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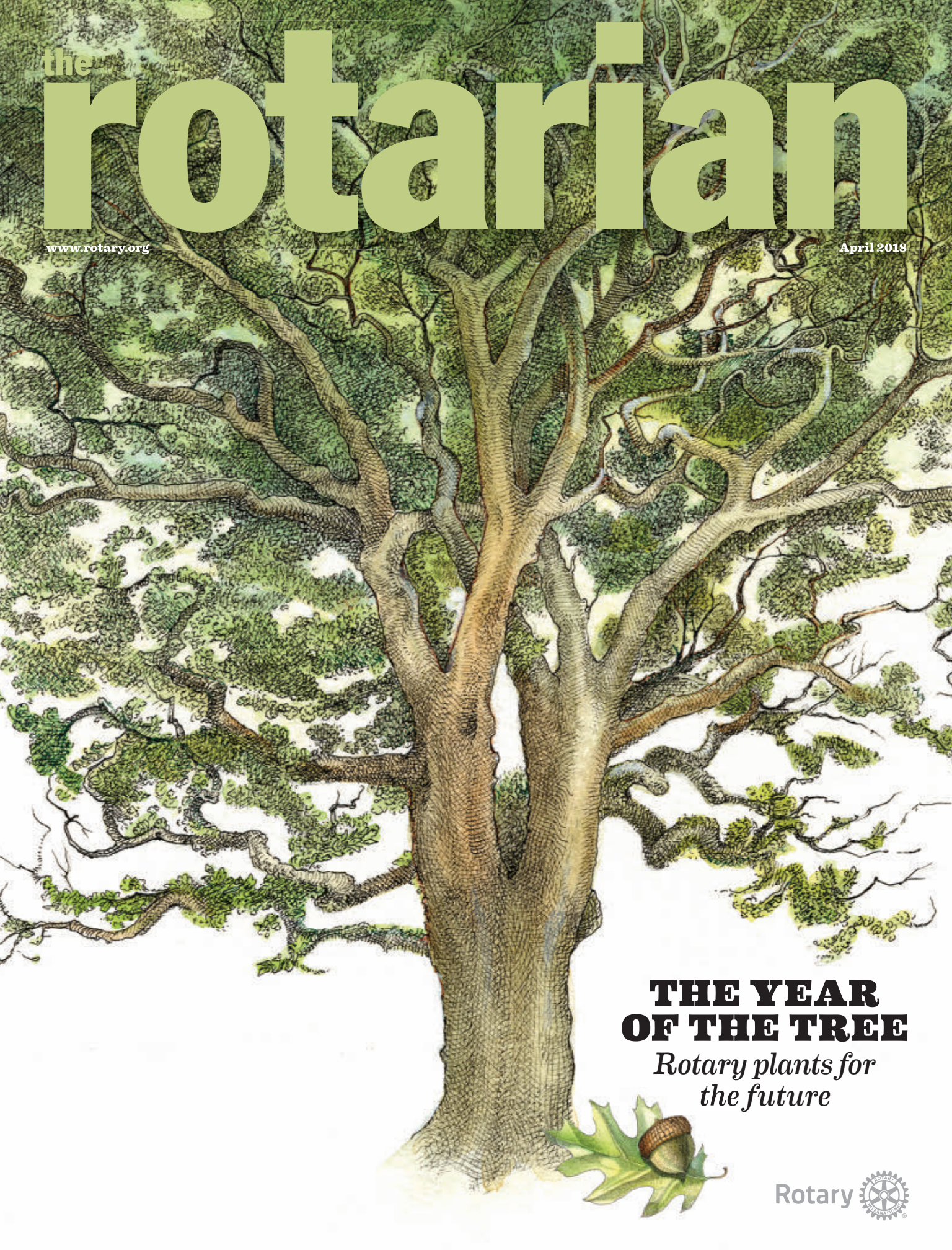
April 2018



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Paul Fredrick

DEAR FELLOW ROTARIANS,

At the 1990 Rotary International Convention in Portland, Oregon, then President-elect Paulo Costa told the gathered Rotarians, "The hour has come for Rotary to raise its voice, to claim its leadership, and to rouse all Rotarians to an honorable crusade to protect our natural resources." He declared a Rotary initiative to "Preserve Planet Earth," asking Rotarians to make environmental issues part of their service agenda: to plant trees, to work to keep our air and water clean, and to protect the planet for future generations.

President Costa asked that one tree be planted for each of the 1.1 million members that Rotary had at the time. We Rotarians, as is our wont, did better, planting nearly 35 million trees by the end of the Rotary year. Many of those trees are likely still flourishing today, absorbing carbon from the environment, releasing oxygen, cooling the air, improving soil quality, providing habitat and food for birds, animals, and insects, and yielding a host of other benefits. Unfortunately, while those trees have kept on doing good for the environment, Rotary as a whole has not carried its environmental commitment forward.

That is why, at the start of this year, I followed Paulo Costa's example and asked Rotary to plant at least one tree for every Rotary member. My goal was to achieve a good beyond the considerable benefits that those 1.2 million (or more!) trees would themselves bring. It is my hope that by planting trees, Rotarians will renew their interest in, and attention to, an issue that we must put back on the Rotary agenda: the state of our planet.

Environmental issues are deeply entwined in every one of our areas of focus and cannot be dismissed as not Rotary's concern. Pollution is affecting health across the globe: More than 80 percent of people in urban areas breathe unsafe air, a number that rises to 98 percent in low- and middle-income countries. If current trends continue, by 2050 the oceans are expected to contain more plastics by weight than fish. And rising temperatures are well-documented: Global annual average temperatures increased by about 2 degrees F (1.1 degrees C) from 1880 through 2015. That this change was caused by humans is not a subject of scientific debate, nor is the likelihood of vast economic and human disruption if the trend continues unchecked. The need for action is greater than ever – and so is our ability to have a real impact.

As past UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon put it, "There can be no Plan B, because there is no Planet B." Our planet belongs to all of us, and to our children, and to their children. It is for all of us to protect, and for all of us in Rotary to make a difference.

IAN H.S. RISELEY
President, Rotary International

ON THE WEB
Speeches and news from RI President Ian H.S. Riseley at www.rotary.org/office-president

ROTARY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

TORONTO 2018

april contents

Vol.196 No.10

FEATURES

ON THE COVER

From little acorns …
(Illustration by Laszlo Kubinyi)

LEFT "Everywhere I go, I get my hands dirty," says Rotary President Ian H.S. Riseley, who helped plant jack pines and bur oaks at a bird sanctuary in Evanston, Illinois, near RI headquarters. (Photography by Alyce Henson/ Rotary International)

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Tomatoes in space

I enjoyed reading Robert Morrow's article on his work with Project Tomatosphere ["What It's Like to Grow Space Tomatoes," January]. As a retired teacher and school administrator, I find nothing beats real-life applications in school. But the part that is really close to my heart is that my grandson Owen Stoltz actually planted the project's tomato seeds as part of his grade 4 science course. He brought his potted plant home and was so proud that it grew. To top it off, Bob Morrow arranged for Canadian astronaut Robert Thirsk to be the guest of honor at the Rotary Club of Dundas Valley Sunrise and to address some of the local schools that were working with the tomato seeds. My grandson brought his potted plant to the event and proudly had his Tomatosphere certificate signed by Thirsk, a moment he will likely remember for a long time.

Ralph Montesanto
Dundas, Ontario

A-bomb revisited

Jiro Kawatsuma's article, "What It's Like to Survive an Atomic Bomb" [January], brought back old memories.

As a Rotary Youth Exchange student in 1979-80 to the Rotary Club of Sodegaura, Japan, I knew that sooner or later I would meet someone affected directly by the atomic bomb. On the train home from high school one day, I struck up a conversation with the stranger sitting next to me. He told me, not unkindly, that his uncle had been killed by the Hiroshima bomb. We spoke some about it, and then shared a reverential silence.

Rotary is a powerful force of truth and good in our world. Could Rotary not help lead, or at least promote, ridding the planet of all nuclear bombs? Is the world not better without them? I think it was Henry Ford who said, "Whether you believe you can do a thing or not, you are right."

Charles Sorensson
Hayden, Idaho

A club for all faiths

Rotary President Ian H.S. Riseley's message in the January issue focuses on diversity. This is a subject that affects me every week at Rotary, though my problem is religious diversity, an area that was unfortunately not addressed in the message.

I was raised in a Jewish household, and I would guess that I am one of many non-Christian members of Rotary. As a grade school student, I found it uncomfortable to attend assembly every week while the students sang "Onward, Christian Soldiers." I spoke to our principal, and it was decided that I could skip assembly and spend that time in the principal's office doing my homework. Here we are, some 60 years later, and the invocation at my Rotary club meeting every week (given by various members) invariably is given in the name of "Jesus Christ, our Lord." I am still uncomfortable in this setting, as I imagine any non-Christian member would be.

For years as a season ticket holder of the Miami Dolphins, I always appreciated the manner in which they handled the pregame invocation. A member of the clergy from a different discipline gave the invocation at each game, and it was always inclusive of all faiths. Reference

was made to God, or Our Father, but it was left to us to interpret that in accordance with our own religious beliefs.

Charles Shane
Highlands, North Carolina

Nothing ordinary here

I felt a bit of annoyance when the postman delivered the January *Rotarian* to our house. The cover subtitle, "Ordinary Rotarians, Extraordinary Tales," was the source of this feeling.

In 55-plus years of membership in three Rotary clubs, I can recall no Rotarians I would call ordinary. Just to be a Rotarian lifts a good person above that moniker. And the good works, both public and private, that emanate from the efforts of Rotarians do not seem to be ordinary.

Would it not have been better to reward the great undertakings of those who choose to go the extra mile by portraying them as other than "ordinary" Rotarians? My choice would be "great."

No, I'm not an old grouch, just a proud Rotarian.

Robert M. Holter
Great Falls, Montana

A world without Rotary?

I was excited to read "Signs of Compassion" [Insider] in the December issue. I have been a Rotarian since 1977, and over the years have heard stories of Paul Harris' experiences as an orange picker in southern Louisiana. I live in Plaquemines Parish, a parish south of New Orleans that is split down the middle by the Mississippi River. We have historically been a center for growing citrus, and October is picking time. We are also noted for our oyster industry.

This article, excerpted from the July 1926 issue of *The Rotarian*, recalls the many horrific stories that were written about the October 1893 hurricane that killed thousands of people in southern Louisiana. Plaquemines Parish was one of the areas that took the brunt of the storm. In briefly researching the Pizatti family mentioned in the article, I found two entries in the Clerk of Court land conveyance records in Plaquemines Parish circa 1893. Further research confirms the site to be in Buras, Louisiana.

Given the history of death and property loss that night in this part of Plaquemines Parish, Paul Harris could have easily been one of the thousands of casualties. If that had happened, we would not have Rotary.

Rotarians here in Belle Chasse and Plaquemines Parish South would like to mark this area in remembrance of our founder.

Stuart J. Guey Jr.
Belle Chasse, Louisiana

The editors welcome comments on items published in the magazine but reserve the right to edit for style and length. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors or Rotary International leadership, nor do the editors take responsibility for errors of fact that may be expressed by the writers.

Opposite: Owen Stoltz participated in Project Tomatosphere, covered in our January issue. Owen met astronaut Robert Thirsk at a meeting of the Rotary Club of Dundas Valley Sunrise, Ontario, where his grandfather Ralph Montesanto is a member. Above: Our January issue featured first-person accounts from interesting Rotarians.

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SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The Object *of* Rotary

THE OBJECT of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

SECOND High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

THIRD The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

FOURTH The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service

The Four-Way Test

OF THE THINGS we think, say, or do:

1) Is it the **TRUTH**?
2) Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3) Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4) Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Rotarian Code of Conduct

The following code of conduct has been adopted for the use of Rotarians:

AS A ROTARIAN, I will

1) Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life
2) Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect
3) Use my professional skills through Rotary to: mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world
4) Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians

editor's note

Imagine Evanston, Illinois, as fall comes up hard against winter. We're through being dazzled by the reds and golds of maples and oaks as they stage their overwhelming autumnal display. We're done raking up the ruins of those leaves that litter lawns and stain sidewalks. Everything seems stark and raw and ready for the solstice to usher in a character-building, joint-withering winter.

It's probably not a bad thing that the room where the editorial team meets to plan future stories for the magazine is overheated. We're told it's an incurable curiosity of HVAC engineering. We meet there several times a week to ask: What if … ? Why not … ? Who can we get to write … ? and Where is that story we were expecting last week? We hammer out stories that deal with the daunting challenges of peace, literacy, clean water, and polio.

But in planning this issue, as the weather staggered the thermostat, we conspired in our hothouse conference room to produce a package on that most redemptive and sustainable of nature's expressions: trees. And we had some excellent reasons to do so.

For example: Rotarians will celebrate the 150th anniversary of Paul Harris' birth on 19 April. The founder of Rotary had a deep love of nature, and his habit of planting ceremonial friendship trees seeded a strong tradition within the organization. On the 27th of this month, we also celebrate Arbor Day in the United States. And 22 April is Earth Day, the date by which President Ian H.S. Riseley challenged Rotarians to plant 1.2 million trees around the world.

Paul Harris had a deep love of nature, and his habit of planting friendship trees seeded a strong tradition within Rotary.

So we are especially pleased to present this collection of things arboreal, along with stunning illustrations by Laszlo Kubinyi, whose work has appeared in publications such as *National Geographic*, *Audubon*, and *Fortune*. This also marks the first appearance in *The Rotarian* by Ian Frazier, the award-winning humorist and nonfiction writer who regularly appears in the *New Yorker*. Ian and I worked together for a time early in our careers. He was fresh out of Harvard, where he served on the *Harvard Lampoon* and was the wit behind its celebrated *Cosmopolitan* parody. He was a seriously funny young man. He has since produced beautifully written books such as *Great Plains* and *Travels in Siberia*, full of alert insights and empathies. We're delighted to have him in our pages.

So let's all go plant a tree and celebrate the possibilities of spring.

JOHN REZEK

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up front

MONIKA LOZINSKA/ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Community connection

LUCY HOBGOOD-BROWN
Rotary E-Club of Greater Sydney

Lucy Hobgood-Brown was born in the United States and has lived in Australia for more than 20 years. But her heart will always be in Lotumbe, a remote town in the equatorial forest of the Democratic Republic of Congo, where she spent much of her childhood. "I'm a daughter of the village," says Hobgood-Brown, 64, whose family's connection to Lotumbe dates back to 1912, when her grandparents arrived there to work as missionaries. Hobgood-Brown, a 2015 Rotary Global Woman of Action, returned to Lotumbe in 2004 with her sister Anne Zolnor. When they saw the poverty there through adult eyes, they asked each other: "What can we do?" Their answer was to found the nonprofit HandUp Congo in 2005 with a friend, Betsy Brill. The organization supports sustainable community-driven business, educational, social, and health initiatives in Kinshasa and Lotumbe – buying sewing machines so that women can earn income to help pay for their children's tuition; supplying feminine hygiene kits so that girls don't have to miss school; training local doctors and nurses in CPR. HandUp Congo has received Rotary district grants, and the E-Club of Greater Sydney recently worked with Congo Rotarians to raise funds to plant 50 trees in Lotumbe. Says Hobgood-Brown: "Even small things make such a difference in Congo." – ANNE FORD

CONVENTION

Transit options

After you land at Pearson International Airport for the 2018 Rotary International Convention in Toronto, from 23 to 27 June, there are many ways to get into the city.

You could take a taxi or airport limo. If you want to tour the area on your own, you could rent a car. But you could also save money by taking the express light rail train or public transportation.

The Union Pearson Express departs the airport for Union Station every 15 minutes. A round-trip ticket for the 25-minute ride is CA$24.70; seniors pay half that amount.

You might instead take one of the buses run by the Toronto Transit Commission (commonly known as the TTC). The 192 Airport Rocket will get you downtown in 45 minutes.

The TTC includes a vast system of buses, subways, and streetcars. You can use all these services during a one-way trip as long as you have a paper transfer. Each trip is roughly $3, less for seniors and students, and can be paid for through cash or token.

If you plan on exploring Toronto during the convention, you can buy a pass that provides unlimited travel around the city for a day ($12.50) or a week ($43.75, seniors $34.75). – RANDI DRUZIN

To register, go to riconvention.org.

DISPATCHES

Lending a helping paw to veterans

When Gil Igleheart and Dick Mellinger heard that veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), including many from their own generation, were being helped by service dogs, they knew they had to get involved. Neither Igleheart nor Mellinger, both in their late 60s and at the time members of the Rotary Club of Cayucos-Seaside in California's Central Coast, served in the military, but they had friends who had served and had come home troubled and scarred. So in January 2016, they laid the foundation for the nonprofit organization known today as Pawsabilities for Veterans.

