

September 2024



## Monthly news & updates

### Message from Grace Van Zyl Chair, Rotary Action Group For Peace

As I reflect on Rotary International's values and the many impactful projects we take on, I am reminded that we are born peacebuilders. However, what often goes unnoticed is that with every project, we are contributing to positive, sustainable peace, addressing the root causes of conflict. It dawned on me that, as Rotarians and humanitarians, we are often *subconsciously* competent in peacebuilding. Now, imagine the *magic* of Rotary if we all became *consciously* competent in creating peace... September, with its focus on Basic Education and Literacy, serves as the perfect backdrop for us at the Rotary Action Group for Peace to highlight the power of **Peace Education**. Peace education equips individuals to:



- Promote Conflict Resolution
- Build Tolerance and Understanding
- Develop Emotional Intelligence
- End/Prevent Violence and War
- Promote Social Justice
- Support Sustainable Development
- Cultivate Global Citizenship
- Improve Mental Health and Well-being

Given its far-reaching benefits, I am excited to announce the formation of the **RAGFP Education Committee**. This initiative grew out of the success of the Türkiye Hour, a collaboration with the International Country Committees (ICC) under our signed Memorandum of Understanding. The committee's goal is to equip our members with the knowledge and skills needed to become *consciously competent* peacebuilders and to take intentional action.

Our strategy is simple: **educate, empower, and engage**. We aim to address not only the immediate needs arising from conflict and war but also the deeper root causes of such conflict. With the expertise of our resident psychologist, Dr. Vicki Radel, we can tailor our education programs to meet the specific needs of diverse communities around the world.

The Education Committee is currently curating a comprehensive catalogue of courses that will soon be available to all members, including topics such as:

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- From Empathy to Resilience
- Peace Language
- Well-being
- Gender-Based Violence

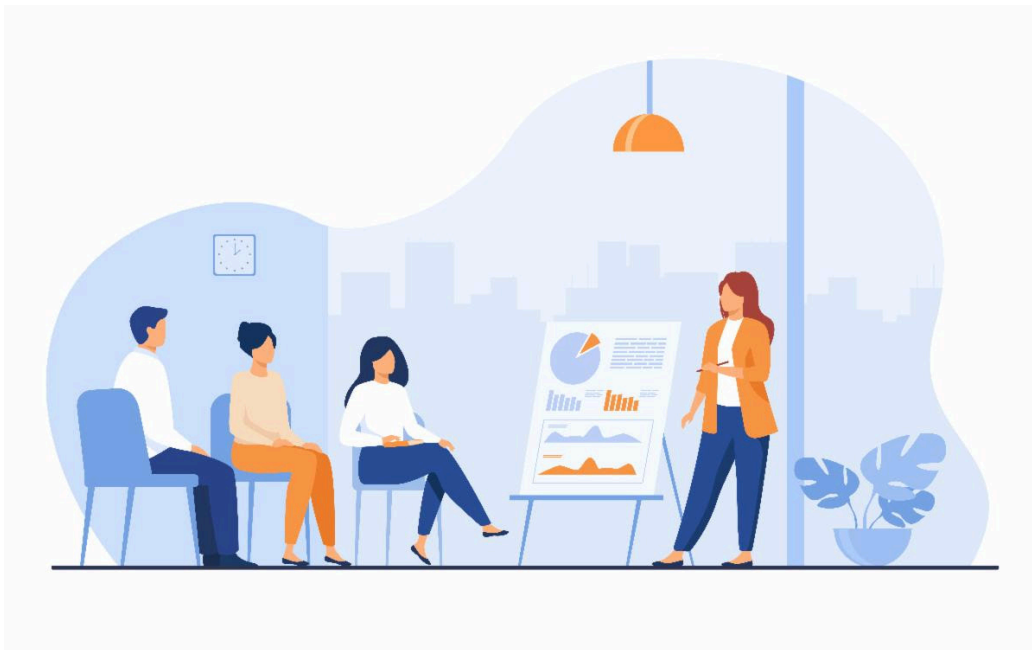
I am also thrilled to announce that the beloved Türkiye Hour will be rebranded as the **RAGFP Education Hour**. Stay tuned for the October invitation, where we'll unveil the exciting new direction our Education Committee is taking.

