

the Rotarian

ROTARY.ORG

MAY 2020

WOMEN AT WORK

**Building a
better life
in rural
Costa Rica**

ROTARACT

**Changes, challenges,
and a celebration**

UP-AND-COMERS

**Six district governors
start young**



A photograph of an older man with a grey beard and a younger woman with long dark hair, both smiling as they pack food into a brown paper bag. The man is on the left, wearing a light blue shirt, and the woman is on the right, wearing a grey t-shirt. They are standing behind a wooden crate filled with red apples. In the background, there is a blue structure, possibly a market stall or a bus, with a red logo on it. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting it is daytime.

TOGETHER, WE

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Rotary



PEOPLE OF ACTION

President's message

Dear Rotarians, Rotaractors, and friends,

Increasing our ability to adapt: That is one goal of our new Rotary Action Plan. And wow, have we seen that ability put to the test this year.

In March, Gay and I were to visit Zimbabwe, Turkey, and eight other countries over the course of 30 days. After participating in a medical mission in Zimbabwe and Commonwealth Week activities in London, on the 11th day, we were packing our suitcases for Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

While attending a dinner at the High Commission for Pakistan in London, we received word that it would be impossible to travel everywhere on our itinerary. So, instead of flying to Zurich, we returned to Evanston and One Rotary Center.

Throughout early March, the news about COVID-19 became increasingly serious throughout the world. Following the advice of local officials, we canceled UN presidential conferences in Paris and Rome. Soon, the World Health Organization declared the virus a global pandemic, and we consulted with authorities on more critical decisions. We asked all Rotary districts and clubs to curb face-to-face meetings until further notice and to hold virtual meetings instead. To the districts and clubs that have adapted so quickly, thank you.

The Rotary Board of Directors held its first-ever virtual meeting to make the most difficult decision of all, to cancel the 2020 Rotary International Convention. Like the more than 20,000 registrants who planned to attend, I am disappointed. We acted to protect the health and safety of convention attendees and their families, friends, and colleagues, as well as those who call Honolulu home, and I am confident we made the right decision.

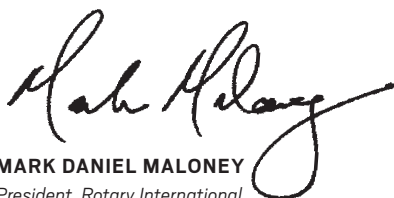
I want to thank the 2020 Honolulu Convention Committee, the Host Organization Committee, the 2020 Honolulu Convention Promotion Committee, and Rotary staff for planning what would have been one of the best Rotary conventions yet. I appreciate their hard work.

This issue of *The Rotarian* was going to press as the decision about canceling the convention was made, and many other decisions across the Rotary world were still up in the air. Future issues of *The Rotarian* and of Rotary's regional magazines, along with Rotary's social media channels, will keep you informed.

We began this Rotary year promoting the importance of the new Action Plan for all Rotarians and Rotaractors. Today, we are putting that plan into action out of necessity. That includes the possibility of a convention-like experience with you through a virtual event. We will have more to say about this in the near future.

The world is changing rapidly, and so must Rotary. Our adaptability and strength will help us navigate this experience. The world needs our leadership today more than ever. Truly, *Rotary Connects the World*.

Kindest regards,



MARK DANIEL MALONEY
President, Rotary International



**The world needs our
leadership today more
than ever. Truly, *Rotary
Connects the World*.**



contents

Vol. 198, No. 11

MAY



14

1 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

6 INBOX

8 EDITOR'S NOTE

11 our world

- Support system: Steve Durant
- Rotarians are on a tear
- Q&A with Antoni Slodkowski
- People of action around the globe
- Snapshot: Zanzibar, Tanzania
- Snapshot: Antarctic Peninsula, Antarctica
- May events

23 viewpoints

- He texts, she texts

55 our clubs

- Up to the challenge in Phnom Penh
- 5 questions about organizing a RYLA event
- Club innovation: Rotary Club of New Voices, District 7780
- Message from the trustee chair
- Rotary leaders visit Pakistan to support polio eradication
- How to look and sound like Rotary
- Crossword

64 LAST LOOK

features

26 NEVER TOO YOUNG TO LEAD

Six Rotarians reveal the secrets of balancing family and work that allowed them to take on the role of district governor before turning 50.

By Kim Lisagor Bisheff

Illustrations by Viktor Miller Gausa

32 NATURE & NURTURE

With help from a Rotary Foundation global grant, a group of women in rural Costa Rica are using ecotourism to enrich their families' futures.

By Diana Schoberg

Photography by Ricardo Morales Portillo

46 ROTARACT RISING

The ongoing evolution of Rotaract is redefining its place within Rotary. "It's a new era," says one enthusiastic Rotaractor.

By Vanessa Glavinskis

“Take people on the journey with you, and you will find they are very supportive.”

— Shia Smart, 49, governor of District 9810



ON THE COVER Tour guide Angie Montoya Fernández belongs to a tourism cooperative in rural Costa Rica that is supported by a Rotary Foundation global grant. Photography by Ricardo Morales Portillo

OPPOSITE Idali Ramírez Nuñez of Mollejones works in one of the aquaponics gardens funded by the global grant. Photography by Ricardo Morales Portillo

the Rotarian

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Rwanda's horrors

In the February issue, the juxtaposition of a pair of stories on Rwanda ("More Than a Library" and "Rwanda's Not-So-Distant Horror") and one focused on the United States ("How to Tell Fact From Fiction and Trust the News Again") provides a powerful warning.

It was easy for the rulers of Rwanda to incite the people to kill each other. No public library had existed in their country, and the regime "knew that the best way to rule over people was to keep them ignorant." In 1994, 800,000 people in Rwanda were murdered while the world stood and watched.

America is trending back toward what life was like in Rwanda. Sure, libraries exist in this country, but social media now has the dominant role of informing the public — and has made it easy for "fake news" to disseminate at lightning speed among the populace. Most worrying is the recent trend by social media to circulate pieces of misinformation deliberately designed to appeal to people with narrow, often political, prejudices.

In 1990, in his novel *Jurassic Park*, Michael Crichton had the character Ian Malcolm say: "In the information society, nobody thinks. We expected to banish paper, but we actually banished thought." I urge Rotarians in every country to alert their communities to the dangers of receiving "news" from social media sources.



ALLAN JAMIESON *Burnie, Australia*

The back-to-back placement in the February issue of the two articles about Rwanda and "How to Tell Fact From Fiction and Trust the News Again" by Kim Lisagor Bisheff was purposeful and brilliant. Thank you.

DEBBIE GAHAN
Perryville, Missouri

I was extremely touched by *The Rotarian's* article on Rwanda's recovery from its devastating genocide and what Rwandan Rotarians are doing to support that recovery.

The Rwandan genocide also affected the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo, where my own Rotary Club of Montecito, California, has been working with local Rotary clubs since 2010 in their country's recovery from the ensuing civil wars in the region. We are sponsoring a project to furnish a newly constructed K-12 school in the South Kivu province, a few miles from the Rwandan border. Rotarians know there cannot be recovery from the horrors of war without educating the young on the possibilities of peace.

HARLAN GREEN
Santa Barbara, California

Climate-friendly farming

Thanks for the excellent article about an innovative farmer who believes in organic farming as a way to aid the environment and reinvigorate rural communities ["Scientist, Farmer, Innovator, Rotarian," March]. There are other innovative Rotarian farmers who are pursuing regenerative agriculture without going organic. Regenerative agriculture keeps the soil covered at all times. Using crop rotation and growing multispecies cover crops support increased biodiversity, enrich the soil, and sequester carbon. The use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers is minimized. Regenerative agriculture may be more readily adopted on large operations than organic farming and thus could have a far greater impact on our climate.

JOHN LAWRENCE
Chatham, Ontario

The ethics of peace

I enjoyed the article "Toward a More Lasting Peace" in the February issue, and all articles that draw attention to how Rotary advances its Fourth Object, which calls for "international

understanding, goodwill, and peace." It is such a big part of what Rotary is all about.

Given the connection between corruption and peace, Rotary's Second Object, which encourages "high ethical standards in business and professions," should be a more visible aspect of our Rotary Peace Centers initiative.

J. ART BOURGEAULT
Frisco, Texas

News fast

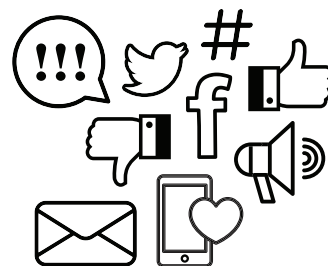
I could identify with the article "Braking News" in the February issue. While attending the 2019 Rotary International Convention in Hamburg, Germany, and then participating in a Rotary Friendship Exchange, I took a 23-day hiatus from watching and listening to all news. While it was not the 27-year break that Christopher Knight took, it was a refreshing experience and I highly recommend it. When I tuned back in, it seemed as though nothing had changed, and the sun still came up each morning.

My wife and I look forward to a similar 36-day break late this summer.

RAYMOND RAEDY
Hillsborough, North Carolina

Overheard on social media

Professional fact-checkers shared their tips in February's "How to Tell Fact From Fiction and Trust the News Again." We polled readers on Instagram for their advice.



➔ How do you seek truth in the news? ➔

"Looking for the verified symbol or other trustworthy news sites reporting the same."

Check out Rotary International's Instagram story on **14 MAY** for an interactive poll about ecotourism in Costa Rica.

"3 SOURCES, REUTERS BEING DECISIVE."

"Verifying from other sources, like local authorities."



"I don't use mainstream news anymore as it is very unreliable."

"Having patience and using Google."



"Try to find the same information in several trustworthy/traditional media sources."

"I read the full article and what people commented about it."

Speaking of which ...

My Rotary club in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, is pleased to learn of Rotary's alliance with Toastmasters International [Our Clubs, February], and we look forward to adding this resource to our efforts to build the public speaking skills of our emerging leaders.

As Rotarians, we recognize that effective speakers can use words in a powerful way to motivate us to act. We also recognize that, while some people may have natural speaking ability, almost anyone can develop effective public speaking skills through training and practice. In our club, we encourage each of our 75 regular attendees to take a turn in presenting the meeting invocation. In the past year, more than 45 members have accepted this challenge. Many of these are young community leaders who, despite their discomfort with public speaking, want to



After the 1994 genocide, Rotarians led a successful campaign to build Rwanda's first public library.

grow personally and professionally.

Additionally, our club encourages high school students to participate in our Four-Way Test Speech Contest. We had 21 students in the preliminary round this year.

We're committed to improving the speaking

skills of young people so that someday they may influence others to, as RI President Mark Daniel Maloney puts it, "make lives better as Rotary Connects the World."

DICK MARKS

Waynesboro, Pennsylvania

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

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Correction: Sherry Chamberlain ("People of Action Around the Globe," March) is immediate past governor of District 5060.

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 admire
the man
who makes
the extra
effort.**

It's easy to spot Joe Otin at One Rotary Center. With his ramrod posture, he's a walking advertisement for his tailor. He argues by example that your bow tie and your pocket handkerchief should never match.

Our first conversation, in fact, was about bow ties. There is a brotherhood among those of us who prefer the horizontal adornment, and we tend to find one another in the wild. I remember that he was keen on finding a fabric store in Evanston; his taste in ties is so acute that he needs to source the raw materials for his custom neckwear.

I admire the man who makes the extra effort. This expresses itself in many ways with Joe.

He is the CEO of The Collective, an interactive ad agency, and has held leadership positions in several Kenyan and African research organizations. He serves on the board of directors of the World Wide Fund for Nature – Kenya. He's an avid photographer (whose work was recognized in our annual photo contest in 2012). He's a decent golfer who also works out on the basketball court and in the swimming pool. And he plays classical guitar well enough that audiences gather specifically to hear him.

In addition to all that, Joe finds time to take a leading role in Rotary. He's one of the 36 district governors listed in our feature "Never Too Young to Lead," and he also serves in the Rotary Representative Network, keeping the UN Environment Programme in Nairobi informed on Rotary's aspirations and accomplishments. Did I mention he's only 45 years old? How does he do it all?

Joe told our writer Kim Lisagor Bisheff: "As a child I was informed that you could master anything if you devote 15 minutes a day to practice. I learned to play the guitar at a mature age with this idea in mind, and I have applied it throughout my Rotary career. I spend some time every day on Rotary matters — on administration, communication, and planning.

"Taking up responsibility in Rotary is an excellent way to build your leadership muscles. If you like navigating through challenges, this is an exhilarating experience and it tests your decision-making skills, your relationship-building ability, and your capacity to focus. All these characteristics are necessary for a successful and meaningful life, and if this is the sort of thing you are inclined to do, then don't spend another minute more thinking about it. Go for it."

Whew! I hope I speak for those of us who sometimes lean perilously toward procrastination and sloth when I say, "Duly noted, Joe."



