day in Venezuela after she finishes college.

Until then, she's focused on her studies and talking to local Rotary clubs about her experience in the United States and the crisis in Venezuela, raising awareness about the people suffering in the country she loves.

"At the beginning, Victoria was often sad," Mary Schmalz says. "She'd say, 'There's no way I can ever pay all of you back for this.' I told her, 'We don't need to be paid back. What you need to do is, when you're in a position to help someone, you do.'"

"My father died in August," says Herrera. "I feel 1 percent pain and 99 percent gratitude. I'm grateful for his love and that he was always there for us." Herrera was unable to return to Venezuela when his father died; had he traveled there, he would have been denied re-entry into Mexico. He takes solace in knowing that his father would want him to continue trying to build a life in his new home. "My plan is to get my family out," he says. "I don't have any hope that things are going to change in Venezuela. The damage to the country has been huge." The Brookings Institution estimates that the number of Venezuelan migrants could eventually rise to 8 million, even more than the 6 million who have fled Syria — yet Venezuelans have received less than 10 percent of the international aid committed for Syrian refugees.

"The hardest part of migrating is changing your heart," Herrera says. "When I encounter Venezuelans in Mexico, the first thing they talk about is the bad things happening in Venezuela." Instead, Herrera has chosen to honor his father by working toward his dream of success. He even started an Instagram page called "Migrating to Success"; he uses it to share inspirational quotes with his 4,000 followers. "Having to start over isn't all bad," read a recent post. "It's shown me that anything is possible." ■

Additional research and reporting by Claudia Urbano

RAMON PEREZ PALACIOS-PELLETIER

SCIENTIST, FARMER,

INNOVATOR, ROTARIAN

A plainsman with a PhD, Bob Quinn uses his 4,000-acre Montana spread as a laboratory to revive an ancient grain, rethink agricultural practices, and reinvigorate rural communities

by **BRYAN SMITH** | photography by **NASHCO**

The day slowly warms. It's still summer, but in this late season of harvest, the mornings hold a stubborn chill that will not yield until the sun's full appearance. Bob Quinn is dressed in his habitual raiment: soil-smudged cowboy hat, Wrangler jeans, Western shirt, work boots, thick belt with "Bob" tooled into the leather. He was awake before sunrise and now, as is often his routine, he pulls himself up a ladder inside a lookout tower he designed next to the handsome, sprawling farmhouse he helped build as a boy on a bluff at the end of a long upward-sloping lane. And there it is, spreading before him like an ocean of waving gold: the flaxen tips of spring wheat and spelt haired in rich amber, with the Bears Paw Mountains off to the north and east rising like a small fist of hazy purple on the north central Montana horizon.

There is work to be done. He will get at it in a minute, but he wants to savor the moment a bit longer. There is always work for those who look to the land for their keep, as Quinn has done for 40-odd years, and as his parents and his grandparents did before him — three generations of dryland farmers who have tilled this acreage since 1920.

Presently Quinn climbs down, grabs a basket, and heads toward his "test" orchard, where he experiments with 31 varieties of apples. He inspects the rows of trees one by one, then drops to his hands and knees and begins gathering apples that have plopped to the ground. "Some of them are bird pecked," he says, holding up an apple and turning it in a work-weathered hand. "But that's OK. These are looking pretty good."

Quinn tosses the apple at me. "Just take a bite of this," he says. On just about any other farm in the area, you would pause. Shouldn't it be washed? Not here, for it, like everything on Quinn's acreage, is organic — no pesticides, no herbicides, no chemical fertilizers. That's the point; that's his life's work. It is why he looks out from his tower at the sea of grain surrounding him and worries.

For in this beautiful, sometimes punishingly harsh landscape, all is not well with the food that is grown, at least not from Quinn's perspective. Like everywhere, the fields are soaked in chemicals that, while allowing the corporations that farm them to cheaply produce vast stores of product, suck nutrients from the earth, from the food, and from the small communities that dot the plains. That includes the little town of Big Sandy, 10 miles north of Quinn's 4,000-acre farm. He calls it the commodity mentality or mindset, "a high-input game [where] the prize is the highest possible yield" — consequences to small farms, small towns, and quality food be damned.

Redemption and renewal, Quinn believes, lie partly in this orchard and in his organic "oil barn" housed in a small building near his house. But more importantly, they rise from a long swath of land at the edge of his property, a pasture where this 21st-century plainsman grows an ancient Mesopotamian grain called khorasan that he believes holds no less than the power to change everything.

I meet Quinn on a Monday night at the weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Big Sandy. Quinn's connection to the club runs as deep as his connection to the town itself: His father, Mack, was a founding member. Quinn joined in 1979 after he returned from earning a PhD in plant biochemistry at the University of California at Davis. With crinkly blue eyes, a full head of silver hair, and a face that's weathered without being quite craggy, Quinn looks as if he could have stepped out of the pages of a Zane Grey novel.

Like the high plains figure Quinn cuts, and like the town he calls home, the meeting seems a step back in time. Held in the senior citizens center at the end of the two-block downtown, it features on this night a dinner of fried chicken, cottage cheese, and potato salad, doled out from aluminum foil trays. There are cold pitchers of lemonade, and a seemingly bottomless stainless steel urn dispenses piping-hot coffee.

Fourteen people, including a visitor from Germany who uses Quinn's grain, gather around a table where, after passing around worn copies of Rotary songs, they sing "Home on the Range" and "You're a Grand Old Flag" before reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Quinn joined Rotary, he says, for reasons bigger than wanting to continue the family legacy. He finds that the organization's Four-Way Test — with its emphasis on truth and fairness, goodwill and friendship, and a mutual concern for the well-being of all — dovetails with his own way of thinking. "My philosophy in work is 'everybody wins,' " he says. "The most successful businesses are the

Quinn's connection to Big Sandy's Rotary club runs as deep as his connection to the town itself. His father, also a farmer, was a founding member.

Clockwise from top left: A sign touts Big Sandy High School — "Home of the Pioneers" — which Bob Quinn attended; Quinn joined the town's Rotary club in 1979; bales of wheat straw, left over from the harvest, will later serve as bedding for cattle. **Opening pages:** Quinn inspects his Kamut crop at harvest: "I had no inkling that this grain would change the whole course of my life."

Since 1920, three generations of the family have tended the Quinn Farm and Ranch — and Quinn's roots as a farmer extend back to his ancestors in 17th-century Virginia.

ones that are profitable but that also help improve the lives of other people."

In his 2019 book, *Grain by Grain*, which chronicles his "quest to revive ancient wheat, rural jobs, and healthy food," Quinn writes: "As an entrepreneur and scientist working in the midst of rural American poverty, I have seen firsthand how putting food and other fundamental goods like energy at the center of a value-added economy can foster health, economic opportunity, and ecological regeneration, particularly in some of our country's poorest communities. ... I measure the success of my business by the degree to which it's added economic, ecological, and nutritional value all along the supply chain."

