



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT **STEPHANIE A. URCHICK** Visits District 9214

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Rtn Ciren Gracias
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
OF THE UBUNTU MAGAZINE
Rotary International District 9214
(Uganda and Tanzania)

Message from the **EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

PEACE – IS ALL WE WISH FOR

It is ideal to have articles focusing on the theme of the month and it is so pleasing that this month we have several of them.

In the February edition, learn how our District can contribute to peace initiatives. An article, "Respect for Divergent Opinions and Individual Differences to Observe Peace" gives insights from a Rotaractor who grew up in Western Uganda. Another article talks about Tanzania's contribution to Peace in the Region. Get insights on Conflict resolution in families, in yet another article on the theme. Two events graced by our Rotary International President are covered, the Peace Concert, which raised a heart-warming sum of USD 239,000= which will go towards sustaining the Makerere Rotary Peace Centre and the 4 Km Peace Walk aimed at raising awareness about the need for global peace and conflict prevention which started at Makerere University's Freedom Square. To cap it all, test your knowledge with a Peace and Conflict Resolution Quiz.

There is also a very interesting article on a Smart Pills reminder app. In addition to medication reminders, the app allows users to track their blood sugar levels and offers offline accessibility, making it highly practical for rural communities with limited internet connectivity.

Read about, the Rotary Club of Kazo in Formation who made history by launching their new club on 30th November, 2024. And there is a tribute to late PDG Nelson Kawalya and much more.

In just three months from now, several Rotarians and Rotaractors from our District and beyond will converge in Dar es Salaam to attend the 100th District Conference and Assembly. What an event it promises to be. You will find a link to all the information on the DCA in this issue.

Look forward to receiving your articles for the March 2025 issue, where the theme is **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**.

With so much going on in the World, Peace – is all we wish for. Enjoy the February 2025 issue!

A month has flown by and we are already into February. February is Peace and Conflict Resolution month. A warm welcome to fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors and readers of the Ubuntu Magazine from District 9214 and beyond to our February edition for the Rotary Year 2024-2025.

Last month our District 9214 had the great honour and privilege to host our Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick. Her visit is covered in a pictorial.

EDITORIAL TEAM

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RIPPLES OF HOPE AND CHANGE

This month, as we come together for the International Assembly and the Presidential Peace Conference, we celebrate The Magic of Rotary – a unique blend of global connection, vision, and action that empowers us to create lasting change. One of the most inspiring examples is our Rotary Peace Fellowship programme, a cornerstone of Rotary’s mission to build a more peaceful and just world.

For more than 23 years, Rotary Peace Fellowships have been transforming communities. Our Rotary Peace Centers, hosted at leading universities around the globe, have educated over 1,800 fellows who now work in more than 140 countries.

These centres cultivate expertise in fields like conflict resolution, sustainable development and peacebuilding, preparing fellows to tackle some of the world’s most pressing challenges. This programme exemplifies how Rotary turns vision into action, creating a ripple effect of hope and change.

This month during the Presidential Peace Conference, we celebrate a significant milestone with the opening of our newest peace centre in Istanbul. This centre will focus on training leaders to address peacebuilding challenges in the Middle East and North Africa, further extending Rotary’s impact.

Peace fellows are dedicated champions of transformation, addressing critical issues such as refugee resettlement, youth and women’s empowerment, and reconciliation in conflict zones. Many founded vital organisations or hold leadership roles in governments, nongovernmental organisations, and international institutions like the United Nations and World Bank.

One inspiring story is that of Ntang Julius Meleng, a 2024 Rotary Peace Fellow at Makerere University in Uganda. Through his Social Change Initiative, Julius has worked to empower young people in Cameroon to take active roles in peacebuilding and leadership.

His project provided training in conflict prevention, civic engagement, and leadership to youths and community officials in areas affected by conflict, equipping people to drive sustainable peace efforts.

Julius harnessed Rotary’s global network to overcome obstacles, including limited funding and security risks, and make a meaningful impact.

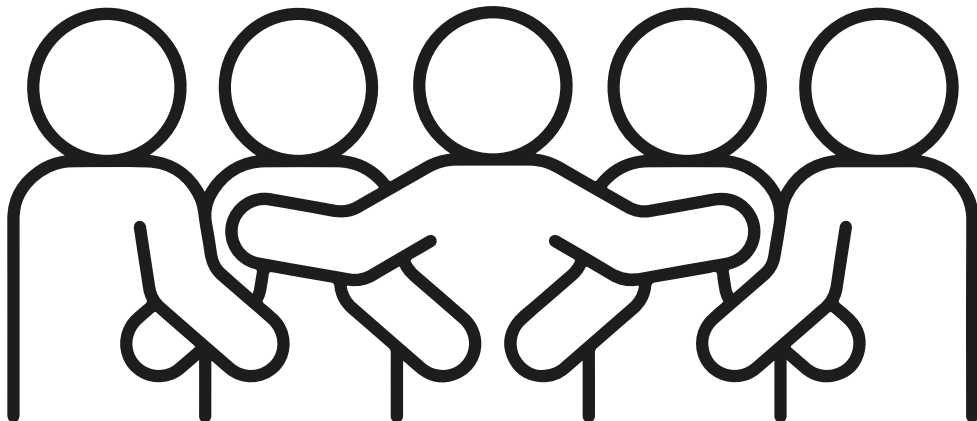


Stephanie A. Urchick
Rotary International President
2024 - 25

The Rotary Peace Fellowship gave Julius the tools and support to turn his vision into reality. His work embodies The Magic of Rotary – the transformative power of connecting people, sharing resources, and uniting for a common purpose.

As we reflect on the achievements of our peace fellows and celebrate Rotary’s enduring commitment to peace, let us also recognise the role that everyone in our network of 1.2 million members plays in creating magic through service.

Together, we can amplify our impact, inspire new generations of leaders, and build a brighter, more peaceful future.



LET'S MAKE THIS YEAR MAGICAL AND ONE TO TRULY REMEMBER

Dear Family of Rotary,

I hope you are now well rested and settled after the Christmas and New year festivities and holidays. I hope this message finds you well and recharged for the exciting months ahead. I wanted to take a moment to reflect on a truly inspiring experience that I was privileged to have recently—the opportunity to meet with the Rotary International President when she visited Uganda earlier last month. It was a humbling and motivational moment that reminded me of the incredible impact our collective efforts can have on our communities and globally. Many of you got the opportunity to meet her too and I know you were as inspired as I was.

Each of you plays a vital role in making this impact possible. Your dedication, service, and passion for the causes we champion are the foundation of Rotary's success. Thank you for all that you do, not just for Rotary but for the countless lives we touch together.

Now, as we enter the last Five (5) months of the Rotary year, I encourage us all to renew our commitment to meeting our goals and targets. Whether it's growing our membership, expanding our projects, or increasing our support for The Rotary Foundation, let's work harder than ever to finish the year strong.

This is our opportunity to create a legacy worth celebrating. Let's challenge ourselves to push boundaries, think creatively, and inspire others to join us in our mission. Together, we can ensure that when the year ends, we can look back with pride and joy at what we've accomplished and celebrate our collective success.

Thank you for your service, your leadership, and your friendship. Let's make this year magical and one to truly remember as we continue to make rotary irresistible!



Agnes Mungati Batengas
District Governor
Rotary International District 9214
(Uganda and Tanzania)



ONTO THE FINISH LINE

Picture this: It's June 30, 2025. You are sitting in a room filled with your club members, reflecting on the year gone by. The laughter, the impact, and the milestones all etched in your heart. You feel an overwhelming sense of pride because you know you gave it your all.

Now, let us step back to today. February. The final stretch of our Rotary year is here, and the finish line is within sight. Together, as District 9214, we've achieved so much already. We've expanded our reach, grown our clubs, and changed lives in ways we never imagined. But here's the truth, our greatest impact can only come if we push harder in these last months.

This is our time to double down on two key goals: **membership growth** and **giving to The Rotary Foundation**. Imagine every club closing the year with a minimum of 30 members. Think about the energy, ideas, and fresh perspectives that new members bring. But to get there, we need your effort. Let's each invite at least one new member to join this family and experience the joy of service.

And then there's our Foundation the heartbeat of Rotary. It's what fuels our service, from scholarships to clean water projects. Let's rally to ensure every club contributes at least \$100. Every dollar counts, not because it's a number, but because it represents hope for someone somewhere.

Let's keep our meetings vibrant, our projects meaningful, and our hearts open. Let's mentor one another, uplift each other, and finish this Rotary year stronger than we started.

So, as we race toward the finish line, remember this: it's not just about the goals we set it's about the legacy we leave behind. Together, we can keep the magic happening, we can end this year with pride and purpose.

Let's cross that finish line with a roar, District 9214. I believe in us.



Joseph B. Ssenkooba
District Rotaract Representative
Rotary International District 9214
(Uganda and Tanzania)



ROTARIANS RAISE \$239,000 AT THE 4TH AFRICA PEACE CONCERT TOWARDS PEACE BUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION.