TOGETHER, WE

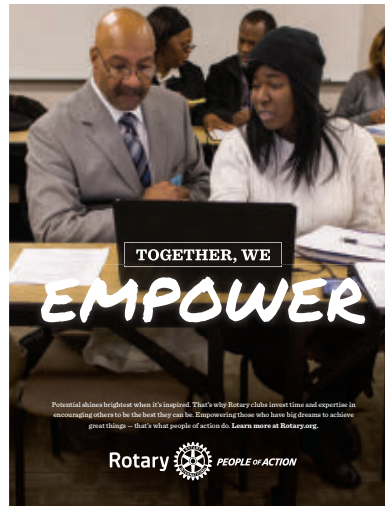
EMPOWER

Potential shines brightest when it's inspired. That's why Rotary clubs invest time and expertise in encouraging others to be the best they can be. Empowering those who have big dreams to achieve great things — that's what people of action do. **Learn more at Rotary.org.**

Rotary



PEOPLE OF ACTION



Tell the community about your club – and the world about Rotary.

Rotary has launched a global campaign to let the world know we are People of Action. The more clubs that join in, the further our message carries.

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Help spread our inspiring message around the globe.



our world



Support system

STEVE DURANT
Rotary Club of Detroit

Walking into high school for the first time wasn't easy for Steve Durant. After suffering a stroke at age 14, he used a cane to cope with tremors and a loss of balance. "My first test wasn't algebra or math. It was walking through the doors of a school with 2,000 people," says Durant, 36.

continued from page 11

Durant suffered a second stroke at 17 — possibly because he carries a sickle cell gene — and struggled with depression. Despite those challenges, he volunteered at the Children’s Hospital of Michigan and participated in the Detroit Police Law Enforcement Explorer program and in other service work. In 2001, the Rotary Club of Detroit named him Youth Citizen of the Year. Thus began an enduring devotion to Rotary; Rotarians, in turn, have been there for him when he needed them most.

While studying finance, Durant became a regular guest at meetings of the Rotary Club of Detroit and helped found the Rotaract Club of Wayne State University. He formed close friendships with Rotary club members, including Trey Greene and Fred Pearson. “They’d adjust my tie or my jacket just like a father would,” he says.

His Rotarian friends also helped him gain confidence. “At first I’d just sit in the back at meetings and watch,” he says. “But then one of the Rotarians came up to me and said, ‘It’s not enough for you to just sit here. You have to learn to talk to people.’”

Durant became a member of the Detroit club. In 2012, he and his wife, Moriah, had a daughter, Rosaria. But when Rosaria was four years old, the family’s car was hit head-on when another motorist crossed the center line. Steve and Moriah Durant suffered serious injuries, and Rosaria was killed.

In honor of their daughter, the Durants founded the Rosaria T. Durant Memorial Fund, which supports programming at the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at Wayne State. Durant is also raising money for a program that eases the transition back to school for young people who have been hospitalized. He is also Rotaract chair for District 6400.

“Steve uses service to others, and Service Above Self, as a way of healing,” says Pearson, director of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies. “But he was inclined in this direction long before that.”

—ANNEMARIE MANNION



Rotarians are on a tear

THE ROTARY CLUB of New Milford, Connecticut, has been shredding for over a decade. So has the Rotary Club of Madison, New Jersey, which hosts two events a year. Every summer, the Rotary Club of Grand Island, New York, is out there shredding, and in the spring and fall the Rotary Club of West Seneca, New York, gets to work. You can shred with the Rotary Club of Encinitas, California, or the Rotary Club of Owatonna, Minnesota. The first shredding day held by the Rotary Club of Great Falls, Montana, was so successful that the club added another one four months later.

One problem many people face when they try to declutter and get organized is how to get rid of sensitive documents — old bills, bank statements, and the rest of the detritus that builds up in home filing cabinets. In an era of identity theft, people are cautious about what they throw in their garbage or recycling.

Carmela and Hal Moeller, members of the Rotary Club of Madison and former business owners, were thinking about their customers’ privacy when they came up with the idea of a document shredding fundraiser. “When my husband and I were closing down our bookstore, credit card receipts were still printed with the entire account number. Obviously, the threat of identity theft was great,” Carmela Moeller says. “We were using a home shredder to

destroy the receipts. When we learned about commercial shredding companies, we thought of our Rotary club doing this as a fundraiser.” Document shredding events became a fixture on the club’s calendar. “People were invited to watch their documents destroyed. It became like a neighborhood block party.”

The idea has obvious appeal. When *The Rotarian* ran a brief item in 2010 about the Rotary Club of New Milford’s document shredding event, the club started hearing from other Rotarians seeking to adopt the idea. “It generated inquiries from Rotary clubs as far away as Australia,” recalls New

“It became like a neighborhood block party.”

Milford Rotarian Arthur Klein. Since then, the idea has taken hold in many Rotary clubs.

The events are a hit with the community and an easy way to raise awareness of Rotary. “Cars line up a half-hour before it begins, and it runs like a well-oiled machine for three hours,” says Klein. “People love having a place to bring their documents to be destroyed securely and cost-effectively. They also love the idea of saving trees and landfill space since the shredding is recycled.”

—HANK SARTIN

“The way you gain trust is by being open and honest.”

Antoni Slodkowski



Truth to power

Since August 2017, more than 740,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled Myanmar for neighboring Bangladesh to escape violence that the United Nations has called “a textbook example of ethnic cleansing.” As Myanmar bureau chief for the Reuters news agency, Antoni Slodkowski led a team of journalists in investigating a massacre of 10 Rohingya men by Buddhist villagers and Myanmar troops. Two of the journalists, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, were arrested during their reporting and spent more than 500 days in prison. The team received a Pulitzer Prize in 2019 for its work.

Slodkowski, who is originally from Lodz, Poland, became interested in international issues as a Rotary Youth Exchange student in Japan. “That year in Osaka shaped my life,” he recalls. “It gave me an incredible foundation and the courage to travel the world and spread my wings.”

THE ROTARIAN: How do you approach reporting in hostile areas?

SLODKOWSKI: There’s a big organization [Reuters] behind us when we work. We have a set of stringent safety protocols. We try to be as conservative and reasonable as we can, while at the same time doing all we can to uncover wrongdoing and injustice, and hold the powerful to account.

TR: Your team got the perpetrators of the violence to open up about what happened. How did you gain trust?

SLODKOWSKI: The way you gain trust is by being open and honest, being upfront, and telling your sources what you want to do. In situations like this, sources are broadly divided into three categories. There are those who will never tell you anything and who will hide. Then there are people who will be boastful about what they’ve done. The man who helped dig the grave of the 10 Rohingya Muslim men, who is quoted at the beginning of the story we published, is like that. But then you also have people who perhaps feel remorse, such as the person quoted at the end of that story, who says he doesn’t want this to happen again and that’s why he’s sharing this information.

TR: There are a couple of really graphic images in this story that first show the 10 men kneeling with their hands behind their backs and, later,

their bloodied bodies after they were slain. Why were those photos included?

SLODKOWSKI: There’s the saying that one picture is worth a thousand words. That is definitely the case here. As long as we could verify it, it’s very important evidence and it’s very rare. I’m proud of the way we presented those images. You can read about each of these men. We met their families in Bangladesh. For us it was very important to name these people and to show that they are fathers and brothers, to bring it home that these are human beings whose families will never forget the tragedy.

TR: What happened as a result of the Reuters investigation and the publication of the story?

SLODKOWSKI: The military launched their own probe into this. They dug up the grave. They sentenced seven soldiers to 10 years in prison. But then these soldiers got quietly released pretty quickly.

People talk about the Pulitzer and congratulate us on the award, and I’m proud and grateful for it. But what really matters is that there were real-life consequences as a result of this reporting. For us, that’s the biggest prize. —DIANA SCHOBBERG

Read the story at
[reuters.com/investigates/special-report/
/myanmar-rakhine-events](https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/myanmar-rakhine-events).



People of action around the globe

Spain's homeless shelters housed an average of more than 18,000 people daily in 2018, up 32% from 2014.

Spain

In January 2019, the Rotary Club of Mijas International implemented a project to provide food and warm clothes to homeless people, but after the club members learned that many of those people could not eat the food because of the poor condition of their teeth, they mobilized a team of dentists who provided some of the people with dentures. This January, the Rotarians saw the fruits of their efforts when they delivered bags of food to 30 homeless people, says Mario Bravo, club president. "The club is very grateful for the way dentists and technicians contributed to this worthy cause," he says.

United Kingdom

Members of the Rotary Club of Hitchin Tilehouse pitched a ShelterBox tent and braved near-freezing temperatures for an overnight campout designed to call attention to the international disaster response organization, which is a Rotary project partner, and the plight of local people in need. "There was a lot of interest from those passing by," says David McIntosh, one of the seven Rotarians who set up camp on the town square of Hitchin on 30 November, shortly after the town turned on the lights on its Christmas tree. In all, the club raised about \$1,300 to help displaced people in the area and abroad.

Kenya

The Rotary Club of Nairobi Madaraka converted a local primary school's staff room into a library for the students. Teachers and administrators were happy to give up their space: "They understood the value of fostering a reading culture," says Sarah Maingi, the club's president. The club hired local carpenters to construct reading tables, benches, and bookshelves that can hold about 2,000 books. Members of the Rotaract Club of University of Nairobi Afya transported the furnishings. A local publisher donated 10 boxes of books, and the library opened in October. The club's contribution — roughly \$2,000 — was funded in part by a golf tournament.



Belize

A 300-foot-long “bio-barrier” snaked its way through the town of Benque Viejo del Carmen in December as Rotarians and other volunteers hauled it to the Mopan River, where it now traps refuse that otherwise might make its way into the Caribbean Sea. An initiative of the Rotary Satellite Club of San Ignacio Benque Viejo, the bio-barrier — a loop net filled with some 1,000 recycled 1.5-liter plastic bottles — captured 130 pounds of garbage, much of it polystyrene foam, diapers, and plastic bags, over a two-day period shortly after its installation.

Anita Ochaeta, a club member, solicited the advice of the Ministry

of Environment and Natural Resources in neighboring Guatemala, which donated the nets and rope and trained club members on the barrier’s assembly and placement. Community members and a local company supplied the empty bottles. Besides boating across the Mopan periodically to collect the garbage, the Rotarians monitor the surface barrier, which is expected to last about a year before it needs to be repaired or replaced. “We hope that through this project, we can sensitize our communities about how much garbage we produce and what damage we cause when we do not properly dispose of it,” says Carmencita Sosa, satellite club chair.

Bahrain

For many years, the Rotary Club of Sulmaniya has supported programs for people with physical and mental disabilities. In October, the club sponsored a bowling tournament for 24 youths in Manama. Members of the Bahrain Paralympic Committee were on hand to demonstrate pro techniques and inspire the children, many of whom are blind or have Down syndrome. About 30 Rotarians, also representing the Rotary clubs of Manama and Adliya, greeted the participants, joined them for a meal, and bowled with them. “We encouraged the youths to have fun and showed them anything is possible,” says Sulmaniya club member Faisal Juma.

— BRAD WEBBER

Evidence in Egypt suggests bowling may have existed in 3200 B.C.





SNAPSHOT **Zanzibar, Tanzania**

While visiting Zanzibar, **THERESA COATES ELLIS**, a member of the Rotary Club of Manassas-Bull Run, Virginia, saw this joyful jumping game, which brought together local residents and tourists. Located in the Indian Ocean off the east coast of Africa, Zanzibar has a history and culture that have been shaped by trade. Stone Town, the old part of Zanzibar city, has been designated as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, which states that the well-preserved city expresses a “particular culture, which has brought together and homogenized disparate elements of the cultures of Africa, the Arab region, India, and Europe over more than a millennium.”



SNAPSHOT **Antarctic Peninsula, Antarctica**

LUKE STANGO, a member of the Rotary Club of Jackson, New Jersey, and his wife, Marcella, were on a vacation that included stops in South Georgia, the Falkland Islands, and Antarctica. While visiting Antarctica, he captured this memorable encounter with a gentoo penguin. “A fellow passenger stopped to take a photo of the area and the colony of penguins. A penguin approached her and kept moving closer and closer. The very curious gentoo saw its image in her cellphone and stared at it for several moments before walking away,” says Stango.





MAY events

1

With honor

EVENT: The Power of Service Spring Fundraiser

HOST: Rotary Club of Upper Arlington, Ohio

WHAT IT BENEFITS: Local projects

WHAT IT IS: Local USO members join Rotarians in honoring the military at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus for this annual spring fundraiser. Members and guests who have served their country will be recognized and celebrated.

2

Lace up the sneaks

EVENT: Rising Sun Run

HOST: Rotary Club of Sierra Vista Sunrise, Arizona

WHAT IT BENEFITS: Youth programs and scholarships

WHAT IT IS: Want a beautiful run? Choose a half-marathon, 5K, 10K, or 1-mile fun run/walk, all leading toward the breathtaking Huachuca Mountains. Sounds like there might be an uphill or two ...