Although service dogs can help ease symptoms, they are not currently covered by health insurance in the United States. The Veterans Affairs Department provides service dogs for veterans with certain physical disabilities, but not for veterans with PTSD. The VA acknowledges that dog ownership can improve mood and reduce stress, but is waiting for reliable clinical research to confirm and detail the benefits of service dogs for veterans with mental health problems. In the meantime, the costs are paid by a patchwork of nonprofits such as Pawsabilities for Veterans.

Pawsabilities for Veterans leaves the training and placement of the animals to another Central Coast organization, New Life K9s. This nonprofit trains dogs and then places them free of charge. In order to cover the expenses for each placement, it turns to groups such as Pawsabilities for Veterans.

Nicole Hern and her team at New Life K9s train the dogs to wake their PTSD sufferers from nightmares and calm them when they are anxious. Hern says she can always tell when she is out with a veteran who becomes anxious: "They're usually touching their dog a lot more, because that helps ease that anxiety." –KATYA CENGEL

5.2 million
American adults who experience PTSD in any given year

$15,000
The cost of training and placing a New Life K9s dog

82 percent
People with PTSD whose symptoms improve with a dog

NEW LIFE K9S

MONICA GARWOOD

THE TALENT AROUND THE TABLE

A nurse fights for peace

In a nation once wracked by civil war, Liberian Rotarian Elizabeth Sele Mulbah has spent much of her life leading efforts for peace and reconciliation. A past president (2011-12) of the Rotary Club of Sinkor, Mulbah has a remarkable résumé. She began her career as a nurse, moved into teaching and administration, took on a leadership role at the Christian Health Association of Liberia, and worked at the United Nations Development Program. She's a co-founder of the Mano River Women Peace Network (Marwopnet), and through that organization played a major role in multinational diplomacy. She's also an in-demand speaker, giving lectures at places such as the Carter Center and the U.S. Institute of Peace.

THE ROTARIAN: You started your career as a nurse but soon moved into administration, where you advocated for change in the profession. What were you seeking to change and improve in nursing?

MULBAH: I've worked in training, counseling, and advocating for equal benefits, such as the right to the same period for maternity leave for working women whether married or not. I've advocated for on-the-job training for all, including support staff such as nurses' aides.

TR: You became active in peace work in the 1990s, during the Liberian civil war. How did that come about?

MULBAH: Women in Liberia were disappointed at the failure of previous peace conferences. Liberians were tired of war. In 1995, Marion Subah and I, who were working at the Christian Health Association of Liberia, were approved by heads of warring factions to facilitate a meeting to prepare them for the next peace conference. The planned one-day meeting extended to four days, and all parties were represented. It was successful.

TR: What are the origins of Marwopnet?

MULBAH: It began in 2000 when 10 women leaders from NGOs in the region came together to convince the leaders of Liberia and Guinea to return to the conference table until peace was achieved. We did this after learning that the two leaders had vowed not to sit under the same roof. They did return to the conference table, and peace was achieved.

Today we shuttle between the leaders of the four Mano River countries (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Côte d'Ivoire), and when the need arises, we serve as election observers in these nations. Women as mothers are born peacemakers.

TR: After the Liberian civil war, you worked in reconciliation and trauma healing. What exactly were you doing?

MULBAH: We first underwent our own training and then provided training for those traumatized by the war. We focused on teachers, health workers, and pastors to make sure conflicts were not transferred to the hospitals, schools, and churches where victims and perpetrators were bound to come together or interact. The goal was forgiveness.

TR: What organizations are you most active in today?

MULBAH: I am vice chair of the Governance Commission, which was created by the Accra peace accord in 2003 after Liberia's most recent civil war, to design policies and recommend strategies to establish an inclusive, participatory, just, and accountable system of government.

TR: What is your guiding philosophy in life?

MULBAH: That it does not matter who gets the credit when something is done to benefit mankind. And that no one is here by mistake. – ANNE STEIN

World Roundup

Rotary projects around the globe

1] INDIA

Hunger is ever present in India, where undernourishment afflicts nearly 200 million people. Seeing the profound contrast of starving children walking past restaurants that routinely throw away unsold food, the Rotary Club of Bangalore Brigades went to work. The club deployed small refrigerators in the Indiranagar neighborhood. Cooperating restaurateurs roll out the units to sidewalks and load them with overstock meals and bottled water. On an honor basis, needy Bangaloreans can pick up a free meal – and dine with dignity.

"There are five Rotary fridges in use, and we are delighted that the restaurants are supporting the cause," says Vimla Pinto, past president of the club. Participating eateries clean and stock the refrigerators, which are about 4 to 7 cubic feet in capacity and emblazoned with the Rotary logo. Club members are involved in placing and monitoring the refrigerators. The effort complements the club's Rotary Shelf initiative, in which donors provide staples including rice, lentils, sugar, and fruit to the poor. "The idea is that the food chain should not end prematurely at the incinerator or the bin, but rather provide nutrition to people," Pinto says.

3,000 children die every day because of starvation or diet-related illnesses in India.

by BRAD WEBBER

2] CANADA

The Rotary Club of Chatham in New Brunswick delivered a little extra warmth by giving new pajamas to disadvantaged residents during the Christmas season. Enlisting 10 car dealerships as collection points, the club amassed nearly 1,200 pairs. Club members draped vehicles in pajamas to get the project off the ground. Automobile shoppers and dealership staff got into the spirit, stuffing the vehicles with pajamas, which were turned over to groups including the Salvation Army, First Nations communities, and Syrian immigrants. "It was heartwarming to know that we were helping so many people," says the project's creator, club member Paula Trueman.

Cork oaks must be at least 25 years old before the first harvest of cork from the bark layer.

3] PORTUGAL

Dozens of Rotaractors from Districts 1960 and 1970 planted 1,500 trees on Monte Barata, a 1,000-acre parcel owned by Quercus, a Portuguese environmental organization. On 11 March 2017, teams planted cork oaks and other regional species on a 6-acre plot, "leaving a great green mark in our country and on the Rotary movement," says Inês Reis, president of the Rotaract Club of São João da Madeira. To raise funds, Rotaractors sold 300 "Rotaract in Rock in Rio" kits, which included a ticket to the Rock in Rio festival in Lisbon and a T-shirt. The sales provided more than $4,000 for the initiative.

5] GHANA

Lacking electricity, many homes in the Jirapa District of Ghana's Upper West Region go dark at night. In a measure primarily directed at benefiting schoolchildren, the Rotary Club of Accra Ridge and the Rotary Club of Wa leveraged a District 9102 grant and distributed 100 solar lamps to families in two communities there. "Improved conditions for studying after school will make their academic records better," says Sampson Djan Amoako of the Accra Ridge club. The $6,700 initiative, christened "One Lamp per Family," included the installation of two solar streetlights in the village squares in June 2017.

4] SOUTH AFRICA

The Rotary Club of Dundee is using clothing to promote the protection of wildlife. Club member Peter Kuyler designed T-shirts and cycling jerseys bearing "Stop the Slaughter: War on Poaching" artwork to raise awareness of threats to rhinoceroses, targeted by hunters who harvest their horns. Club members have raised about $1,000 from sales of the shirts. Proceeds were channeled to the Rhino Security Program of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, which buttresses the work of rangers in KwaZulu-Natal. "The primary goal of the program is to ensure that one of the oldest genetic pools in southern Africa is secured for breeding purposes," Kuyler says.

Cyclists ride 3,000 miles to fight polio

At 3 a.m., Bob McKenzie thought about quitting.

"I was miserable," he says. "It was freezing cold and raining." McKenzie had already been cycling for six days, competing in the 3,000-mile Race Across America, one of the world's most grueling bike races. He and his teammates had made it to Grantsville, Maryland, just a few hundred miles from the end of the ride. But in the darkness of the night, the remnants of Tropical Storm Cindy were pelting him relentlessly. He thought he would take a break and allow his teammate to take over for a while. Then he had a thought that inspired him to keep going. "Kids who contract polio do not get to quit. They are in for life." He kept pedaling.

For McKenzie, a member of the Rotary Club of Tulsa, Oklahoma, 2017 marked the second time he participated in the Race Across America to raise money to fight polio. Two of his 2016 teammates – Kurt Matzler, a member of the Rotary Club of Innsbruck-Goldenes Dachl in Austria, and Steve Schoonover, a member of the Rotary Club of South Valley in Utah – were back in 2017. They were joined by Matzler's girlfriend, Ruth Brandstaetter (Matzler proposed marriage at the end of the race, and the couple married in August).

The team made it through a sandstorm, driving rain, hail, extreme temperatures, and two broken bikes while racing from Oceanside, California, to Annapolis, Maryland. "The first year, we didn't even have a flat," McKenzie says. "In 2017, we had all kinds of weather and issues with broken bikes." Still, the team managed to finish in 7 days, 49 minutes, and raised $550,000 with matching funds from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support Rotary's fight to end polio.

The 2018 race will mark the third time a team has represented Rotary in the race. This year, they hope to raise $1 million to support polio eradication with the 2-to-1 match from the Gates Foundation.

"We've learned a lot," McKenzie says, talking about how the team manages the logistics of the race. In 2016, several vehicles, including an RV, followed the racers. They took turns sleeping in the RV and rarely stopped. Last June, several minivans still followed the riders, but they opted to complete the relay race by breaking it up into 10-hour shifts, with two riders trading off cycling duties (one riding, one resting in a minivan following the rider), typically riding in one-hour shifts, while the other two rested at a nearby hotel for 10 hours. When they woke up, they would drive to catch up with the rest of the team

RACE ACROSS AMERICA

and trade places. Better rest may have helped their endurance. They cut 27 minutes off their 2016 time, despite facing more weather and equipment problems.

Still, the race was arduous. The route takes riders across three mountain ranges: the Sierras, the Rockies, and the Appalachians. In total, the cyclists ascend over 170,000 feet, the equivalent of climbing Mount Everest six times. But that's the easier part for Kurt Matzler, who trains in the Alps. "The worst for me is definitely the desert," he says. "Once we are out of the desert and into the Rocky Mountains, I feel like I'm home and I know that I can survive the race."

The mountains weren't so easy for McKenzie, who nearly collided with two deer while careening down Wolf Creek Pass in Colorado at about 45 mph. The team's driver leaned on the horn to scare the deer off the road.

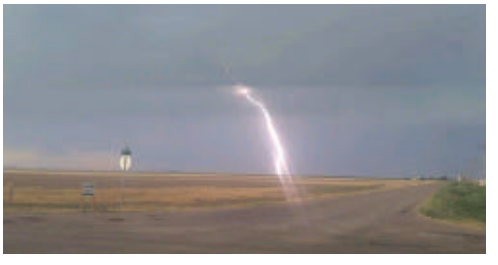
The team had to stop for 46 minutes in Ulysses, Kansas, because of a severe lightning storm. On Day 6, Matzler snapped his shifting cable. He was already using his backup bicycle, as he had broken the handlebars on his original bike. But a stroke of good luck kept the racers on track. "We found a bike store that was five minutes from closing," McKenzie says. It stayed open and fixed the cable in 45 minutes. The group also had four or five flat tires.

There were positive moments too. From Fort Scott, Kansas, to Athens, Ohio, to the finish line in Annapolis, crowds of Rotarians gathered to cheer the racers on. (The RAAM website offers live tracking of the teams.) That support inspired the team to keep going and to ride again in June 2018.

"We have to keep doing it while the momentum is here," McKenzie says. As the oldest racer on the team at age 66, he says he'll ride again this year because he remembers when fear of polio was widespread in the United States. "I was born in 1952, and my mom told me we didn't go anywhere. Everyone was scared to death."

Matzler and Brandstaetter will ride again too. "Riding with Rotarians 3,000 miles across the country is an unbelievable team experience," Matzler says. "But the best part is combining the passion for cycling with raising funds to end polio."

–VANESSA GLAVINSKAS



OPPOSITE: The team finished the Race Across America in 7 days, 49 minutes, and raised $550,000 to fight polio. ABOVE: Despite lightning, hail, and two broken bikes, the riders persevered with the support of their team. The race ended with a happy surprise when Rotarian Kurt Matzler proposed to his girlfriend and fellow racer, Ruth Brandstaetter, at the finish line (top left).

To support the 2018 Race Across America team, visit raampolio.com.

RACE ACROSS AMERICA

A soldier in the war on polio

"There are many polio warriors in Rotary," RI President Ian H.S. Riseley remarked at a fundraising dinner for End Polio Now in January, addressing the 400 attendees who filled the banquet hall of a hotel just south of Denver. "But none are more loyal or dedicated than Grant Wilkins. … Together, with 1.2 million of his closest friends from around the world, and their partners, we are on the threshold of greatness."

C. Grant Wilkins, who sat at the table in the front row with his wife of over 50 years, Marlene, took the comments and the following ovation in stride. At 91, he walks with a slight stoop but still drives, travels, speaks, and maintains a busy schedule. He may not have universal recognition as a man who has helped save millions of lives, but he is. A member of the Rotary Club of Denver since 1969, he's the first to say that it's only through Rotary that anything like that could be done. "Rotary is the only way I've known of helping lots of people around the entire world," he says. "We've saved millions of kids from polio. There's no way I could even begin to do anything like that without being a member of this organization." But Wilkins has been an important part of Rotary's eradication efforts as well as many other Rotary initiatives. And his dedication begins with his own life story.

In 1951, Wilkins was living in Denver with his wife, Diane, working his first job out of college. One day he started to feel ill and couldn't keep food down. He went to the hospital. "They thought I had the flu," he recalls. "Then they did a spinal tap, found the polio virus in my spinal fluid, and put me in the polio ward." The virus had attacked his throat, paralyzing his vocal cords and making it impossible to swallow. The doctors performed an emergency tracheotomy. As Wilkins writes in his memoir, *Two Drops that Changed the World*, "polio would be the center of my young family's life and totally change my wife's life for the next 13 years."

Within two weeks, his fever broke, and Wilkins was moved from the isolation ward. Then, while Diane was visiting him at the hospital, she mentioned that she wasn't feeling well. Doctors performed a spinal tap, and her diagnosis came back: polio. Within 24 hours she was almost totally paralyzed and placed in an iron lung, where she would stay for 2½ years until a portable respirator, a new invention at the time, allowed her to leave the hospital. Grant spent months learning to speak again.

In 1952, the year Jonas Salk began work on the first effective vaccine, some 58,000 people in the U.S. contracted polio, resulting in over 3,000 deaths and over 21,000 patients with some level of paralysis. In 1953, vaccination field trials began, and from 1955-57, incidence of the disease in the U.S. fell by 85 to 90 percent.

This was too late for the Wilkinses, but they carried on after Diane's illness. For the next 13 years, they raised their three children, building their life around keeping Diane's respirator going. She learned to paint holding the brush in her mouth, taught their kids to love music, and impressed everyone with her will to survive. In 1964, she passed away at age 36.

The family managed as well as they could. Soon, Wilkins grew close to an acquaintance, Marlene Siems, and in 1965 they married. A few years later, the kids were grown and gone, and Wilkins' billboard business had been bought out under the federal Highway Beautification Act. So with an eye toward meeting people and helping others, in 1969 he joined the Rotary Club of Denver.

COURTESY OF C. GRANT WILKINS

"I was born into Rotary," Wilkins says. "My dad was a member of Fort Worth's Rotary Club when I was born in 1926." Everywhere they moved – in Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, and finally Colorado – his father joined Rotary.

At first, Wilkins focused on local projects, such as one that partnered Rotarians with underprivileged children in the Denver public schools. In 1978, he was elected president of the club, and in 1981 he helped start the *Artists of America* exhibition, with a portion of the proceeds going to the Denver Rotary Foundation. Over the next two decades, the show and sale would raise $1.9 million for the Denver Rotary Foundation and would also benefit the Colorado History Museum.

Then in 1985, RI President Carlos Canseco proposed that Rotary take on polio eradication. Given his history with the disease, Wilkins' name was put forward to advise the program, which was called PolioPlus. "None of the senior leaders in Rotary had had polio themselves and/or had a wife that was totally paralyzed from it, so I was unique," he recalls. He became a key player in PolioPlus from its inception.

As a result of the efforts of Rotary and its four partner organizations, polio is on the verge of being eradicated, with just 22 cases reported last year as of 31 January 2018, down from 350,000 in 1988.

But Wilkins has not limited himself to polio eradication. He helped establish the Russian Health Initiative, which hosts health fairs where people can be screened for a variety of medical conditions.

Opposite: C. Grant Wilkins participates in a National Immunization Day in Côte d'Ivoire in 1998. **Clockwise from top left:** Grant and Diane at home; Shari and Mark with their mother; Marlene and Grant attend a Rotary Presidential Peace Conference in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1997; in 2016, Wilkins celebrates his 90th birthday with his extended family; in 1984, he meets RI President Carlos Canseco; in Denver, Marlene and Grant Wilkins visit one of the PolioPlus statues created by their friend Glenna Goodacre.