Rotary Uganda, in partnership with the Rotary Foundation, successfully hosted the 4th Edition of the Africa Peace Concert at Nsambya Gardens, Kampala on 10th January 2025. The event raised a total of \$239,000 which will go towards sustaining the Makerere Rotary Peace Centre, an institution dedicated to promoting peace and conflict transformation in communities across the continent.

The Africa Peace Concert, held annually, seeks to advance peace not only in Uganda but also globally. This year, Rotary set an ambitious target of raising over \$500,000 to support peacebuilding and conflict resolution initiatives.

Each year, Rotary awards up to 151 fully funded fellowships to leaders worldwide, enabling them to study at one of its Peace Centers located in countries such as Botswana, Cameroon, Australia, and others. These fellowships provide invaluable networking opportunities and practical experiences, requiring fellows to engage with communities through field visits to address pressing issues such as gender-based violence, insecurity, hunger, and famine.

Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick, who attended the event, expressed her gratitude to the Rotary team in Uganda and emphasized the significance of the Africa Peace Concert. She described it as a platform that unites humanity for a greater cause, empowering peacebuilders globally.



"At Rotary International, peace is at the very core of our mission. For decades, we have worked tirelessly to create environments where peace can thrive. From our Global Peace Fellowship program, which has trained thousands of peacebuilders, to grassroots initiatives that address the root causes of conflict, Rotary remains committed to building a more peaceful world," she said.

Joe Nuwamanya, Chairperson of the Africa Peace Concert 2025, shared his excitement about the event's success. "We are extremely overjoyed by the support demonstrated by the Rotarians and partners. Our target was to raise \$500,000, and we have managed to raise \$239,000, which underscores the unity and exceptional mobilization efforts of the Rotarian community and partners toward the peace agenda," he stated.

Nuwamanya further added, "In a world grappling with constant conflict, hunger, disunity, domestic and gender-based violence, as well as food insecurity, it is truly commendable that the Makerere Rotary Peace Centre continues to shine as a beacon of inspiration and resilience. By offering approximately 150 fully funded fellowships to dedicated leaders from various sectors such as the military, NGOs, advocacy, law, peace education, entertainment, media, and more the Centre remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting global peace."

The celebration was headlined by the legendary Ugandan girl pop group, Blu*3, adding a vibrant touch to the event as attendees rallied together in support of a more peaceful world. All proceeds from ticket sales will go directly toward supporting the Makerere Rotary Peace Centre.

The event was made possible through the support of several partners including; Uganda Communications Commission, Centenary Bank, Roke Telkom, fireworks Advertising, Next Media Services, Jjengo Tech Ltd, Michael Nuwagaba, Quality Chemicals, Absa Bank, Uganda Registration Services Bureau, Uganda Breweries Ltd, Britam Insurance, Pride Microfinance, SMS Construction, Creation Architects, among others.

The 5th Edition of the Africa Peace Concert will be held on 1st November 2025.



THOUSANDS UNITE FOR THE ROTARY PEACE WALK AT MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

Thousands of Ugandans, mostly Rotarians and Rotaractors, turned up at Makerere University's Freedom Square on 11th January, 2025 to participate in a walk aimed at raising awareness about the need for global peace and conflict prevention.

The 4km-walk, flagged off by Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick, alongside Makerere University Vice Chancellor Barnabas Nawangwe and other Rotary officials, started at 10am and took participants around the University.

Urchick, who was on the final day of her week-long visit to Uganda, emphasized the importance of individual actions in promoting peace and encouraged walkers to become peacebuilders.

"Thank you for being here," she said. "Walking for peace is a commitment to make peace possible, and I thank you for that. Enjoy the walk and remember that you're helping to make peace possible. You are peacebuilders today."

The Peace Walk started and ended at the University's Freedom Square, after a warm-up session conducted by Rotarian Robert Ssebugwaawo, also

known as Coach Bob. Entertainment was provided by the Uganda Bikers Association and skaters.

The Rotary International President also received Rotarian Shaka Mbanda at the end of his 300km Peace Walk from Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Isingiro district to Kampala.

The Peace Walk was part of a larger initiative to promote Peace and Conflict resolution. On Friday, RI President Urchick had participated in the Peace Symposium and Capstone Conference at Makerere University, home to Africa's first Rotary Peace Centre. The Centre trains change-makers in peace-building and conflict prevention and transformation.

Later in the afternoon, RI President Urchick participated in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) camp at the Kaazi camping grounds on the shores of Lake Victoria. She told participants that skills in public speaking, writing, and proficiency in ICT and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence are essential for all careers.

At a farewell dinner hosted by Rotary International Director Nominee Emmanuel Katongole, RI President Urchick said she "will never forget the memory that I have of this special week in Uganda."

During the week, RI President Urchick toured key Rotary programs in the country, including the Rotary Blood Bank at Mengo Hospital, the Rotary Cancer Centre at Nsambya Hospital and the Makerere Rotary Peace Centre. The Rotary International President also paid courtesy visits to Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja, Buganda Kingdom Katikkiro Charles Peter Mayiga and the United States Mission in Uganda. She launched the Cancer Run 2025 and the Rotary WASH Institute at Nkumba University, and spoke at several meetings, including the Rotary Fellowship for Empowering Women.

The Uganda visit was part of RI President Urchick's African Magic Tour 2025, covering five countries where Rotary, one of the world's largest service organisations, is making enormous impact. The other countries are Egypt, Kenya, Senegal, and Tunisia.

RTN. PETER G. MWESIGE
Public Image Chair
District 9213



RI PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO UGANDA

MENGO HOSPITAL
ROTARY BLOOD BANK



PEACE SYMPOSIUM
& 7TH CAPSTONE



RI PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO UGANDA

NEXT MEDIA CENTRE



ROTARY CANCER RUN
2025 LAUNCH



RI PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO UGANDA

ROTARY FELLOWSHIP FOR EMPOWERING WOMEN



ROTARY FOUNDATION DINNER



RI PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO UGANDA



ROWASHI NKUMBA UNIVERSITY LAUNCH



TRIBUTE TO PDG NELSON KAWALYA, A ROTARIAN PAR EXCELLENCE

Nelson Kawalya (1948–2024) was a distinguished leader whose unwavering commitment to public service and humanitarian efforts left an indelible mark in Buganda, Uganda and the Rotary Fraternity.

Early Life and Career

Born to Dr Erisa Musoke Kalibbala and Eva Nakirijja Musoke at Kiwenda-Kyadondo in Wakiso District, Kawalya pursued a career that spanned both public service and private enterprise.

He attended Bugema Primary School, Mengo Junior School (Mengo Junior School), Old Kampala Indian Government Senior Secondary School (Old Kampala SSS), and Makerere University, where he attained a BA in Commerce. He also held a Diploma in Marketing and Sales Administration from Cyprus, Greece and a certificate in Export Marketing from Cambridge Tutorial College.

Kawalya was a retired Tea Merchant, having served in the industry for more than 50 years including establishing Hoppers Tea, a private company dedicated to promoting tea cultivation for export and a broker of Tea Brokers East Africa (Mombasa).

He also held positions in the Uganda Development Corporation and the Uganda Tea Authority, where he served as a produce marketing manager and advisor, respectively.

His passion for Education saw him serve on the board of Mengo Senior School, the Governing Council of Ndejje University, a trustee for the Kampala School for the Physically Handicapped and the School Management Committee of Budo Junior School.

Nelson Kawalya was the first person to receive the Order of Merit Award in recognition of his exemplary role in enhancing the Individual and collective development of pupils of Budo Junior School.

Service to Buganda Kingdom and the Church of Uganda

Kawalya's dedication to Buganda Kingdom was profound. He served as the Speaker of the Buganda Lukiiko (Parliament) until his retirement in 2019 and held the position of Health Minister, initiating health camps that provided free medical services across the Kingdom. Additionally, he acted as a regent for the heir of Kalibbala, the head of the Nsenene Clan, ensuring the continuity of traditional leadership. He previously served as State Minister for Finance in the Government of Uganda. He is a recipient of the Uganda Independence Medal. As a Christian, his devotion saw him serve as a Member of the Provincial Assembly of the Church of Uganda, Head of the Laity of Namirembe Diocese, a Church Warden of St Paul Cathedral, Namirembe and All Saints Cathedral, Kampala. He was also a Member of Buule and Bweya Fellowship, in the Luweero Diocese.

Rotary International Involvement

Nelson Kawalya's service to Rotary spanned over four decades, having joined the Rotary Club of Kampala West in 1980. He later joined the Rotary Club of Rubaga as a Charter Member and at the founding of the Rotary Club of Mengo in 1987, he took on the role of Charter President and remained an active member until the time of his death.

His leadership culminated in his role as District Governor for District 9200, overseeing Rotary activities in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Mauritius, and Seychelles from 1997 to 1998.

A Major Donor to the Rotary Foundation, PDG Nelson Kawalya is the second Ugandan recipient of the Service Above Self Award, a prestigious recognition for Rotarians and Rotaractors who demonstrate their commitment to helping others by volunteering their time and talents.