Today Quinn, at 72, travels the world spreading his gospel, which has as its premise that the way food is grown and produced — the Big Agriculture approach of making as much as possible as cheaply as possible, with a heavy emphasis on chemical pesticides and fertilizers — is destructive to the land, to communities, to farmers, and to our health. He also preaches the corollary: that organic farming not only is the right thing to do by consumers, but also is highly profitable for the farmer and a prescriptive for towns like Big Sandy that have found themselves struggling for survival.

"The most successful businesses are the ones that are profitable but that also help improve the lives of other people."

The results have been as obvious as towering stalks of wheat, says Jon Tester, a U.S. senator from Montana whose life and career have also been closely intertwined with Big Sandy. "It's simply undeniable what he's done for the Big Sandy community," Tester says. "He's contributed jobs and a lot of economy to the town. We don't have enough people like Bob. He's fearless, a true entrepreneur who is not afraid to take risks, and at the same time he's somebody who believes in rural America."

Examples of Quinn's entrepreneurial spirit, and the greater-good benefits that derive from it, bloom like apple blossoms across his property. On the occasional tours he gives, which draw workaday farmers and ivory-tower agriscientists, Quinn refers to his land as his laboratory. It's clear why: There are his experimental gardens, of course, where he tries to see which fruits and vegetables can thrive in Montana's notoriously fickle climate — if only, he says, "to show people we can do something other than wheat and barley."

Ten feet underground, inside Quinn's root cellar, bins of potatoes, all grown on the farm — Yukon Gems, Red Norlands, Red La Sodas, and Purple Vikings — are kept naturally cool. "Potatoes are particularly hardy for our northern climate, and they have an excellent shelf life," Quinn says. A few hundred feet away is what he calls his oil barn. Inside, where Quinn milked cows as a boy, the seeds from farm-grown safflower are pressed into a cooking oil, which he sells to restaurants and grocery stores; it's also used in the kitchens at the University of Montana, after which the waste is returned to Quinn. "The oil we get back from UM is enough to provide about one-eighth of the fuel needs for our farm," he writes in *Grain by Grain*. (A pioneer in sustainable energy, Quinn played a leading role in creating

the Judith Gap Wind Farm, which opened in central Montana in 2005.)

And then there is the ancient grain. Known as khorasan and rechristened — and trademarked — by Quinn as Kamut (pronounced kuh-MOOT), it likely originated centuries ago in the Fertile Crescent, that agriculturally rich region in the Middle East that gave birth to several ancient civilizations. Quinn was introduced to the grain at a county fair when he was in high school and an old man thrust a fistful of kernels in his hand and claimed they were "King Tut's wheat."

"I was amazed by how big they were: three times the size of the wheat we grew on our farm," Quinn recalls in *Grain by Grain*. "I had no inkling that this grain would, some 25 years later, change the whole course of my life."

Today, Kamut International is a global operation that, while promoting organic farming and healthful eating, also serves as a model for struggling farmers and small towns searching for a return to prosperity. "If you look at what Bob has pushed for and what he's done, it's not conventional," allows Tester. "I mean, it's not stuff that the university system would say, 'Go do this.' For example, in a time when [corporate farms] were shipping grain out in 52-car unit trains, he was setting up a cleaning plant to ship wheat out in 25-kilogram bags. He had a different vision for how you could market grain and make a few bucks off it and employ people."

Jacob Cowgill, who worked on Quinn's farm for two seasons before starting his own organic farm and bakery, marvels at Quinn's willingness to try the unconventional. "The thing that I took away from working with Bob is the idea of experimenting," Cowgill says. "He always has multiple projects that are still considered pretty radical and ahead of their time. In fact, it seems like anything that he jumps into is a radical idea — until it isn't and more people are doing it."

"He's the most incredible idea generator I've ever met," adds Bruce Maxwell, a professor of agroecology at Montana State University. "He has one after another — ways to make his own farm more sustainable and more profitable — but he's also got a real dedication to his community."

The Rocky Boy's Reservation lies green and windswept at the foot of the Bears Paw Mountains, a flat table of land spread across Chouteau and Hill counties, some 50 miles south of the Canadian border. The last and smallest reservation created in Montana, it is home to about 3,000 members of the Chippewa-Cree tribe. Quinn, having grown up on the family farm, about 15 miles southwest, had long known about the struggles of the reservation's people, such as poor health and high unemployment. Of particular heartbreak to him is that the reservation is a "food desert" — a community barren of quality grocery stores where the residents can buy the kinds of healthy foods that might mitigate some of their worst problems, such as rampant diabetes.

Quinn wanted to help, and believed he could, but the tribal council, to say nothing of the people of the reservation, were wary of a white man trying to tell them what was best for their Native American community. "It took years to win their trust," says Quinn. "Now I'm invited to their sweat lodges, and I have a number of friends here." It has taken another decade for real progress toward the goal of "food sovereignty"— where, rather than relying on outside grocers, the reservation can supply its own healthy food.

Tribe member Jason Belcourt grasped the implications immediately.

This 21st-century plainsman grows an ancient Mesopotamian grain called khorasan that he believes holds no less than the power to change everything.

Clockwise from top: A combine dumps a load of harvested wheat into an empty truck; a selection of Kamut pasta from Italy sits on a shelf above a collection of grains and seeds grown on the farm; Randy Edwards prepares Kracklin' Kamut wheat snacks at Big Sandy Organics.

Quinn hands a newly dug potato to Jason Belcourt on the Rocky Boy's Reservation, where they have both worked to establish "food sovereignty."

"I met Bob back in January 2019, and I heard him speak and he just blew me away," says Belcourt, a member of a food sovereignty team that includes representatives from the school health program, the tribe's ranch and farm, the local college, and the reservation hospital's diabetes program.

"Rocky Boy was an island," he says. "There's nothing available but processed foods and frozen food," snacks and sugary drinks. "We're trying to re-establish our relationship with Mother Earth so that, ideally, we can grow our own food and provide for ourselves. Hopefully we can have it turn into something that we can take pride in."

As Belcourt speaks, Quinn walks through a 1-acre plot inspecting rows of winter peas and new potatoes planted a few months before. "I'm really jacked," Quinn says, removing his cowboy hat and cradling it as he drops in the golf-ball sized spuds. "We're going in the right direction."

"What's crazy is that Bob doesn't have to come up and help us do this, but he has volunteered," Belcourt adds. "We have no equipment, so he brought up his to help us weed, and he has given us advice all the way. He gave us the corn seed. That's Indian corn over there, which I actually planted."

The yield from those particular seeds is less than spectacular, but Quinn reassures Belcourt: "This is the first year. You shouldn't be discouraged that it's not perfect."

If Quinn initially faced mistrust from the residents of Rocky Boy, he encountered outright skepticism from the people of Big Sandy, including the farmers in and around the town who have spent most of their lives using conventional synthetic chemical agricultural practices. He still hears whispers that he's trying to impose fancy big-city ideas on their small town — though even the most hard-bitten skeptic has been forced to acknowledge Quinn's successes. "These young farmers are looking at his new equipment and talking over what's going on, and they're saying, 'I don't know if I can tolerate these weeds, but damn, he's making money,' " Maxwell says.