8-9

Smokin' hot

EVENT: Smoke on the Lake BBQ Festival

HOST: Rotary Club of North Cobb County, Georgia

WHAT IT BENEFITS: Local charities

WHAT IT IS: At this festival, held in Cauble Park on Lake Acworth in Acworth, Georgia, 25 teams of amateur chefs compete for honors for the best pork and chicken, including ribs and wings.

16

A quick dash

EVENT: Race for Charity 5K

HOST: Rotary Club of Lancaster, South Carolina

WHAT IT BENEFITS: Local charities and Rotary projects

WHAT IT IS: Get your road races in before the summer heats up the South. Register by 6 May to be guaranteed a T-shirt, but you can sign up the day of the race if you prefer.

17

Swim, bike, run ... fun!

EVENT: Dunedin Triathlon

HOST: Rotary Club of Dunedin, Florida

WHAT IT BENEFITS: Local charities and youth programs

WHAT IT IS: This sprint-distance swim-bike-run race attracts hundreds of athletes and spectators to Honeymoon Island. You don't need to be a triathlete to participate; there are plenty of opportunities to volunteer and sponsor, as well.

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SOURCE: 2016 *Rotarian* Reader Survey conducted by GfK MRI

He texts, she texts

What better way for a father and daughter to debate the merits of having a cellphone in middle school?

by STEVE ALMOND AND JOSEPHINE ALMOND

A little more than a year ago, my wife and I decided to get our then-12-year-old daughter, Josephine, a smartphone. We did so after months of anguished deliberation, having spoken to dozens of parents, nearly all of whom stressed how quickly their children got sucked into an addictive dance with the device. Ultimately, we felt that Josie needed a way to communicate with us, and with her friends, who all have phones. It's a decision we're still struggling with.

But rather than penning one of those anguished parental accounts (*How the iPhone Turned My Teen into a Screen Zombie!*), I asked Josie if we could have a frank discussion — by text, naturally — about how the phone has changed her life and our family dynamic. We have edited out the emojis.

STEVE: You were against the idea of getting a phone at first. Why?

JOSEPHINE: If you'll recall, I did want a phone for a long time. When I was in fifth grade and even the beginning of sixth grade, I begged you guys to get me a phone so I could be like ... EVERYONE! But I gradually began to see how the



iPhone affected my friends and classmates. Everyone was hooked on social media, and one of my main concerns about getting a phone was that I'd end up measuring my worth by the number of followers I had on Instagram. I also noticed that people never spent free time thinking or talking. Basically, when you're bored, out comes the phone.

It was funny to see the looks on people's faces when the issue came up:

"What kind of phone do you have?"

"I don't have a phone."

"Oh, that's sad."

"Actually, I don't want one. I prefer reading."

STEVE: It makes me sad that reading set you apart, but I know that's the world we're living in now. It's why we got you a phone, ultimately. Because your friends wound up texting Mom's phone to make plans with you. She would then pass the message along to you, and pass along your response. Watching this process made me miss the old days (stop sighing) when kids called each other's houses or just came over. With your generation, everything gets routed through the phone — plans, invitations, gossip.

That said, Mom and I did try to resist. We signed a pledge not to get you a phone until eighth grade. But we got worried that you'd miss out on a big part of the social experience of middle school. We gave in to peer pressure, I guess. Did we make a mistake?

JOSEPHINE: It's definitely a peer pressure situation. It's kind of impossible to communicate without a phone these days. I don't know if you made a mistake. It is nice to be able to set up my own hangouts, for one thing. At the same time, the phone is not essential to my life at this point. Eventually, I know it will be. For now, it's just a nice thing to have, so you probably could've waited longer to get

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Based on 2018 GfK MRI reader survey data

me one. Or you could have gotten me a dumb phone, one that only does calling and texting.

STEVE: Our original plan WAS to get you a flip phone! We were worried that giving you an iPhone — which is literally engineered to be addictive — would be a problem. But our phone company would only provide you a phone line if we used Mom's old iPhone. That's not much of an excuse, I realize. But it is a good example of how big corporations compel people to use their products.

Then again, we did have you sign a contract, pledging to use the phone only for calling and texting and using a few necessary apps. No games. No videos. No social media. We set down other ground rules, too, such as leaving the phone with us at night. You are following those rules. Right? RIGHT?

JOSEPHINE: Yes, I try to follow the rules set out in your very long and FANCY contract. I mostly use it for texting, photos, calling, and an app that tells me when the bus is arriving.

I looked around the bus yesterday morning, and literally every single kid was on his/her/their phone. Almost all of them were playing games or on social media. If I did those things, I would definitely be on my phone a lot more. One thing that actually helps is Screen Time, which tells me how long I'm on the phone per day.

STEVE: I do the same thing with Screen Time! And I'm always shocked at how much time I spend on the phone. It's almost like those minutes get sucked into some void. What I remember from my own childhood (yes, I can hear you sighing again) is that kids were bored a lot more. Corporations have figured out that the most valuable resource we have left as a species is attention, and they've created these devices that capture our attention. The result is that we're never bored, but we're also never fully paying attention to the world around us.

JOSEPHINE: What I see is that phones serve a dual purpose of cutting kids off and sucking them in. I was reading an article about phone addiction, and the person they profiled sounded so lonely. We learn about cause and effect in science class. In terms of social isolation, the phone is both cause AND effect.

I think video games and social media are the most dangerous apps. Take this weekend, for example. We went up to Maine with Grandpa, and my brother convinced me to download a ... GAME! (I know. I know. Josephine HOW COULD YOU?!) We got Mom's permission first. But once we had it? Forget it. Jude was asking me to play it all the time. He wouldn't play Monopoly with me because he had to play the phone game. He played in the car constantly. And I felt drawn to my phone like never before. I erased the game as soon as we got back, mostly because Mom told me to get rid of it.

STEVE: The problem, from what I can see, isn't that video games are bad. It's that they're now ubiquitous. When I was growing up, you had to go to an arcade and plunk down a quarter to play a video game. I shudder to think what I would have been like if I'd had a smartphone at your age. I'm guessing they would have had to surgically remove it from my hand. But I don't fear the games as much as I do the social media stuff, because the drama of school now follows kids home. There's no respite from the gossip and the insults and the popularity mongering. You don't get any time to recover from the stress of socializing with, like, 500 other insecure teenagers.

JOSEPHINE: Yes, the social media biz. My, my, is that a dark and tangled abyss. Some of my friends are on social media, and a lot of kids definitely talk about it. I hear people bragging all the time about the number of followers they have. The more followers you have, the more oohs and ahhs you get. It's a pretty horrible way to measure your worth, IMO. I

sometimes do feel a little left out, because there are numerous references to memes, for one thing. And people use social media to spread good messages. But there's also a lot of hate language. And the sites normalize behavior that's awful and offensive.

STEVE: Smartphones and social media and whatever comes along next are all just tools. What matters is how we use them. In the end, that's why Mom and I gave you the phone. We felt you would make good choices and develop good habits. And that's what's happened, so far as we can tell. You've remained the thoughtful and compassionate person we know and love.

I'm thinking of something that happened last month, when we were driving down to visit Grandma and Grandpa. I spotted you in the rearview mirror, staring down intently. And, as you'll recall, I said something perfectly obnoxious: "Jos, I want you off that phone!"

To which you calmly responded: "I'm not on my phone. I'm reading."

I've never been so happy to be wrong.

JOSEPHINE: I think all in all, the phone can be a useful tool. It can also be distracting, isolating, and mind-numbing. The important thing is to try not to be DEPENDENT on the phone. It's a supplement to your life, not YOUR WHOLE LIFE. I live in a world of technology. I know I'll be using it for the rest of my life. But I hope that my children, and their children, can always have a self beyond an online presence, beyond a constant stream of simulation.

Everyone deserves that. ■

Steve Almond is a writer best known as the father of Josephine Colette Almond. In her spare time, Josephine, who is in the seventh grade, enjoys reading, writing, and drawing. She enjoys most of her classes, especially Spanish. She sings with the Boston Children's Chorus and dreams of owning a pig.

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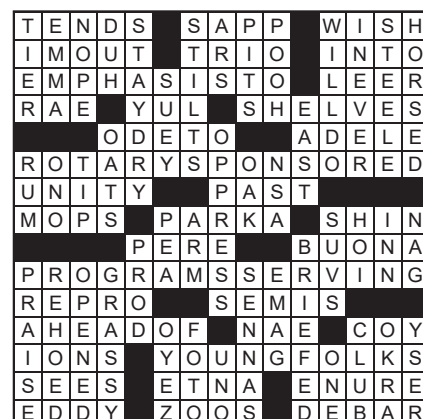


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NEVER TOO YOUNG

Six Rotarians reveal the secrets
of balancing family and work
that allowed them to take
on the role of district governor
before turning 50

TO LEAD

As an active member of the Rotary Club of Hampton Roads (Norfolk) in Virginia, Clenise Platt had been a club president and taken on some leadership roles in her district. Even so, it came as a complete surprise when Mary Landon, the club's 2016-17 president, approached her at the end of a meeting and asked if it would be OK to nominate her for district governor.

"I thought one day I might place my name in the hat to become a district governor," says Platt, 48. "But truth be told, I thought 'one day' was years away."

Moved by the request, she asked for a few days to think it over. She consulted with friends and family, researched the job requirements, and did some soul-searching. "I determined that it was important to me that if I agreed to be nominated, it would be because I believed I could bring a fresh perspective to the role," she says. "Becoming district governor would not be a

résumé builder or an item to check off on a to-do list."

Decision made, Platt accepted the nomination and later learned that she would become the first African American woman to serve as governor in District 7600's history.

Platt may be part of a growing trend within Rotary. In recent years, an increasing number of young Rotarians have accepted district-level positions that had traditionally been held by older members. On 1 July 2019, Rotary inaugurated 36 district governors under age 50. They are midcareer professionals with demanding jobs in medicine, education, tech, finance, and broadcasting. There's an architect, an advertising executive, a legislator, a lawyer, a veterinarian, and a soy sauce manufacturer. They all have families and friends; some have young children. Yet each of them managed to find the time to take a top leadership position in their districts. Here's how six of them make it work.

SHIA SMART

District 9810, Australia | 41 clubs; 1,128 members

Shia Smart joined Rotary when her son, Flynn, was four months old. "So effectively he's only known Rotary," she says. "He's been brought up with it." Now 15, Flynn travels with his mother to district functions and has logged more meeting hours than many adult Rotarians.

During the same period, Smart, who lives about 15 miles east of Melbourne, was developing her career as an IT business analyst. "I've always worked for other people," she says. "I've had flexible working arrangements, but I've never been in a position where I control what I do or where I'm going."

So how did a working mom become a Rotary district governor? Club culture played a significant role, says Smart, 49. She's a charter member of the Rotary Club of Mont Albert & Surrey Hills, which enacted policies that encouraged working parents to rise through the Rotary ranks: They welcomed children at meetings, relaxed attendance requirements, and scheduled board meetings outside business hours.

That culture empowered Smart to shape her year as district governor to accommodate her job and her responsibilities as a parent. Her first move upon learning that she would become DG was to get her son's school calendar so she could schedule club visits and meetings accordingly. And when she got a new job just before the start of her term, she set her schedule to



make it work. "I said, 'I need all these days off for Rotary,'" and her new employer assented. "I have been very lucky that Rotary is so structured and organized."

Every step of the way, Smart says, she has made an effort to communicate with colleagues, friends, and family about her Rotary life. "It's amazing how accommodating people can be when you explain things," she says. "Take people on the journey with you, and you will find they are very supportive."



**“I truly believe
Rotary leadership
is possible while
working full time.”**

SANTHANA NAIDU

District 6580, Indiana | 32 clubs; 1,515 members

Santhana Naidu explains the strategy that helps him manage his roles as husband, father, district governor, and associate vice president of marketing and communications at Indiana State University in Terre Haute. It can be summed up in one word: compartmentalization. “I set aside two workday evenings and weekends for Rotary business,” he says. “I don’t generally take [Rotary-related] calls or emails during workdays unless it’s an emergency.”

Of course, that approach depends on the cooperation of all stakeholders. ISU lets him work remotely when needed, and his wife, Amy, “has been pulling my share at home when I’m away,” Naidu admits. “I couldn’t do this without a supportive employer and family.”

The district’s clubs have also lent their support. About two-thirds of them have held joint meetings or socials so he wouldn’t have to travel on his workdays. “At the social events, several people have told me how much they’ve enjoyed interacting with a DG,” he says. “I see that as a win.”

In recent years, the district has developed a culture of supporting young leaders, Naidu says. “Past district governors have been instrumental in resetting expectations for younger Rotarians and working professionals.” That included hiring a district administrator to help with day-to-day office duties. The result: At 42, Naidu, a member of the Rotary Club of Terre Haute, is the district’s youngest-ever DG, and the next in line is a working mother of four.

“I truly believe Rotary leadership is possible while working full time,” Naidu says, “and you can do a good job on both fronts.”