Wilkins was also a force behind Rotary's focus on clean water. In 2003 he gave a talk at the American Water Works Association convention, where he learned that 6,000 children were dying each day from lack of clean water.

"I was chairman of the Health, Hunger, and Humanity task force for The Rotary Foundation worldwide that year," he says. "So I went back and made water a task force of its own. We said that if every Rotary club would do one water project somewhere in the world, we could really change that. And already, we've got those deaths down to less than half. Instead of 6,000, it's down below 3,000."

After Riseley spoke at the January event, Grant and Marlene were called up onstage to be presented with a surprise check representing donations to a special C. Grant Wilkins PolioPlus Fund, which had been set up by members of the Rotary Club of Denver. In just a few months, the fund had easily collected over $100,000, which was matched 2-to-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The check was signed "Friends of Grant."

"Every Rotarian is a soldier in the polio war," Wilkins says, looking back on all this. "We have over 35,000 places in the world where we have troops on the ground. That's why we've been able to get this far. And that's very, very satisfying."

– FRANK BURES

COURTESY OF C. GRANT WILKINS

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IN BRIEF

News, studies, and recent research

U.S. adults aren't eating enough fruits and vegetables, say U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention scientists, who warn that this puts people at risk for diabetes, heart disease, and other chronic illnesses. Federal guidelines recommend having 1.5 to 2 cups of fruit and 2 to 3 cups of vegetables daily. Nine percent of adults meet the recommendation for vegetables and 12 percent for fruit, with men, young adults, and poor adults faring worst.

Thousands of 'lost Einsteins' would have been successful inventors had they been exposed to careers in innovation as children, say researchers led by Stanford University economist Raj Chetty. The Equality of Opportunity Project studied inventors in the United States and found that children with parents in the top 1 percent of income distribution are 10 times more likely to become inventors than children from below-median-income families. White children are three times more likely than black children to become inventors, and just 18 percent of inventors are female. If underrepresented groups invented at the same rate as white males from high-income families, American innovation would quadruple, according to estimates.

Optimism and stubbornness are two traits shared by Italians ages 90 to 101, according to University of California, San Diego researchers and their Italian colleagues. Scientists studied 29 people from nine rural southern Italian villages where several hundred people age 90 or older live. Based on interviews with participants and their relatives, the study determined that the older folks also had in common self-confidence, a strong work ethic, and close family ties.

A record number of journalists are imprisoned, according to a December census by the U.S.-based Committee to Protect Journalists. Around the world, 262 journalists were behind bars as of 1 December, most on "anti-state" charges. Turkey topped the list with 73 jailed journalists, while China and Egypt jailed 41 and 20 journalists, respectively, ranking second and third. The census doesn't include journalists who were imprisoned and then released. –ANNE STEIN

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CLUB INNOVATION

Rotary Club of Central Ocean Toms River, New Jersey

Members in 2015: ***18***
Members in 2017: ***29***

New membership categories attract new members

INNOVATION:
When membership dropped below 20, club leaders took a leap of faith by offering a radically different membership structure to retain and attract members. The risk has paid off with a membership increase of 61 percent in two years.

FOCUS ON PROJECTS:
The Rotary Club of Central Ocean Toms River, New Jersey, is a diverse club with a nearly equal number of men and women ages 30 to 89. The club has a robust list of projects, because members believe it is important to be directly involved in service. Members have tackled nine projects (and counting) during the 2017-18 Rotary year by breaking into smaller groups to work on multiple projects at the same time.

When Mike Bucca took over as membership chair of the Rotary Club of Central Ocean in July 2015, he knew the club had a problem. Membership was down to 18 and dwindling. Bucca persuaded club leaders to look seriously at membership.

The club board held three membership summits where they discussed why people join Rotary and why they stay. The result was a proposal to dramatically alter the club's membership structure to attract new members by lowering the financial commitment.

"We want members to have a place in this club where they are contributing what they can – in time or finances," Bucca explains. "It's really worked."

Top: *Club members work on a Habitat for Humanity project to repair a house.* ***Bottom:*** *A fundraising walk energizes members.*

ROTARY CLUB OF CENTRAL OCEAN TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY

The Rotary Club of Central Ocean still has standard and corporate memberships, in which a local corporation or business joins with a specified number of qualified employees serving as its designees. Members in both categories pay $399 in dues every six months. The club also offers three alternative types of membership. The first is an introductory membership. New members can join at the rate of $99 for the first six months and $199 for the second. After the first year of membership, they pay the standard rate.

"When I joined, that was my biggest hesitation – the money," says Bucca. "For $99 I would have joined the first time I was asked and not three years later."

The second membership offering is a discount to family members of existing members paying the standard rate. Family members can join for $199 every six months, and that discount applies as long as another family member is paying the standard rate.

Again, Bucca drew from experience. "My wife and two other members' wives wanted to join the club, but the family could not afford it. But half price made sense, so we gained three members."

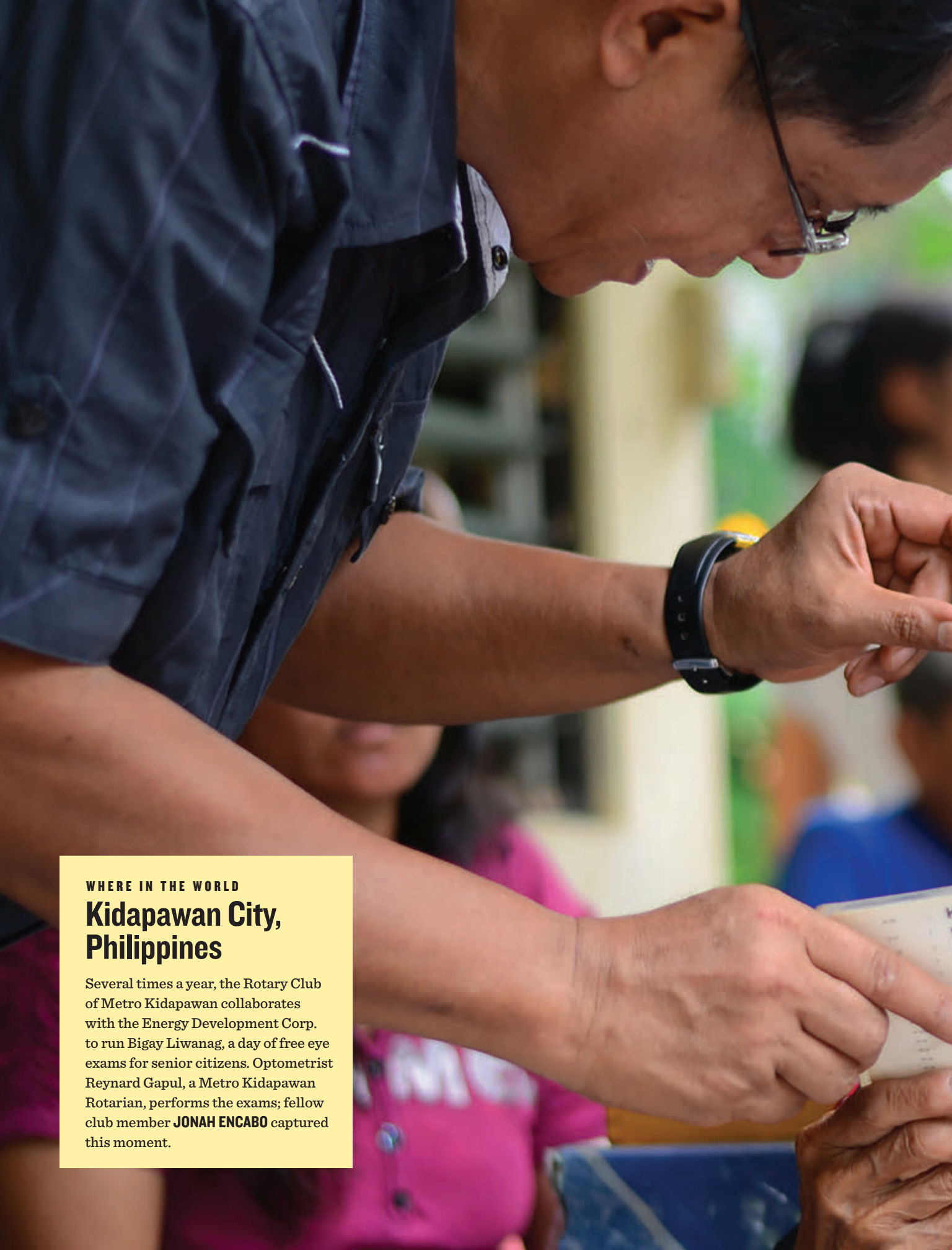
The third type is called a friendship membership. This is designed for members who are interested in helping the club and taking part in projects, but cannot commit to meetings. Friendship members pay $249 every six months.

"People felt guilty about not coming to meetings. This eliminates that," Bucca says.

The results are clearly in favor of the new system. Membership climbed from a low of 18 in 2015 to 29 in 2017. Many of the new members are in their 30s and many are women, says Bucca. "In 2013, I was the only member under 40; now we have seven. Our club was No. 1 in the district for the number of women who joined."

Most importantly, the new members have invigorated the club. "Our club was dying; we were in trouble," says Bucca. "We turned it around and are thriving." –SUSIE MA

What is your club doing to reinvent itself? Email club.innovations@rotary.org.



WHERE IN THE WORLD

Kidapawan City, Philippines

Several times a year, the Rotary Club of Metro Kidapawan collaborates with the Energy Development Corp. to run Bigay Liwanag, a day of free eye exams for senior citizens. Optometrist Reynard Gapul, a Metro Kidapawan Rotarian, performs the exams; fellow club member **JONAH ENCABO** captured this moment.

April

6th–8th
FINGER LICKIN' GOOD

EVENT: Rhythm and Ribs
HOST: Rotary Club of St. Augustine Sunrise, Florida
WHAT IT BENEFITS: Local charities
WHAT IT IS: What started as a small barbecue fest 23 years ago has grown into a massive event that attracts more than 25,000 people over three days. Eat award-winning barbecue, hear live music, shop for arts and crafts, and enjoy children's games and rides.

7th
COMIN' 'ROUND THE MOUNTAIN

EVENT: Red Ball Express
HOST: Rotary Club of Steamboat Springs (Ski Town USA) Morning, Colorado
WHAT IT BENEFITS: Local charities
WHAT IT IS: Imagine over 100 giant red exercise balls bounding down the slopes at Steamboat Ski Resort. Now imagine that you have "adopted" two of the numbered red balls for $10. If your adopted balls are the first pair to finish the race, you win $2,500.

21st
RIDE FOR ROSÉS

EVENT: Cycle for Sight
HOST: Rotary Club of Napa, California
WHAT IT BENEFITS: The Pathway Home and the Enchanted Hills Camp (part of the Lighthouse for the Blind)
WHAT IT IS: This scenic bike ride through the incomparable Napa Valley, with 15-, 25- and 50-mile options, is only half of the fun. Celebrate finishing the course at a post-ride soiree featuring delectable local cuisine, wines, and beers.

23rd
HOLE IN ONE

EVENT: Fore for Kids
HOST: Rotary Club of SaddleBrooke, Arizona
WHAT IT BENEFITS: Make a Wish Arizona and other local youth charities
WHAT IT IS: A day on the links followed by an evening of cocktails, raffles, and live and silent auctions makes for a sporty and festive fundraiser. Organize your favorite foursome for a day of golf with a chance to win some prizes.

28th
DEALER'S CHOICE

EVENT: Casino Royale: Annual Chain of Giving Event
HOST: Rotary Club of Chain of Lakes, Minnesota
WHAT IT BENEFITS: Local youth charities
WHAT IT IS: Refresh your blackjack skills for this year's casino-themed fundraiser. Or try your hand at other games including Texas Hold 'em and Beat the House. Enjoy heavy appetizers and libations throughout the evening.

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

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The story of us vs. them

Is it too late to create a narrative where we're all on the same side?

by **STEVE ALMOND**

I was only seven when Richard Nixon left office, but I vividly remember the former president reading his letter of resignation on live TV. We were on vacation at the time, visiting a friend with no television. We had to watch at the home of one of his neighbors.

When I think back to this episode, what strikes me as most remarkable is that all the adults crowded into that room were living in the same story. Everyone – from our host, a former Nixon supporter with a crew cut, to our friend, a hippie with hair down to his waist – agreed that the president had betrayed his oath of office.

That moral consensus was, in fact, what forced Nixon from the presidency. It wasn't just that he had committed crimes. It was that virtually all Americans accepted the evidence that these crimes had occurred.

When it comes to our political discourse today, there is no such consensus. Not only do Americans live by different creeds, but we don't even agree on basic facts. We're no longer living in the same story.

I use the word "story" because stories are the basic unit of human consciousness. They are how we construct our reality.

What happens, then, when some of the stories we tell ourselves are fraudulent, by either design or negligence? What happens when the stories we tell ourselves are frivolous? Or when we ignore stories that are too frightening to confront? What happens when we fall under the sway of stories intended to sow discord, to warp our fears into loathing?

My principal argument is that bad stories lead to bad outcomes. The reason Americans spend so little time talking about how to solve mutual problems and so much time fulminating against our perceived enemies is that we've placed our faith in bad stories.

Bad story No. 1: The media is fake news. Just a few days after the release of the infamous *Access Hollywood* tape, in which then-candidate Donald Trump boasted about forcing himself on women, I found myself at a conference devoted to female empowerment, talking to a woman who was a vice president at a large media company.

The woman said she wasn't crazy about Trump, but she also didn't trust Hillary Clinton. "She defended a rapist and got him acquitted, then she laughed at the victim," she told me. "There's a tape of the whole thing."

I had never heard this claim. Later that night, I went online to investigate.

In fact, Clinton *had* been the defense lawyer for an accused rapist, some 40 years ago, after a judge ordered her to take the case. Her client wasn't acquitted. He accepted a plea bargain, under pressure from the victim's mother. And there *was* a tape of Clinton discussing the case, years later with a journalist. She never laughed at the victim. That was a fiction created, via cunning editing, by partisan radio hosts.

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When America's founders enshrined freedom of the press in the First Amendment, they could not have anticipated a world in which citizens would construct an alternate "reality" based on misinformation.

But some lawmakers did foresee trouble. That's why, in 1949, the Federal Communications Commission created the Fairness Doctrine. The doctrine didn't require that radio or TV programs be ideologically balanced. It simply forbade stations from using the public airwaves to broadcast unfiltered propaganda.

Whether the subject was a national policy debate or a local referendum question, broadcasters had to provide a "reasonable opportunity for opposing viewpoints."

With its revocation, in 1987, broadcasters were free to air partisan programming around the clock. The result was that Americans began to get their "news" from sources, such as talk radio hosts, who railed against "the mainstream media" as unreliable. Over the past two decades, an increasing number of politicians have weaponized this mistrust.

The result has been an erosion of faith in our Fourth Estate. According to a 2017 survey by the Pew Research Center, barely one-third of Democrats trust the news that comes from national media. The figure for Republicans is 11 percent.

As citizens migrate to partisan media sources, they become more vulnerable to propaganda. They begin to seek out bad stories – about death panels, or vaccines that cause autism, or candidates who laugh at rape victims. They begin to reject science in favor of conspiracy theories that are emotionally satisfying but false.

The most important step we can take is to support media outlets that value fact-based reporting, rather than punditry or so-called opinion journalism. Second, we can seek out all perspectives on an issue, not just the one that supports our pre-existing beliefs. Third, we should support the reinstatement of some version of the Fairness Doctrine.

Bad story No. 2: Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing. As a freshman in college in 1984, I volunteered for Walter Mondale's presidential campaign. I remember getting up on the morning after Ronald Reagan's landslide win and running into a bearish figure in shower sandals in the hall. This was the dorm's resident hockey player, a guy named Sam. "We kicked your butt," Sam boomed. "Your guy got three points! Three lousy points!"

Candidate debates are no longer forums to showcase competing ideas. They are promoted and analyzed like prizefights.

Mondale actually received 13 electoral votes. But as a fellow jock, I understood where Sam was coming from. His attitude toward politics had almost nothing to do with governance. To him, it was a sport.

Americans have always, to some extent, regarded politics that way. What has changed over the past half-century is that the media and political classes now function to intensify this bad story.

Rather than interviewing experts who might illuminate policy, cable news outlets stage pundit cage matches. Candidate debates are no longer forums to showcase competing ideas. They are promoted and analyzed like prizefights. Who won? Were there any knockout blows?