During his time in Rotary, he was a member of the Reach Out Africa Committee, which spearheaded Rotary expansion in Africa in the late 1990s and early 2000s. He subsequently chaired the same committee. In 1999, Nelson Kawalya was the Rotary International President's Representative to the District 9140 (Nigeria) Conference and conferences in Benin, Congo Brazzaville, and India. In the same year, he was elected Vice Chairman of the Host Organising Committee of the Africa Presidential Conference.

He has also served as the Africa Coordinator for Children at Risk, RI Zone Coordinator on the Hunger Task Force, Member of the Rotary Council of Legislation, and a Member of the Membership Development and Retention Committee for Zone 10 comprising Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, and the Mediterranean, a role he held between 2003 and 2005.

He attended 34 Rotary International Conventions and 38 Rotary District Conferences during his Rotary Journey. Kawalya spearheaded numerous humanitarian projects, including the construction of a blood bank at Mengo Hospital, efforts to establish a cancer facility at Nsambya Hospital, and the development of a youth training centre in Busunju. He was also instrumental in the "Gift of Life" program, which funded surgeries for children with heart defects, and participated in various water and sanitation initiatives.

Personal Life and Legacy

Kawalya's personal life was marked by a deep commitment to family and faith. He and his wife,

Annette, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 14, 2024, at Namirembe Cathedral. The event was graced by the presence of the Nabagereka, Sylvia Nagginda, and Prince David Wasajja, who conveyed congratulations from Kabaka Ronald Muwenda Mutebi. Tragically, Kawalya passed away just days later, on December 18, 2024, at Mengo Hospital.

His passing elicited profound grief and a shock wave across the Rotary community. Mengo spokesperson Israel Kazibwe Kitooke remarked, "Buganda and Uganda, in general, would greatly miss Kawalya, who has served the Kingdom in various capacities."

Rotary International Director Rotarian Emmanuel Katongole, Rotary International Director for Africa, described him as "a humanitarian who dedicated his entire life to service above self."

One of his friends, Rtn Peter Jemba Kaggwa also known as PJK, describes him as an inspiring example of unconditional love at the family level, both immediate and extended. He adds 'PDG Nelson was a true Rotarian who displayed Rotary's core values, in words and actions.

He said that he was also exemplary in practically manifesting his theme as Governor which was 'Show Rotary Cares' and that in all the offices he held, Nelson Kawalya cherished Humility and Respect for others.

Rotarians, family and friends all described him as a man of peace, laughter, joy, wisdom, service, knowledge and faith who lived a meaningful and impactful life. 'Humility, simplicity and honesty were his inbuilt virtues; the late is one person who was too humble for his status,' one of the messages posted in his honour reads.

Rotarian Jakob Ssendawula, from the Rotary Club of Kampala, speaks of his father as a great man and recounts that One day, a story will be told of a family man: wise but not arrogant, powerful but humble, intelligent yet not demeaning, wealthy but not extravagant, successful, trustworthy, inspiring, prominent and yet still faithful to God. "And on that day, we will say, "His name was Nelson Kawalya and we were lucky and most fortunate to have him as a father".

In her eulogy, District Governor D9213 Anne Nkutu observed that the Rotary Fraternity in Uganda and beyond would forever remain in debt for PDG Kawalya's leadership, friendship and service to humanity. She added that Nelson Kawalya's life was a testament to selfless service, leadership, and a steadfast commitment to improving the lives of others.

By RTN. SYLVIA NANKYA
RC Kampala Naalya

PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION: TANZANIA'S HISTORY AND ROTARY'S WORK IN SOLVING PROBLEMS

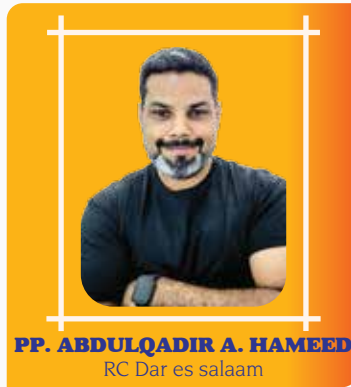
Peace is the key to moving forward. Without it, communities face difficulties, economies weaken, and people cannot reach their full potential. As members of Rotary, we have a special duty to promote peace—not just by solving conflicts, but by creating conditions where peace can grow. Tanzania provides important lessons on building peace, showing how long-term efforts can lead to positive results.

Tanzania's Contribution to Peace in the Region

Tanzania is known for its role in bringing peace to the region. For example, the Arusha Peace Agreement in 2000 helped end the violent civil war in Burundi, laying the groundwork for stability and democracy in the country. Tanzania's dedication to peace continued in 2023 when it hosted talks between the Ethiopian government and the Oromo Liberation Army in Dar es Salaam, further demonstrating its leadership in resolving regional conflicts.

Traditional Ways to Solve Conflicts

In Tanzania, people use old, trusted ways to solve problems within their communities. For example, in the Maasai and Gorowa groups, when there is a disagreement, the older and wiser members have stepped in to help everyone understand each other and find a solution.



This way of solving problems not only fixes the issue at hand but also helps keep peace for a long time. In 2018, there was a tussle over land in the Manyara area, but thanks to these traditional methods, it was settled without any fighting.

Stopping Conflicts Before They Start: The Secret to Long-Lasting Peace

Preventing conflicts is just as important as solving them. Tanzania tackles the main reasons behind conflicts, such as poverty and unfairness, by supporting community projects. These projects provide job training and small loans, which help reduce the hopelessness that often leads to fights. For instance, programs for young people have cut unemployment by 12% over the past ten years, helping to create a more peaceful community.

Rotary's Worldwide and Local Influence

Rotary International's Peace Centres have taught more than 1,600 people how to build peace, giving them the skills to handle big global problems. In local areas, Rotary clubs in Tanzania are working tirelessly to lessen conflicts by helping with education, giving young people more opportunities, and promoting open conversations. For instance, hundreds of schools supported by Rotary have helped more children learn to read and write, which makes it less likely that young people will get involved in violence.

Lessons for Us as Rotarians

Tanzania shows us that creating peace takes ongoing work. As Rotarians, we can learn from these examples and start similar projects in our own areas. Whether helping to solve local conflicts or supporting education, every step we take helps build a more peaceful future.

A Call to Action

In a world where more than 70 million people have been forced to leave their homes because of wars and violence (UNHCR, 2023), peace cannot just be a dream—it must be something we all work for together. As Rotarians, let's help people understand each other better and create a world where peace is normal, not rare. Following Tanzania's example of working for peace, we can all play a part in making a better future.



RESPECT FOR DIVERGENT OPINIONS AND INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES TO OBSERVE PEACE: MY JOURNEY AS A ROTARACTOR

As a Rotaractor, I've had the privilege of being part of a global community of young leaders dedicated to creating positive change in the world, inspired by senior Rotarians who have learned the best ways to do this. One area that has particularly resonated with me is peace and conflict resolution.

More specifically, what causes war? I have observed that a major cause of wars, conflicts, and disputes among communities is arguably having different views, opinions, standpoints, beliefs, mindsets, and attitudes regarding controversial issues. Every war in history emanates from here and so do many conflicts in our communities today. The deeper we understand this phenomenon, the easier our quests for peace will be.

Consider this: who told you that the majority is always right? Why don't you respect that one individual with a slightly different opinion? Do we have anything like the universal truth? Quite arguable because truth is relative and depends on one's perspective. For how long must I remain in a grass-thatched house simply because the whole village is poor? If I choose to build a permanent house, why should you not accept me as a colleague who prefers a slightly better life?



Growing up in western Uganda exposed me to diverse cultures and traditions. I recall a fascinating encounter with a friend from another region where I learned that people in their community hunt and eat bats—yes, the bats you know. My initial reaction was one of surprise and even disgust; I questioned why anyone would choose to eat bats. However, my friend's response was enlightening. He asked why people in my community eat grasshoppers, leading me to realize that our differences in food preferences are rooted in our cultural backgrounds. Therefore, everyone deserves respect.

This experience taught me a valuable lesson: peace cannot be achieved by disrespecting or

dismissing others' differences. Instead, we must learn to appreciate and respect our unique perspectives and traditions.

As I reflect on my journey as a Rotaractor, I'm reminded of the power of peace and conflict resolution to transform individuals, communities, and societies. I'm proud to be part of a global community that is committed to creating a more just, peaceful, and harmonious world for all without any cultural, or religious denominational demarcations.

Through my involvement with Rotary, I have engaged in various peace and conflict resolution initiatives, including workshops on conflict resolution, interfaith dialogue projects, and the Rotary Peace Fellowship program. These experiences have broadened my understanding of peace and conflict resolution while equipping me with the skills and knowledge needed to make a positive impact in my community.

What I've learned is that, **if you call it a hammer, why should you fight if I choose to call it a nail banger?**

As I look toward the future, I'm excited to continue my journey as a Rotaractor, working towards a world where peace, understanding, and respect for individual differences are guiding principles.