ANNA TUMANOVA

District 2223, Russian Federation
77 clubs; 1,107 members

When your district spans all of Russia, visiting each of its clubs can be a challenge. Consider this: Flying east from St. Petersburg on the Gulf of Finland to Vladivostok on the Sea of Japan — more than 4,000 miles — takes about 12 hours.

That’s why Russia’s District 2223 has initiated a six-year pilot program that divides the district into five regions, each of which

has its own director. “I hope that all these regions in six years can be separate districts,” Anna Tumanova says. “We have huge potential here. Of course, we still have a lot of work to do.”

Tumanova, 43, is no stranger to work. She has been an active Rotarian and full-time financial consultant since 2005, when she and her husband, Vladimir Rtishchev, chartered the Rotary Club of Ulyanovsk, a city on the Volga River about 500 miles east of Moscow. When Rtishchev died of liver cancer in 2015, Tumanova didn’t step back from Rotary. She leaned in. Rtishchev had hoped to become a district governor one day. In taking on that role, Tumanova has fulfilled his dream. “It helped that I had Rotary friends all across Russia,” she says.

Everywhere Rotary takes Tumanova, her daughter, Varvara, goes as well. “Now she also has friends all over the country,” Tumanova says. “Rotary kids.” Varvara, 12, plans to launch an

IGOR LENIN PENICHE RUIZ

District 4195, Mexico | 78 clubs; 1,170 members

On a typical workday, Igor Lenin Peniche Ruiz drives an hour from his home to his family's 3,000-acre ranch in the Yucatán jungle, where he and his 10 employees are raising about 500 beef cattle. As general manager, he observes the animals, talks with his team, takes notes on the cows, bulls, and calves, and monitors their feed, which they grow on-site. It's a demanding job, and the only one he has ever known: The ranch belongs to his 79-year-old father, who has worked alongside him for years.

That routine changed significantly when Peniche Ruiz became a Rotary district governor. At the start of his term, he was traveling for Rotary five or six days a week. His father, his sister, and his workers — some of whom have been with the ranch for 30 years — picked up the slack. "My Rotary team is really good, but my work team is even better," he says. "I trust in my team, I trust in my family, and they allowed me to do this work."

Peniche Ruiz, 49, says his employees are happy to pitch in because they've seen how Rotary has helped people in their communities. "They already live the magic of Rotary," he says. In one instance, his club, the Rotary Club of Mérida-Itzaes, sponsored a medical clinic in a nearby town. Doctors diagnosed life-threatening conditions in time to save two patients' lives.

At home, that magic has spread to each of his five daughters. Four have participated in Rotary Youth Exchange, three have been Rotaractors, one was a Rotaract club president and district representative, and one was an Interact club



president. "My wife, Norma, is the main key to keeping everything in balance," he says.

When Peniche Ruiz joined Rotary 20 years ago, his oldest daughter was 10. His youngest is now 18, so he and his wife decided that this was the right time for him to take on the role of DG. As always, he has Norma's full support. "That's the only way you're going to be a successful person," he says. "Family is the most important thing."

**"It helped that I had
Rotary friends
all across Russia."**

Interact club with her Rotary friends from across the region so they can more easily keep in touch. She gets straight A's in school, where she is allowed to do homework via the internet when she is on the road. And she and her friends have learned to enjoy one of the perks of Rotary trips: "Rotarians travel not like tourists but like real guests," Tumanova says. "I hope that Varvara and her friends will grow up as people of the world. They have no borders in their minds, and that's very important."





CLENISE PLATT

District 7600, Virginia | 62 clubs; 2,508 members

Clenise Platt's first Rotary leadership role was chairing her club's dictionary project, a fitting assignment for someone who had written a children's book. When club members found out about the book, *Keep Your Chin Up*, they asked her to read it to local third graders when she delivered the dictionaries. A few years later, the club began donating copies of the book along with the dictionaries; since then, about 2,000 students have received her book.

"I am so appreciative of the way my club engaged me as a young leader," Platt says. "I think their willingness to make space for me to be a leader in the club, and the way they asked to include my book in the program for the third graders, helped me to feel engaged and an important part of the club."

The experience led her to pursue increasingly influential roles within her club and her district. Along the way, she learned to

JACO STANDER

District 9370, South Africa and Lesotho
88 clubs; 1,446 members

Jaco Stander may be one of the oldest of the 36 younger DGs — he turned 50 about halfway into his term — but like others in his cohort, he has embraced Rotary as a family affair. His wife, Lisa, a pharmacist, is also a Rotarian. In the year leading up to his term, she traveled with him to all of his training sessions so, he explains, "we could share our Rotary journey together." They planned their visits to the district's clubs in a way that allowed them to keep tabs on Stander's two gas stations and block out time for family and friends.

"Both my wife and I planned our working environment to commit to the DG year," he says. Stander trained two managers to oversee his business. (He adds, "I'm also fortunate to still have my parents, who are able to assist where needed.") So she could have more flexibility, Lisa became a locum pharmacist, which means she's employed on a contractual rather than full-time basis. It helped that their children — Christopher, 24, and Brigitte, 22 — had finished or were about to finish college. "The timing made sense at that stage," he says.

The process that led to Stander taking on the DG position started years earlier, when he became a Rotarian. "My club encourages young and new members to play an active role in club leadership," he says. "I had the opportunity to lead a wide range of portfolios." (Stander is a member of the Rotary Club of Klerksdorp, a city about 100 miles southwest of Johannesburg.) His district took the same approach, pulling him into a district youth committee, a term as assistant governor, and various training events early in his Rotary career. And when he completes his term as governor, he will lead his district's 2020-21 youth services committee.

Those experiences encouraged him to aim higher. "I wanted to be part of district leadership and be more involved in the management of Rotary," he says. The final nudge was a phone call from Bruce Steele-Gray, a past district governor, who asked him to apply. Stander also received support and encouragement from what he calls his "close group of PDG friends."

"Becoming a district governor is an amazing opportunity to experience Rotary at a totally different level," he says. Stander also recommends diving into district activities early and often. "It's a way to acquire knowledge and experience," he says, "as well as an opportunity to contribute new energy and views that will help bring Rotary into the modern era." ■

In our February issue, Kim Lisagor Bisheff wrote about how to spot fake news.

integrate her service life with her job by being clear about her priorities. On her first day as the staff development coordinator at the Virginia Beach Public Library, Platt told her co-workers that she was a Rotarian and hoped to become a district governor one day. “I had no idea that I would be on the pathway to governor less than a year later,” she says.

To maximize time with friends and family, Platt has looked for opportunities to include them in Rotary functions. Her parents, Clinton and Hattie, have attended meetings, fundraisers, club visits, installation ceremonies, and international conventions, and they have volunteered at a district conference. “They have fans who ask about them when they aren’t at an event,” she says. “I made my parents Paul Harris Fellows because they were the first people who taught me the meaning of Service Above Self.” Her brother, Gabriel, will soon become a Paul Harris Fellow as well.

“Rotary has been a complement to my family,” she says. “I have found that incorporating my personal and professional life with Rotary has enriched my experience as a district governor in a number of ways.”



“My club encourages young and new members to play an active role.”

The next generation of Rotary leaders

On 1 July 2019, 36 district governors under the age of 50 took office. We talked with many of them and profiled six. Here are the other 30.

Marc Aarons, District 5320 (United States)

Washington Barbosa, District 4440 (Brazil)

Ivonne Castillo Guillén, District 4240 (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Panama)

Febri Dipokusumo, District 3420 (Indonesia)

Tiffany Ervin, District 7670 (United States)

Richard Fox, District 7850 (parts of Canada and United States)

Ramiro de la Garza Anzaldúa, District 4130 (parts of Mexico and United States)

Hari Gupta, District 3100 (India)

Sameer Hariani, District 3190 (India)

Bernadette Herrera-Dy, District 3780 (Philippines)

Danijel Jozic, District 1913 (Croatia)

Aruljothi Karthikeyan, District 3202 (India)

Jason Leib, District 5710 (United States)

Jonathan Lucas, District 7610 (United States)

Jonathan Mattox, District 6800 (United States)

Jan Mittelstaedt, District 1930 (Germany)

André Moutinho, District 4780 (Brazil)

Sunil Nagpal, District 3070 (India)

Everett Oliván, District 3820 (Philippines)

Joe Otin, District 9212 (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, and South Sudan)

Nayan Patil, District 3160 (India)

Justin Quaranta, District 7255 (United States)

Jürgen Reiske, District 1842 (Germany)

Mara Ribeiro Duarte, District 1960 (Portugal)

Roger Rodrigues Roberto, District 4660 (Brazil)

Francis Xavier Sentamu, District 9211 (Tanzania and Uganda)

Mykola Stebljanko, District 2232 (Belarus and Ukraine)

Annika Svensson, District 2400 (Sweden)

Sakon Uengsroithong, District 3330 (Thailand)

Adriano Valente, District 4420 (Brazil)



NATURE & NURTURE

With help from a Rotary Foundation global grant, a group of women in rural Costa Rica are using ecotourism to enrich their families' futures

by Diana Schoberg | photography by Ricardo Morales Portillo







rive east from the small city of Turrialba in the mountainous central region of Costa Rica, and after about an hour you will find yourself traveling down a bumpy gravel road. Cross a narrow bridge and you will find the even smaller town of Mollejones, which is where Karen and Evelyn García Fuentes grew up on a coffee farm. The farm belongs to their father, who had inherited the land from his grandfather.

When Karen and Evelyn were in their late teens, they left town and went to college. Moving to the city is the dream of many rural teenagers the world over. But after college, the sisters decided to return to Mollejones. Finding work close to home was difficult, but Karen had heard about a business in Costa Rica that raised butterflies for export. Karen set to work on learning what it would take to launch a similar enterprise. “We wanted our own project,” Evelyn says.

At the beginning, their father didn’t believe in the idea — and the butterflies terrified their mother. But Karen worked hard and focused on the business. Evelyn joined her, and their mother now works with them too. Another sister is handling the marketing and social media, and their father has given over more and more of his coffee farm to the butterflies. “The business has united the family,” Karen says.

The traditional perception of rural farmers is that their kids need to study so they can eventually leave. But the García sisters came back home. “We broke that cycle for our farm and our community,” Karen says.



he midmorning sun beats down on the García sisters as they smile and pose next to a colorfully painted sign that says *Hogar de Mariposas*: Home of the Butterflies. Karen McDaniels, a visitor from the United States, snaps their photo. “We’ll use these in your brochure, OK?” she says, before climbing a flight of earthen steps and walking a muddy path to see the butterfly sanctuary.

A member of the Rotary Club of Denton, Texas, McDaniels has come to Mollejones to inspect firsthand the impact of a Rotary Foundation global grant championed by her club in partnership with the Rotary Club of Cartago, Costa Rica. The grant has three components that address business training, aquaponics, and an eco-hotel. Among other things, the grant provides support for the García sisters and other local women who recently launched a tourism

cooperative to attract visitors to experience the area’s rainforests, waterfalls, butterflies, and birds, as well as its traditional way of life. Rotarians partnered with the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center; based in Turrialba, the organization, known as CATIE (pronounced “KAH-tee-ay”), has been working with the women for years.

At the sanctuary, hundreds of butterflies flutter about. Like a suitor trying too hard, they’re almost aggressively friendly, landing on visitors’ shoulders, hands, and bags. A gaudy orange and black butterfly even latches on to the lips of Eliécer Vargas, a professor of sustainable tourism at CATIE. “She fell in love with me!” he jokes as the butterfly gives him a kiss.

According to town leaders, until the late 20th century, Mollejones was a coffee and sugarcane town. But when commodity prices began to plummet two decades ago, half of its population left to find new ways to make a living. That’s when the idea for community-based tourism took root. The village lies near the Río Pacuare, where you will find some of the planet’s most celebrated whitewater rapids. In 2011, Mollejones hosted the World Rafting Championships, and the following year, a few of the resi-

Left: Karen García Fuentes raises caterpillars and butterflies in her family business. **Previous pages:** The butterfly sanctuary has become a local tourist attraction. “The Rotary training helped me develop my vision for the business,” García says.

dents went to CATIE for help strengthening their tourism industry. Soon after, Vargas and his students became involved.

Full of ideas, energy, and one-liners, Vargas is the primary conduit between the Rotarians and the women. He's the perfect complement to the more reserved and no-nonsense McDaniels. Born in Saudi Arabia, McDaniels was educated in Switzerland and the United States. She spent most of her career working around the world for 3M; after retirement, she founded two nonprofits — one in Cambodia and another in Indonesia — to help the people she had met while living in those countries. When the children of the waste pickers she was working with in Indonesia grew sick from drinking tainted water, she struggled to find assistance for them. Someone suggested she contact a Rotary club there. The Rotary Club of Jakarta Cilandak stepped in, and McDaniels was hooked.