This mindset has led to what social scientists call negative partisanship: an ingrained hostility for the opposing party that has almost nothing to do with ideology. It's a kind of tribal identity, the same impulse that leads us to root against a rival team.

Consider this: The proportion of those who hold "very unfavorable" views of the other party has nearly tripled since 1994. Negative partisanship has become the default setting of our electorate.

This encourages politicians to engage in confrontation rather than cooperation with the other party, which deepens partisan rancor. Rather than thinking about the common good, we have come to regard our political system as a zero-sum game. For our side to win, the other side has to lose.

We need to recognize that politics cuts deeper than Red versus Blue. Governance is about the art of compromise, about working with the other side to find solutions for all.

Bad story No. 3: Our grievances matter more than our vulnerabilities. One of my best friends is a guy I'll call Josh. He's a Harvard-educated computer scientist who works for a nonprofit research institute funded, in part, by federal grants.

We don't talk much about politics, because Josh is an upbeat guy who considers the subject a bummer. In the 2016 election, he told me, he had cast a protest vote for the Libertarian candidate, Gary Johnson.

In 2008, after he lost his job, Josh had needed help from the federal government to pay for his family's medical insurance. But in the years since, he had apparently lost his faith in the government's capacity to aid families like his own. Josh took his grievances seriously, but not his vulnerabilities. Feeling that people should fend for themselves, he opposes government intervention – until he needs help from the government.

Americans love to rail against government, elites, journalists, and so on. But lurking beneath these grievances are feelings that are much harder to talk about, such as helplessness and vulnerability.

From its inception, the beauty of our great democratic experiment has been that we, the people, have been granted the right to author our own national story.

If we succumb to bad stories that do little more than stoke our rage and starve our common sense, we'll usher in an era of perpetual dread and decline.

We must renew a spirit of hope by listening to – and telling – stories that allow us to see our national fate as a shared destiny, and our personal plights not as signs of weakness, but as opportunities for constructive action and occasions for mercy.■

Steve Almond's new book is Bad Stories: What the Hell Just Happened to Our Country.

Stealth motivation

How to get volunteers to do what you want them to – and like it

by **NANCY SHEPHERDSON**

When I was a senior at the University of Illinois, I lived with some friends in an old house set in a grove of oak trees. I loved to take my homework outside and sit under a tree to study and daydream. One day, I went out and found stakes marking off big sections of the grove.

Racing inside, I begged my housemates to help me find out what was happening. We made phone calls and discovered that the university planned to cut down all the trees to build a parking lot. We made posters, gave save-the-trees presentations in the dorms nearby, and delivered impassioned pleas to administrators. Many noisy protests and negotiations later, the university backed down and let the trees stand. Somewhat to our own surprise, we had prevailed – and I had seen the power of motivated volunteers.

It was my first experience with what I've come to call "stealth motivation." Before that happened, I hadn't realized that I possessed any ability to motivate people. But I have learned that when you personally ask people to take on a task that is important to a cause they care about, great things can happen. The key is finding out what will give volunteers satisfaction without drawing attention to the fact that you are trying to motivate them.

In many ways, motivating volunteers is much harder than motivating employees. You don't pay volunteers, and you can't fire them. But there are still effective approaches: Remember that every potential volunteer is looking for something, whether it's personal satisfaction, the chance to contribute to a good cause, or simply a fun thing to do.

Behavioral economist Dan Ariely, author of books including *Payoff: The Hidden Logic That Shapes Our Motivations*, has spent a good portion of his career trying to discern under what circumstances people will do what you ask. Why do some people enthusiastically volunteer for every event your club puts on, while others rarely or never do?

Ariely believes that part of the answer depends on recognition. "Ignoring the performance of people is almost as bad as shredding their effort before their eyes," the Duke University Fuqua School of Business professor said in a 2013 TED Talk. "The good news is that adding motivation doesn't seem to be so difficult."

In an experiment he reported in *Payoff*, Ariely persuaded Intel to reward three sets of workers for productivity with either a monetary bonus, a pizza voucher, or a texted compliment. All of the rewards resulted in increased productivity the next day, but the compliment was the most powerful and had the longest-lasting effect.

Ariely was focused on employees, but he believes the power of compliments holds true for volunteers as well. When a reluctant volunteer receives public appreciation for his work, even just a text saying "good job," it can increase the chances

DAVE CUTLER

that he will step up for the next project.

But recognition alone isn't enough. Being a committed volunteer is hard work, and people know it. So to recruit volunteers, you must overcome what behavioral scientist David Halpern calls "friction": Will it be worth my time? Will I look like a fool? Will it be too hard? "Humans have a deep-rooted tendency to take the line of least resistance," notes Halpern, the author of *Inside the Nudge Unit: How Small Changes Can Make a Big Difference.*

Halpern directs a British government agency that tries to "nudge" people into changing their behavior by making it easier to perform the desired behavior. The Nudge Unit got a million more people to participate in a pension plan, for instance, simply by making it an "opt out" plan.

Similar techniques can work for volunteer projects. Always think about how to make it easier to participate, such as by breaking up large assignments into smaller tasks. It also helps, says Halpern, if you make the volunteer assignment as attractive as possible, for example by pairing it with an opportunity to promote the volunteer's business or to involve family in something fun. As an example, he points to advertisements for military service. Today's ads, rather than telling you that Uncle Sam wants you, "dwell much more on adventure and excitement," he says.

If an assignment isn't too onerous, you'll often find that people will put in more effort than they intended. But the opposite is also true, Halpern says: "A human impulse to do something grinds to a halt when it becomes a hassle."

So to maintain a contingent of motivated volunteers, you have to plan ahead. When you throw something together at the last minute, you'll find yourself relying on the same people who always carry the load. Or you'll quickly overtax new members, who are sometimes the most eager to get involved.

When I was incoming president of my club, I decided to ask people exactly what they wanted to get out of their membership. I spent a few months interviewing every

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The Rotary Foundation

member of the club, either over lunch or at their office. I heard some complaints but also a lot of good ideas. In the end, the effort made us a much stronger club. Among other things, we added a successful fundraiser and attracted nine new members.

According to Ann Rhoades, a cofounder of JetBlue and author of *Built on Values: Creating an Enviable Culture That Outperforms the Competition*, one of the most powerful things you can do to create an effective corporate culture is to listen to your best employees and create a shared culture based on their values. I helped Rhoades write that book, and what I learned from her led me to approach my club presidency the way I did.

Volunteer groups are not so different from companies, Rhoades told me recently. "The values of your most motivated volunteers can get other people excited to volunteer," she says. "Do some brainstorming to make these values explicit – whether it's making kids' lives better, helping the poor, or having fun – and then talk about them all the time. It's one of the most important things you can do to make volunteering more rewarding."

By listening to our club members, I discovered that many of them were primarily motivated by one thing: doing good for the children in our community. Two projects – giving books to kids and managing a Special Olympics event – grew out of that process.

Encouraging members to identify problems they want to solve and letting them come up with ways to address them are the keys to keeping people motivated. My club is in the midst of another listening tour that I hope results in more good projects that will, in turn, ease members into becoming more engaged. In my experience, if you praise regularly, nudge often, and make sure your group's values are clear, people who volunteer for you will be grateful to you – even if they're not sure why. ■

Nancy Shepherdson is the co-author of five books and a past president of the Rotary Club of Lake Zurich, Illinois.

Let's tell the world we are

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Rotary PEOPLE OF ACTION

Illustrations by Laszlo Kubinyi

THE BEST TIME TO PLANT A TREE
WAS WHEN PAUL HARRIS WAS ALIVE.
THE SECOND-BEST TIME IS NOW

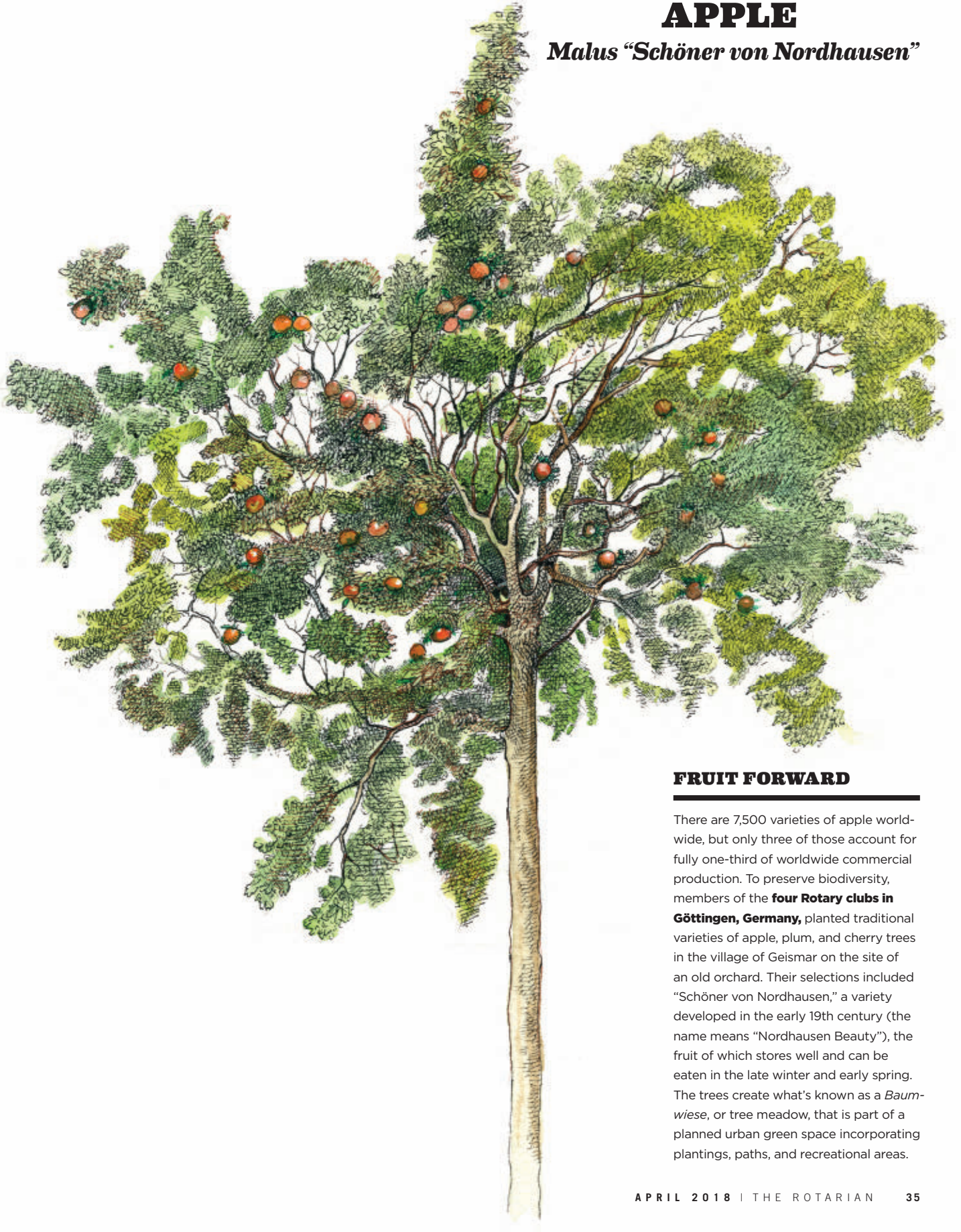
BACK TO *our* ROOTS

Last summer, Ian H.S. Riseley challenged every Rotarian to plant a tree by Earth Day 2018. On these pages, we trace Rotary's love of trees from its founder, Paul Harris, to the trees Rotarians are planting today, including the heritage apple tree (opposite) that members in Germany are cultivating. You will also read about the similarities between Rotarians and trees, President Riseley's thoughts on the primal power of trees, and the ways we honor – and fail to honor – trees.

Earth Day is 22 April. Time to get your grove on!

APPLE

Malus "Schöner von Nordhausen"



FRUIT FORWARD

There are 7,500 varieties of apple worldwide, but only three of those account for fully one-third of worldwide commercial production. To preserve biodiversity, members of the **four Rotary clubs in Göttingen, Germany,** planted traditional varieties of apple, plum, and cherry trees in the village of Geismar on the site of an old orchard. Their selections included "Schöner von Nordhausen," a variety developed in the early 19th century (the name means "Nordhausen Beauty"), the fruit of which stores well and can be eaten in the late winter and early spring. The trees create what's known as a *Baumwiese*, or tree meadow, that is part of a planned urban green space incorporating plantings, paths, and recreational areas.

When is a tree like a Rotarian? All the time

TREES ARE CONNECTED THROUGH THEIR ROOT SYSTEMS – AND HELPING NEIGHBORS IN TIMES OF NEED IS THE RULE. SOUND FAMILIAR?

by Peter Wohlleben

When I began my professional career as a forester, I knew as much about the hidden life of trees as a butcher knows about the emotional life of animals. Because it was my job to look at hundreds of trees every day – spruce, beeches, oaks, and pines – to assess their suitability for the lumber mill and their market value, my appreciation of trees was limited to a narrow point of view.

About 20 years ago, as I talked with the many visitors to the forest that I manage – for the tiny village of Hümmel in the Eifel Mountains in western Germany – my perspective began to change. Those visitors were enchanted by crooked, gnarled trees I would previously have dismissed because of their low commercial value. Walking with my visitors, I learned to pay attention to more than just the quality of the trees' trunks. I began to notice bizarre root shapes, peculiar growth patterns, and mossy cushions on bark. My love of nature was reignited. Suddenly life as a forester became exciting once again.

One day, while in this state of mind, I stumbled across a patch of strange-looking mossy stones in one of the preserves of old beech trees. I stopped to take a good look. The stones were an unusual shape: They were gently curved with hollowed-out areas. Carefully, I lifted the moss on one of the stones. What I found underneath was tree bark. So, these were not stones, after all, but old wood. I was surprised at how hard the "stone" was, because it usually takes only a few years for beechwood lying on damp ground to decompose. But what surprised me most was that I couldn't lift the wood. It was obviously attached to the ground in some way.

I took out my pocketknife and carefully scraped away some of the bark until I got down to a greenish layer. This color is found only in chlorophyll, which makes new leaves green; reserves of chlorophyll are also stored in the trunks

of living trees. That could mean only one thing: This piece of wood was still alive!

Next I noticed that the remaining "stones" formed a distinct pattern: They were arranged in a circle with a diameter of about 5 feet. What I had stumbled upon were the gnarled remains of an enormous ancient tree stump. All that was left were vestiges of the outermost edge. The interior had rotted into humus long ago – an indication that the tree must have been felled at least 400 or 500 years earlier. But how could the remains have clung onto life for so long?

Living cells must have food in the form of sugar; they must breathe, and they must grow, at least a little. But without leaves – and therefore without photosynthesis – that's impossible. No being on our planet can maintain a centuries-long fast, not even the remains of a tree, and certainly not a stump that has had to survive on its own. Something else was happening with this stump. It must be getting assistance from neighboring trees, specifically from their roots. Scientists investigating similar situations have discovered that assistance may either be delivered remotely by fungal networks around the root tips – which facilitate nutrient exchange between trees – or the roots themselves may be interconnected. In the case of the stump I had stumbled upon, the surrounding beeches were pumping sugar to the stump to keep it alive.

If you look at roadside embankments, you might be able to see how trees connect with each other through their root systems. On these slopes, rain often washes away the soil, leaving the underground networks exposed. Scientists in the Harz Mountains in Germany have discovered that this is a case of interdependence, and most individual trees of the same species growing in the same stand are connected to each other through their root systems. It appears that nutrient exchange and helping neighbors in times of need is the rule, and this leads to the conclusion that forests are superorganisms with interconnections much like ant colonies.

Of course, it makes sense to ask whether tree roots are simply wandering around aimlessly underground and connecting up when they happen to bump into roots of their own kind. Once connected, they have no choice but to exchange nutrients. They create what looks like a social network, but what they are experiencing is a purely accidental give and take. In this scenario, chance encounters replace the more emotionally charged image of active support, though even chance encounters offer benefits for the forest ecosystem. But nature is more complicated than that. According to Massimo Maffei from the University of Turin, Italy, plants – and that includes trees – are capable of distinguishing their own roots from the roots of other species and even from the roots of related individuals.

But why are trees such social beings? Why do they share food with their own species and sometimes even go so far as to nourish their competitors? There are advantages to working together. A tree is not a forest. On its own, a tree cannot establish a consistent local climate. It is at the mercy of wind and weather. But together, many trees create an ecosystem that moderates extremes of heat and cold, stores a great deal of water, and generates a great deal of humidity. And in this protected environment, trees can live to be very old. To get to this point, the community must remain intact no matter what. If every tree were looking out only for itself, then many of them would never reach old age. Regular fatalities would result in many large gaps in the tree canopy, which would make it easier for storms to get inside the forest and uproot more trees. The heat of summer would reach the forest floor and dry it out. Every tree would suffer.