Quinn is sympathetic to farmers wary of new systems. "I was raised farming with chemicals," he says. "I never questioned our use of fertilizer and herbicide. These were the new tools that my dad quickly adopted after a little experimentation. He thought they could help us be better farmers and make more money."

Grain by Grain is devoted to debunking that myth. Yes, the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers allows farmers to produce large amounts of food quickly, but the abundant supply continues to drive down prices, which reduces profit margins. That forces farmers into trying to produce even more. Eventually, small farmers are chased off their spreads, unable to afford the vast acreage needed to keep up with chemical commodity agriculture.

Those factors blew through Big Sandy and other small towns like tornadoes on the plain. For proof, you need only look at the past half-century of decline, Quinn says. When he was a boy, for instance, Big Sandy's population was 1,000 — today it has dropped to below 600 — and it boasted a car dealership, two hardware stores, a couple of secondhand shops, a jeweler, a dry cleaner, a lumberyard and farm supply store, and a movie theater.

Quinn's dime tour of today's Big Sandy downtown takes a couple of minutes: Over there is the lone grocery store — a good one, he says, but the only one. The last hardware store closed months ago for lack of business. There's the senior citizens center, the bank, and a combination bowling alley and restaurant.

"The driver [in] all of these social and economic losses to small, rural communities," Quinn writes in one of his frequent blog posts, "is the quest for cheap food and cheap goods without regard of the cost to those that make them, not to mention the loss of friends and neighbors unable to support their families, which results in fewer jobs and smaller communities. It's really too bad the true price of these cheap goods isn't listed on the price tag. If it were, maybe we would think twice about who and what we really want to support with our purchases. It begs the question: How much is our community — our friends and our neighbors — worth to us?"

Quinn's own aha moment came a lifetime ago, in the 1970s while he was on a college field trip. He was a graduate student at UC Davis, one of the nation's premier agricultural schools, and one class outing was to a peach farm. When he stepped off the bus into a "sea of peach trees," he expected to be overwhelmed by a sweet fragrance. Instead, he smelled nothing. The reason, he learned, was a petroleum-based spray one of his professors had developed that made the peaches look ripe even though they weren't — which explained why there was no rich, distinctive aroma. In that moment, Quinn says, he was certain of three things: that the spray couldn't be good for the environment; that unripe peaches were not nearly as nutritious as ripe ones; and that when he returned to Big Sandy, he was going to find a better way.

From that moment sprang Quinn's dedication to farming without chemicals, making him a pioneer in organic agriculture. (Winner of the Organic Trade Association's 2010 Organic Leadership Award, Quinn helped draft Montana's and the nation's guidelines for organic farming.) "A lot of people said it couldn't be done," he recalls. How would you fight weeds and insects without synthetic pesticides? Ever the scientist, Quinn pioneered a system of soil building, green manures, and crop rotation to discourage the growth of weeds and insect infestations. "For many years, people thought I was spraying at night," he says. "They couldn't believe anyone could find success without chemical inputs."

Once he started successfully growing the ancient khorasan wheat, he came up with healthy snack products made from the grain, opening a small plant in Big Sandy that added a few jobs to the economy. (Today his Kamut products are marketed as pasta, cereal, and other foodstuffs all around the world.) When he learned that buyers wanted wheat that had already been milled, he opened a milling plant in nearby Fort Benton to grind his healthier grains, adding jobs there.

Because Quinn doesn't pay the exorbitant costs of "chemical inputs" — pesticides and herbicides — and because the demand for his healthier grains commands far higher prices from buyers, he not only hasn't succumbed to the forces dragging down other family farms, but has thrived.

But old ways die hard. Despite Quinn's successes and the jobs his new endeavors have created, some still cast a jaundiced eye. For one, Quinn committed what to some people is an unpardonable sin: He believed that climate change is both real and man-made. What's more, he was convinced

Quinn dedicated himself and his career to farming without chemicals, making him one of the pioneers in organic agriculture.

Clockwise from left: In Quinn's apple orchard, piles of straw cushion the fall of ripened apples; the farm's root cellar provides year-round storage for fruits and vegetables; in his dual role of scientist and farmer, Quinn carefully tallies the apple harvest.

that the production and employment of the nitrogen-based fertilizers typically used by U.S. farmers generated the greenhouse gases that contributed to climate change.

"He has certainly encountered skepticism," says Liz Carlisle, a lecturer in the School of Earth, Energy, and Environmental Sciences at Stanford University and the co-author of *Grain by Grain*. "But I think he recognized that commodity agriculture was not going to sustain his farm. Chemical inputs are getting more and more expensive, and we don't like the government subsidies that essentially cover the cost of those inputs."

More to the point, she says, "is that he's thinking at the scale of his whole community. It's not just 'How do I save my farm at a time when agriculture is really difficult?' But 'How can I help create conditions under which our whole community can really thrive through a smarter, healthier food system?' "

The field lies vast and hot in the late afternoon, the sun pouring amber over the wheat, which is packed so tightly the landscape looks like a single golden bar. Quinn stands knee-high in the grain, cowboy hat tilted back, his shadow stretching three times his length. He reaches down and pulls a single stalk. Behind him, a combine scythes row after row of the season's final harvest. He brushes the stalk gently as if it were an ancient artifact, which in some ways it is. "To me, there is something almost sacred about growing wheat," Quinn writes in *Grain by Grain*. "Nearly every spring of my life, I have held in my hands a seed passed down over 500 generations, a seed that has nourished my fellow humans for some 10 millennia."

Just as he likes to begin his days looking over the land from the tall white tower that rises next to his home, he can think of no better way to end them than to be out here, under the big Montana sky, with the golden dust thrown by the combine filling the air with shimmering confetti.

The following morning, he will rise early to make pancakes for a group of visitors. In anticipation, when he leaves the field tonight, he will grind some of his Kamut wheat in a flour mill: Two cups of grain make $2\frac{1}{3}$ cups of flour. He will add 2 tablespoons of the nutty-smelling safflower oil extracted from his homegrown safflower plants; he will add the same amount of honey, extracted from the honeycombs in his own bee farm, as well as two eggs hatched by his daughter's chickens. He'll spoon the batter onto a griddle and within a couple of minutes set steaming stacks of golden Kamut pancakes before his guests, along with small bowls of fresh raspberries and chokeberry syrup he made himself. The whole production will be a symphony of food sovereignty, with Bob Quinn as conductor.

For now, however, he shakes his cupped hands like a miner panning for gold until he has reduced the head of the wheat stalk to a small collection of grain. One by one, he pops the kernels into his mouth and looks out onto the fields, his seamed face smoothed by a contented smile. ■

Crowned by the sun, Quinn basks in the afterglow of a successful harvest: "To me, there is something almost sacred about growing wheat."

In our November issue, Bryan Smith described how Rotarians brought a new basketball court — and an anti-bullying program — to Yonkers, New York.

BUSINESS CASUAL

A youthful outlook isn't the only key to rejuvenating Rotary, but it's a start. For President-elect Holger Knaack, the opportunities are endless

PHOTOS BY SAMUEL ZUDER

Outside of One Rotary Center, it was an overcast October day. Lake Michigan shimmered a steely gray, and the trees' red and orange leaves appeared drab.