In 2017, McDaniels joined the Rotary Club of Denton, where she spearheaded the ecotourism global grant. Vargas, who had never worked with Rotary before, wasn't sure what to expect. He didn't even know if the Rotarians would follow through on their promises. "Then I met Karen," he says. "She demands, and she delivers. She walks the talk. And after meeting the Rotary team, I realized that she pulls in people who want to make a difference."

A

ngie Montoya Fernández's father had been a coffee picker, but that's a seasonal job. He didn't want to travel to work in the capital city of San José, a couple of hours away, because he wanted to remain with his family. Instead, he and his wife learned English and became tour guides. "When I grew up, I wanted to be a tour guide too," Montoya says.

As she talks, Montoya stands at the entryway to Guayabo National Monument, Costa Rica's largest pre-Columbian archaeological site. A map of the landmark stands behind her, and to her side, the path to the ruins runs through a rainforest filled with ferns, vines, and epiphytes.

About 20,000 people visit the monument annually, and Montoya and her family are some of the freelance guides who show them around. To support other small, local entrepreneurs, Montoya's mother, Rosa Fernández,

**The Rotary Foundation
global grant has three components
that address business training,
aquaponics, and an eco-hotel.**





had the idea to offer those visitors things to do while they're in the area. Now, when people call to arrange a Guayabo tour, they also have an opportunity to book other options, such as a farm tour, lodging, or a cooking class. "I love the pre-Columbian history, but we need to move people to other places, too," Montoya says.

That's where the women's tourism cooperative, called RETUS — Red de Emprendedoras del Turismo Sostenible de Turrialba, or Network of Women Entrepreneurs of Sustainable Tourism in Turrialba — comes into play. "The challenge for big tour operators is to trust a small tour operator or small provider," Vargas says. "With RETUS, we hope this will give the local women a chance."

The tourism cooperative got its start as an outreach project with Vargas' graduate students at CATIE. "I wanted my students not just to read about sustainable tourism, but to do it," Vargas says. He didn't have money in his budget for outreach, but he could muster up some for research. So his students, who are studying at the center through a joint master's program with the University of North Texas in Denton, began working with people who lived in the surrounding towns and villages. In Mollejones, for example, they held workshops where residents talked about what is

unique about their community. The students transformed those conversations into experiential tour ideas that showcase the community's heritage.

Vargas identified six women who were already working in tourism. "I call them the *madrinas*," he says — the godmothers. These were women who may have been single mothers, or who raised a group of kids, or who learned English even though they had no education. Like Rosa Fernández (one of the *madrinas*), they went on to greater achievements and served as examples of what other women could accomplish.

Vargas told the *madrinas* that he wanted to help them form a tourism network, but it was up to them to choose the women who would be part of it. He told them to think of themselves as businesswomen and to envision what they wanted to happen in their communities and how they could help make that dream a reality. "I told them bring the women, but don't tell them this is a project," Vargas says. "Tell them this is a movement: 'Don't be a part of RETUS because you want to help yourself. Be a part of RETUS because you want to help women just like you.'" Three of the original *madrinas* decided they wanted to be involved, and they ended up with 18 women participating in some of the early phases of the tourism cooperative.

Previous pages: The Breneses' aquaponic garden, which raises produce and tilapia, was part of a Rotary Foundation global grant project.



What those women were most eager to learn were business skills, things like administration, accounting, and marketing. Exactly the kinds of things Rotarians are experts in.

M

arielos Salazar Cabezas slaps a ball of clay between her hands. Behind her, the muted tones of the buckets filled with mud contrast with the bright prism of paint bottles scattered throughout her pottery studio. A few times each year, Salazar heads into the nearby mountains to dig up soil that she strains and drains until the clay separates. The process can take up to a year before it's the consistency she needs to craft the pots, bowls, piggy banks, Nativity scenes, and other unique artifacts that line her studio's shelves.

Salazar met two of the *madrinas* at a craft fair, and they invited her to join the tourism cooperative. "I like the interaction," she says. "I believe this is a great opportunity. We've got a lot of support."

Left: Marielos Salazar Cabezas makes pottery out of clay she digs up in the mountains, creating meaningful souvenirs for tourists.

Right: María Eugenia Brenes Araya (right) with daughters Alicia and Idali run a business that includes a home-stay, meals, and gardens. The work helps provide the women with an income in their community so they don't have to move to a bigger city for employment.


Some of that support came during the training workshops made possible by funding from the global grant; most of those classes were held in the boardroom on the third floor of CATIE's administration building. During the financial portion of the training, Salazar learned how to calculate what she should be charging for her creations. Now, she starts with 2 kilos of clay and logs the time she spends working on a piece to determine the cost of her labor.

Salazar writes McDaniels a receipt after selling her some pottery. On the first day of class, all of the attendees had received a receipt book and a cost of goods sold financial sheet, among other things. "We explained the receipt book, how it works, and why it's important," McDaniels says. "Now they can get their clients' names and contact information to follow up with them by email."

The women in the cooperative had told McDaniels that they wanted to learn English, so each day of the workshops would begin with English games and exercises led by Cathy Henderson, a member of the Rotary Club of Denton-Lake Cities and a real estate agent who teaches English as a Second Language in Denton. "I'd have perfume samples, sprays, lip balm, and lotions for prizes," Henderson recalls. And candy: A particular







“The challenge for big tour operators is to trust a small tour operator or small provider. We hope this will give the local women a chance.”

favorite was Life Savers mints. The women were paired up with Texas Rotarians to continue practicing over WhatsApp.

“These are phenomenal, hardworking women,” says Vanessa Ellison, a member of the Rotary Club of Denton Evening, who trained the women in marketing and social media. “They have a lot of cultural knowledge that would be attractive to tourists. We were simply there to help them put that out there.”

As McDaniels walks through the studio, Salazar tells her how the project benefited the women involved *and* the community. She can now afford to hire a woman to help clean twice a week, so now that woman has work too — and the benefits of the workshops and the global grant are evident elsewhere as well.

W

hen Vargas and his students conducted a sustainability assessment in Mollejones a few years ago, they discovered that the tourism projects themselves were sustainable except for one thing: People were feeding tilapia to the guests who had booked a meal. And the tilapia was coming from other countries. Vargas and his students looked into a local source for tilapia, but the work it entailed to transport the fish wasn’t feasible for the three or four fillets that hosts needed at a time.

Vargas had some experience with aquaponics — a system that combines raising fish with hydroponics, the science of growing plants in nutrient-enriched water — and he thought it might be the solution. He proposed the idea to the Rotarians, who included four aquaponics systems in the global grant, one for each of the three communities where they were working and a fourth at CATIE. Texas and Cartago Rotarians, as well as local volunteers, pitched in to construct the systems. “We were happy to get the opportunity to go into the rural communities in person and meet people and help them,” says Gloria Margarita Davila Calero, a Cartago Rotarian.

Given that it takes a fine balance between the number of fish and the number of plants to keep both alive, this phase of the project started small. “We want the technology to work,” Vargas says. “We don’t want to create false expectations.” The women in the cooperative were told that this was a research project, not a giveaway, and that they needed to sign on for one



year to see if the system could be perfected. When that phase concludes later this year, the women could train other residents who might want a system of their own.

Brian Glenn, a retired fire battalion chief and the president-elect of the Denton-Lake Cities club, helped get this phase of the project started. He had become an expert in the science of water pressure and hoses during his career, and that knowledge translated well to the aquaponics systems. “It was on a different scale from what we used in the fire department, but the same hydraulic concepts apply,” he says. Plus Glenn knew how to swing a hammer from part-time jobs over the years, so that skill came in handy too. Once the variables are worked out, he says, Rotarians plan to make a kit with the materials needed to start an aquaponics garden, which Rotary clubs could then sponsor.

María Eugenia Brenes Araya received one of the pilot systems. At her home in Guayabo, she and her daughters Idali and Alicia are wearing matching shirts with the RETUS logo on the front and their names on the sleeves. The family offers a homestay,

a cute two-bedroom unit at the back of their house. Guests can learn about the aquaponics garden and the family’s *huerta*, a traditional vegetable garden made of rows of mounded earth. In the front of the house, there is a permaculture garden, which takes a more localized, ecologically conscious approach to farming. “I started with a little idea, and when I went to the training with the Rotarians, I found I had other ideas to implement,” says Brenes, who is the cooperative’s treasurer.

Like mother, like daughter. Since they were already providing guests with somewhere to sleep, Idali, 18, had the idea to serve them a good meal. Now she’s thinking about starting a catering service and offering traditional gastronomic tours. Like the García sisters, she hopes that, rather than move to a distant city, she has found a way to stay close to home.

At a table overlooking the gardens, McDaniels, Vargas, and others sit down to one of Idali’s lunches. In the distance, the towering mountains provide a breathtaking backdrop. The meal, featuring produce from the family’s backyard, is equally spectacular. This could be the beginning of a brilliant career.

Previous pages:

Noemy Ramírez Nuñez hosts tourists who want to learn the art of making tortillas. “It’s authentic. It’s how she cooks in daily life,” says Marjorie Moya Ramírez, her niece.



A

s she approaches a sky-blue house on the CATIE campus, McDaniels breaks into a grin. “It’s beautiful!” she exclaims. This was the first house built on the campus, in 1942, and since then, it has had various functions: employee housing, a Spanish school, student housing. But it had fallen into disrepair. Water leaked, and there were bats. “When I stayed here last year, you’d wake up with termite dust on you,” says Lynne Corvaglia, a student from Toronto who is the house’s resident manager.

Vargas had long dreamed of turning the dilapidated structure, which he calls the Sustainability House, into something more. In the early phase of Rotary’s involvement, McDaniels had stayed here as she toured nearby towns with the Cartago Rotarians. She saw an opportunity to rebuild

Left: Mario Rivera Solano (left) of the Rotary Club of Cartago, Costa Rica; Karen McDaniels of the Rotary Club of Denton, Texas; and Juan Carlos Mendez and Eliécer Vargas of CATIE celebrate the opening of the Sustainability House.

Right: The house will serve as an eco-hotel for tour groups visiting the area. **Next pages:** The community of Mollejonas has involved its children in its tourism efforts.

and repurpose the house as an ecolodge for tour groups and as a place for RETUS members to meet and train, as well as welcome their guests. “Karen is like that,” Vargas says. “She’s a businessperson. She connects things.”

The Rotarians made renovating the Sustainability House the third component of their global grant. In July, Texas Rotarians and Interactors joined the Costa Rican Rotarians, RETUS, and local volunteers in a renovation blitz. Today, the high ceilings that had shed termite dust are repaired. Plywood was removed to reveal the original shiplap walls. Large open windows original to the house provide a view of the experimental gardens outside. The rewired house has high-speed Wi-Fi, an accessible bathroom, and an outdoor kitchen and patio lit with Christmas lights, and there are plans to hire someone to work from the house and promote the ecotours now being offered in nearby towns. “It’s going to help get clients for every single woman who works in RETUS,” says Marielos Salazar, the potter, who is also the group’s secretary. “This is a great opportunity, and we have to work together to make this grow.”

M

arjorie Moya Ramírez, who has led the tour through Mollejones that began at the García sisters' butterfly garden, now welcomes McDaniels and others to her family's home. A veteran, with her sister Luisa, of Rotary's three weeklong business workshops, Moya shows off the bags that she, her sister, and her mother sew and sell. Like the other women in the cooperative, Moya refers to her various enterprises as "projects," a word that hints at the different way she and her associates view the economics of their situation. "When you talk to these women about money," Vargas explains, "they say that, for them, it's about their families and the needs of their community. The traditional model of maximizing profits has its limits in the communities we work in. We have to talk about social entrepreneurship."

The day ends at the Mollejones community center with a traditional *tico* (that is, Costa Rican) meal of *casado*: rice, beans, meat, and salad. Some local children have joined the group, and one girl tells McDaniels about her plans to study tourism in college and then return home to pursue her career. As Karen García said earlier in the day, the cycle of sons and daughters eventually leaving this small town to search for work elsewhere has been broken.

After the meal, everyone holds hands and sits in a circle, singing a song about children helping children. As the sun sets behind the mountains, some of the girls rise and begin performing traditional dances. Their skirts swirl about them in a blaze of color, and the girls smile broadly, *mariposas hermosas* — beautiful butterflies — floating above a garden of song, their futures made brighter with a lift from Rotary. ■

HOW TO HELP

This project was supported by a Rotary Foundation global grant. Global grants support sustainable activities within Rotary's areas of focus. Like this project, they are designed in cooperation with communities to address real needs.

When you make a donation to The Rotary Foundation, you can make lives better in your community and around the world. Give at rotary.org/donate.



“The traditional model of maximizing profits has its limits in the communities we work in. We have to talk about social entrepreneurship.”



Rotaract rising

by Vanessa Glavinskas





The ongoing evolution of Rotaract is redefining its place within Rotary. “It’s a new era,” says one enthusiastic Rotaractor

At midnight on 30 June, hundreds of Rotaractors will be celebrating their 100th year together. They'll also be celebrating the expansion of Rotary membership, including the expansion of Rotary membership to Rotaractors.