Every tree, therefore, is valuable to its community. That's why even sick

This piece of wood was still alive! How could the remains have clung onto life for so long?

The community must remain intact no matter what. If every tree were looking out only for itself, then many of them would never reach old age.

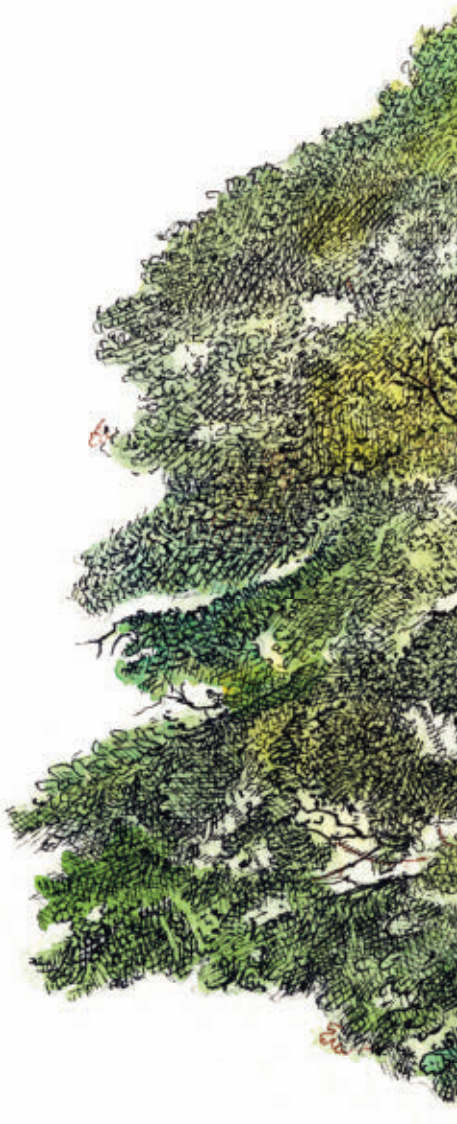
individuals are supported and nourished until they recover. When thick silver-gray beeches behave like this, they remind me of a herd of elephants. Like the herd, they, too, look after their own, and they help their sick and weak back up onto their feet. They are even reluctant to abandon their dead.

Every tree is a member of its community, but there are different levels of membership. For example, most stumps rot away into humus and disappear within a couple of hundred years (which is not very long for a tree). Only a few individuals are kept alive over the centuries, like the mossy "stones" I've just described. What's the difference? Do tree societies have second-class citizens just like human societies? It seems they do, though the idea of "class" doesn't quite fit. It is rather the degree of connection – or maybe even affection – that decides how helpful a tree's colleagues will be.

You can check this out by looking up into the forest canopy. The average tree grows its branches out until it encounters the branch tips of a neighboring tree of the same height. It doesn't grow any wider because the air and better light in this space are already taken. However, it heavily reinforces the branches it has extended, so you get the impression that there's a shoving match going on up there. But a pair of true friends is careful right from the outset not to grow overly thick branches in each other's direction. The trees don't want to take anything away from each other, and so they develop sturdy branches only at the outer edges of their crowns, that is to say, only in the direction of "nonfriends." Such partners are often so tightly connected at the roots that sometimes they even die together.

What I have learned so far from trees exceeds anything I could ever have dreamed of. ■

Adapted from The Hidden Life of Trees *by Peter Wohlleben; reprinted with permission from Greystone Books Ltd.*



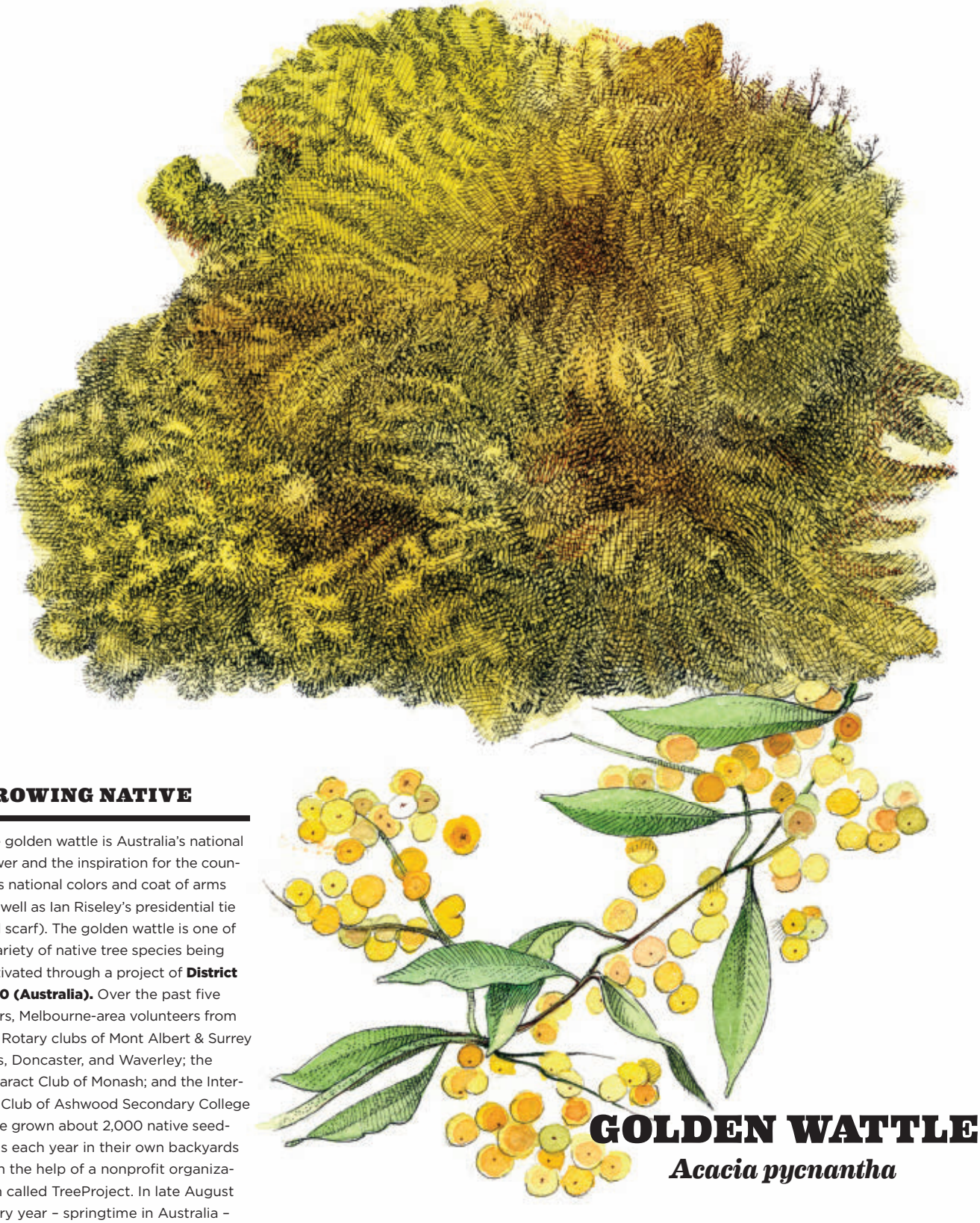
BRAZILWOOD

Caesalpinia echinata

STABLE COMMUNITY

The country of Brazil got its name from a tree – the Brazilwood, which was once abundant in the coastal forests there but was extensively logged for the production of crimson and deep purple dye. It is one of 10 species that Rotarians in Brazil planted in November as part of a long-term project responding to what is considered the worst environmental disaster in the country's history.

After a dam at an open-pit mine broke in November 2015, a wave of contaminated sludge ripped out trees and destroyed homes in the area around the Samarco mine in the state of Minas Gerais. The **Rotary clubs of Brasília-International, Brasília-5 de Dezembro,** and **Belo Horizonte-Liberdade** have worked with community members to plant 5,700 seedlings in a rural area of the municipality of Santo Antônio do Grama, and plan to plant 15,000 in the Doce River basin. Rotarians are also working with small farmers and landowners to restore their businesses, and they have trained residents in how to build contours in the hills to slow floodwaters.



GOLDEN WATTLE

Acacia pycnantha

GROWING NATIVE

The golden wattle is Australia's national flower and the inspiration for the country's national colors and coat of arms (as well as Ian Riseley's presidential tie and scarf). The golden wattle is one of a variety of native tree species being cultivated through a project of **District 9810 (Australia).** Over the past five years, Melbourne-area volunteers from the Rotary clubs of Mont Albert & Surrey Hills, Doncaster, and Waverley; the Rotaract Club of Monash; and the Interact Club of Ashwood Secondary College have grown about 2,000 native seedlings each year in their own backyards with the help of a nonprofit organization called TreeProject. In late August every year – springtime in Australia – the volunteers work with members of the Rotary Club of Beaufort to plant the seedlings in that rural community, about 100 miles west of Melbourne.

What a tree can do

Last year, Ian H.S. Riseley issued a challenge. He wanted Rotarians to plant 1.2 million trees – one for every Rotarian in the world – between 1 July 2017, when he took office as president of Rotary International, and Earth Day, 22 April 2018. Clubs around the world have embraced that challenge, and in his travels this year, Riseley himself has often been asked to pick up a shovel. Senior editor Hank Sartin sat down with him to talk about the trees he has planted – and how trees fit into Rotary's mission.

THE ROTARIAN: Why tree-planting?

IAN H.S. RISELEY: Environmental issues have not featured highly on the radar of Rotary International in a corporate sense since 1990-91, when President Paulo Costa's Preserve Planet Earth program inspired thousands of clubs to carry out environmental projects. I was keen to give Rotarians an incentive – and the opportunity – to show their concern for the environment. It's important to me and it's important to many other people.

Why trees? Because anyone can do it, just about. If you can't plant one yourself, you can still support tree-planting somewhere that needs it. From everything I've heard, people inside and outside Rotary have embraced this idea.

TR: Why do you think this idea has inspired such enthusiasm?

RISELEY: There's something about planting a tree that speaks to people in a very primal way. It shows a long-term commitment to the community. Rotary does many wonderful community projects: We build playgrounds and clean up rubbish and many other things. But somehow, planting a tree captures the imagination.

I've seen many examples of communities getting involved. The government of Romania heard about the initiative and said, 'We want to plant trees too, but we don't have the personnel to plant them.' The government offered to donate trees that Rotarians would plant all over the country. So Rotarians are planting a million trees there.

TR: How do trees fit into Rotary's areas of focus?

RISELEY: In some way, planting trees speaks to all of the areas of focus. Research has shown that trees are good for economic and community development – they increase property values. Planting a tree promotes peace simply by giving people a place to sit in the shade and contemplate the world. Trees are good for disease prevention and treatment, because the world is a healthier place with more trees to produce oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide. You can make a case for trees relating to all our areas of focus.

There are parts of the world where deforestation has caused significant damage. It's not within the bailiwick of

Rotary to redress that; we just don't have the capacity. But we'd like to demonstrate the importance of having trees in our communities and the difference that they make to us.

TR: The imagery of your presidential tie is the golden wattle, Australia's national flower. Have you always been interested in plants?

RISELEY: I've been interested in growing native Australian plants since before I was a teenager. My father was keen on propagating plants. When my wife, Juliet, and I bought our first house, I wanted to create a garden that mirrored what used to occur naturally in the area, with plants that are indigenous to that particular part of Australia. When I was thinking about my presidential tie, it was a no-brainer to incorporate the golden wattle. It's very colorful. I know some Rotary presidential theme ties have been relatively sedate, and I wanted mine to be slightly out there.

TR: You've participated in many tree plantings this year. What have been some more memorable ones?

RISELEY: In Iceland, we planted a tree in the Friendship Forest, Vinaskógur, where visiting dignitaries and heads of state have planted trees. Queen Elizabeth II planted a tree there. I'd just note that Rotary's tree is planted just a little bit higher up the slope than hers.

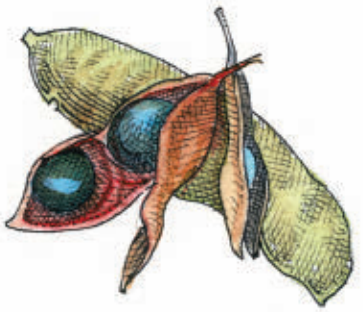
An organization Rotary works with in South America wanted to plant a tree in Antofagasta, Chile, on the edge of the Atacama desert. I asked if it was practical to plant a tree in the desert. They showed me how they had set up a system to take water from the roof of their building when it rains. The tree can survive and thrive if they do it right.

In Northern California, a massive 100-year-old oak tree had come down, and Rotarians wanted to plant something in its place. The tree we planted is a small thing now, of course, just a meter high. People there were talking about the role that trees will have in the restoration of the area where they had the wildfires last year. A forester I spoke to told me that planting trees helps to stabilize the soil so it doesn't wash away when it rains. It was a strong reminder of the many benefits of trees – not just converting carbon dioxide to oxygen, but also halting erosion, providing habitat for animals, and so many other things.

I've helped plant trees in Sardinia, in Latvia, in Australia. Everywhere I go, I get my hands dirty.

TR: Your tree challenge officially ends on Earth Day, on the 22nd of this month. Do you hope that clubs will keep on planting trees?

RISELEY: We want everyone to keep going. And it's not just planting the tree. It's nurturing the tree to ensure that it thrives. Planting a tree is a commitment to the future. ■



IPIL

Intsia bijuga

REFORESTATION

Logging and slash-and-burn farming have led to the near-extirpation of the ipil in parts of Southeast Asia; the tree's wood is used for furniture and flooring. **District 3830 (Philippines)** planted ipil seedlings to reforest 5,000 hectares of the Irawan Watershed on the Philippine island of Palawan. In a project led by the **Rotary Club of Makati Olympia,** Rotarians also gave 24 indigenous Batak families 50 seedlings each of kalamansi, a native citrus tree.

The tree whisperer

THE FORESTS OF NEW ENGLAND PREPARED PAUL HARRIS FOR A LIFETIME IN ROTARY

by Geoff Johnson

When he was a boy growing up in Vermont, Paul Harris made a startling discovery: "Trees talk to each other in a language of their own." How else could they flawlessly orchestrate the brilliant display of color that each fall without fail set New England ablaze? It seemed obvious: In order to dazzle, the trees must first plan, they must plot, they must converse.

"Each tree according to its species is assigned its part," Harris explained. "The mighty oaks, with such help as the sumacs may give in touching up the low corners, agree to supply the deep wine color admired by all nature lovers; the beech trees, the elms, and the birches supply miles of yellow and red; the maples are never confined to any one color; they are permitted to run riot with everything they have in their paint pots, red, brown, wine color, yellow, green, and what not. All the trees of the forest place their trust in the maples to do the right thing when it comes to painting the forests in the month of October."

Harris' arboreal ruminations appear in his autobiography, *My Road to Rotary*. The book's title is misleading: Better to look at its subtitle, *The Story of a Boy, a Vermont Community, and Rotary,* for a clue to the author's intent. These are the reflections of an old man – the foreword is dated Chicago, October 1945, 15 months before the author's death – but they are based, as Harris explains, on "observations made through the eyes of a boy."

The story of that boy occupies nearly two-thirds of the 304-page book. (By contrast, Rotary gets 43 pages.) Harris renders vivid portraits of the grandparents who raised him, of their small town, and of the people who populate it. But he reserves some of his most evocative prose for his description of the New England forests and mountainsides that were his playground. "We lived near to nature in those days," he recalls. "We were part and parcel of the universe, and in our own quiet enjoyment of things, our lives were fuller than they could have been otherwise."

Not least among those enjoyments were the trees.

His father's improvidence may have been the best thing that ever happened to Paul Harris. As a result of his family's financial woes, Rotary's founder was delivered into the hands of his paternal grandparents, Howard and Pamela Harris, when he was three years old. The couple lived on a small farm in Wallingford, Vermont. The farm wasn't much – an extensive garden, a hayfield, a few cows, and a neglected apple orchard – but the surrounding countryside was magnificent. Situated between the Taconic and Green mountains, the Otter Creek Valley was a profusion of rolling hills, bucolic lakes and rivers, and a "bounteous" (Harris' word) array of trees. A photo of Wallingford that accompanies *My Road to Rotary* reveals a sliver of Elfin Lake and a vast forest. You literally can't see the village for the trees.

This was the setting for the boy's seemingly idyllic childhood, and as the septuagenarian Harris spins his story, each of the trees of Wallingford assumes an identity of its own. The unbending oak, "mightiest of all trees," and the "majestic" elm; the "picturesque and beautiful" beech; the "chaste and modest" white birch; the willow, swaying "gracefully in the wind" – all occupy a place in Harris' twilight reverie.