A CALL TO ACTION: HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO PEACEBUILDING

February, designated as Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month by Rotary International, is a time for reflection and action. Peace is not merely the absence of war; it is the presence of justice, equality, and human dignity. It's an opportunity for each of us to examine our role in building a more peaceful world, starting within our own communities and extending our reach globally.

Within our District 9214, we can contribute in many ways:

- Volunteer locally: Support organizations like The Nyerere Centre for Peace Research (NCPR) in Tanzania and Amani Institute Uganda by mentoring youth, participating in peace education, or assisting with conflict resolution initiatives.



- Fund impactful projects:

Support Rotary grants that address root causes of conflict, such as those focused on education and economic development for vulnerable communities.

- Advocate for peace: Use your voice to support policies and initiatives that promote peace and understanding within our communities.

- Promote interfaith dialogue: Organize or participate in events that foster respect and understanding between people of different faiths.

- Educate and inspire: Share your knowledge of peacebuilding with others through workshops, discussions, and presentations within your club and community.

Let's be inspired by the example of Non-Rotarian Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who stood for peace during his most challenging times as a civil rights leader in America even when all roads led to violence. Every action, no matter how small, contributes to a more peaceful future for Tanzania, Uganda, and the world.



Quiz

PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION/RESOLUTION

<Answers on page 34>

The Rotary Theme of the month of February is Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution, try this Quiz and see how many you get right.

1. In what year and setting did Rotary International start its Peace initiatives? Which club took this step?
2. What role did Rotary play during the establishment of the United Nations?
3. What are Peace Forums?
4. What are Rotary's Four roles in Promoting Peace?
5. Approximately how many people globally are displaced as a result of conflict?
6. What is a Rotary Peace Centre program? How many scholarships are offered each year? What is included in the fellowship?
7. In the Role as Mediators, what have Rotary members negotiated humanitarian ceasefires in areas of conflict for?
8. As Advocates in the Peace Process, Rotary members have an integral role as respected, impartial participants during which two processes?
9. Which Rotarian Action Group gives Rotary members resources and support to advance peace efforts and turn ambitious ideas into life-changing realities?
10. Who said, "I wanted to do something to help prevent war, rather than addressing its consequences".

By Rtn Ciren Gracias (RCNjiro Arusha)

PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION: LET PEACE AND LOVE REIGN – NOW AND FOREVER.

The Rotary theme for February 2025 is Peace and Conflict Prevention/ Resolution. The topic is broad and can cover a wide range of groups from individuals to countries, but let me focus on Peace & Conflict Prevention/Resolution in families.

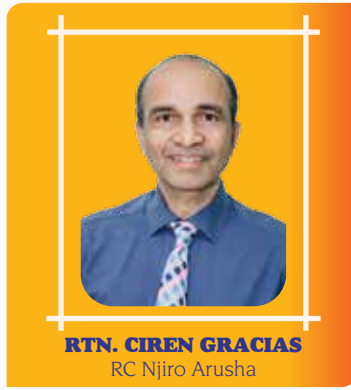
To understand this theme better, let us look at the meaning of Peace and Conflict. Quoting from vocabulary.com, "Peace is a stress-free state of security and calmness that comes when there's no fighting or war, everything coexisting in perfect harmony and freedom". And quoting from dictionary.com, "Conflict is a fight, battle or struggle, especially a prolonged one".

Let us take the family relationship in stages. During courtship, there is usually bliss. Two young souls having met and fallen in love. There is no commitment yet and therefore there is great understanding, each one trying to impress the other and putting their best foot forward. They enjoy each other's company and look forward to a happy life and future together. With bliss comes peace. The next stage is engagement and then marriage. Civilly, which formalizes the union and then optionally in a religious setting with great pomp and celebration.

It is here that the actual realization dawns and the true colours come out. Everything is now formalized and the couple lives together and have to face life as one. In the first year or two the original courtship bliss may continue. Children may follow and this brings further peace and happiness. Thereafter things may change and the Peace that once was, is disturbed by Conflict.

Conflict in a family may occur due to a number of reasons:

- One or both partners being unfaithful
- Indulgence in habits that displease the other, such as alcohol or drugs, which may lead to fights, beatings etc. and therefore conflict
- Being bad tempered, bad natured, rude, harsh or abusive.
- One of the partners being lazy and leaving all the chores to the other.
- The two partners by nature or personality, being incompatible in all ways as is chalk and cheese.



- Being heavily influenced by family members or friends that the spouse is not nice and having them go against them

- Having very difficult in-laws who bring a lot of external pressures in the marriage.

And there can be several more.

All this can lead to shouting matches (sometimes heard by the neighbours), fights, beatings, abuse, the spouses not speaking to each other, wanting to separate or divorce and take custody of the children etc. In short - CONFLICT.

Who therefore can assist in conflict prevention and resolution in cases such as the above? Normally when members of a family are in a conflict, it is only hidden for a very short period of time. Soon it comes out into the open and friends, family, neighbours and even the community get to know about it.

As for prevention, to nip the problem in its bud, I believe that this comes from within the partners in the marriage. Once they recognize some of the factors mentioned above and initially things start to turn rocky, it is for them to sort of this prevention aspect, to avoid it escalating to something bigger. We are all different and have our strengths and our weaknesses. In a family and in a marriage, we have to accept each one's failings and try best to accommodate and adapt to each other to ensure that the relationships flourish. At the prevention stage, it could also be that a family member or friend if informed, could try and intervene and be involved in discussions with both parties, if acceptable.

In terms of conflict resolution, this is now when it is obvious that there is a conflict. Here there would have to be an arbitrating or mediating team from which representatives would preferably be selected by both the parties concerned.

The mediation could be at family level, ward or village level or by the community in which they belong. The mediators could be family members from both sides, village elders, seniors from religious orders or community heads. Preferably persons with experience in handling such matters

In conflict resolution, the mediators would:

- Have a background understanding of the conflict prior to meeting the parties and have a plan of questions and discussion agenda prepared

- Listen to both sides as to the problems being faced. It is very important to give both parties a chance to vent out all they have inside. A challenge would be when one party is reluctant to air their grievances in front of the team.

- Listen to proposed solutions from both parties.

The mediating team could then meet to discuss how to resolve the conflict and meet the parties at the earliest to propose their solutions and further discuss. What you can do is to try your best. Then onus is on the parties to reconcile. There could be times when either or both parties are obstinate and will not budge despite the best efforts of the team. In this case, it could lead to the break-up of the family and the children are the ones to suffer.

Among Rotary's initiatives include the establishment of Rotary Peace Centres. These centres located at universities around the world, develop leaders who become catalysts for peace in local communities and on the global stage. They study the causes of conflict and build practical skills exploring innovative solutions to real-world problems.

When Rotary established the Peace and Conflict Prevention/ Resolution month, one of the aims was by achieving Peace in our families and in our communities, we lead to Peace throughout the World. What better than one of the warring parties saying to the other, "Let Peace and Love reign between us now and forever"

FINDING MY WAY TO ROTARY

In mid-September 2017, I walked into a Rotary meeting in Moshi, pulled up a chair introduced myself and proceeded to enjoy the fellowship, leaving the meeting chair quite puzzled. At the time, I didn't realize attending a Rotary meeting was by invitation only. No one had invited me to the meeting, well at least not in the traditional sense.

My journey to that Rotary meeting started decades ago in the early 90s. In those days, there was one TV station which like the sun rises every day, had a predictable schedule. At 7.30pm, after the news brief there was usually a special infomercial broadcast that would vary according to events at the time. Usually, a week or so after Easter and the East African Safari Rally, a group of people from the Eye Hospital would broadcast their event. This was an annual event and as a young girl watching this every year, I did not understand much about what was going on. However, what stood out to me was doctors wearing green scrubs, people of all ages wearing eye patches, and the word Rotary. The mind of a 10-year-old girl put two and two together and concluded that the green clad doctors were called Rotary and they healed eyes.

During my high school and University years, I didn't think much of the eye healers; there were several TV stations to choose from. A few decades later when I moved to Moshi, I saw a signboard at one of the two prominent roundabouts in Moshi. This signboard felt familiar, but I couldn't place this feeling. After weeks of seeing this signboard I looked up the word Rotary online. As soon as I read a little online about Rotary, the mental images of the eye healers came flooding into my mind. I read on about the Blindness Eradication project that started in 1985. The mental images felt nostalgic, and reminded me of the good old days when life was simple. The eye people reminded me of home, a time when my biggest worry was that the camera man hadn't brought back the picture he took. Since I was new in Moshi the mental images made me feel warm. I needed a place to belong, I felt that I could trust anyone associated with the green clad doctors – I felt like I had known them for a long time. I therefore attended my first meeting on a Thursday at 4.45pm.



When the meeting chair asked me who invited me to the meeting, I told him no one, but I am familiar with your game. I told him I knew that Rotary healed eyes, and that I had seen an infomercial on TV many years ago. Now that I think about it, I am sure the President was quite confused by my answer, but nonetheless the club members welcomed me and served me a cup of masala tea.