Interota 2020 will be held from 27 June to 1 July in Hong Kong.
Interota is a triennial Rotaract event, organized by Rotaract members with support from Rotary International, that includes workshops, discussions, and speakers as well as cultural activities. Learn more at interota2020.org.



Rotary programs include:
Interact
Rotary Youth Exchange
Rotary Youth Leadership Awards
New Generations Service Exchange
Rotary Peace Fellowships
Rotary Community Corps



A countdown celebration is scheduled for the last night of **Interota 2020**, Rotaract's triennial convention, which will be held in Hong Kong next month.

"It's really exciting," says Ignacio González, a member of the Rotaract Club of Oriente de Talca in Chile. Until recently, Rotaractors have been considered **Rotary program participants**. "Now," says González, who serves on the Elevate Rotaract Task Force, "we are a part of Rotary. It's a new era for Rotaract."

Rotary President Mark Daniel Maloney and President-elect Holger Knaack, strong champions of Rotaract, will be at Interota this year. It may be the first time a presidential changeover ceremony has taken place at a Rotaract event.

Rotaract's elevated status within the organization was approved by Rotary's Council on Legislation in 2019 as part of an ongoing effort to make Rotary more appealing and welcoming to young professionals. "We keep telling Rotarians to find a way to bring in young people, when we have them already and we seem to forget them," says 2018-19 Rotary President Barry Rassin. It was Rassin who formally proposed expanding the definition of Rotary membership to include both Rotary and Rotaract.

After the Council approved revising the RI Constitution and Bylaws to **include Rotaract as a membership type**, the Elevate Rotaract Task Force — made up of both Rotaractors and Rotarians — was formed and began surveying members to come up with policy recommendations for the transition. "We're hearing from Rotaractors all over the world," says David D. Stovall, RI treasurer and chair of the task force.

On the advice of the task force, the RI Board of Directors in October approved several changes to Rotaract — the most notable being **the removal of Rotaract's upper age limit**. As of 1 July, members of Rotaract will no longer be required to leave their club when they turn 31. Clubs will still be able to set their own age limit, if they wish.

Elyse Lin, a member of the Rotaract Club of Taipei Tin Harbour in Taiwan who is also on the task force, says the age limit was an obstacle for Rotaract members who wanted to stay involved with Rotary but either didn't feel ready for a traditional Rotary club or found the expense of joining one out of reach. "Once those members leave, it's very hard to get them back into the Rotary family," Lin notes. Although some Rotaract alumni continue to participate in Rotaract events, she says,

Rotaractors will ring in the new Rotary marking Rotaract's ongoing evolution, membership to include Rotaract clubs.

they often no longer feel like a true part of the organization. With the rules change, she predicts some recent alumni will rejoin Rotaract.

Other changes: **New Rotaract clubs won't have to rely on a Rotary club to sponsor them;** they can now sponsor themselves or choose another Rotaract club as their sponsor. And **Rotaractors are now eligible — and encouraged — to serve alongside Rotarians on district and RI committees.** “Elevate Rotaract is really a call for a closer partnership between Rotary and Rotaract,” explains Clement Chinaza Owuamalam, a member of the Rotaract Club of Apo, Nigeria, who serves on the task force.

Rotaract clubs will also gain more support from Rotary International, including access to **administrative tools on My Rotary** and the option to **subscribe to the digital edition of *The Rotarian* magazine.** As the transition from Rotary program to membership type gets underway, the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation also plan to discuss whether Rotaract clubs should be eligible to apply for Foundation grants.

One thing Rotaractors are looking for, says Ronald S. Kawaddwa, a member of the Rotary Club of Kasangati, Uganda, is more professional development opportunities. To meet this demand, a leadership training program Rotary is rolling out with **Toastmasters** will also be available to Rotaract members. “At age 30, you are launching your professional career,” says Kawaddwa, who is on the task force. “If Rotaract provides a better package in terms of professional development, that adds value.”

In 2022, annual dues of \$5 per person for university-based Rotaract clubs and \$8 for community-based clubs will be introduced to cover the cost of additional support for Rotaract clubs. RI will work to develop and promote alternative funding sources to help Rotaractors pay dues, including fundraising opportunities.

Kawaddwa says that shifting the public perception of Rotary is particularly important to attracting more young people in his region. “On the African continent, most of the population is below the age of 30,” he says. “If Rotary remained the way it was, it would soon become irrelevant.”

Letting Rotaract members stay in their clubs longer gives them more time to learn about Rotary, Kawaddwa adds. “We hope that these changes will produce stronger Rotarians, members who have served longer and gotten more experience and mentorship while in Rotaract.”

Rotaract clubs will be able to take advantage of **products and services** such as new leadership development resources from Toastmasters International, updated online goal-setting tools, and an improved online club administration experience.



To subscribe to the digital edition, go to my.rotary.org/en/node/18361.

Rotary has a new alliance with Toastmasters International, and Rotary's online learning center will host a curriculum created by Toastmasters that will help members improve their leadership and communication skills.

To learn more, visit rotary.org/toastmasters.



Frequently as

What are the changes to Rotaract?



1

Rotaract is now a type of Rotary membership.

2

Rotaract clubs will be allowed to sponsor other Rotaract clubs or establish themselves without a sponsor.

3

Rotaract will be open to all young adults 18 and over.

There will no longer be an upper age limit of 30.

The Trustees encourage Rotaract clubs to work with Rotary clubs on global grant projects.

How were the changes to Rotaract decided on?

For several years, members of the RI Board, The Rotary Foundation Trustees, and Rotary committees, along with Rotarians and Rotaractors around the world, have been discussing how to recognize Rotaract clubs as Rotary clubs' partners in service. Rotaractors offered their ideas to the Board through RI's Rotaract Committee, at the annual Rotaract Preconvention, and through online surveys and focus groups.

Overwhelmingly, Rotaractors said they wanted more flexibility, more products and services, and more recognition from Rotary for the work they're doing. After the 2019 Council on Legislation voted to recognize Rotaract clubs as a membership type, 2019-20 RI President Mark Daniel Maloney created the Elevate Rotaract Task Force to discuss how to update Rotaract policies and create an inclusive, innovative, and flexible membership experience.

Does this mean Rotaractors automatically become Rotarians?

No. Members of Rotary clubs are Rotarians and members of Rotaract clubs remain Rotaractors. This enactment will not change the separate identity of Rotaractors.

Do Rotaract clubs have to pay RI membership dues now?

The Board agreed that Rotaract clubs should begin paying per capita dues in 2022 and is looking at ways to offset the cost to members through fundraising and working with sponsor Rotary clubs. The annual cost will be \$5 per person for university-based clubs and \$8 for community-based clubs.

Will Rotaractors be able to use Rotary Foundation funds for their projects?

Right now, only Rotary clubs may apply for global and district grants from the Foundation. The Foundation Trustees determine who is eligible to apply for global grants and would review any proposal to allow Rotaract clubs access to Foundation funds. The Trustees encourage Rotaract clubs to work with Rotary clubs on global grant projects. Rotaract clubs can also receive funding from district grants through a Rotary club. As always, Rotaractors can apply for scholarships and Rotary Peace Fellowships through the Foundation.

ked questions

Why was the upper age limit for Rotaract membership removed?

Rotaract clubs are still intended for younger professionals, but the Elevate Rotaract Task Force and the RI Board decided that it was important to give Rotaractors the flexibility to decide for themselves when they're ready to leave Rotaract. The majority of Rotaractors surveyed believed that removing the age limit would either improve or not change their club experience and said they would still pursue joining a Rotary club in the future. Rotaract clubs will still be able to set their own age limit.

Will Rotaractors still be encouraged to become Rotarians?

Yes! Rotaractors will be encouraged to join clubs that offer the experience they want at any time. Rotary clubs should continue to work with Rotaractors at meetings and events and on service projects. Since 2016, Rotaractors have been able to join a Rotary club while they are still active members of Rotaract clubs; that dual membership option will not change. Rotaractors can also start their own Rotary clubs.

Will Rotaractors be able to serve on or advise the RI Board or Trustees?

The Board and the Trustees value the input of Rotaractors and have recommended that the RI president appoint Rotaractors to committees. They will continue to discuss new ways to involve Rotaractors in the future.

Will Rotaract clubs be counted in Rotary's overall membership numbers?

No. Rotaract clubs will not be counted in the total number of clubs in a district, and Rotarians and Rotaractors will continue to be counted separately.

Where can I find the revised policies about Rotaract?

Starting 1 July, the Rotary Code of Policies, in chapter II, "Clubs," will have an updated article 12 titled "Rotaract Clubs." The policies related to Rotaract that were in chapter V, "Programs," under article 41.040 will be removed as of 1 July.

More questions? Write to rotaract@rotary.org.

What are the changes to Rotaract?



4

Rotaractors are now eligible to serve on district-level and RI committees.

5

Rotaractors will enjoy greater support, training, and access to tools from Rotary.

6

In 2022, Rotaractors will pay annual per capita dues of either \$5 or \$8.

Rotary clubs should continue to work with Rotaractors at meetings and events and on service projects.



Ignacio González

AGE: 29

OCCUPATION: Law student

CLUB: Rotaract Club of Oriente de Talca, Chile

FUN FACT: I've lived in four countries, seven cities, and more than 20 houses.



**Clement Chinaza
Owuamalam**

AGE: 25

OCCUPATION: Assistant programs officer,
Sir Emeka Offor Foundation

CLUB: Rotaract Club of Apo, Nigeria

FUN FACT: I have represented Rotaract on
three continents.



Elyse (Yi-Chun) Lin

AGE: 29

OCCUPATION: Project manager, Manta Sleep

CLUB: Rotaract Club of Taipei Tin Harbour
and Rotary Club of Taipei Daylight, Taiwan

FUN FACT: I wrote our Rotaract club song
when we chartered.

We talked to members of the Here's what six of them had

How will making Rotaract a membership type benefit Rotary?

MELCHOR ENCABO: This will surely make the Rotary family bigger and stronger. Now that Rotaract is a new membership type, we can attract more young leaders who want to serve but are not yet ready to be a Rotary club member. This will open new opportunities for them to serve and to be part of this great organization.

IGNACIO GONZÁLEZ: Rotaractors can feel that their actions are an important and unique part of the organization.

RONALD KAWADDWA: The Rotary brand will be more visible. The PR benefits from this will be a great value to our organization.

ELYSE LIN: With more data on Rotaractors, we will be more able to develop strategies and tools to help grow the membership of Rotary by helping more young leaders to join Rotaract and more Rotaractors to transition to Rotary.

How will it benefit Rotaract members?

ENCABO: A lot of former Rotaractors were forced to exit their clubs when they turned 31. With this new enactment, they get to stay with the organization that they love and serve as mentors to younger members.

GONZÁLEZ: Rotaractors will get a stronger sense of belonging with Rotary.

EDUARDO SOUTO: Training, lectures, and participation of Rotaractors in Rotary events are some of the ways that Rotaractors will benefit from RI membership.

LIN: Rotaractors don't have a club operations tool provided by RI like Rotary Club Central to help us manage club membership and service projects. Elevating Rotaract opens resources and opportunities like these to us.

What should Rotarians do differently now that Rotaractors are members too?

LIN: I would like to see more partnership between Rotarians and Rotaractors across all levels: club, district, zone, international. More Rotaractors should serve with Rotarians on RI committees and district committees, so that we have wider perspectives on topics and more partnership on social media for public image, service projects, and other Rotary events.

Elevate Rotaract Task Force. to say about the changes.

CLEMENT CHINAZA OWUAMALAM: Rotarians should not see Rotaract as being in competition with them. They should see it as an organization that will complement them.

Have you heard any concerns about the changes?

ENCABO: Many Rotaractors are worried about paying for their membership. I tell them that this will only mean that Rotary International will be able to give us more services and training to better serve others.

KAWADDWA: I have heard concerns from Rotary clubs about the changes, especially those that think no younger members will be joining their clubs. I encourage them to focus on the benefits — we are solving the problem that we have had in the previous years when Rotaractors had to leave Rotary when they turned 31.

LIN: Rotaractors are worried that their club leadership team will become older when the age limit is removed. However, they can still restrict their membership or leadership composition in their club bylaws. I encourage Rotarians and Rotaractors to focus on the flexibility and opportunities these changes bring to us.

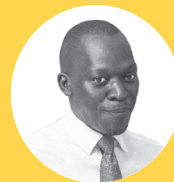
How should Rotaractors embrace this change?

SOUTO: Rotaractors should see these changes as a positive and bold step that shows how Rotary values young members. And that appreciation will turn into bigger partnerships, more members, more projects, better involvement with Rotary clubs, and greater participation in district decisions, allowing the growth of the entire organization.

KAWADDWA: I would love to see more proactive Rotaractors who have clearly defined goals to achieve as part of Rotary. Change is a fact of life, and Rotary is investing a lot of resources among our youth programs to create lasting change in people's lives. I would like to see Rotaractors embrace these changes as another way to develop into extraordinary members of society.