In winter, young Paul took special delight in the cheer offered by the evergreen pines, firs, and cedars. "Some of the recesses of the forest were like great cathedrals," his elder ava-

tar rhapsodized, "and the tall spruce trees with their branches bent to the ground by their burdens of snow were like titanic vestured monks bowing low."

Harris doesn't say as much, but the maple – "a worker of miracles beyond the ken of man" – might have been his favorite tree. It was the most common tree in the valley, and its hard timber and spring sap, the wellspring of Vermont's "delectable" syrup, made it the most useful. But as a boy, Paul primarily savored the maple's "autumnal glory" and, in summer, its abundant shade, beneath which he and his friends could "lie on green grass and dream to their heart's content."

Harris' love of trees did not blind him to their utility. In a chapter headed "An Industrious Community," he noted that "most of the small industrial plants in Wallingford existed by virtue of the supply of usable timber in the nearby mountains." The pitchfork factory and the snow shovel company made their handles from ash; another shop made wagons from hickory and ash and used "tough oak" for the wheels' hubs. Pine trees became window sashes and doors, cedars transformed into shingles and posts, and the bark of the hemlock was used to tan hides. And old one-legged Mr. Pratt could rest easy knowing he would never run out of spruce and pine for his ever-in-demand product: coffins.

But when it came to trees, such practical endeavors were not a boy's concern. Long after he was capable of following his own advice, Harris made the following recommendation: "Anyone desiring a broad view of the surrounding mountains and hills, lakes and ponds, would do well to climb Rattlesnake Mountain near Lake Dunmore, select the highest tree, and from its topmost branches survey the country as far north as the Canadian border." Presumably young Paul made that ascent and there glimpsed a world beyond Vermont.

The seasonal rhythms of Vermont remained with Harris all his life. When he returned to Wallingford, from Princeton University, for his grandfather's funeral, it was the dreary, cold winter that welcomed him home. When his grandmother died a few Octobers later, Harris, unable to make the trip back – he was off in the "west" studying law at the University of Iowa – easily conjured the "funeral procession moving slowly down the valley, along lazy, winding Otter Creek, lit up by the flaming colors of the hillsides and mountains."

At the family plot, Pamela Harris was laid to rest alongside her husband. "Autumn winds have in due course directed to the graves of grandmother and grandfather myriads of maple leaves which also had spent their life courses and needed only a quiet place to lie down and rest."

After law school and five years of vagabondage, Harris began his career in Chicago, his home for the ensuing 51 years. "At last my life settled down in earnest during the early spring of 1896, when the sap was in the maple trees back in my valley." He took a "weird fascination" in the city – "America's unrivalled metropolis of the Middle West" – but with few friends, he could not shake off a perpetual sense of loneliness. In 1905, the founding of Rotary helped remedy that, as did his 1910 marriage to Jean Thomson.

The couple famously met on a countryside hike with the Prairie Club of Chicago, where Harris was a charter member. He tore his jacket on a barbed-wire fence, Thomson – "a bonnie Scottish lassie" – made a-mends, and a few months later they wed. In 1912 they moved into a house at 10856 S. Longwood Drive, about 15 miles south of the Loop. Harris had discovered the neighborhood, called Morgan Park, shortly before he met his future wife. Hilly (atypical for Chicago), wooded – its developers had planted 11,500 trees on the 480-acre tract – and, on Harris' first encounter, snow-covered, it reminded him of Vermont. "The picture seemed so true to the New England life I had known and loved that the thought came to me if ever I was to have a home of my own, it would be on the top of the hill on Longwood Drive."

They called their home Comely Bank, after a street in Edinburgh from Jean's childhood in Scotland. Just south of them, on 110th Street, lived Silvester Schiele, the coal dealer with whom Harris had first discussed his plans for Rotary. In an earlier book, *This Rotarian Age,* Harris recalled the trail that connected the two homes, "a well-worn path winding through the oak wood made fragrant in the spring by countless blossoms and radiant in autumn by blazing sumac."

Harris bemoaned the inevitable changes to the neighborhood, particularly the loss of a stand of crabapple trees across from their house that served as a refuge for birds; tractors dragged the trees out by their roots to make way for an apartment building. Despite his display of equanimity – after all, the new apartment dwellers "had made their escape from the noise and confusion of the city" – it's easy to imagine a forlorn Harris muttering a lament he knew from Thoreau's journals: "Thank God, they cannot cut down the clouds!"

The Harrises' wooded backyard offered a perpetual solace – and soon acquired an international renown. It began with a

AFRICAN CHERRY

Prunus Africana

MISSION GREEN

Traditional healers have long used the bark of the African cherry to treat prostate cancer and other conditions, but its overexploitation, especially for sale to European pharmaceutical companies, has led to its near-extirpation in some areas. In response to Rotary President Ian Riseley's tree challenge, Rotarians in **District 9211 (Tanzania and Uganda)** planted African cherries along with more than a dozen other species. Their Mission Green project aims to plant 5 million trees in the two countries by 2021.

From 1990 to 2005, total forest area declined by 37 percent in Tanzania and 25 percent in Uganda, where 94 percent of the population uses wood charcoal or firewood for fuel – burning through an estimated 115 football fields every day. District 9211 Rotarians are also promoting the use of energy-efficient cooking technologies at hospitals, schools, and prisons to reduce energy consumption.

visit by Walter Drummond, a Rotarian from Melbourne, Australia. Drummond had admired a blue spruce in the Harris yard, and when he returned home, he planted one in his own garden. After Drummond's death in 1930 at age 40, Harris dedicated the tree to his memory. It was the first friendship tree in what Harris alternately called his goodwill or friendship garden. (Though Harris often mentioned the garden, there's no record of how many and what kind of trees he planted. And because the house has changed hands several times since his death, no one knows for sure if any of those trees survive.)

In 1935, Harris reflected on the 30 years that had passed since Rotary's founding. "Within that period, the Walter Drummond blue spruce tree which stands in my garden of friendship, bowing gracefully in gentle breezes to friendly visitors from distant countries, has gained appreciably in stature, but the twin oaks" – presumably on the path to Schiele's house – "looking condescendingly down on all ephemeral things, are as they were."

In 1931, Sydney W. Pascall, the first European president of Rotary International, prepared to embark on a world tour with his wife and daughter. Before Pascall left London, Paul Harris proposed an idea that ultimately became a Rotary tradition. As Pascall remembered it, "the revered founder of Rotary . . . suggested that a most appropriate way of symbolizing the Rotary idea would be the planting of trees. I started the observance in the National Botanical Gardens" in Cape Town, South Africa, with the first tree planted by a Rotary president on a presidential trip. Before the tour was over, Pascall had planted more than 30 trees, while his wife, daughter, and "mayors and Rotary leaders" planted 22.

A habitual planter of trees, Harris immediately emulated Pascall's example. On 17 August 1932, he planted his first tree – a maple – on European soil. Harris thought the site "especially appropriate": Berlin's Tempelhofer Feld, a former military parade ground. Fourteen years after the end of World War I, Harris envisioned his maple maturing into a symbol of international peace. "The tree was planted," he wrote afterward, "with the fervent hope that it would stand for many years as symbolic of the living, growing friendship between the great German people and my own country." (History, of course, had other plans.)

From Berlin, Harris traveled across Europe, leaving a trail of trees in his wake. Tallinn, Estonia; Helsinki, Finland; Stockholm and Gothenburg, Sweden; and Bergen, Norway – in a span of about three weeks, each of those cities received a Harris tree. In 1934, he visited South Africa, where Port Elizabeth got a Norfolk pine. The following year, Harris planted trees in Australia, New Zealand, Shanghai, and Japan, including one, in Tokyo, on the grounds of Frank Lloyd Wright's Imperial Hotel.

During Paul and Jean's 1936 tour of Central and South America, Harris planted more than a dozen trees in seven countries. One occasion stood out: In Valparaiso, Chile, during the first Ibero-American Conference of Rotary clubs, Harris arrived for what must have become an almost commonplace ritual. But a surprise awaited. "The [Rotary] delegates from the various countries each brought with him a sack of soil from his own country," wrote Harris in his *Peregrinations III*, "and solemnly emptied it in the hole dug for the tree. Could their sympathy have been better expressed?"

The "satisfaction" of that moment imprinted itself on Harris' mind. "While I have participated in many [tree plantings], I am certain that the ceremony has never been taken so seriously by so large a number."

Paul and Jean returned from their equatorial sojourn just as another prairie spring enveloped Comely Bank. Henceforth, Harris' arboreal endeavors were confined to the United States. As late as 1945, he was still at it, planting an oak tree in Tuskegee, Alabama. (Suffering from fungus and the aftereffects of a lightning strike, the tree came down in 2011, though at the time, Rotarian Al Davis, the Tuskegee city manager, reported that gavels for Rotary clubs had been carved from the oak's remnants.)

A weary, worldly woodland warrior, Harris could justifiably rest on his *Laurus nobilis* and reflect on his achievements: "I have planted [trees] on all continents of the earth and on islands of the seas." No brag, just fact – though a tree grows in Antarctica? (Don't doubt that Harris could make it happen.) "It is my hope that my trees at home and abroad will stand for generations, friends of birds and friends of men . . . living expressions of international peace and goodwill."

Harris is in a similar mood in "The End of the Journey," the final chapter of *My Road to Rotary*. He is enjoying a cup of tea with Jean by the hearth at Comely Bank, and his thoughts travel back to his Vermont boyhood. A life has run its course, and the tone is elegiac. "The leaves of the maple trees are already beginning to show color . . . [and] some night in the not too distant future, when the eyes of the home folks are closed in sleep, mystic winter will creep silently into the valley."

Harris expresses no regret. It is the natural cycle of things, and in time, spring's "resurrection" will recur. Besides, he has left a living legacy of trees spread across the globe, including one rare and vital specimen invigorated by his will and his imagination.

"At our fireside scores of friends from all corners of the globe have delighted us by their presence," recalls Harris, drifting into a nocturnal trance. "They have come as the result of my planting a sapling in 1905. The first Rotary Club was that sapling. It has grown into a mighty tree in whose shade it is delightful to dwell." ■

Striking the flag of Chaos

TREES ARE THINGS OF BEAUTY, UNLESS THERE ARE OTHER THINGS IN THEM – WHICH IS WHY THE AUTHOR TAKES ARBOREAL STEWARDSHIP SO SERIOUSLY

by Ian Frazier

Notice the white plastic bag ensnared in the branches of a tree. It flaps in the wind, making a noise like a luffing sail. If it's between November and April, the tree's leafless, and the bag takes on a certain prominence against the sky. I think of it as a flag. Call it the international flag of Chaos.

I started noticing the phenomenon of bags in trees about 25 years ago. The poet Delmore Schwartz titled a short story "In Dreams Begin Responsibilities." The same can be said of bags in trees. Once you notice them, your mind begins to wonder why they're there, what they signify, and, eventually, whether anything can be done about them. Or else you simply forget about them, and when you look at city landscapes you stop seeing them – and maybe you stop seeing the trees as well.

Which is a sin against trees and our own souls. We like to surround ourselves with trees, because they intervene between us and the wild blue yonder – i.e., eternity. They're the last stop before heaven. What we put in them, or allow to be put in them, carries great significance. Certain Native American tribes consigned their dead to tree burials, where the forces of nature eventually dispersed the bodies. To show joy and celebration, we string lights and hang ornaments in the branches of trees. When we let other, neglected branches fill up with raggedy, wind-torn plastic bags, we deny the basic sacredness of trees, as well as our species' long kinship with them.

Not long after the problem of bags in trees first struck me, I invented a device to remove them. With a friend who's a jeweler, I devised a kind of pruning hook with three short tines extending roughly perpendicular to the hook's vertical axis. Twist the device and the tines wrap the bag around the base of the hook. Pull down and the hook's sharp blade cuts the bag free.

The bag-snagger, as we call it, attaches to a fiberglass pole that can be connected to other poles into lengths of 40 feet or

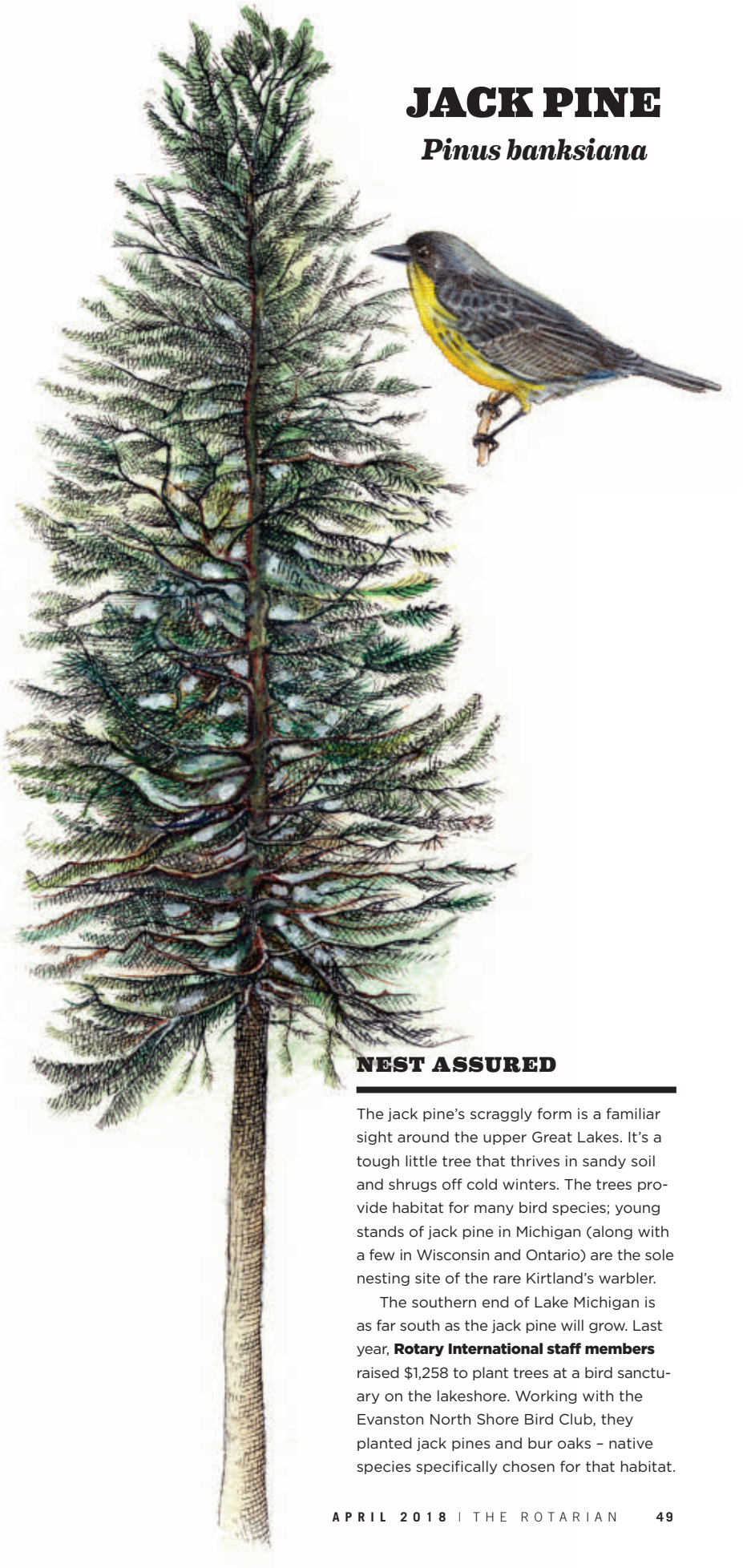
more. So assembled, the bag-snagger can reach high into trees and remove bags and other debris deposited there by the wind or, in some cases, by floodwaters.

When we submitted our invention to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, it rejected the application, saying that a fruit-picking device patented in 1868 constituted "prior art." We tried again, arguing that plastic bags did not exist in 1868. Eventually we received U.S. Patent No. 5,566,538.

To be obsessed with plastic bags is to learn something new every day. Such as: The Irish call plastic bags in trees "witches' knickers." After cigarette filters, plastic bags are the most common kind of trash on shorelines and in the oceans. Removing plastic bags from cabbage palms and thorny greenery in the bed of the Los Angeles River is "like getting gum out of dreadlocks" (as a reporter in LA told me). Airline pilots have observed plastic bags floating through the air, while maintenance workers in China use flying flamethrower drones to burn plastic bags off power lines. I could go on, but one final, inexplicable fact: Plastic bags stuck in trees are very common around the epicenter of the AIDS crisis in Africa (or so an aid worker informed me).

I've personally taken bags and other debris out of thousands of trees: in all five New York City boroughs and in California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, and Rhode Island. Once, while extracting an oddly bulging towel from a tree in Queens, I cut a hole in the towel and a large rat burst out and ran down the pole. A few inches before it reached my hands, it jumped onto a nearby tree (another reason I'm thankful for trees).