After several weeks of attending meetings, I began to understand that Rotary did more than heal eyes. "I can carve a space for myself in this club" I thought to myself. My first assignment was to compile the DG report and the second was to coordinate the distribution of a warehouse full of solar lights to communities that really needed them. Some of my skills must have shone through, because within six months of me showing up at my first meeting, I became the Club Secretary. When I reflect on my early days in Rotary, I am convinced that I stayed because I felt useful to the Club.

I have a soft spot for projects, because it was the projects that led me to Rotary. As Rotarians we downplay the value of publicity for our projects. We may not be able to entirely measure the impact our projects today, but I am convinced that our positive impact will be felt for generations to come.

Over the years, I have served in many capacities at my club and at the district level. I am currently serving as an Assistant Governor, and the Service Projects Director at my club, the Rotary Club of Moshi,

as well as a Country Grants Support Officer. Yes, my plate is full; but my heart is also full.

As my clubs projects coordinator, I hope that the projects we implement can bring more boys and girls to Rotary. We are a unique people that do good and don't stand around waiting for the accolades. Imagine how Rotary would be, if we really publicized and spoke of the good works we do. Imagine how many of your own family members from different parts of the country would join Rotary if they really understood we create magic. I like to imagine that my Club can replicate these cases of good people showing up to Rotary, staying on for years, and serving the club and the community.

In my year as a Projects coordinator, I have especially enjoyed the projects whose goal is to improve the lives of children. Most recently the Rotary Club of Moshi has implemented two global grants in the areas of Community Economic development, and Peace and Conflict resolution. The former is a grant that offers a future to street children by equipping them with skills in horticulture, animal husbandry, welding and wood work. The other grant trains community members to identify children at risk particularly those that find themselves on the streets. The goal is to reunify them with their families. I am sure that when these children grow up, they will associate Rotary with home, like I did.

I am thankful to the Rotarians in the Rotary Club of Nairobi who did a great job publicizing their signature Blindness Eradication Project. Unknowingly they helped me see what I would otherwise have missed – an opportunity to serve unconditionally. I am now convinced that with proper branding our projects will draw the next generation of Rotarians to our clubs.

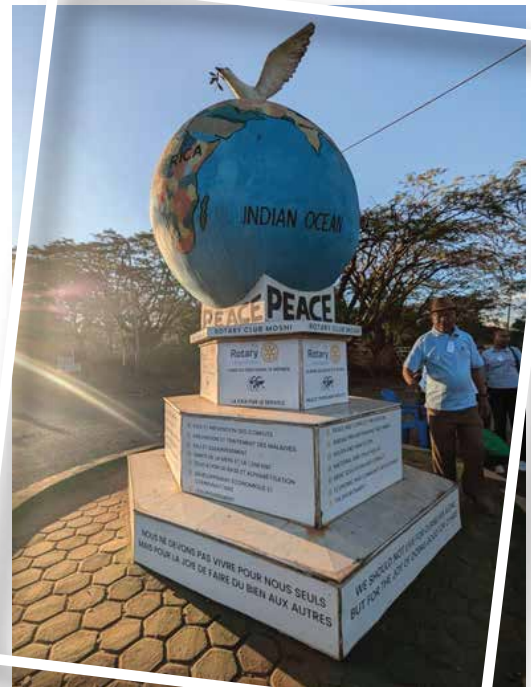
For me, the magic of Rotary lies in the impactful projects we implement. I urge all Rotarians to pour their hearts into serving the community. One act of service will inevitably birth multiple fruits for the family of Rotary, not just in your city, but perhaps in various parts of the continent.



*Working with Interactors on the 'Rotary Peace Garden'.
I was their age when I first heard about Rotary*



When I was 10yrs old



RC of Moshi's signboard at one of the two prominent roundabouts in Moshi



What the Garden looks like now



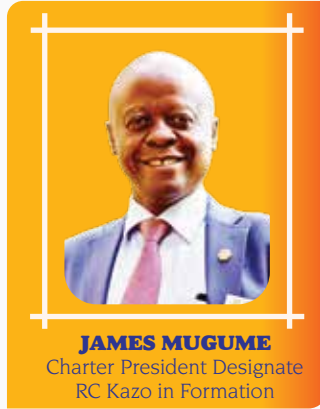
Making sure that generation Alpha knows that our work is funded by the Rotary foundation

ROTARY CLUB OF KAZO LAUNCHED WITH POMP

Rotary Club of Kazo in Formation made history by launching their new club on 30th November, 2024. The occasion was graced by PDG Dr. Urs Herzog, a National PolioPlus Advocacy Advisor for Rotary Switzerland, a polio survivor, a prominent advocate for polio eradication, and a significant donor. He was accompanied by his wife, and together with PDG Peace Taremwa, an indigene from Kazo District, they added pomp to the launch alongside their wives. The two couples commenced the event by planting trees at the Kazo Vocational Training Institute, where the Rotary Club in Formation has initiated its maiden project of protecting the environment. Dr. Herzog concluded his speech by sharing the flag with the Charter President Designate of the new club in formation, Dr James Mugume.

The Bamuhwezi Hotel, a place to be in the whole of Kazo District, was full of activity during the launch. Rotarians, Rotaractors and friends gathered for the fellowship at exactly 7:30 pm. The meals served were tailored to individual tastes; they were well-prepared, delicious, and enticing. Attendees enjoyed a selected range of drinks according to their preferences.

Large banners announcing the identities of the parent Rotary Clubs of Kajjansi and Ibanda, as well



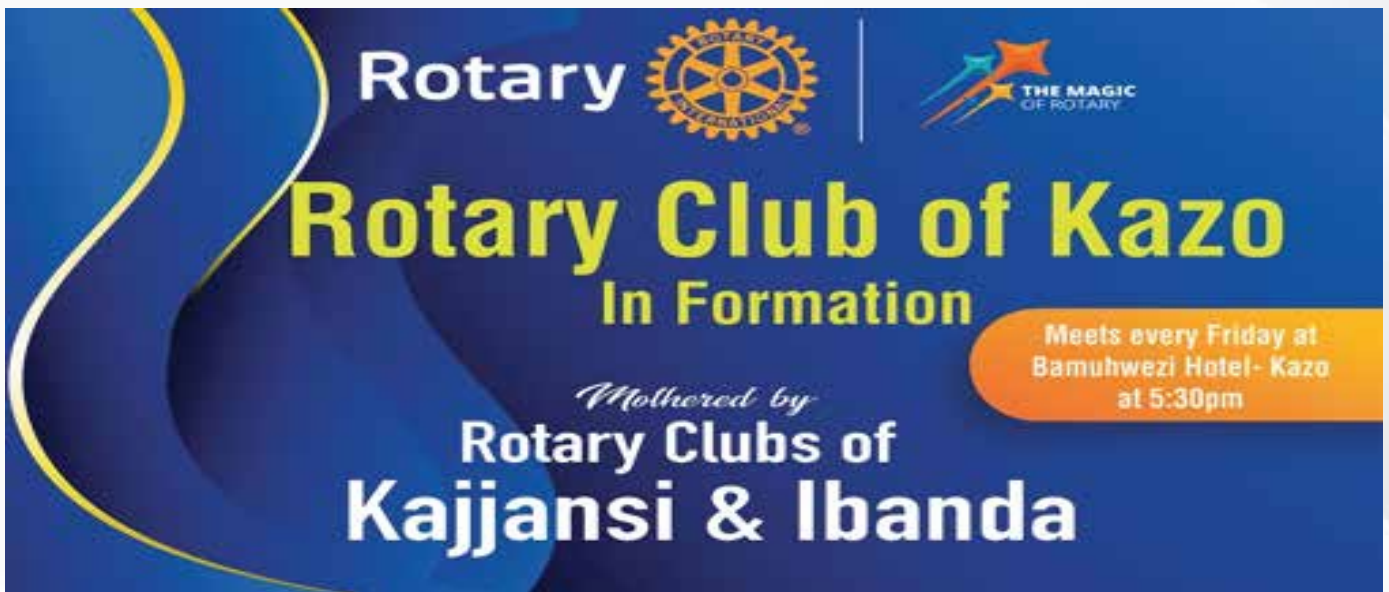
JAMES MUGUME
Charter President Designate
RC Kazo in Formation

as that of the new Rotary Club in Formation, created a spectacular display behind the stage. Up to twenty members from RC Kazo in Formation smartly waved their well-designed small flags bearing the Rotary logo as they introduced themselves by name and classification. Their classifications ranged from health and medical services to education, agribusiness administration, and accounting services.

During the inaugural fellowship, the Presidents of the Rotary Clubs of Kajjansi and Ibanda appeared spotlessly smart in their full

regalia as joint mothers to the new club being launched. The inauguration was attended by key District leadership figures, including the Chairman of Kazo District Council, the District Education Officer, the Local Council 1 chairman, and retired senior citizens.