OWUAMALAM: Before, learning about Rotary may not have been important for us. Now that we are a part of Rotary, we should learn more about Rotary's structure and what's available to us.

GONZÁLEZ: I want to see Rotaractors training more in how Rotary International works. When we understand where we are and how the entire organization works, nothing can stop us! ■



Ronald S. Kawaddwa

AGE: 39

OCCUPATION: CEO, Majestic Brands Limited

CLUB: Rotary Club of Kasangati, Uganda

FUN FACT: I enjoy cracking jokes.



Melchor "Chock" P. Encabo

AGE: 41

OCCUPATION: Vice principal and social studies teacher

CLUB: Rotary Club of Metro Escolta, Philippines

FUN FACT: Aside from teaching, I am busy creating content on my YouTube channel, ChockTalks.

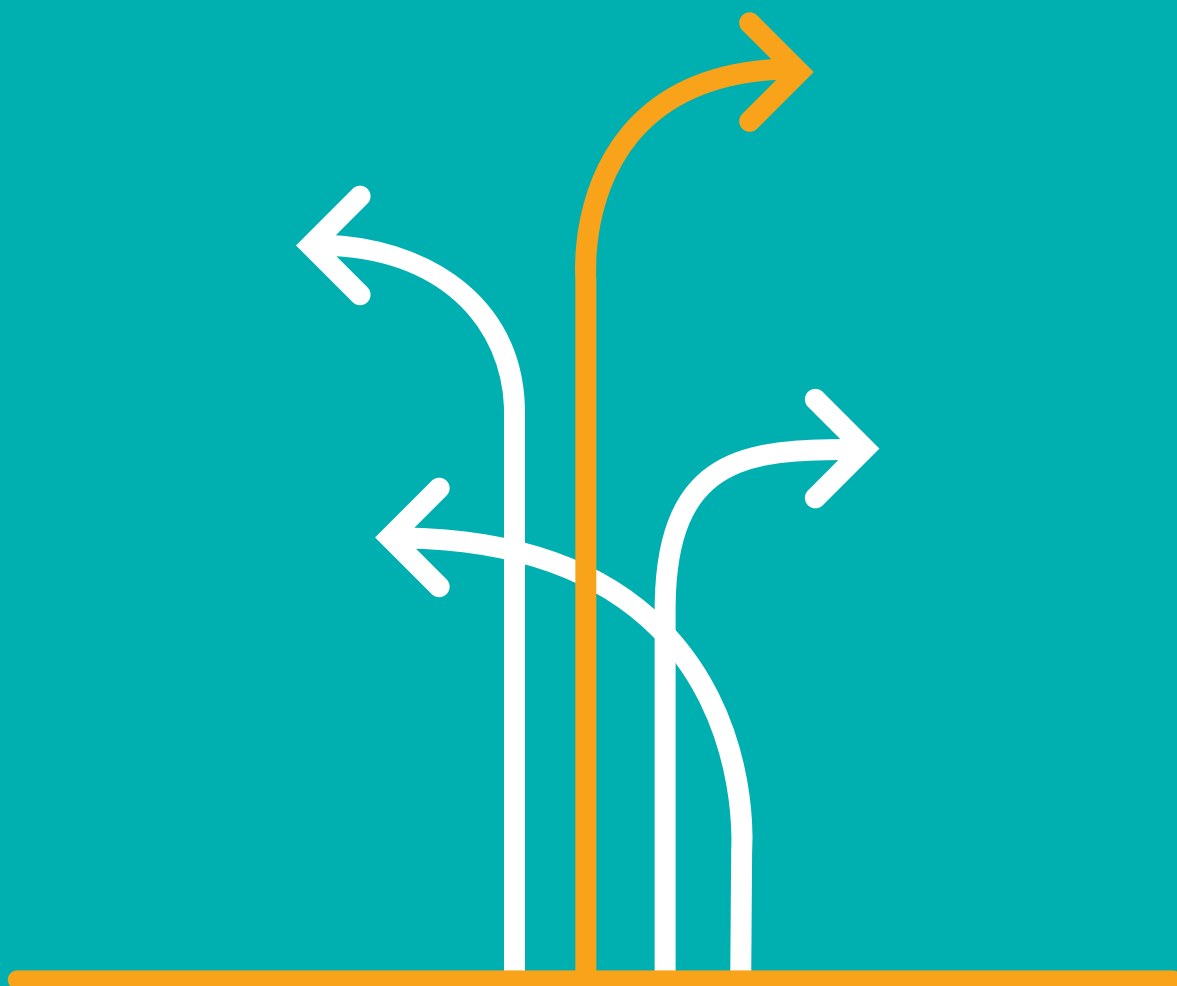


Eduardo Souto

AGE: 31

OCCUPATION: School director

CLUB: Rotary Club of Conselheiro Lafaiete, Brazil



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our clubs



Up to the challenge

Rotary Club of Phnom Penh Metro, Cambodia

It's just before dusk as Marcus Mohlin takes his seat at the rooftop restaurant of the Grand Palais hotel. Below, the streets of the Cambodian capital are a tangled mess of traffic, where Audi and Range Rover SUVs jostle for space with three-wheeled rickshaws, wooden tuk-tuks, and

continued from page 55

endless streams of motorbikes. Yet up here, the air is peaceful as people arrive for a meeting of the Rotary Club of Phnom Penh Metro.

There's a visiting Rotarian from Croatia and a representative of an NGO that supports Cambodian schools. A Japanese Rotarian makes a brief appearance and leaves a club banner, a bottle of sake, and interest in working together on a local project. Mohlin, a Swedish expat who is the club's current president, says this is not unusual: His club has hosted 34 Rotary Foundation grants with a total budget of \$1.2 million since it was chartered in 2004. "There are so many clubs reaching out to us because they want to do a global grant in Cambodia," he says. "We're overwhelmed by all the potential projects."

It makes sense that Rotarians around the world are drawn to Cambodia, a country still recovering from years of civil war and a brutal dictatorship. From

struction site, with an influx of Chinese capital driving an unprecedented boom in high-rises. Yet the country still faces massive gaps in education, health, and sanitation. One-third of Cambodian children under five are stunted from a lack of adequate nutrition, and nearly a half-million do not attend school — some because of a lack of funds, others because their parents need them to work in the rice fields. Cambodia has one doctor for every 5,900 people, compared with roughly 1 for every 1,200 in neighboring Vietnam and Thailand. Half of rural households lack access to piped water or a well, and nearly one-third have no toilets.

From the beginning, Phnom Penh Metro — one of eight Rotary clubs in Cambodia and four in the capital — has worked to combat these challenges. Two of its first projects, in partnership with Veterans International Cambodia and the Rotary Club of Salisbury, Connecticut, supported Cambodians who have been injured by land mines — relics of the war period that still pose threats — or who have been affected by polio, which was endemic in Cambodia until the late 1990s. The club has hosted Foundation grants and organized other projects that have brought clean water to rural communities, equipped schools and health facilities with modern equipment, and helped restore eyesight for tens of thousands of Cambodians by providing eyeglasses and cataract operations. Most recently, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Kobe East, Japan, it supported the training of Cambodian technicians to screen patients for cervical cancer. "Now it will be up to the same standards as everywhere else in the world," says Steve Swartz, a retired surgeon and the club's president-elect.

Although the Phnom Penh Metro club's record of service has been con-

sistent, its membership has gone through many iterations. Its origins are local: Founding President Ty Peseth is a prominent Cambodian businessman. Today, most of its members are expatriates; several, including Mohlin and Swartz, are first-time Rotarians who felt a call to service after moving to Cambodia. But the club's roster also includes Suon Sothea, who was the charter president of a Rotaract club that the Rotarians sponsor, and Rinet Aieng, a Phnom Penh-based physician who was inspired to join because, he says, "Now that I'm a doctor, I have the ability to help." During his childhood in rural Cambodia, he recalls, kids rarely went for medical checkups, and his school had no books.

Mohlin says a primary goal of his presidency has been to boost club membership, with a particular focus on bringing in more Cambodian members. Because local salaries tend to be low, he introduced a program where members pay fees on a sliding scale and shifted meetings from weekly lunches to biweekly evenings at the Grand Palais, a boutique hotel that's a short walk from Phnom Penh's central market.

On this evening at the Grand Palais, the club is focused on the work ahead. Since its last meeting, Mohlin and other club members have traveled to Siem Reap, the city near the famed Angkor Wat temple, with members of the Rotary Club of Sentosa, Singapore, which funded a pilot project there to build wells and equip homes with modern roofs. By purchasing materials from a Siem Reap-based manufacturer, the project also gave a small boost to the local economy. As night falls, the group continues to discuss Cambodia's many development challenges and ideas about how to overcome them.

— JONATHAN W. ROSEN

The Phnom Penh Metro club has worked to combat Cambodia's challenges.

1975 to 1979, at least 1.7 million Cambodians perished at the hands of the Khmer Rouge, a regime that forced people to labor in slavlike conditions on collective farms. Four decades later, after years of political instability, the country remains one of the least developed in Asia.

On the surface, things are changing fast: Much of Phnom Penh is a giant con-

Previous page: Phnom Penh Metro Rotarians Ratana Ban (from left), Vathana Ban, Ben Betonio, Steve Swartz, and Peter Singer.

5 QUESTIONS ABOUT

Organizing a RYLA event

with **Lynda Rocha**

RYLA chair, District 5040 (British Columbia)



1 What happens at a RYLA event?

The main goal is to teach leadership skills to young people between 14 and 30 years old, usually from across a Rotary district. RYLA stands for Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. So the participants are being recognized for their leadership, but many of them haven't found their leadership style yet. We provide a program for them to enhance their skills with an emphasis on Service Above Self. A lot of them understand it already; they just need a little push to get them involved in their communities.

In our district, we have three RYLA programs, for ages 14-15, 16-18, and 19-30. All of them are three- to four-day camps, but each one is unique. Our hope is that participants go through all three and that during that time they also become involved in Interact and Rotaract. RYLA is a great steppingstone for young people beginning their Rotary journey.

2 How does your district decide who gets to go?

Rotary clubs select the participants and are responsible for paying for them to attend the program. Every club does it a bit differently. Some clubs promote the program within their school systems and then hold interviews with prospective participants at the school. The specific criteria they use are

up to them. Generally, they target young people who have qualities suited to leadership. We started the RYLA camp for 14- to 15-year-olds because we saw a need for a program for young people who don't have these kinds of opportunities.

3 How do you make the event interesting?

For our 16- to 18-year-olds, the camp is run by RYLA alumni, who are all between ages 19 and 25. They lead presentations on things like public speaking and team building, and then the participants bring that knowledge together in a group project. Each group picks an important issue in their school or community — an example from last year was vaping — and works together to come up with a project that they'd like to see implemented. They research problems, discuss what they would do to solve them, and then give a presentation to the whole group. They really enjoy being able to work collectively.

On the final evening, all of the participants come together and pass around a First Nations talking stick. It's an opportunity for everyone to share a bit about themselves and their experience at RYLA. The person holding the stick is designated to speak and everybody else needs to listen, quietly and respectfully. It can be very powerful. Every year we incorporate more elements of First Nations culture.

4 What do the participants get out of the program?

They feel much more comfortable about their capabilities. They're so eager to go out into their communities and start making changes. We encourage them to see if the project they worked on can be implemented in their school or community — maybe even in partnership with the club that sponsored them.

Participants also give a presentation about their experience to their sponsoring club. The club members tell us, "These young people are amazing. Their speaking skills are so much improved, and they're interested in Rotary projects!" The participants have a huge support system within the clubs.

5 Why should clubs and districts organize a RYLA event?

It's one of the best leadership programs that I know of. In a short time, we can see the change in each young person. It's also an easy program to incorporate into your club and district. You can make it unique and cater it to your own communities and age groups. That's the best part.

— JOHN M. CUNNINGHAM

RYLA events can be organized at the club, district, or multidistrict level. Get started at rotary.org/our-programs/rotary-youth-leadership-awards.



Alumni association

Rotary Club of New Voices, District 7780

Chartered: 2019
Original membership: 22
Membership: 37

CLUB INNOVATION:

The club, with a widely scattered membership, relies on digital tools to connect. There is a monthly online meeting, and members conduct frequent chats using the Google Hangouts app. The club is tailored to RYLA alumni but is open to all.

CAMP FIRES:

Every year, dozens of District 7780's Rotary Youth Leadership Awards alumni ages 17 to 27 return to Camp Hinds near Portland, Maine, to serve as staff. The Rotarians who oversee the program created a Rotary club tailored to these RYLA champions, with the operation of the four-day summer camp as a central part of its mission. Club members get invaluable experience in matters such as applying for grants.