But inside the office of Rotary's president-elect, it was a bright new day, and not just because of the paisley handkerchief sprouting from the breast pocket of Holger Knaack's blue blazer. Those vivid colors matched the cheerful attitude with which Knaack looks optimistically to the future — only one of the then-67-year-old's youthful traits.

Over two hours, on two separate occasions, Knaack sat down for a conversation with John Rezek, editor in chief of *The Rotarian*, and Jenny Llakmani, the magazine's managing editor.


MARC CHAGALL
CHAGALL
MARC CHAGALL

Speaking fluent, German-inflected English, Knaack discussed his atypical rise in Rotary, an ascent propelled by his longtime involvement with the Rotary Youth Exchange program. Those experiences define his aspirations as president. "Growing Rotary, and especially growing with young members, will definitely be one of my goals," he said. "Because if we lose contact with the younger generation" — he lifted his hands and shrugged — "we are outdated."

During the conversation, Knaack discussed his January 2018 speech at the International Assembly, where he had quoted Paul Harris: "If Rotary is to realize its proper destiny, it must be evolutionary at times, revolutionary on occasions." He then offered his own take on that thought: "To be prepared for the future, Rotary must continue to be revolutionary and must believe in the power of youth."

Knaack introduced a few aphorisms of his own — including "There's no wrong age to become a Rotarian" — and spoke about the economic necessity of having a presidential tie. (Knaack, who rarely wears a tie, revealed that he keeps one of Mark Daniel Maloney's blue presidential ties tucked into a desk drawer to have on hand if needed.) He also introduced his presidential theme: *Rotary Opens Opportunities*. The phrase is paired visually with the silhouette of three open doors, one blue, another gold, and the third in bright Rotaract pink. He chose the theme for its aptness, explains Knaack, and because "it's easy to translate in every language." (In Knaack's native German, it's *Rotary eröffnet Möglichkeiten*.)

During the first interview, Knaack's wife, Susanne, sat in and provided clarifications. When Rezek asked Knaack about his reputation for being "unflappable," the president-elect responded with a flapped expression. After briefly consulting her phone, Susanne provided a translation: *unerschütterlich*. With that settled, Knaack, ever imperturbable, continued the conversation.

THE ROTARIAN: You're the first president-elect from Germany in Rotary's history. Tell us about the nature of Rotary in Germany.

KNAACK: Rotary is different all over the world. We all share the same core values, but with different emphases. In Germany, it's really about friendship or fellowship — and it's about integrity and ethics. That's how German Rotarians look for members. And then the service we do grows out of friendship. I think one of the major points is that German Rotary clubs select their members carefully, and we have a very good retention rate. We don't even think about retention.

TR: How did you get involved in Rotary?

KNAACK: For me, it started with an organization called Round Table, which has hundreds of clubs in Europe. Surprisingly, it was founded by Rotarians in England in 1927 who were tired of always hanging out with old men. So they created a new organization, Round Table, but stipulated that you had to leave when you turned 40. I joined at 30 and left when I was 39. They had this wonderful motto: Adopt, Adapt, Improve. I was interested in service; I was also interested in networking. Many of my friends from this organization joined Rotary, and again, the reason was the opportunity for networking, especially because of Rotary's classification system. You need different people to make an organization more interesting, to have discussions go in unexpected directions.

I was asked to join the Rotary Club of Herzogtum Lauenburg-Mölln. It's a crazy name. When Ron Burton was a director, he once introduced me as "Holger Knaack from the Rotary Club of *[pauses]* somewhere in Germany." A new Rotary club in my hometown, Ratzeburg, was looking for members, but I knew many of the people in that club already, so I decided to join the old club. It gave me the opportunity to meet totally different people.

TR: What was your pathway to the presidency of Rotary?

KNAACK: I've been asked to list all the district leadership positions I held before I became a district governor. None. Zero. I didn't have any before I became district governor, and I didn't have any appointments in the district leadership. I was just known for my engagement in Youth Exchange, and because of that, people knew about me and my passion for Rotary. It was the same thing when I became a director: I had never, ever

had any appointments at the zone level. When I came here to Evanston for my director-elect training, that was the first time I entered this building.

TR: What is it about Youth Exchange that makes it such a great program?

KNAACK: Youth Exchange was my path into Rotary. Susanne and I hosted Rotary Youth Exchange students and became involved in organizing Youth Exchange camps, where Rotary clubs and districts host students from all over the world. And then I learned how this enriched our lives. We don't have children ourselves, so this program is really great for us. I think it keeps us young.

TR: We've heard that you are unflappable. Nothing upsets you. How can that possibly be true?

KNAACK: I can sometimes be embarrassed because of small things, as my wife knows. But when confronted by serious things, when we have to make serious decisions, then I become more calm. Plus, I'm always counting on other people. I know I can't do anything alone. I have the greatest respect for people who are doing the work — not just doing the work, but doing it with passion. We have to show our respect for all people like that. That's what I learned very early.

TR: What areas are you going to concentrate on during your year? And what do you hope to accomplish?

KNAACK: I have no crazy new ideas *[laughing]*. We promised to eradicate polio, and I mean to do everything we can to keep that promise. If we succeed, it will help enhance how Rotary is seen in the world. No. 2, of course, is growing Rotary, and that's not just about growing our membership. It's about growing Rotary at all levels. It's about making our organization stronger. It's about retention and growing through new Rotary club models. Rotary is indeed one of the slowest-changing organizations in the world. What we do takes so much time. We have to be much faster.

TR: What about Rotary doesn't have to change?

KNAACK: Our core values have always been the basis for what we do. Friendship, diversity, integrity, leadership, service — they will never be outdated. The way we express and live those values, that will change. Our tradition of meeting for a meal might have worked for 100 years. But it doesn't work anymore, because lunch

is no longer a central thing in your life. We have to look for models that young people are interested in. Let them decide what kind of Rotary club they would like to join to share our core values. Rotary is a place for everybody: for young and old, for old club models and for new club models. There's no need for very strict rules. Let's enjoy what fits best.

TR: Are you worried that the average age for Rotarians keeps going up?

KNAACK: I'm so happy that our older Rotarians remain Rotarians and that older people still join Rotary clubs. They're a great value for the clubs and our organization. But I want to encourage Rotary clubs to think about their future. Clubs should have a strategic meeting twice a year. If they really think about their future, it's important that there is no big gap between age groups. If they're able to attract members in every age group, in every decade, then there is not a big gap. It's important for Rotary clubs to stay on track and yet still be interesting for young professionals.

It's always dangerous if a Rotary club says, "OK, we have the perfect number of members. We have 50 or 60 or 70 or whatever; we don't want any more members right now." Then the gap can grow very, very fast. One of my sayings is, "There's no wrong age to become a Rotarian." If someone is 18 and becoming a member, that's great. And if someone is 80, that's great too. So there is no wrong age to become a Rotarian — and there's no perfect size for a Rotary club.

TR: We notice that you don't often wear a tie. Are you going to have an official tie?