In his address the Charter President Designate, James Mugume a former international civil servant, emphasized the commitment all intending Rotarians of the new club had demonstrated. In addition to purchasing tree seedlings, they participated individually in planting the trees at the institute compound. He highlighted his motivation for being in Rotary for many years; his natural love for children and his desire to reach out and serve the most vulnerable groups in society. While working for WHO, he participated in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative as a consultant in countries including Nigeria, Pakistan, Sudan, Namibia, and Malawi. He announced the names of six members who will form the steering committee responsible for directing the agenda of the new club toward its charter. He called upon support from RC Kajjansi and Ibanda to educate the new club about Rotary in general and assist in managing this young club in particular.





REVITALIZING MATERNITY CARE: A NEW HOPE FOR PREGNANT WOMEN IN KYEBE SUBCOUNTY, KYOTERA DISTRICT

The Maternity Ward of Kyebe Health Centre III was established in the 1960s to provide maternity services to pregnant women in the subcounty of Kyebe. By 2020, the subcounty had approximately 3,634 women of childbearing age, with 790 of them becoming pregnant annually. Records indicate that about 73 to 100 women attended antenatal care, but only 7 to 14 babies were delivered each month due to inadequate delivery services. The maternity infrastructure consisted of the ward and a two-room structure meant to accommodate two midwives. In 1979, the facility was partly destroyed during the war between Uganda and Tanzania. After the war, the facility never regained its former status and continued to deteriorate until it was abandoned in 2016. At that time, approximately 800 women required maternity services in the subcounty. Most of these women accessed maternity services from a Health Centre IV located 50 km away, and the only road was often unusable during the rainy season. In 2018, five women died because floods prevented them from reaching the health facilities to which they had been referred.

The pregnant women who come to the midwives of Kyebe Health Centre for antenatal services do not normally come back for delivery. Reports suggest that at least one woman dies each month while delivering in unregistered locations. Many pregnant women who cannot afford transport costs over 50 km to the nearest public maternity facility often deliver with Traditional Birth Attendants in the subcounty, exposing them to potential fistula complications and resulting in deaths of these unfortunate mothers. This situation prompted Rotarians from the area to collaborate with fellow Rotarians to seek support to reverse this troubling trend.

In 2020 funds were pooled from the Rotary Club of Randers Sondre D9800 and RC Konge Lukuli D9214 to start construction of a Midwives' house (budgeted at USD 16,000) that could accommodate two midwives. One side of the facility was devoted to serving as a temporary ward while the other side to accommodate at least one mid wife. It has served the purpose well and since April 2024 up to 32 mothers have successfully delivered in the facility.



Old Midwives House



RTN. JOYCE NAKALEMBE
Club President
RC Konge Lukuli



Newly Constructed Midwives House

In April 2024 construction of a big and modern structure for a Maternity was started with support from the Rotary Club of Albert Park D1440. Additional support was secured from the Clubs of Randers Sondre D1440 and Konge Lukuli D9214 as well as well wishers with links to Kyebe subcounty. The estimated cost for this project is up to USD 100,000. We are now in the process of writing a Rotary Global Grant of about USD 80,000 to cover required medical equipment, furniture, Solar Power and piped water.

The primary objective of this project is to ensure improved Maternity and Child Health services in Kyebe sub county by;

- i) providing and equipping the Maternity Ward with necessary medical equipment/amenities,
- ii) providing a permanent and reliable flow of piped water and
- iii) availing a reliable power source (Solar) for lighting and operating selected medical equipment.



Old Maternity Ward in the background



Newly Constructed Maternity Ward

The main beneficiaries of this project are pregnant mothers who often must travel to distant health facilities to deliver or visit Traditional Birth Attendants, which can lead to complications such as fistula. Other beneficiaries include husbands or men who typically bear the travel and treatment costs for pregnant mothers and their children.

Special thanks goes to PP Peter Lusembo, whose exceptional coordination made these efforts possible.

CREATING HEALTH, HOPE AND COMMUNITY AT UKONGA'S MEDICAL CAMP: THE MAGIC OF ROTARY IN ACTION

On August 3rd, 2024, the Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam Oyster Bay brought a remarkable vision to life with the Ukonga Medical Camp, touching thousands of lives in a single day. Set in Ukonga, a low-income suburb of Dar es Salaam, this event showcased The Magic of Rotary, going beyond healthcare to provide a sanctuary of support, connection, and hope for the community.

From the break of dawn, the camp buzzed with life as Rotarians, Rotaractors medical professionals, and volunteers prepared to deliver essential health services to a crowd of eager families. Each visitor was welcomed with warm smiles and guiding hands, as the camp offered everything from malaria screenings to diabetes counseling, family planning support, and menstrual health education.

For many families, the camp was a bridge to essential care. A mother shared her relief after her children received vaccines and a health check-up, saying, "This camp is more than just health services—it's hope." Her words captured the spirit of the day, where healthcare was not only about treating ailments but also about providing reassurance and peace of mind for the future.

The Impact in Numbers

The impact was profound, with **2,468 registrations** and critical services delivered to all ages from newborns to seniors.

Highlights included:

- **Malaria Screening:** 2,410 individuals were screened, helping prevent a major health risk in the region.
- **Deworming & Malnutrition Screening:** Over 3,800 children and adults received preventive care, essential for long-term health.
- **HIV Counseling and Testing:** With pre- and post-counseling offered, over 400 people were empowered with knowledge and guidance on HIV and other STIs.
- **Contraceptives & Family Planning:** 1,639 sessions were conducted, underscoring Rotary's commitment to supporting informed family health decisions.



RTN. HILU BURA
RC Dar es Salaam Oyster Bay

Beyond immediate care, Rotary also provided vital referrals. Nearly 400 individuals were connected to further specialized care for services ranging from dental check-ups to blood pressure management, ensuring that each health journey could continue beyond the camp.

Rotary and Community Partnership

This level of outreach and quality care was only possible through partnerships. Local sponsors and organizations donated essential medical supplies, dental toolkits, and other resources. Their support helped transform our plans into life-changing services, making healthcare accessible to a broader population and reinforcing the strength of Rotary's partnerships.

As Rotary International's 2024-2025 theme emphasizes, The Magic of Rotary lies in the way we come together to create change, and at Ukonga, our sponsors proved to be a critical part of that magic.

The impact of each service reflecting Rotary's dedication to creating healthier, more hopeful communities. For RC Dar es Salaam Oyster Bay, a club of over 80 members, this was a day of teamwork. For those who feel inspired by this mission, we invite you to join us in the journey.



This day was more than just volunteering it was a chance to make a difference.



The club members pose for a picture during the medical camp



The media was also there to tell this important story

HANDOVER OF GLOBAL GRANT MATERNAL, CHILD HEALTH, AND WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE PROJECT AT KABWOHE HEALTH CENTRE IV, SHEEMA DISTRICT

The Rotary Clubs of Kabwohe, Kampala Springs, and Allschwil-Regio Basel, together with their Developmental Service Partners, have made a significant contribution to the HealthCare Sector at Kabwohe Health Centre IV, Sheema District, following a great milestone and successful implementation of their Global Grant; Maternal and Child Health (MCH), and Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) project. This project proves the continuous support to community health in different areas reached.

The MCH component involved a range of activities aimed at improving Maternal and Child Health care in Sheema Municipality and Sheema District; including Lighting the whole Maternity Department with Solar powered Lighting System; high quality brand 12 Solar high voltage Panels and its components were put in place; furthermore provision of essential Equipment worth Over 8,000 USD like Oxygen Equipment, Patients Lockers, Autoclave Machine, Theatre Instruments, Operating Theatre Table Lights, Delivery Beds among others ..., Essential Neonatal Equipment like Phototherapy Machines, Neonatal Incubator Machines; to ensure best possible care for both mothers and newborns; thus fostering a good, safe and comfortable environment for Safe Delivery and Child Health.

The WASH component consisted of extending water access to the entire Health Centre by supplementing the existing unreliable water sources.



The procurement of a 10,000-litre water tank, powered by a Solar Pumping system, was completed. Pipework is currently at 75% completion

The success of both the MCH and WASH GG projects is a true testament to the tremendous work with great dedication of the Rotary Clubs of Kabwohe, Kampala Springs and Allscheil Regio Basel. Their commitment to improving the lives of the communities is an evident power of the impact of this project on the lives of mothers and their children in Kabwohe, Sheema District and its neighbourhoods. It will not only provide better health-care for mothers and children but also serve as a model for future health projects in the region.

This Project covered various areas of Rotary Focus, that include: Disease Prevention and Treatment, Water Sanitation and Hygiene, and Maternal and Child Health. It was made possible through the support of various Partners, including the Rotary Foundation, Abaana B'ESheema, The Dear Foundation, Rotaract Clubs of Kabwohe, Uganda, Kampala International University - Western Campus (KIU-WC), Ankole Western University (in formation), ROKE Telecom, and Sheema Broadcasting Services (90.1 Fm - Media House in Sheema Municipality). Special gratitude to PDG Urs Herzog who led the fund-raising campaign to ensure the Global Grant was funded.