I have taken a pair of extra-large green polyester pants from a London plane tree in the square in front of the courthouse steps often featured in the closing scenes of the TV series *Law & Order*. With my jeweler friend, Tim, and



JACK PINE

Pinus banksiana

NEST ASSURED

The jack pine's scraggly form is a familiar sight around the upper Great Lakes. It's a tough little tree that thrives in sandy soil and shrugs off cold winters. The trees provide habitat for many bird species; young stands of jack pine in Michigan (along with a few in Wisconsin and Ontario) are the sole nesting site of the rare Kirtland's warbler.

The southern end of Lake Michigan is as far south as the jack pine will grow. Last year, **Rotary International staff members** raised $1,258 to plant trees at a bird sanctuary on the lakeshore. Working with the Evanston North Shore Bird Club, they planted jack pines and bur oaks – native species specifically chosen for that habitat.

his brother Bill, I have removed debris of considerable size, such as lawn chairs, tractor-tire inner tubes, and, on the banks of the Mississippi River after a major flood, a small compartment or room that had apparently floated off a boat and lodged in the top of a cottonwood tree.

When we started bag-snagging, in the 1990s, a very common item to find in trees was audiocassette tape. There were huge wads of the stuff, fluttering with a fright-wig effect. They gave us fits, because the bag-snagger was not designed for that kind of small-gauge debris. We removed lots of tape nonetheless, and several times we even spliced lengths of it together and played it. Some of it was Tupac Shakur rapping. We did the same with a few of the pieces of videotape we took out. It showed local access programming and a guy explaining his conspiracy theories. But as the years went by, cassette tape and videotape became less common, and today they have disappeared from trees almost entirely – as they have from people's lives. This makes me favor banning plastic bags as the best way of removing them from trees once and for all.

You meet some nice people taking bags out of trees. Grateful passers-by have given us a dollar or two, of course unasked. In Brooklyn's Grand Army Plaza – a whirling vortex of plastic bags in early spring – an elderly woman watched us from her apartment window before coming down and inviting us in for lunch. People often take pictures of us and ask us to remove bags from trees near their buildings or just outside their windows.

Through bag-snagging we met Bette Midler, whose New York Restoration Project, a nonprofit, does environmental work mostly in uptown Manhattan. She acquired some bag-snaggers, and now she has a crew taking bags out of trees during the warmer months. The crew members wear vests that say "Bag Snaggers." These young arborists are far more professional and skilled than we ever were. Not long ago, watching them rasslin' plastic bags (and tarps, and bubble wrap, and helium balloons, and bicycle tires) from trees in the traffic meridian on Broadway on the Upper West Side gave me a real thrill – and a sense of pride. I'm a job creator!

More people live in places with trees than in places without. Often when I fly into a major airport, I'm surprised by how many trees I see below. Greater Moscow, for example, appears to be a village in a forest, and from overhead, New York City presents ocean on the one side and seemingly endless trees on the other. Trees are the main flora that most people see every day. Our weather comes to us through them. No major storm is complete without TV images of toppled trees or windblown palms resembling inside-out umbrellas. Humans prefer not to be too far from trees. They are where we evolved primates used to live, and that's why falling is such a common nightmare.

Treeless places define the concept of "bleak." Once, in Nome, Alaska, I took a self-guided walking tour laid out by the chamber of commerce. Nome is so near the Arctic Circle that not much in the way of trees grows on the verdure-challenged tundra. At that time, however, Nome did boast two or three trees, and the tour led the tourist to each one. Each tree was given its own number on the tour and a paragraph or two about it. Each stood about 11 feet high. In more hospitable parts of the world, these oppressed willows of the Far North would be considered shrubbery, but Nome's boosters wanted to show that, by God, they had trees just like any civilized place.

Sometimes when my friends and I are bag-snagging, we cross paths with people who take offense at our wasting time on such an inconsequential (to them) problem. The idea that we would go after such comparative flyspecks when bigger problems loom all around offends them.

Maybe taking bags from trees is a foolish waste of time. It might even be considered selfish: The personal pleasure involved is definitely real. To see a tree benighted and bestrewn with shreds of plastic, and to debag it with our snagger and 20 minutes of effort – that brings great satisfaction. I think of the act as a kind of live-action landscape painting. It's almost as if we've re-created the tree with our own hands. I believe that, quixotic or not, the act of taking bags out of trees improves the ambient morale in general. It strikes the flag of Chaos and restores our own and the trees' peace of mind – which turned out to be both my responsibility and my dream. ■

A staff writer for the New Yorker*, Ian Frazier is the author of 13 books, including 2016's* Hogs Wild.

DRUMSTICK

Moringa oleifera

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The drumstick tree has protein-rich seed-pods that are eaten as a vegetable. The tree's leaves are also edible – they taste like arugula – and researchers are studying how its crushed seeds can purify water. In 2014-15, **Rotarians in District 3131 (India)** planted tens of thousands of the trees, encouraged by then-Governor Vivek Aranha in what he called a "drumstick revolution." In response to Ian Riseley's tree challenge, members of the **Rotary Club of Barnala** in the state of Punjab have planted 500 drumstick trees, many on public school grounds. Elsewhere in India, **Rotarians in District 3142** (part of Maharashtra) have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Maharashtra state government to plant 1.45 million trees of various species at 77 sites in their district.

Find resources to help you plan and publicize your tree-planting project through the Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group at **esrag.org.**

VIKTOR MILLER GAUSA

A PASSION FOR JUSTICE

Bernice King on what it takes to reach across political and racial divides

AT THE ROTARY PRESIDENTIAL PEACE CONFERENCE in Atlanta last June, Bernice King gave a rousing speech about the hard work of fostering peace. She challenged her audience – both those in the auditorium and Rotarians worldwide – to think anew about how they define peace and how they interact with the people they disagree with. "Every member of our world society, even our adversaries and opponents, is worthy of being looked upon with dignity," she said.

Addressing the current political moment in the United States, King noted how troubling it is that people are increasingly divided, with Republicans refusing to engage with Democrats and Democrats refusing to engage with Republicans. She called on people everywhere to reach across political divides.

King spoke from deep experience. The youngest daughter of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. – assassinated 50 years ago this month – she has embraced the family's legacy of social activism. Today she is the CEO of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta. Founded in 1968 by her mother, Coretta Scott King, the King Center carries on the work of Bernice's father by searching for solutions to poverty, racism, and violence.

Left: *In 1968, five-year-old Bernice King walks with her mother and other family members in her father's funeral procession.*
Right: *King speaks against apartheid at the UN as a teenager.*

King's career as a public speaker began in 1980 when she was 17 and, standing in for her mother, gave a speech on apartheid at the United Nations. After college, she earned graduate degrees in divinity and law, a combination that has shaped her vocation and her oratory, which evokes her father in both its style and its ambitions.

As a law clerk in the juvenile court system of Georgia's Fulton County, King saw the way many teens, already disadvantaged by society, faced a legal system based on retribution rather than rehabilitation. Since then, she has dedicated herself to inspiring young people and teaching them about Nonviolence 365, the King Center initiative that encourages people to emulate her father's principles every day of the year.

Bernice King continues to speak out: at the White House and in South Africa; at universities, corporations, and the U.S. Department of Defense. How, she asks, can right-minded people hope to change hearts and minds when they insist on casting their opponents as the enemy? In her conversation with senior editor Hank Sartin, King suggested ways we might realize an answer to that vexing question.

THE ROTARIAN: How do you win someone over to your point of view when you are reaching out to someone whose actions and ideas you find hateful and wrong?

KING: Nonviolence seeks to defeat injustice and not people. We must do something about injustice, but in the process of addressing injustice we always want to preserve a person's humanity. The decisions and choices that people have made and the actions that they've taken may be hateful, wrong, and unjust, but at the end of the day they're still a part of our human family.

The possibility of redemption is always available for individuals. When your mindframe is geared toward that, then you go to work trying to find solutions that don't denigrate and minimize a person. You go in seeking to understand first and then to be understood. Differences of ideology and opinion may not change. However, it's our job to spend time trying to connect with and understand the other person.

Studies show that people don't change cognitively; they change because of experience. When we say people are taught to hate, that teaching is also embedded in experience. People only change through a new and different experience. How are they going to get that experience? Those experiences only come from engagement; they come from encounters. So we must have courageous conversations between people of divergent perspectives. It's not easy work, but it's necessary work. It doesn't mean when you leave those encounters that you will necessarily agree with people, but in the end you will develop a better respect for them and ensure that you always leave them with dignity.

TR: In your work, that means talking with people who are avowed racists, for instance. How do you get someone to sit down with you to begin that conversation when we're in such a divided world and our positions are so firmly fixed?

KING: We have to disarm. We don't wait for the other to disarm. If you're still armed and on the defensive going into the conversation, then it's kind of like the law of attraction: You attract what energy you emit. There's a lot of internal work that has to take place within an individual. What has helped me is really getting to know Bernice. When I get to know myself, I've had to learn how to love Bernice in spite of the things that I cannot stand about Bernice and the things that I know need to change in me. If I can get to a place where I can embrace and love myself in spite of all of that, then I have the capacity to do it with other people.

TR: What have you learned from working with young people?

KING: I believe many young people have a very narrow focus. For them, nonviolence is the opposite of violence. But nonviolence really is a prescription to elevate you

FROM LEFT: AP; DAVID PICKOFF/AP

Left: *During her 1990 ordination, King sings at Atlanta's historic Ebenezer Baptist Church.* ***Right:*** *President Barack Obama greets King in 2013 on the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington.*

to a place where you start with understanding the human condition, the interconnectedness. Once young people open themselves up and are exposed to these ideas, they gain an entirely different perspective and can see how these ideas are very relevant and usable and livable.

TR: Why has racism proven so intractable?

KING: First of all, racism at its core creates the notion of privileged versus unprivileged, and people who are privileged have a very difficult time giving up that privilege. Also, we've had a lot of people confusing the real issue of racism. Racism is prejudice plus power. The power levels are critical when you talk about racism; otherwise all you have is prejudice. So we just have to keep biting at racism generation after generation. Certainly we have made some inroads, but the systemic part of it is so difficult to address.

TR: How can we change people who are prejudiced?

KING: It's incumbent upon those of us who understand to be sensitive to that and think about how to help people navigate through their fears. Violence is the language of the unheard. We've got to think about where people feel unheard, feel that they are insignificant. We have to ask if that's what they're acting out of. I'm sure we would discover that in most cases that is true.

It is irresponsible to leave people in their hate. Most people who are very hateful can't see that they're hateful, because that's all they ever knew. As a part of the human race, we have a responsibility to not let people be stuck in that kind of hate. We can't just cut them off. Most of them are redeemable. Some of them are not, but you won't know until you engage them. There's a black man named Daryl Davis in Baltimore, Maryland, who asked, "How can you hate me if you don't know me?" He decided to start encountering and connecting with some of the Klan in his area. Twenty-five of them ended up denouncing the Klan, turning over their robes to him. One of them, a former grand wizard, is now doing a lot of work in the area of race relations. So people are redeemable. If you automatically assume they're irredeemable, all you're doing is leaving the potential for them to sow further seeds of prejudice and hatred.

TR: At the Rotary Presidential Peace Conference, you said, "We need to re-explore the definition of peace." Then you quoted your father: "True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice." How do we act on that insight?

KING: Removing the immediate tension and the conflict is one thing, but getting to the root of what created that tension and conflict – and can continue to perpetuate it – is necessary. We need to redistribute power so that it is more equitable. In the work of peace, you don't want people to just stop fighting. You want them to agree to a new covenant of how to live together with equitable circumstances. That means looking at how power is distributed and agreeing to come up with a strategy and a plan that creates equity among groups of people. It is what Daddy talked about: the revolution of values. We've got to reconsider how to embrace a different model of society.

TR: What advice can you give Rotarians?

KING: First, I remind people that it is about focus. You have to identify where your passion lies and stay focused in that area. Daddy didn't set out to change the world; he identified his passions. He was concerned, obviously, about segregation and the way people were treated in his race, and he wanted to see that change. But his calling was ministry, and so he opted to pastor. One thing led to another, and it catapulted him into a leadership role. But he was not seeking to be great; he was seeking to be faithful to the call in his life and the passion that he had. The key word is to focus – to focus in the area of your passion. ■

FROM LEFT: TAMI CHAPPELL/AP; MARK WILSON/GETTY IMAGES

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insider

MONIKA LOZINSKA / ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Inspired to lead

District governors-elect got their first look at the 2018-19 presidential theme, *Be the Inspiration*, at the International Assembly, the annual training event held in San Diego in January. RI President-elect Barry Rassin urged the audience to build a stronger organization by inspiring young people and by spreading the word in their communities about the work Rotary does. "I will ask you to inspire with your words and with your deeds," he said, "doing what we need to do today to build a Rotary that will be stronger tomorrow, stronger when we leave it than it was when we came."

One source of inspiration, Rassin said, has been Rotary's work to eradicate polio. He described the incredible progress made in the past three decades: In 1988, an estimated 350,000 people were paralyzed by the wild poliovirus; in 2017, just 22 cases were reported. "We are at an incredibly exciting time for polio eradication," he said, "a point at which each new case of polio could very well be the last."

He emphasized that even when that last case of polio is recorded, the work won't be finished; Rotarians must continue to dedicate themselves to immunization and to disease surveillance programs. "Polio won't be over until the certifying commission says it's over – when not one poliovirus has been found in a river, in a sewer, or in a paralyzed child, for at least three years," he said. "Until then, we have to keep doing everything we're doing now."

In recent years, Rotary has focused on sustainability in its hu-

FROM THE ARCHIVES OF *THE ROTARIAN*

April 1949 Fly me to the moon? The song wasn't written until 1954, but in 1949, we were already thinking about it. In that issue, *The Rotarian* postulated that the first unmanned rocket might reach the moon within 25 years (in reality, within a decade the United States and the Soviet Union were getting close). While scientists knew how to make a moon shot happen, they were limited by the weight of rocket fuel, the article said. Eventually, alkaline fuel cells enabled manned space travel in the 1960s. The issue also featured a report on the World Bank (then called the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development), which was founded to help rebuild European countries after World War II. The cover photo, by S. Alton Ralph, depicts Mount Chocorua in New Hampshire.

ROTARY AT A GLANCE

As of 30 November

ROTARY	ROTARACT	INTERACT	RCCS
Members:	Members:	Members:	Members:
1,230,399	**249,757**	**512,417**	**223,260**
Clubs:	Clubs:	Clubs:	Corps:
35,784	**10,859**	**22,279**	**9,707**

manitarian work. Now, Rassin said, Rotarians must acknowledge some hard realities about pollution, environmental degradation, and climate change. He noted that 80 percent of his own country, the Bahamas, is within 1 meter of sea level. With sea levels projected to rise as much as 2 meters by 2100, he said, "my country is going to be gone in 50 years, along with most of the islands in the Caribbean, and coastal cities and low-lying areas all over the world."

Rassin urged the leaders to view all of Rotary's service as part of a whole. This means, he said, that the incoming governors must be an inspiration not only to the clubs in their districts, but also to their communities. "We want the good we do to last. We want to make the world a better place. Not just here, not just for us, but everywhere, for everyone, for generations."

After Rassin gave the speech announcing his theme, we caught up with incoming district governors to get their reactions.

Charles Tondeur, Rotary Club of Hazebrouck-Merville, France (District 1520): "I think Rotary needs to be open to new ideas, and this theme encourages us to think about ideas that will inspire our members. Inspiring is about bringing new energy."

Yoko Hattori, Rotary Club of Tokyo Hiroo, Japan (District 2750): "This theme is clear and direct, which is going to be useful and powerful for the leadership in districts. He's asking us to think about how we take care of our Rotary family, but also how we inspire beyond Rotary."

Malcolm Kerr, Rotary Club of Cobram, Australia (District 9790): "I thought the theme was, well, inspiring. I especially like the way he talked about the sea connecting us all. We have to inspire our districts, we have to inspire our clubs, we have to inspire our individual members, and we have to inspire in the world beyond Rotary. It's a pyramid of possibilities."

Jim Cupper, Rotary Club of Kalamazoo, Michigan (District 6360): "What I really liked was Barry Rassin's emphasis on the environment and how we're going

to fit that into the things that Rotary does. *Be the Inspiration* is easy for most of us to work into our message to our districts and our leadership teams. Part of inspiring our clubs will be training them to use the amazing tools that Rotary has."