Phil Giordano, a member of the Rotary Club of Scarborough, Maine, and the executive director of the Camp Hinds RYLA, noticed the chemistry among program alumni who serve as camp staff. "Instead of just coming together one week out of the year, they started getting together many times during the year," he says. "They wanted to do more and be more." So he broached the subject of chartering a Rotary club tailored to them. "I started texting, and within 15 minutes I had 10 to 15 people wanting to start." He and Marty Helman, a past district governor and member of the Rotary Club of Boothbay Harbor, Maine, saw an opportunity to create a club built around these highly engaged members of the Rotary family.

"Rotary has some absolutely marvelous youth programs," says Helman, a staunch proponent of Rotary's evolution. But once the program is over, she says, too often "we say, 'Have a nice life. Go look for a Rotaract club, if there is one.' There's no reason why a young person has to go through Rotaract to become a Rotarian.

"Members are in their first adult experience in a volunteer organization, so they need some guidance," Helman adds. "Not in how to run a meeting or work with each other. But in expectations, how to communicate with other Rotary clubs, process points. That's why we've got tenured Rotarians helping."

After attending RYLA camp in high school, Sam Klemarczyk, now the club's co-president, remained active in Rotary through college but was struggling to stay involved. "I moved to Raleigh, North Carolina, and I'm transitioning into a new job. The flexibility of New Voices was a big thing. It helps open a lot of doors," says Klemarczyk, 25.

New Voices requires five hours of service a month, not counting the work overseeing RYLA. "We've completely gotten past the obstacle young professionals face, which is the idea that they are not ready for Rotary," Klemarczyk says.

One club initiative is a project to raise awareness of Lyme disease, a potentially debilitating infection transmitted by tick bites. "The focus is on creating a coloring book targeted to elementary school students about when you're outside in the fields and woods," says Caitlin Morrison, co-president-elect and a cellular and molecular biology student at the University of Rhode Island. "It also consists of informational posters and cards at RYLA each year. In Maine and New Hampshire, everybody knows five-plus people who have been affected by Lyme disease."

While the camp "defined the kind of person I wanted to be and my commitment to others, I like how being a Rotarian is a long-term commitment," says Morrison. "I have something I can stay with for many years to come."

—BRAD WEBBER



From top: A nighttime RYLA ceremony; New Voices members have a ball promoting their club.



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

Ni hao, Rotarians!

Every year, as we near the end of the Rotary year, we look back on the path we've traveled. Of course, this year has presented special challenges as we face a global coronavirus pandemic that has changed our lives and the way we do service.

The great philosopher Zhuangzi once said, "A path is made by walking on it." Only by forging ahead into the unknown do we actually make progress, and only by looking back can we see how far we've come. The coronavirus crisis is an unprecedented event, and I want us to look back years from now, knowing that we played a decisive role in helping the world overcome this devastating threat.

I am proud of the work that Rotary members and our Foundation are carrying out to stop the spread of COVID-19 and to help people affected. Taiwanese clubs have donated 200,000 face masks. In England, the Rotary Club of Maidenhead Bridge launched a COVID-19 Volunteer Community Response Team to help those in self-isolation by shopping, dropping off prescriptions, and supporting those in need.

The Foundation Trustees worked quickly to add COVID-19 projects to their list of eligible activities for disaster response grants, transfer \$3 million to our Disaster Response Fund for COVID-19 grants, and waive the 30 percent foreign financing requirement for any new global grant that addresses COVID-19.

Of course, we have applied the knowledge and resources we have built over many years in fighting another infectious disease: polio. The polio eradication program is already using its infrastructure to protect the vulnerable from COVID-19, especially in polio-endemic countries.

Please give what you can to help our Foundation, and our members will transform your gift into humanitarian efforts that are saving lives.

We will overcome this virus together, and when we do, we will be able to look back and know that we did not stand by and do nothing when a global public health emergency paralyzed the world. Instead, we took action and gave all that we could to stop this virus and make lasting change in our communities to help people survive and recover. Thank you for your past, present, and future support of *our* Foundation.

Gary C.K. Huang
FOUNDATION TRUSTEE CHAIR

Rotary leaders visit Pakistan to support polio eradication

COURTESY OF HOLGER KNAACK



A DELEGATION OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL LEADERS from around the world traveled to Pakistan in February to meet with government leaders including Prime Minister Imran Khan, Minister of Health Zafar Mirza, Army Chief of Staff Qamar Javed Bajwa, and Rana Safdar, polio coordinator for Pakistan's National Emergency Operations Centre.

The Rotary delegation included Holger Knaack, RI president-elect; K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran, trustee chair-elect of The Rotary Foundation; and Michael K. McGovern, chair of Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee. The group was accompanied by incoming Rotary Foundation Trustee Aziz Memon, who leads efforts for Rotary's Pakistan PolioPlus program.

During the meetings, Khan acknowledged recent challenges in the effort to rid Pakistan of polio and confirmed that the country considers polio eradication among its highest priorities. The government of Pakistan has taken steps to bolster its polio vaccination program and to provide resources to impede the resurgence of the disease.

Bajwa assured the Rotary delegation of the support and cooperation of both the army and the civil forces to ensure that

every child in Pakistan receives the lifesaving polio vaccine. Mirza noted that about 40 million children were vaccinated during the last round of national polio immunizations.

The government leaders praised Rotary for its prominent role in polio eradication and for providing vital financial support to Pakistan and other polio-threatened countries.

When the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) was formed in 1988, there were more than 350,000 cases of polio annually around the world. Today, because of the efforts of Rotary, its partners, and world governments, the incidence of the disease has plummeted by more than 99.9 percent. Rotary members have contributed more than \$2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to ending polio.

Knaack expressed his satisfaction with the visit and with efforts by the government of Pakistan to eliminate polio. "We are grateful to have had the opportunity to meet with key leaders in Pakistan to learn about renewed efforts to eradicate the disease once and for all," he said. "We're confident that, with the support of the government and the army, Pakistan will get the job done."

During their visit, the Rotary representatives also met with Rotary leaders from Pakistan, which is home to more than 230 Rotary clubs and nearly 4,000 Rotary members. They engaged with some of the major donors of the GPEI and visited the National Emergency Operations Centre, where a high-tech data collection system monitors progress in real time.

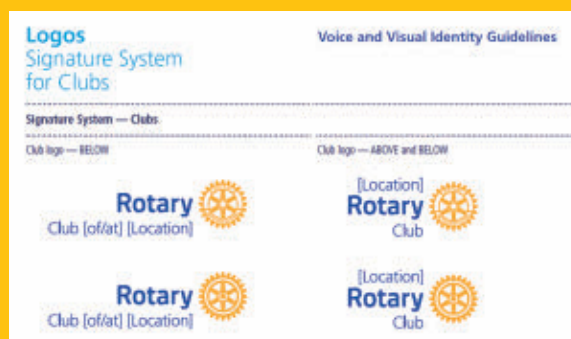
While only Afghanistan and Pakistan continue to report cases of wild poliovirus, the remaining challenges to global eradication — such as weak health systems and inaccessibility of children amid insecurity and conflict — have proven to be the most difficult. To overcome these obstacles and ensure the continuation of program efforts, funding and support from donors and world governments are imperative.

ABOVE: A Rotary delegation including President-elect Holger Knaack (left) met with Prime Minister Imran Khan and other Pakistani leaders.

How to look and sound like Rotary

Do you know how to write in Rotary's voice? Do you know how to create a logo for your club? Everything you need to know about Rotary's image — from voice and messaging to logos and colors — is available in one easy-to-reference document. **Voice and Visual Identity Guidelines 2019–20** (along with a one-page summary, **Identity at a Glance**) is available for download at rotary.org/brandcenter.

Our members are our best brand ambassadors, and these updated guidelines are designed to help you create communications that look, feel, and sound unmistakably like Rotary. Your communications strengthen the Rotary brand by enhancing awareness of who we are and the impact we have. If you need additional guidance, contact brand@rotary.org.




A photograph of a man and a woman in conversation. The man, in the center, wears a red vest over a white t-shirt and has a lanyard with a badge around his neck. The woman, on the right, wears a black jacket and also has a lanyard. They are both looking at each other and gesturing with their hands. The background is a blurred indoor setting with warm lighting.

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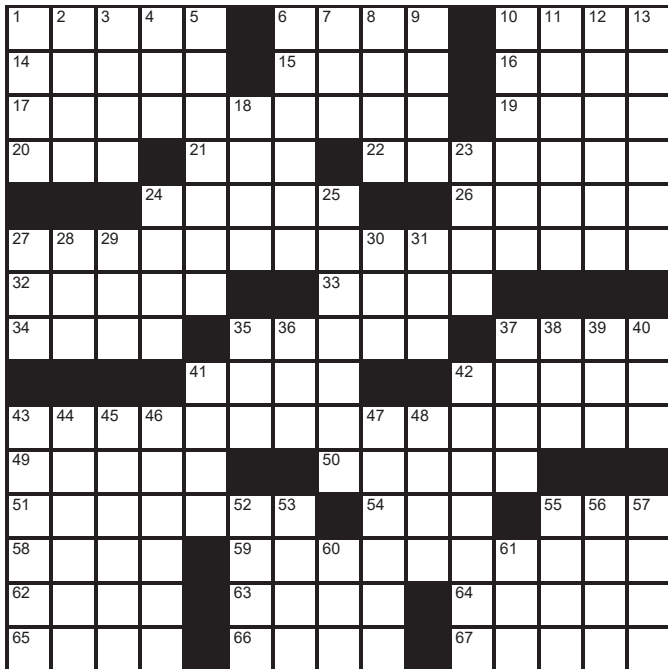
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Rotary  PEOPLE of ACTION

MAY IT PLEASE ...

by Victor Fleming

Rotary Club of Little Rock, Arkansas



Across

- 1 Minds, as a bar
6 Hall of Fame defensive tackle Warren
10 "___ you were here!"
14 "No more for this poker player!"
15 Chamber group, maybe
16 "Come ___ my parlor ..."
17 Start of what clubs give in May
19 Impish glance
20 Comedic actress Charlotte
21 *The King and I* star Brynner
22 Puts aside
24 "___ Billie Joe"
26 "Set Fire to the Rain" singer
27 What clubs give in May: Part 2
32 Agreement
33 Days of yore
34 Swabs
35 Arctic garment
37 Knee/ankle connector
41 Mere's mate
42 Gina's good
43 What clubs give in May: Part 3
49 Art poster, usually
50 18-wheelers
51 Leading
54 "Can't do it" in Clydebank
55 Affectedly shy
58 Accelerator particles
59 What clubs give in May: Part 4
62 Is a visionary
63 Burner in a lab
64 Accustom
65 Air current
66 Animal parks
67 Exclude

Down

- 1 Amphitheater level
2 *Harry Potter* actress Watson
3 "Fat chance!"
4 "C'mon, too easy!"
5 Not get wet
6 Circus boosters?
7 "___ *Gratia Artis*" (MGM motto)
8 Cherry parts
9 "Nonsense!"
10 "You got it!"
11 "Well ___!" (remark of shock)
12 *Remington* ___ ('80s TV detective show)
13 Played (around)
18 Chop ___
23 Vane direction
24 They may be wild
25 Weigh heavily upon
27 Daiquiri ingredient
28 *Blueprint for a Sunrise* singer
29 Kind of jar
30 Acorn dropper
31 Cryptologic grp.
35 Potpie legume
36 Kind of chair
37 Explorer, Safari, and Navigator
38 ___ polloi
39 Rustic stopover
40 Act like a shrew
41 Nudge
42 Gave essential facts to
43 Rave about
44 Broke ground again
45 Began on Broadway
46 Covered with zoysia
47 Medicinal shrubs
48 Online periodical
52 Bailiff's cry
53 *Variety* pic
55 "Join the ___"
56 Creole vegetable
57 River through Flanders
60 Card game brand
61 Bob Marley's "___ Love"

Solution on page 25

CREATE. SHARE. CONNECT.



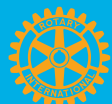
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last look



RICARDO MORALES PORTILLO

DISCOVER

In 2019, 3.1 million international tourists visited Costa Rica.

Women in rural communities near Turrialba have launched a tourism cooperative to attract visitors to experience the natural wonders and traditional way of life in their area, which remains off the beaten path for most tourists. Rotary clubs in Cartago, Costa Rica, and Denton, Texas, helped the women hone their business skills through a Rotary Foundation global grant project featured in “Nature & Nurture” on page 32. Find out more about their cooperative at retoustours@gmail.com.

Top to bottom, left to right: Idali Castro Brenes cooks for guests; Ana Cristina Casasola Pereira (right) gives demonstrations of how to make the region’s famous cheese; Angie Montoya Fernández leads tours at Guayabo National Monument; Ana María Aguilar Aguilar works in an aquaponics garden; María Eugenia Brenes Araya runs a homestay; Noemy Ramírez Nuñez teaches visitors how to make tortillas; Rosa Ramírez Nuñez sews backpacks and bags; Laura Vargas Calderón shows visitors how to make *pan casero*, a traditional roll; Karen McDaniels of the Rotary Club of Denton helps coordinate the project.



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