The handover event was presided over by PDG Ken Mugisha. It was started by a Mega one-day Medical Camp that attracted thousands of people, receiving various specialized medical care like Skin, Dental, Eye, Cancer Screening, General Health Care, among others.

The event was attended by various stakeholders, including Local Government Officials, Health Care professionals, Representatives of Service Partners and Community Members.

In conclusion, the MCH and WASH GG project is a bright star example of how collaboration and commitment can lead to significant improvement in health care delivery.

Indeed, there is Power in Solidarity and Strong Partnerships in Community Service.





FIGHTING PERIOD POVERTY FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Period poverty, or the inability to access sanitary products for menstruation, remains a problem in many parts of the world, with millions of women and girls unable to access and/or afford products during their menstrual cycles.

According to UNICEF, 27% of those living in the least developed countries (like Tanzania) lack access to sanitation services such as a handwashing facility with water and soap at school, and even at home. Managing periods thus becomes a major challenge. As a result, 85% of girls are forced to use unhygienic solutions, including using strips of cloth which can spread fungi and infection.

This problem persists in Tanzania, where only 8% of girls finish secondary school and the average menstruating student misses three to four classes during each cycle.

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), about one in ten African teenage girls in remote areas miss school during their menstruation cycle and eventually drop out due to issues that surround period poverty.



The Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam Oyster Bay are once again partnering with Tanzania's most popular urban/youth radio and TV station, EATV, who have been running a campaign called #Namthamini since 2017, providing sanitary pads & menstrual hygiene education to students in Tanzania. "Namthamini" is Kiswahili for "I value her".

#Namthamini has reached 20 regions and 34 districts of Tanzania, removing one of the biggest barriers to girls' completion of secondary school.

With their ability to reach the most remote locations, EATV use their platforms to carry a message of positive encouragement, using youth ambassadors that young girls look up to. Rotary in Tanzania has received support from EATV over the years whenever we have needed publicity for our various initiatives. Through partnering on the #Namthamini campaign, we are showing our solidarity, supporting them to do something that they have done really well for the past seven years that connects with young people.

Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam Oyster Bay has once again run a sanitary pad drive, in support of the EATV #Namthamini campaign. The Club was able to raise Tanzanian shillings 9 million which was fully utilized to purchase both re-usable and disposable sanitary pads for the campaign. This complements other projects done by clubs around Tanzania, such as constructing toilet blocks for use specifically by girls, STEM programmes, and menstrual hygiene education.

85 %
Girls forced to use unhygienic solutions when on their periods

8 %
Girls who finish Secondary School

62 %
miss school due to menstruation related illness

62 %
Schools with inadequate water facilities

115,000
Girls in need of sanitary pads

3 - 4
Classes missed each month/ cycle

ROTARY IN TANZANIA HAS RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM EATV OVER THE YEARS WHENEVER WE HAVE NEEDED PUBLICITY FOR OUR EDUCATION.

Rotary Club of DSM oyster Bay has been participating in the EATVs "#Namthamni Campaign" since 2022. And every year that followed we have continued to grow our contribution of sanitary pads donations, and this is mainly because we are committed to ensuring that girls in Tanzania have easy access to hygienic solutions when on their periods, and as well lower the number of girls who miss school due to menstruation related illness. On that note we would like to thank EATV for the opportunity to collaborate with us and looking forward to contributing more towards ending period poverty"

Himanshu K.Bhattbhatt.

President 2024 - 25 , Rotary Club of DSM oyster Bay

We are humbled and full of joy as we join hands to support our long - term partners on the #Namthamini campaign by EATV. As members of Rotary Club of DSM Oyster Bay, we are committed to supporting communities and ensuring that a girl child doesn't miss the opportunity of quality education due to something as natural as menstruation. The Rotary community believes in the girl child and believes in their ability to reach high ground and uplift our communities at large

Sia Mollel.

Events and Planning Director 2024 - 25 , Rotary Club of DSM oyster Bay

It was such an honor to be a part of an understated yet important endeavor. The ability to enable not just one girl to reclaim her worth and be present even on the days of her period is a blessing to those girls. It's a call for more and more people not only Rotarians but the society at large to keep showing up for these girls. We invite all stakeholders to support this great cause and uplift communities

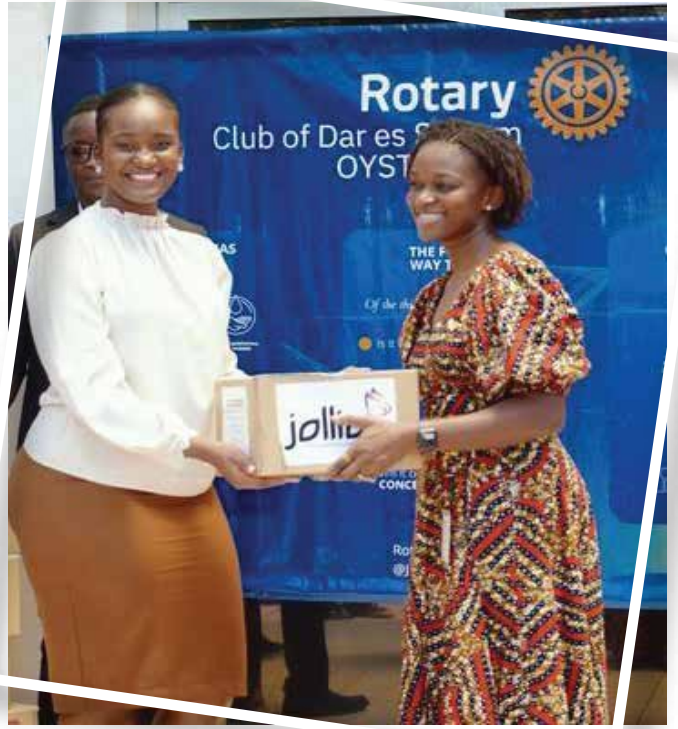
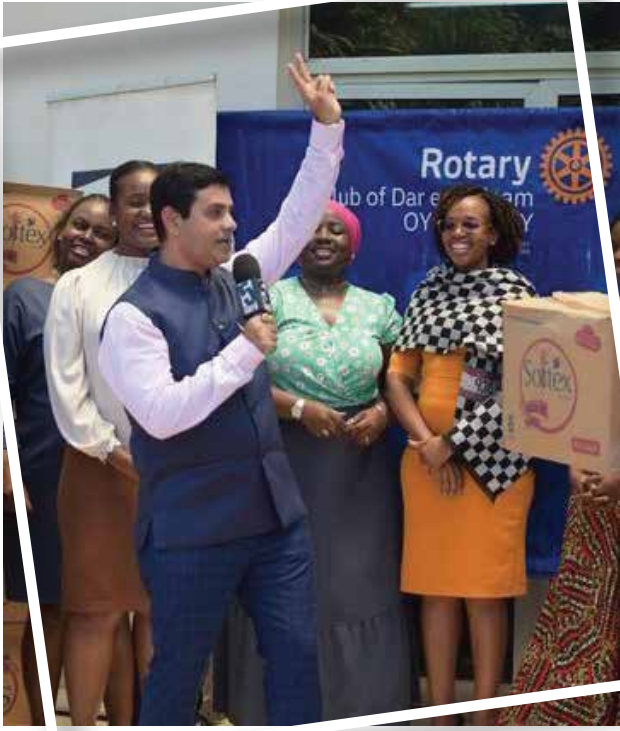
Ikunda P. Kisamo

Member, Rotary Club of DSM Oyster Bay

The Sanitary Pads that we have given out today were made possible by the contributions of more than 40 members of the Rotary Club of DSM Oyster Bay. We have been able to donate 600 packets of re-usable pads which will impact 600 girls and these can be used for up to four years. The girls won't need to worry about buying pads during this time. We have also donated 3,000 packets of single use pads for the areas where clean water is not easily accessible. We hope that we will continue to collaborate with EATV in the #NamthaminiCampaign in an even bigger way in the years to come. #Namthamini! #NasimamaNaye

Salim Ali

Service Projects Director 2024-25, Rotary Club of DSM Oyster Bay



SMART PILLS REMINDER APP: A LIFESAVER FOR DIABETES PATIENTS IN RURAL UGANDA.

Professor Angela Wells, a Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Southwestern Louisiana, has launched a groundbreaking mobile application, the Smart Pills Reminder App. This innovative app, developed by Professor Wells, a renowned technologist, and her team of software engineers, is specifically designed for diabetes patients. Its primary goal is simplifying medication management by ensuring users take the correct medication at the right time.

What sets the Smart Pills Reminder App apart are its specialized features tailored to the needs of individuals with diabetes. In addition to medication reminders, the app allows users to track their blood sugar levels and



offers offline accessibility, making it highly practical for rural communities with limited internet connectivity.

Committed to user privacy, the app does not collect any personal


information, ensuring a secure and trustworthy experience for its users.