Linda Murray, Rotary Club of South Everett/Mukilteo, Washington (District 5050): "The theme is so important to Rotary right now, when we all need inspiration. Barry Rassin talked about getting the word out, so I'm going to go post the theme and talk about it on Facebook tonight! His message on membership is so important, urging us to be open to new ideas." – HANK SARTIN

In memoriam

With deep regret, we report the death of **BASIL C. MARHOFER,** Ness City, Kansas, who served RI as vice president in 1988-89, director in 1987-88, and district governor in 1969-70.

In addition, we report the deaths of the following Rotarians who have served RI as district governors:

GYOJI IUCHI, Tokushima, Japan, 1991-92

BAEK-HO KIM, Jeonju Jungang, Korea, 1992-93

RONALD B. KRAGE, Sioux City, Iowa, 1994-95

KAZUSO TSUTSUI, Hiroshima East, Japan, 1994-95

FRED A. FORD, Redlands Sunrise, California, 1997-98

FRANCIS D. PERYEA, Hemet Sunrise, California, 2001-02

DONALD G. MOEN, Yakima, Washington, 2003-04

CARLO MARTINES, Padova-Est, Italy, 2007-08

DANIEL FABBRO, Thionville Porte de France, France, 2011-12

YOUNG-SUN HAN, Shin Jeju, Korea, 2014-15

HARUO WATANABE, Yokosuka, Japan, 2014-15

MARGARET EGAN, Mount Warning AM (Murwillumbah), Australia, 2015-16

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION CHAIR

The new grant model comes up frequently during my visits with Rotarians throughout the world. It is always disappointing to learn that a club or district lacks interest in participating in global grants.

What are the reasons I hear most often? Global grants are too complicated. They take too much work, require too much money. Or the available pool of DDFs (District Designated Funds) may not be large enough to meet the demand.

Yet the numbers tell a story that can be perceived as positive. During 2016-17 – The Rotary Foundation's centennial year – 1,260 global grants were awarded, an 8 percent increase over the previous year. And the figures for the first half of this Rotary year are running ahead of last year.

Your ongoing feedback and suggestions have helped make a difference. Numerous upgrades have been made to the global grant online application process. The time it takes to process global grants has been significantly reduced. In 2016-17, the average was 129 business days from the time a grant application was submitted to the first payment. The average was 107 business days for 2017-18 as of 1 February.

If your club has not participated in a global grant, I urge you to take another look at the resources now available. Start by looking at the newly redesigned Rotary Grant Center at grants.rotary.org. Explore the comprehensive resources linked in the right-hand column.

Our Foundation's outstanding grants staff wants to help, drawing on its expertise and TRF's collective experience. Establish a relationship with the staff contact for your project district. The Rotary Support Center can provide contact information within one business day (rotarysupportcenter@rotary.org).

The Rotary Foundation's Cadre of Technical Advisers is a group of volunteer Rotarians who also provide technical expertise and advice to Rotarians planning and carrying out Rotary projects. If you would like to receive guidance on project planning early in the process, contact cadre@rotary.org.

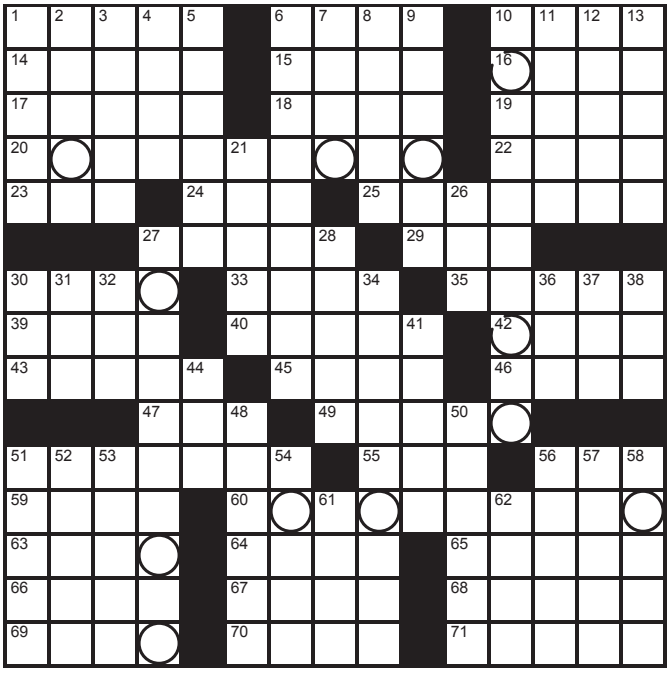
A critical role of the Trustees is to listen. Rotary members have spoken. Together we are a powerful force of volunteers who identify needs and respond with generosity, creativity, and passion. Rotary grants provide us with a unique opportunity to bring ideas to reality and to make a lasting impact, whether locally or globally.

Paul A. Netzel
FOUNDATION TRUSTEE CHAIR

What are your challenges? I want to hear your thoughts. Email me at paul.netzel@rotary.org.

GROWING CONCERN?

BY VICTOR FLEMING, ROTARY CLUB OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS



Across

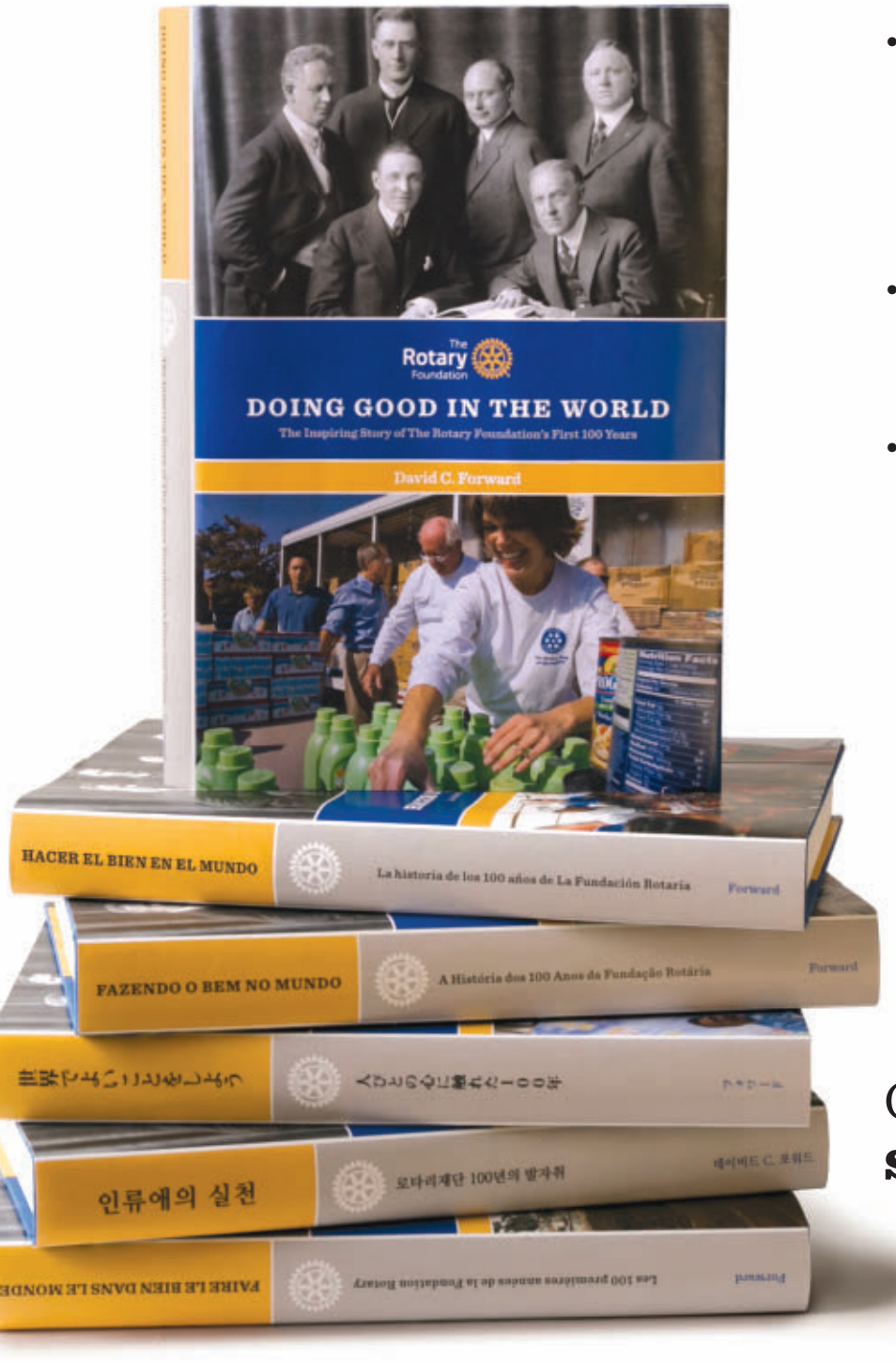
1 With 71-Across, initiate new growth
6 Ruckus
10 Strong predisposition
14 Taylor of *The Nanny*
15 South Pacific spot
16 Word after catch or hang
17 Provoke
18 Adams or Brickell
19 Russian river to the Caspian
20 Impossible to miss
22 *Cleopatra* backdrop
23 Cal. airport code
24 Like MacDonald
25 Lose heat
27 Slight hang-ups
29 Have regrets about
30 Member of the choir
33 Methuselah's grandson
35 Pellet-shooter
39 In ___ of
40 Hills' opposite
42 ___ mater
43 Contingency arrangement
45 Bare-boned
46 Make like
47 "That's obvious!"
49 Desolate
51 Toy auto
55 Golf's Michelle
56 Bag-screening grp.
59 2:00 or 3:00
60 Fowl Disney toon
63 Actress Moreno
64 Tel ___
65 Body type
66 Clapton or Idle
67 Type of pool
68 Skip the big wedding
69 Calendar line
70 Metal containers?
71 See 1-Across

Down

1 Gets ready for the O.R.
2 ___ lamb
3 Artery-checking procedure, briefly
4 Bar sign brightener
5 Like some really big trucks, weightwise
6 Gridiron three-pointer
7 Meat inspection org.
8 Singapore ___
9 Quidditch player who tries to catch the Snitch
10 Recover quickly
11 Visiting Christ the Redeemer, perhaps
12 If-possible connection
13 Like Oxfords
21 Not at all exciting
26 Clunky ship
27 Movie's music
28 Cold-callers' quests
30 Yodeling spot
31 Abner's adjective
32 Afternoon social
34 Scorching stretches
36 Shine, in product names
37 Strike caller
38 Thumbs-down vote
41 Slow-moving one
44 Tampa athlete, for short
48 Tried
50 Water south of Sinai
51 *The Taming of the* ___
52 River in France
53 Navel type
54 Popular dog's name
56 English royal house
57 Land's end?
58 ___-jerk reaction
61 Highest one-digit number
62 Shoulder muscle, for short

Solution on page 20

A little inspiration goes a long way



- **GET INSPIRED**
  Read about 100 years of doing good and take action to be part of the next century.
- **SEND AS A GIFT**
  Encourage your loved ones to get involved.
- **EDUCATE YOUR COMMUNITY**
  Inspire the next generation of humanitarians by donating copies to your local library and schools.

Order today at
shop.rotary.org

Rotary

WWS10

WASH and Health

Join us! 22 June 2018 Toronto, Canada

WASRAG's 10th summit will focus on two tracks. **First** – Helping Rotarians understand the issues in bringing water to health care facilities where medical staff lack clean water for maternity and child wards. **Second** – Learning how Rotarians are taking the lead in fighting and eradicating horrific waterborne diseases such as Guinea worm, schistosomiasis, and Rotary's old enemy, polio. Whether you've done many WASH projects or would like to get started, you'll find information and resources you can use.

Register today for World Water Summit 10 at www.wasrag.org

Rotary | wasrag Water & Sanitation Rotarian Action Group

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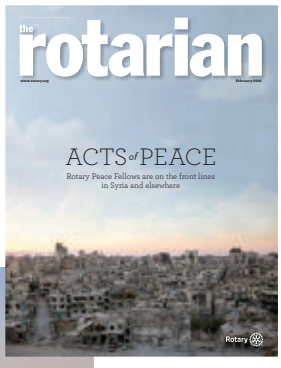
P&G Children's Safe Drinking Water

KOHLER Clarity

EMISSARY SPONSORS

Water Missions International

Aquatabs Flo



The Rotarian takes home honors

Every year, U.S. magazine publishers gather to recognize the best in the business. *The Rotarian* received an Excel Extra! Award from Association Media & Publishing, which recognizes pioneers in association media in the United States. Judges called *The Rotarian* "the most innovative publication this year," with "appealing, crisp, clean, and creative" design and articles that are "informative and relevant to their audience." *The Rotarian* received seven more Excel Awards, 12 editorial and design honors from *Folio* magazine for excellence in nonprofit publishing, and six editorial and design honors in the 2017 Media Industry Newsletter (MIN) awards, sharing the spotlight with *Travel + Leisure*; *O, the Oprah Magazine*; and *Popular Science*.

MIN Editorial & Design Awards

HONORABLE MENTIONS

FEATURE/SECTION DESIGN
"Water Wars"
December 2016

MAGAZINE DESIGN – SINGLE ISSUE
May 2017

PHOTOGRAPHY
"Where Polio Hides"
May 2017

FEATURE ARTICLE
"What It's Like To..."
January 2017

PROFILE OR Q&A
"The Rotarian Conversation: Annie Leonard"
December 2016

SINGLE ISSUE
December 2016

Folio Eddie & Ozzie Awards

WINNERS

FULL ISSUE
February 2017

SERIES OF ARTICLES
"The Rotarian Conversation: Annie Leonard"
December 2016

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Folio Eddie & Ozzie Awards

HONORABLE MENTIONS

SINGLE ARTICLE
"What It's Like To..."
January 2017

COVER DESIGN
November 2016

OVERALL DESIGN
May 2017; June 2017

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April 2017

USE OF ILLUSTRATION
"Rare Birds"
March 2017

"The Man Who Wouldn't Give Up"
November 2016

USE OF PHOTOGRAPHY
"Water Wars"
December 2016

USE OF TYPOGRAPHY
"The Man Who Wouldn't Give Up"
November 2016

Excel Awards

GOLD

DESIGN EXCELLENCE

FEATURE ARTICLE DESIGN
"What It's Like To..."
January 2016

FEATURE ARTICLE
"Water Wars"
December 2016

SILVER

SINGLE TOPIC ISSUE
"Ordinary Rotarians, Extraordinary Tales"
January 2016

BRONZE

COLUMN
"Strange Trips"
May 2016

COVER ILLUSTRATION
August 2016

COVER PHOTOGRAPHY
February 2016

last look

PLANT TO PROTECT

In "Back to Our Roots," starting on page 34, you read about projects that Rotarians have launched in response to Rotary President Ian H.S. Riseley's tree-planting challenge. While most are planting their trees on dry land, Rotarians and Rotaractors in the Bahamas opted to get their feet wet instead. They planted mangroves, which are adapted to living in water where land meets sea – and which will play a key role in stabilizing shorelines in the face of increasingly strong storms brought about by climate change. "When the sea levels go down, you'll see our work," says Adrian White of the Rotary Club of East Nassau, who spearheaded the project. "When sea levels go up, our work will still be there, protecting our country."

The red mangroves have what are known as prop roots or aerial roots that form a tangle that protects the shoreline against storm surges by trapping sediment the waves carry in. "We used to think we needed to get rid of mangroves, and we put in sea walls," says Shelley Cant-Woodside, director of science and policy for the Bahamas National Trust, which is working with Rotarians on this project. "Now we know that's the worst thing you can do."

Rotary President-elect Barry Rassin was on hand for a planting day at Bonefish Pond National Park on the southern coast of New Providence Island in December. The Rotarians are planting more mangroves this month.

Clockwise from top left: Rotarians planted 50 mangrove seedlings on a recent planting day in the Bahamas; the tangle of red mangrove roots builds soil; RI President-elect Barry Rassin (center) joined the planting day; the Caribbean is home to four of 50 mangrove species found worldwide; Rotarians dug a channel so the tidewater can flow to the plants.

PHOTOS: ALYCE HENSON / ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

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Inspiration
AROUND EVERY CORNER

The hotel lobby that changed everything

It took a Rotary International Convention halfway around the world for two Rotaractors from California to meet.

A chance encounter between Mitty, from Silicon Valley, and Jermaine, from Los Angeles, turned into a friendship that launched a business and Big West Rotaract, one of the largest and fastest-growing Rotaract regions in North America. Today, as Rotarians, they hope to develop and inspire the next generation of leaders through education and training.

Find your inspiration at the Rotary Convention in Toronto. Register today at riconvention.org.

Rotary

TORONTO 2018

ROTARY CONVENTION
23-27 JUNE 2018
TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA

One last thing...

Take our reader survey and tell us how we're doing.

Go to on.rotary.org/RotarianSurvey

the rotarian

The survey is being conducted by GfK MRI, an independent research firm. All responses are confidential.