To learn more about our peace education programs, feel free to reach out to us at [contact@rotaryactiongroupforpeace.org](mailto:contact@rotaryactiongroupforpeace.org).

In closing, while knowledge is power, it is *applied* knowledge that brings about change. I encourage each of you to take ACTION and contribute to creating a more peaceful world.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Grace Van Zyl". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**10 Reasons**  
**Peace, Basic Education and Literacy**  
*by RAGFP Immediate Past Chair Michael Hayes*



1. Knowledge is power. (Francis Bacon)
2. Literacy creates empowerment.
3. Basic Education creates the opportunity to participate in society.
4. Peace is enabled when literacy is present.
5. Literacy enables empathy.
6. Literacy enables understanding.
7. Literacy enables conflict resolution.
8. Literacy enables Inner peace.
9. Literacy enables respect for all.
10. Literacy enables Peacebuilding!

## **What is in a Name?**

***by RAGFP Immediate Past Chair Michael Hayes***

The Rotary Peace Center recently recognized as Rotary Peacebuilder Districts, those Districts who donated \$25,000 to Rotary Peace Programs in the 2023 – 2024 Rotary year. Congratulations to those Districts who became a Rotary Peacebuilder District and thank you for your generosity. The money contributed supports the education of Peace Fellows at the Rotary Peace Centers, and the advancement of Peace through the training of Positive Peace Activators.

A common question then, is what is the difference between a Rotary Peacebuilder District and a Rotary Action Group Peacebuilder District? The former is a Rotary recognition, described above. The RAGFP Peacebuilder District is one in which all the Clubs in the District have become RAGFP Peacebuilder Clubs.

Another question is “My District has designated my club to be a Peacebuilder Club, Is my Club a part of the RAGFP?” Some Districts become Peacebuilder Districts by having their clubs donate to the funding. While supporting a district goal is admirable, it does not make a club a RAGFP Peacebuilder Club. To achieve that designation, an

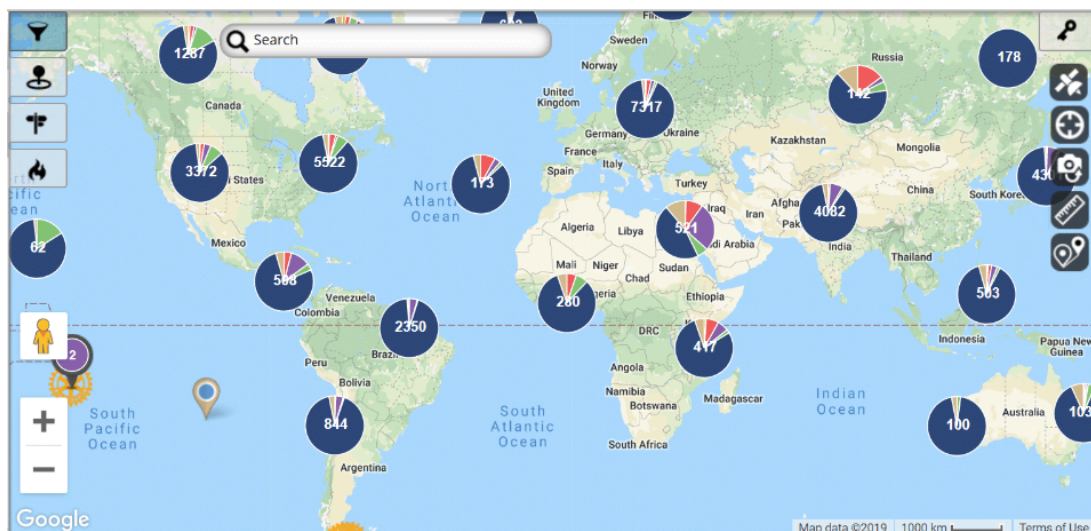
RAGFP Peacebuilder Club is one that has at least two members that are RAGFP members, has started a Peace Committee, and applied to become an RAGFP Peacebuilder Club.

The Fourth Object of Rotary calls on Rotarians to "...build international peace and understanding through a global fellowship of Rotarians...". Become an RAGFP Peacebuilder Club and join that global fellowship of Rotarians and help build international peace and understanding.