"Our goal was to create a tool that addresses the unique challenges faced by underserved communities in Uganda," said Prof. Wells. "With this app, we hope to improve medication adherence and overall health outcomes for diabetes patients."

The development team has announced plans to add new features in the coming months, further enhancing the app's utility.

This app represents a significant step forward in bridging the healthcare gap for rural populations, offering accessible, tech-driven solutions to those who need them most.







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RC DAR ES SALAAM CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS







ANSWERS



PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION/RESOLUTION

1. In 1914, Rotarians from Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, proposed before the 1914 Rotary Convention that the International Association of Rotary Clubs (now Rotary International) "lend its influence to the maintenance of peace among the nations of the world." Delegates at the convention, which took place just weeks before Europe became engulfed in war, agreed.

It was a bold statement for a relatively young organization that had become international only two years earlier and had a presence in just a handful of countries.

2. Rotary was present at the start of the United Nations in 1945. Rotary International was one of 42 organizations invited to serve as consultants to the U.S. delegation to the United Nations Conference on International Organization in San Francisco, California, USA (commonly called the UN charter conference). Additionally, many Rotary members and honorary members from around the world attended the conference as members of and consultants to their nations' delegations.

3. To raise awareness about issues that cause conflict and activities that promote peace, Rotary created Peace Forums as a three-year pilot program. Rotary leaders and invited guests explored topics such as "Nongovernmental Organizations and the Search for Peace" at the first Peace Forum held in 1988 in Evanston, Illinois, USA.

In 1990, the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation broadened the program and changed the name to Rotary Peace Programs.

4. Rotary and its members are:

Practitioners: Rotary work in fighting disease, providing clean water and sanitation, improving the health of mothers and children, supporting education, and growing local economies directly builds the optimal conditions for peaceful societies.

Educators: Rotary Peace Centers have trained over 1,300 peace fellows to become effective catalysts for peace through careers in government, education, and international organizations.

Mediators: Rotarians have negotiated humanitarian ceasefires in areas of conflict to allow polio vaccinators to reach children who are at risk.

Advocates: Rotarians have an integral role as respected, impartial participants during peace processes and in post-conflict reconstruction. We focus on creating communities and convening groups that are connected, inclusive, and resilient.

5. Over 70 million people

6. The Rotary Peace Centers program develops the capacity of peace and development professionals or practitioners to become experienced and effective catalysts for peace, through academic training, practice, and global networking opportunities. The training is done at one of the Rotary Peace Centres.

The Rotary Peace Fellowship is designed for leaders with work experience in peace and development. The fellows are committed to community and international service and the pursuit of peace. Each year, The Rotary Foundation awards up to 50 fellowships for master's degrees and 80 for certificate studies at premier universities.

The fellowships cover tuition and fees, room and board, round-trip transportation, and all internship and field-study expenses.

7. Rotary members have negotiated humanitarian ceasefires in areas of conflict to allow polio vaccinators to reach children who are at risk.

8. Peace Processes and in Post-conflict Reconstruction.

9. The Rotarian Action Group for Peace (<https://rotaryactiongroupforpeace.org/>)

10. Robert Opira. Rotary Peace Fellow, University of Queensland, 2005-07

By RTN CIREN GRACIAS
(RCNjiro Arusha)

ROTARY A TO Z: BUILDING PEACE, ONE LETTER AT A TIME OBSERVING Q AND R

This February, as we celebrate Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month, our "Rotary A to Z" series takes on a special significance. Each month, we explore key Rotary terms, connecting them to our shared commitment to building a more peaceful and just world. This month, we focus on the letters Q - Quorum and R - Rotaract, discovering how these seemingly simple concepts contribute to Rotary's broader mission of service and peace.

Q - Quorum

A quorum is the minimum number of members required to be present at a Rotary meeting for official business to be conducted. This ensures that decisions are made democratically and represent the will of the majority of the club members.

True democracy thrives on inclusivity and the active participation of all members. A quorum ensures that a diverse range of perspectives are considered when making decisions on club projects and initiatives. This inclusivity is crucial for fostering understanding and preventing internal conflicts within the club.



When a quorum is present, a wide range of viewpoints are considered before any action is taken. This inclusive environment promotes understanding and prevents internal conflicts that can arise from a lack of communication and differing opinions. By valuing the input of all members, Rotary clubs create a more harmonious and productive environment for achieving their service goals, which often include peacebuilding initiatives within the community.

R - Rotaract

Rotaract is a service organization for young adults aged 18-30. Sponsored by a Rotary club, Rotaract clubs provide opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills, engage in community service, and address local and global challenges.

Rotaract clubs are vital to fostering peace and understanding within communities. The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow. By empowering them with the tools and resources to create positive change, we are investing in a more peaceful future. Rotaract exemplifies this by engaging young people in service projects that address social and humanitarian issues, empowering them to become agents of change and contribute to a more peaceful world.

Through their service and leadership initiatives, Rotaract clubs play a crucial role in building a more just and equitable world for all.

Next: S and T. Keep an eye or two out.



BEST ARTICLE AWARD

In recognition of their exceptional writing,
this certificate is awarded to

Rotarian Dr. Janeth Israel Mgonja

of

Rotary club of Kibo Marangu

For creating the best article: **My Rotary Journey: A Story of Gratitude,
Growth, and Service** in the January 2025 Ubuntu Newsletter.

Rotarian Agnes Batengas
District Governor

Rotarian Ciren Gracias
Chief Editor



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DCA Events
COCKTAIL NIGHT
 THURSDAY, MAY 1ST | 6:30 - 9 PM
 Dress code: Eco Chic Attire

REGISTER: DCA.ROTARYD9214.ORG



DCA Events
JOURNEY THROUGH TIME
 FRIDAY, MAY 2ND | 6:30 - 9 PM
 Dress code: Iconic Music Legends

REGISTER: DCA.ROTARYD9214.ORG



DCA Events
DG'S BANQUET
 SATURDAY, MAY 3RD | 6:30 PM
 Dress code: Black Tie or Black/White Suits
 and Dresses with Hats or Fascinators

REGISTER: DCA.ROTARYD9214.ORG



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Dear Rotarians and Rotaractors of our District 9214, We are excited to announce the call for articles for the upcoming issues of Ubuntu Magazine for 2024-2025. This is your opportunity to share your club's stories, projects, and activities with our district.

ROTARY THEME OF THE MONTH

We invite you to submit articles related to the Rotary themes of each month. Share how your clubs have been involved in or plan to embark on projects and activities that align with these themes.

The theme for March 2025 is **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Month**

ARTICLE GUIDELINES

- **Length:** 200 to 600 words.
- **Images:** Include 1 to 4 pictures with captions (if applicable). A photo of the author is also welcome.
- **Format:** Articles should be submitted in Microsoft Word, and pictures should be in JPEG or other compatible formats.
- **Content:** we are encouraging articles which have relevance to Rotary and the Clubs in our district and activities and projects and various happenings such as Rotary events and DG's visits to our clubs.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

To be considered for the next issue, please submit your article by the 10th of the preceding month.

For example: - March issue: Submit by 10th February 2025

REVIEW PROCESS

Once received, articles will be reviewed by the editorial team and suitable ones shall be considered for publication.

If you need further guidance, do not hesitate to contact your country editor or a member of the editorial team.

CLUB OF THE MONTH FEATURE

One club per month from both Tanzania and Uganda will be featured in the newsletter – as Club of the Month. This is your chance to shine a spotlight on your club, to give us a sneak peek at what makes your club special, your unique projects, and all the ways your club is doing good in society. Clubs will be chosen on a first-come, first-served basis.

For your club to be featured in the next Ubuntu issue, all you have to do is answer the following:

Club Name, Date Club Was Chartered, Average Membership, Key Projects Achieved (Describe the most recent project in a paragraph, and up to 3 additional projects), Number of Global Grants to Date, What Makes Your Club Unique or Special? (Please write a short paragraph on this.). Please accompany these answers with at least 4, but no more than 10 quality photos with captions. One of the photos must be a recent group photo of your club members.

MONTHLY AWARD FOR BEST ARTICLE IN THE UBUNTU MAGAZINE

Each month, an individual contributor to Ubuntu will be awarded a certificate for the Article of the Month, and therefore earning his or her club recognition.

The Ubuntu team looks forward to receiving your contributions.

SEND YOUR ARTICLES TO

For Clubs from Uganda please send your articles via email to

Rtn Joseph Ssuuna

Country Editor – Uganda for the District 9214 Magazine – UBUNTU.

Email: ssujoe2000@gmail.com

For Clubs from Tanzania please send your articles via email to

Rtn Charity Mwakio

Country Editor – Tanzania for the District 9214 Magazine – UBUNTU.

Email: ndutamwakio@gmail.com

Or to

Rtn Ciren Gracias

Editor in Chief

Email: ubuntueditortz@gmail.com

Monthly award for Best article in the Ubuntu Magazine Each month, an individual contributor to Ubuntu will be awarded a certificate for the Article of the Month, and therefore earning his or her club recognition. The Ubuntu team looks forward to receiving your contributions.