KNAACK: I learned that we bring in $1.3 million or $1.4 million a year from presidential ties and scarves *[laughing]*. That's a good reason to have one. I like ties. I have a large collection of ties.

TR: In very good condition, we bet *[laughing]*. All right, there will be a presidential tie. What's your theme?

KNAACK: *Rotary Opens Opportunities*. It supports our efforts to grow Rotary, because becoming a Rotarian offers prospective members totally new opportunities.

One of the opportunities is, of course, the opportunity to serve. And then the other part comes into play: We offer opportunities to people who are waiting for our service — providing clean water, opportunities to go to school, and so forth. What we do works in both directions.

TR: People describe you as having a very young attitude. How do you think that will influence your leadership style when you're president?

KNAACK: I hope my leadership style will not change. Some people have said I don't look presidential enough. But that's OK. It's about leadership, not about looking too serious. Besides, we really have to focus on young leaders to stay relevant in this world. We welcome our retirees because they have the skills, the time, and the passion to contribute. My focus is on innovative clubs, new club models, new club ideas, and young members. I think I can be the right person at the right time to attract more young members.

TR: How do you create the opportunities to bring younger people into leadership positions in Rotary?

KNAACK: First of all, we have to rely on them and trust them. They are able to do many things — nearly everything. We should give them the opportunity to lead. Before I started the planning of the Rotary institute in Berlin in 2014, I had a meeting with Rotaractors. I wanted to hear their ideas about doing something different, and they came up with great ideas. They organized all the breakout sessions, and they did a great job. So just trust them, rely on them.

TR: Is there a way to speed up the advancement of women into leadership positions?

KNAACK: In a voluntary organization, we can't really push. It doesn't work. We are a grassroots organization; it all starts in our Rotary clubs. They should look to have the right people on the committees who nominate district governors. Have the right people there, and we will have more women as governors. Everything is possible: There will be six women on the 2020-21 Board of Directors that I will have the honor to chair.

TR: Do you imagine that it will have a different feel?

KNAACK: There shouldn't be any difference. We are all Rotarians regardless of gender. It's about passion and leadership. We want the best people; it's not about counting how many women. But I love that this is happening right now. The beauty of Rotary is indeed its diversity.

TR: How can we tell others about Rotary and improve our image in the world?

KNAACK: It takes a long time, or a lot of money, to change your image in this world. Two things are important: You have to know it takes time, and then you have to be honest. It's not because of marketing reasons that we have to change. We have to tell a true story of why we are doing things. To really be a part of Rotary, you have to be proud of the organization, and we have to be proud of our work. Not about what you are doing. That's selfish.

TR: Does Rotary need to be cooler?

KNAACK: To be attractive for younger members, definitely. I'm proud of our existing Rotary clubs. But if they're not attractive to Rotaractors or young professionals, we should encourage them to create a club model that works for them. And that's what we're going to do in the next few years. ■

Reinvent our wheel

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

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

Rotary

Share your club's great new ideas. Email us at club.innovations@rotary.org.

our clubs

HASISI PARK

High profile

Rotary Club of Seoul, Korea

Sprawling along the banks of the Han River, Seoul is a city of ultramodern towers juxtaposed with old-world palaces; of forested hills set amid a sea of concrete and steel. Home to almost 10 million people, its neighborhoods reflect tradition as well as cosmopolitan influences. Restaurants specializing in tabletop-

continued from page 55

grilled *samgyeopsal* share back-alley real estate with hipster-inflected coffee roasters and craft breweries. In the high-end district of Gangnam, the well-heeled shop luxury brands while office workers end their days at roadside bars for rounds of *soju*.

South Korea has changed dramatically over the past half-century. In the wake of the Korean War in the 1950s, its populace was among the poorest in the world. Today, it's among the most prosperous and high-tech places on the planet. The change has happened so fast that those who remember the war period sometimes struggle to comprehend it. Song-Hyon Jang, 80, a member of the Rotary Club of Seoul, has vivid memories of cold and hunger. "Korea has come such a long way," he says. "I never dreamt it would become so affluent."

The history of the Rotary Club of Seoul in many ways parallels the trajectory of South Korea itself. The first club on the Korean peninsula, it was chartered in 1927, when Korea was under Japanese occupation. It was originally known as the Rotary Club of Keijo, after the Japanese colonial name for the city. During World War II, the club was disbanded when, as its website states, "the Japanese military put pressure on the government to close down organizations that were deemed to promote Western ideas or culture." It was rechartered under its current name in 1949. Before, members had been predominantly Japanese; afterward, they were mainly Koreans and Westerners. When war between the North and South broke out in 1950, club meetings shifted to the port city of Busan, which, unlike Seoul, was never overrun by North Korean troops. After the fighting ended, the club returned to the capital.

As South Korea thrived, Rotary did as well.

As South Korea thrived, Rotary did as well: Today, Korea is one of the top countries when it comes to donations to The Rotary Foundation. And the Rotary Club of Seoul has long stood out: Members have included many high-profile business and political leaders, including a former prime minister. In its heyday, the club had a long waiting list to join. "So many prominent members of society have been in this club," says Jang, a past governor of Rotary District 3650. "It has always been very prestigious."

Today with 159 other Rotary clubs in Seoul alone, the waiting list is gone — but the club remains unique. It's the only one in the city that conducts official business in English: Roughly 20 percent of members are foreigners, and many of its Korean members, including Jang, have lived abroad.

The club has set a goal of attracting younger members: It sponsors Rotaract clubs at two top universities. In 2015 it launched a satellite club, Seoul-Young Leaders. The members conduct their own meetings and community service activities but also attend Rotary Club of Seoul events. The goal is to overcome the generation gap that has prevented many young professionals from joining Rotary. "The idea is that when they turn 40, they transition into the Rotary club itself," says Rob Vlug, a Dutch national who is the current president of Seoul-Young Leaders.

The club itself is modernizing, too. Meetings used to consist of weekly lunches at the Grand Hyatt hotel. But the routine became monotonous, so today, the club holds lunch meetings only once per month. Other meetings include a social dinner organized by an individual member, a cultural event, and a meal that club members provide and serve to homeless people. "We wanted to make a program that's more interesting and that everyone could attend," says club member Sugar Han.

The Seoul club is also active in the global sphere. It has maintained a nearly 40-year partnership with the Rotary Club of Osaka, Japan, and facilitates exchanges for Japanese and Korean students. During Jang's term as governor in 2008-09, District 3650 established sister relations with District 3292 in Nepal and Bhutan. Since then, the club has played a leading role in projects in both countries, including a district-level project that trained eight young women from rural Nepal as midwives and later helped them start small health care posts in their villages. Jang, who has been traveling to Nepal since the early 1980s, says the main goal is to combat the high rates of infant and maternal mortality in that country.

On a hot and humid July evening, Jang joins fellow club members for dinner at a newly opened Gangnam hotel. Soft jazz plays as Rotarians make trips to the French-style buffet and celebrate member S. David Chang's just-concluded term as district governor. After a recap of the year, discussion shifts to the goals and challenges that lie ahead — including where the club wants to be in 2027, when the oldest Rotary club in Korea will commemorate its 100th anniversary. — JONATHAN W. ROSEN

From left: Rotary Club of Seoul President MoonYoul Ban, past president Sugar Han, and past district governors Song-Hyon Jang and S. David Chang.