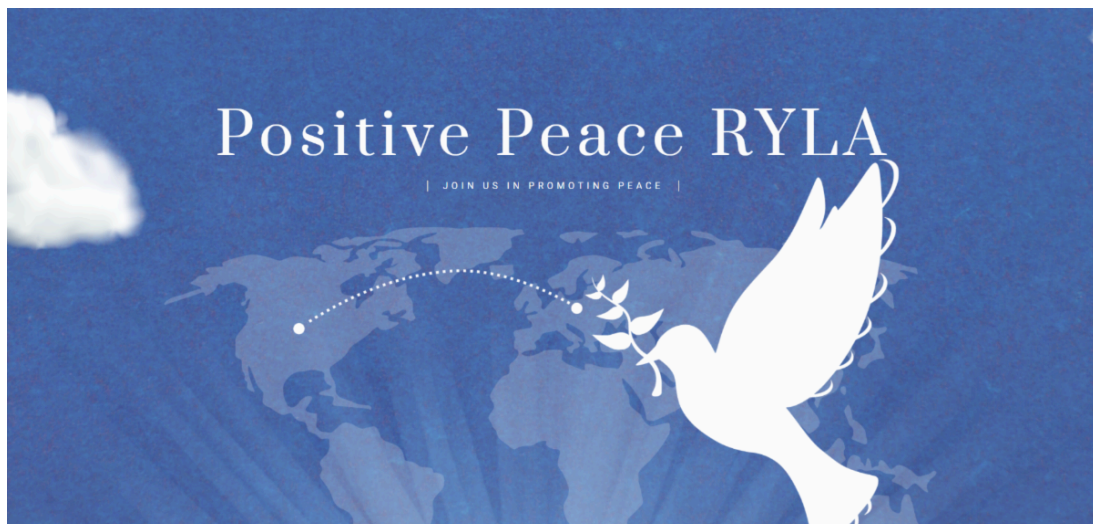
[CLICK HERE & APPLY TO BECOME A PEACEBUILDER CLUB!](#)

## Peacebuilder Club Map

Should you not find your club on the map, please email us at [contact@rotaryactiongroupforpeace.org](mailto:contact@rotaryactiongroupforpeace.org). In that email, please supply your Club name, City and Country, and the contact information for all RAGFP members of your club.



[Click here to access the Peacebuilder Club Map!](#)



Positive Peace RYLA is an immersive virtual program that takes RYLA Alumni and known youth leaders through 8 rounds of challenges, each based on the IEP 8 Pillars of Peace. To do this, the Positive Peace RYLA team created what is essentially a video game type experience for the RYLA Participant teams, and they learn the 8 pillars as a part of problem-solving challenges revolving around 12 mythical countries that were created for the game.

Please consider supporting our youth with a donation to Positive Peace RYLA.


LEARN MORE ABOUT POSITIVE PEACE RYLA!

## CAN ROTARY HELP END WAR?

**Come And Decide For Yourself**  
Sept 27, 12:00-1:00 pm ET on Zoom  
Double Click Here to [REGISTER](#)

*"David Swanson wakes his audience up, he rivets their attention."*  
John Horgan, Professor, Stevens Institute of Technology

*"Our participants were incredibly patriotic with a view that war is necessary. David Swanson opened their minds."*  
Katherine Murphy, Professor, Ethics and Social Justice



**David Swanson**  
Executive Director, World BEYOND War  
Compelling Speaker  
Talk Show Host, Author  
Nobel Peace Prize Nominee



## International Day Of Peace September 21, 2024

We invite all our members and readers to share their plans and activities for International Day of Peace! Whether you're organizing an event, participating in a community initiative, or engaging in a personal act of kindness, we want to hear about it. Your efforts inspire others and contribute to a global movement towards peace. Send us your stories and plans, and let's come together to promote and celebrate the diverse ways we are making a difference.

Let us know your plans at [contact@rotaryactiongroupforpeace.org](mailto:contact@rotaryactiongroupforpeace.org)



## SAVE THE DATE

### *Healing in a Divided World* PRESIDENTIAL PEACE CONFERENCE

*Istanbul, Turkey • 20-22 February 2025*

**Learn more at [rotary.org/istanbul25](https://rotary.org/istanbul25)**



**Make sure to follow us on social media for daily updates!**



Rotary Action Group for Peace | [3095 Hwy 101 N Suite 11-156](https://www.3095hwy101n.com) | Gearhart, OR 97138 US

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