4 QUESTIONS ABOUT

Working with Rotary to eradicate polio

with Bill Gates

Co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

VIKTOR MILLER GAUSA

1 What made you decide to work on polio eradication?

In 1952, three years before I was born, the U.S. experienced one of the worst polio epidemics in its history. Thousands died and even more were paralyzed. I was born a few months after the first polio vaccine became available. Growing up, I had no idea how lucky I was.

Later in life through the work of our foundation, I began to see firsthand the impact that polio was having on kids. The U.S. had seen its last case of polio in 1979 thanks to polio vaccines, but even 25 years later in 2004, more than 1,000 children in Asia and Africa were paralyzed by polio simply because of where they were born.

Before our foundation joined the fight to end polio in 2007, I had spent months talking to experts and analyzing the history of eradication. While global progress against polio had stalled, I believed that eradication was possible because the world had done it before, with smallpox in 1980.

Rotary played an important role in inspiring the foundation to become involved in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, an incredible global partnership committed to fighting the disease. We knew that Rotarians would be passionate, committed allies in the push for eradication.

2 The number of polio cases increased in 2019. Why are you still optimistic that eradication is possible?

It's true that we saw the number of cases go up in 2019, but we need to look at what has happened over the past three decades. In the 1980s, polio paralyzed 1,000 children globally every day. Today, that number has fallen 99.9 percent and the wild poliovirus is confined to just Afghanistan and Pakistan. Because of eradication efforts, there are 18 million people walking around who would have otherwise been paralyzed by the virus.

The past 30 years have been marked with incredible achievements. One of my favorite examples is India. The country was once considered the toughest place to eliminate the disease, but in 2011, the country recorded its last case of polio derived from the wild poliovirus.

In 2013, health workers managed to contain a wild poliovirus outbreak during the Syrian civil war. Vaccinators not only had to enter the war zone, waiting for lulls in the fighting to make sure children were protected, but also had to account for the 2 million refugees fleeing to neighboring Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. Within weeks, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced a plan to immunize 2.4 million Syrian children, and the outbreak was over by the following year.

In 2016, the wild poliovirus re-emerged in Nigeria. Health workers and partners redoubled their efforts, and the country has now gone more than three years without a new case, which means the entire WHO African region could be certified free of wild poliovirus in 2020. This achievement was difficult to imagine just a few years ago.

The final cases of polio are proving particularly difficult. But the polio program has overcome enormous challenges to keep driving progress, and we've spent the past decade sharpening the tools and strategies we need to finish the job. With the continued commitment of our partners like Rotary, I'm sure we'll consign polio to history.

3 Why are you extending the Gates Foundation's 2-to-1 funding match with Rotary?

The Gates Foundation's long-standing partnership with Rotary has been crucial in the fight against polio. Through extending our funding match, we can raise $150 million every year — money that is essential to the eradication effort.

But there's another thing about this funding match, which people don't often know: The money helps us fight more than polio. At the same time that we're delivering the polio vaccine to communities, we're also bringing them bed nets to protect against malaria, improving access to clean drinking water, and helping immunize kids against other vaccine-preventable diseases. We're making sure that every dollar we raise counts.

4 What message would you like to deliver to Rotarians as we confront the final challenges to eradication?

Everyone at our foundation is inspired by Rotary and proud to work alongside you.

Rotary was the first organization to push for a polio-free world. And for the past 30 years, so many Rotarians have been part of fundraising, vaccination, and advocacy efforts that have brought us close to the magic number of zero cases.

The final steps to a polio-free world are the hardest — and we'll need the help of every Rotarian to get there. But I'm confident that we will end polio together.

A family affair

Rotary Club of Tagbilaran, Philippines

Chartered: 1970
Original membership: 25
Membership: 44

SHARE ALIKE:

The seaside city of Tagbilaran on the island of Bohol attracts scuba divers entranced by stunning coral reefs; on land, sun-seeking tourists tramp in the shadows of the otherworldly conical humps known as the Chocolate Hills. The Rotary Club of Tagbilaran meets needs in the city and the agricultural and mining-centered areas beyond.

Victor Bantol is a "strong believer in the good works of Rotary," he says. Yet he was a reluctant joiner, to hear his wife, "Baby" Louella Bantol, tell it. In 1998, she says, Victor was required to join by his then-boss, a member of a club on Mindanao island. Victor's membership led to Louella's involvement, because his job as an engineer entailed travel to manage a mine on another island. "In my husband's absence, he always asked me to represent him at the club meetings and project implementations," Louella says. "I came to love Rotary." She joined and eventually served as club president and assistant governor in District 3860.

Victor was impressed — and inspired. "I supported her in all activities," he says. "I was changed and I became a very active member." The couple's example led the club to embrace shared family memberships as a way to involve family members. The cost of Rotary membership is a barrier for many Filipinos, says Irena Heberer, club president. Prospective members whose spouses were already Rotarians often said, "We cannot pay for one more," Heberer says. Under the club's new policy, a family pays for only one membership.

The Bantols became active recruiters for the club. "We invited our friends to our club meetings," Victor says. "We showed them our projects and let them feel the importance of sharing resources with our marginalized brethren. Many became members and later became reliable club officers."

When a 7.1 magnitude earthquake struck Bohol in October 2013, Rotarians were on the front lines. Victor Bantol led a team conducting rescue and recovery operations, an arduous and heartbreaking task. The Rotarians also cleared paths and repaired a bridge to allow relief aid to reach those affected.

CLUB INNOVATION:

Many residents of Tagbilaran who might want to join Rotary found the cost and time commitment prohibitive. To attract them, the club allowed shared memberships between family members.

The English-speaking club maintains a busy schedule of projects, including a symposium to promote Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October. Other continuing efforts include hygiene and sanitation education and road safety tips for schoolchildren. The club partners with the Philippine Gift of Life Foundation on medical missions providing surgeries for people in need.

In an area that has increasingly become dependent on tourism, ecological projects have become a focus of the club. "Our contribution is to help protect and enhance the environment through tree and mangrove planting, coral transplantation, coastal and beach cleanups, and promoting a plastic-free Bohol," says Heberer. The club also planted a friendship garden at a limestone quarry. "We hope that one day it will become a tourist destination in the province."

From top: Club members participate in a tree planting and the breast cancer awareness symposium.

The club carries out its activities with joyful vigor. "We try not to stress the members with too many serious meetings," says Heberer. "Even if we follow rules and regulations in the regular meetings, we try to make them lively and interesting."

—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
Sweet ride

In years past, the pineapple was practically synonymous with Hawaii: At one time, the islands supplied more than 80 percent of the world's canned pineapple. Although the last pineapple cannery in the state closed in 2007 and the islands' vast pineapple plantations have mostly given way to more varied agriculture, when you are in Honolulu for the Rotary International Convention, 6–10 June, you can still enjoy a taste of this tropical treat.

The Dole Plantation offers tours including the Pineapple Express Train Tour, which explores the history and botany of the fruit. Did you know that a pineapple starts out as a cluster of berries that grow together? The tour also delves into the story of James Dole, who drove the development of the pineapple industry in Hawaii.

On the Plantation Garden Tour, you'll see how coffee, cacao, and some of the flowers commonly used to make leis — *plumeria*, *pikake*, and *pua kenikeni*, among others — are grown. If you've brought the family to the convention, kids will enjoy the Pineapple Garden Maze, with 2½ miles of paths spread over 3 acres. After you find your way out, stop at the Plantation Grille for a Dole Whip, a pineapple-flavored soft-serve treat.

—HANK SARTIN

HONOLULU HAWAII 2020

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!

I like to quote Confucius at many Rotary events, because his ideas are so much like ours. Confucius would have been a great Rotarian. Take this Confucius quote, for example: "The failure to cultivate virtue, the failure to examine and analyze what I have learned, the inability to move toward righteousness after being shown the way, the inability to correct my faults — these are the causes of my grief."

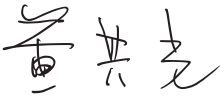
If you turn the saying around to positive language, it sounds exactly like the first goal of the new Rotary Action Plan. When we talk about Rotary increasing our impact, we mean investing in relationships, making decisions grounded in evidence, mobilizing our resources to create solutions that last, and always learning from our experiences.

The Rotary Foundation already does this so well and will continue to be the best possible investment in a better world as the Action Plan is put into effect. Our global grants respond to real community needs. That's because we approve them only after a rigorous community assessment. Then the projects are tailored to the information uncovered during the assessment.

Now your Foundation is making a difference on a broader scale than ever through our programs of scale grants. These are competitive grants, designed to respond to a need that a community has identified. Programs of scale will benefit a large number of people in a significant geographic area. They will be sustainable, evidence-based interventions with measurable outcomes and impact. Each grant will support, for three to five years, activities that align with one or more of Rotary's areas of focus.

Programs of scale build on our experience in the eradication of polio, and we must never forget that we still have important work to do to eliminate this disease. When I visited Pakistan in November, I was overjoyed to see so many young Rotary leaders working hard for End Polio Now.

Wonderful things are happening with our global grants, and the Rotary Action Plan will help us do more than ever. Let us continue to cultivate virtue, examine and analyze what we learn, move toward righteousness based on our new knowledge, and keep improving everything we do.



Gary C.K. Huang
FOUNDATION TRUSTEE CHAIR

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Every third year's a charm for Rotaractors

THIS SUMMER, young leaders will converge on Hong Kong to connect with friends, gain new skills, and help chart the path forward for Rotaract — and for Rotary.

Every three years, Rotaractors organize Interota, a multiday event that features workshops, speakers, and service opportunities. The theme of Interota 2020 — scheduled for 27 June to 1 July — is "Leverage Youth Power / Level Up the World."

Attendees will take turns participating in a service marathon lasting 2,020 minutes (more than 33 hours). Attendees can also enjoy tours of Hong Kong. And the gathering includes an evening of cultural performances, in which Rotaractors form teams to represent their countries or districts and perform dances or songs that celebrate their culture.

Along with RI President Mark Daniel Maloney and President-elect Holger Knaack, speakers will include entrepreneur Katharina Unger, who created a desktop farm for edible worms.

The final day of Interota 2020 will feature a first-of-its-kind worldwide handover ceremony for Rotaract club presidents and district Rotaract representatives. Afterward, participants can join tours to Macau and Mongolia. (District 3450, which is hosting this year's event, spans Hong Kong, Macau, Mongolia, and Guangdong Province in China.)

More than 600 members of the Rotary family are expected to attend, including Rotaractors, Interactors, and Rotary alumni. Rotarians are also encouraged to register, especially district governors. Find out more at **interota2020.org.**

IN MEMORIAM

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

THOMAS E. MELIA Scranton, Pennsylvania, 1982-83

EDWARD C. HALL Worcester, Massachusetts, 1987-88

OLIVER F. NELSON Yakima, Washington, 1991-92

MILTON LEVINSON Palm Springs, California, 1994-95

GYOSHO TAKAHASHI Mount Fuji Yoshiwara, Japan, 1995-96

WILLIAM PORTER Kingman, Arizona, 1996-97

MICHEL DELCROIX Niort-Sèvre, France, 1997-98

WARREN J. CUNNINGHAM Kelowna-Okanagan Mission, British Columbia, 1998-99

KI-SOO HA Nonsan, Korea, 1999-2000

JOHNSON TSE KWAN CHU Peninsula, Hong Kong, 2001-02

LARRY SCOTT La Mesa, California, 2002-03

RICHARD F. GARNER Papamoa, New Zealand, 2007-08

MAURICE MADER Parsippany-Troy Hills, New Jersey, 2010-11

EDGAR R. CHIONGBIAN Cebu, Philippines, 2013-14

TSUNEO SHIOZAWA Hirado, Japan, 2013-14

ROGER D. SIMS Munster, Indiana, 2015-16

MANUEL L. KATIGBAK Lipa, Philippines, 2016-17

NO-SEOL KIM Cheonan-West, Korea, 2016-17

Your gift can provide clean water

Clean water, sanitation, and hygiene education are basic necessities for a healthy environment and a productive life. Your donation to The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund provides these essentials in communities close to home and around the world.

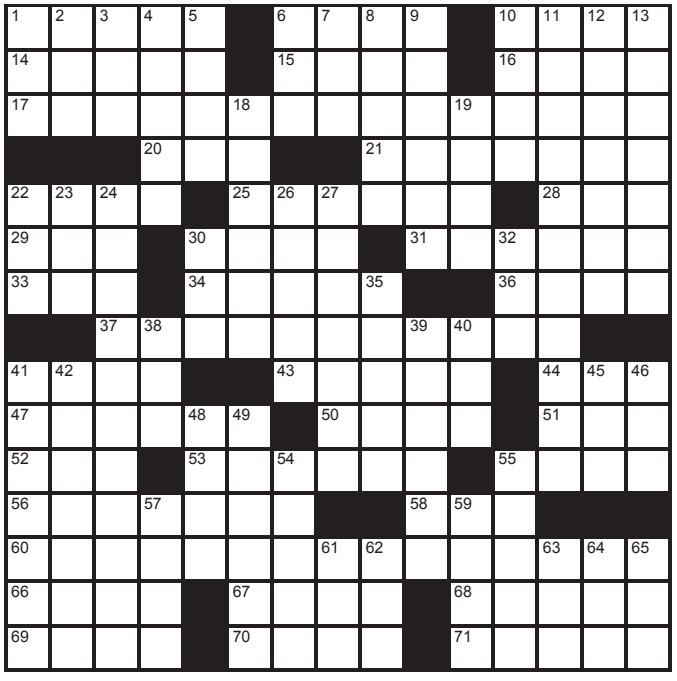
The Rotary Foundation

GIVE TODAY: rotary.org/donate

NOT ONLY DOES IT COME IN LIKE A LION ...

by Victor Fleming

Rotary Club of Little Rock, Arkansas



Solution on page 23

Across

1 Steer-roper's rope
6 Mideast leader
10 PD alerts
14 Good point
15 Assign stars to, say
16 "Me neither!"
17 With 60-Across, March, for 37-Across
20 West of Tinseltown
21 Indictment content?
22 Drop one's jaw
25 Canopus' constellation
28 Oft-used article
29 Hit the wrong button, say
30 Aunt Millie's rival
31 One who's casting about?
33 Golf ball's platform
34 Acrobat company
36 "As you ___"
37 See 17-Across
41 Rel. figures
43 Bellowing
44 Motor additive logo
47 Bow and arrow user
50 Hebrew between Av and Tishrei
51 Tell a whopper
52 "Yabba dabba ___!"
53 More clamorous
55 Match up
56 More than what's needed
58 Charge carrier
60 See 17-Across
66 Sent a dupe
67 Start to morph?
68 Stand up
69 Classic sneakers brand
70 Some noncoms (abbr.)
71 Clear, as a debt

Down

1 Court subject
2 Botanist Gray
3 Bygone Atl. crosser
4 Curt summons
5 Another, in Aragon
6 Chunk of history
7 Guy
8 "Who's there?" response
9 Eye part
10 Put your money down, with "up"
11 With no meaning
12 Certain sibling
13 Candid
18 Cuban-born Grammy winner Jon
19 Actor Alda or Arkin
22 Comprehend
23 "Who ___ we kidding?"
24 Not live
26 Ancient Greek gathering place
27 Grapefruit "color"
30 Cat's prey
32 Successor to W.J.C.
35 French academy
38 ___Kosh B'gosh
39 *House* star Hugh
40 Clickable address, briefly
41 Army cartoon character
42 Beat soundly
45 10th anniversary material
46 Ab's neighbor
48 Old TV's ___ May Clampett
49 Cosmetic case items
54 Applying
55 Bunk annoyance
57 Advanced degs.
59 Poet Khayyam
61 Maine summer hrs.
62 Uniform features (abbr.)
63 Autumn air quality
64 Bag-screening grp.
65 "___, you!"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ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
PEOPLE OF ACTION

last look

PHOTOS COURTESY OF REACHING THE LAST MILE

DONATE

On page 57, Bill Gates talks about the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's long-standing partnership with Rotary to raise money crucial to the fight against polio.

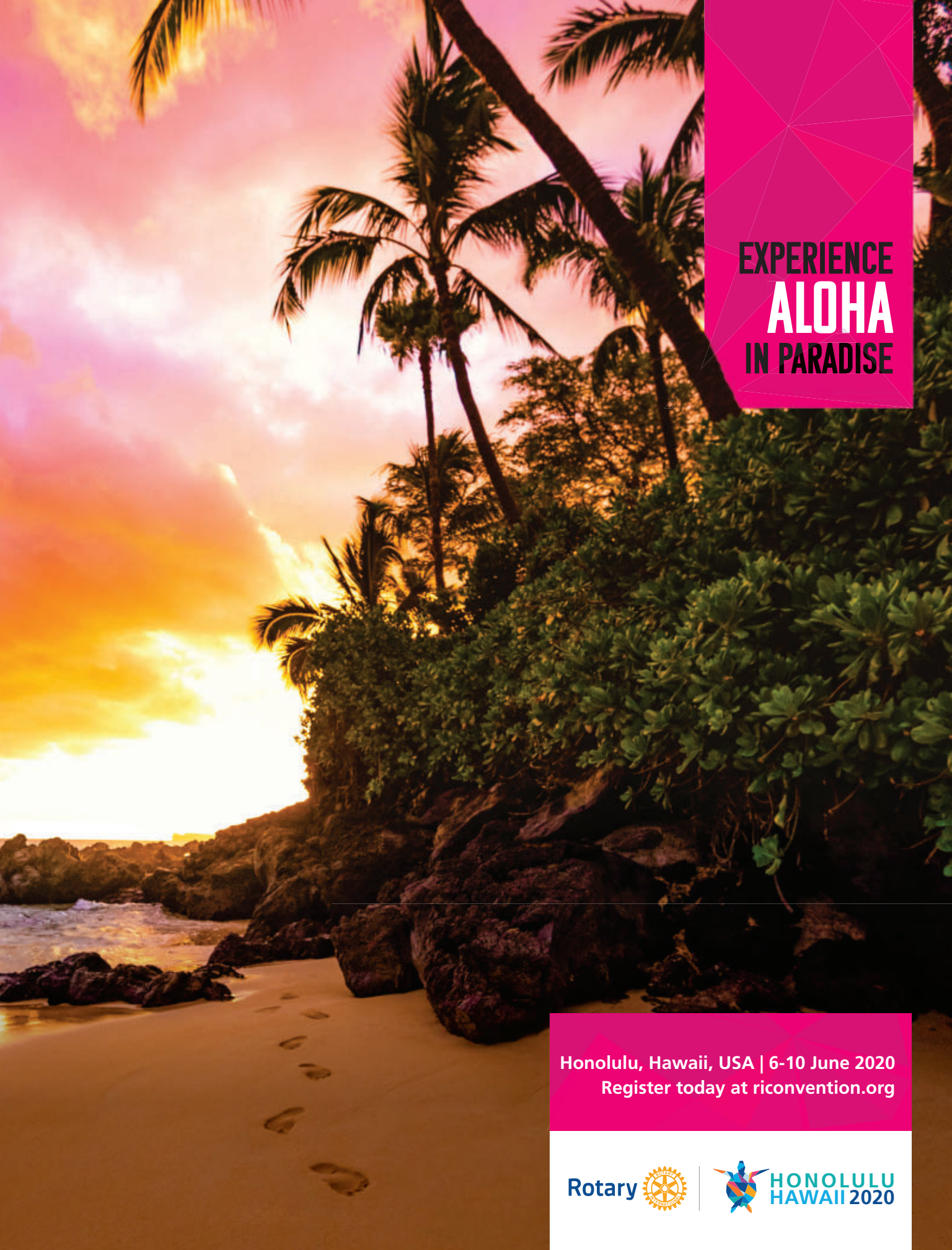
In November, government and philanthropic leaders from around the world gathered in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, to affirm their commitment to eradicating polio and announced $2.6 billion to help fund the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's Polio Endgame Strategy. Rotary pledged to continue raising $50 million annually.

In January, Gates announced that the Gates Foundation will continue matching Rotary funds 2-to-1 through 2023. By extending the funding match, our two organizations can raise $150 million every year to use in the eradication effort.

Since launching its polio eradication program in 1985, Rotary has contributed $2.1 billion to the fight, including matching funds from the Gates Foundation. Whether you've been a part of the cause since its start or you're a new member just learning about it, take advantage of the Gates Foundation match by making a contribution and helping us reach our goal of a polio-free world. Go to **rotary.org/donate.**

Welcome to the new
ROTARY LEARNING CENTER

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



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Rotary

HONOLULU HAWAII 2020