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**“Tell me and I forget, teach me and
I remember, involve me and I learn.”**

—Benjamin Franklin

January has been a memorable month, starting with welcoming the new year and all the promises that it brings. It also brought the excitement of the 537 Incoming District Governors and partners as they traveled to the International Assembly in San Diego. I remember so well my own nervous excitement and anticipation of this training event. I remember the arrival at the Grand Manchester Hyatt hotel with its enormous marble-floored lobby and the throng of my fellow DG-elects from every corner of the world streaming in through the doors.

So many new friendships to make, so many stories to share, workshops filled with new information and questions answered ... and best of all, the memories that remain with you for the rest of your life, of the friendships formed as you learn and have fun together.

I hope that all the DG-elects from our two Zones have returned as Change Makers, ready to grow Rotaract, engage Rotarians and inspire their districts to embrace the visions shared by the plenary speakers. Videos of all these outstanding speeches can be found at Rotary.video.org. I would encourage you to browse through them to learn the latest information on President-elect Barry Rassin's theme, the RI strategic plan and membership updates, the latest on polio and many inspirational presentations from Jennifer Jones, John Hewko, John Blount, Brad Howard, John Smarge, and our own Jeffry Cadorette — to name just a few.

Membership loss in our parts of the world remains an issue (see page 7) and has been a big part of our discussions at the RI Board Meeting over the past week. We will be holding a webinar soon for you all to participate in. At that time, Trustee Julia Phelps, RI Director-elect Jeffry Cadorette and I will update you on the decisions taken in both the Rotary Foundation Trustees meeting and the RI Board of Directors Meeting.

If you have not yet registered for the Toronto Convention and our Zone Beyond Borders Dinner, please do so. This Convention — in our own neighbourhood! — is going to be very worthwhile attending.

I wish you all a sunny and exciting February filled with Rotary.

Be the Inspiration!!

Dean



RI President-elect Barry Rassin laid out his vision for the future at the recent International Assembly, calling on Rotarians to work for a sustainable future and to inspire both club members and the community at large with the work we do.

President-elect Barry, from East Nassau, Bahamas, unveiled the 2018-19 presidential theme, **Be the Inspiration**, to incoming District Governors. "I want you to inspire your clubs, your Rotarians, that desire for something greater. The drive to do more, to be more, to create something that will live beyond each of us."

Barry stressed the power of Rotary's new vision statement, **"Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves."** This describes the Rotary that leaders must help build, he said. To achieve this vision, the President-elect said that Rotarians must take care of the organization: "We are a membership organization first. And if we want to be able to serve, if we want to succeed in our goals — we have to take care of our members first."

Rassin asked the incoming District Governors to "inspire the club presidents, and the Rotarians in your Districts, to want to change. To want to do more. To want to reach their own potential. It's your job to motivate them — and help them find their own way forward."

Change is clearly the hallmark of inspiration. And that change

must be sustainable, the President-elect said. Rotary has focused heavily on sustainability in its humanitarian work in recent years, but now, Rotarians must work to make sustainable changes to the organization as well.

President-elect Barry also asked us to acknowledge hard realities about pollution, environmental degradation, and climate change. He noted that 80 percent of his own country is within a few feet of sea level. "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 Rotary leaders to look at all of Rotary's service as part of a larger global system. He said that this means the incoming District Governors must be an inspiration not only to clubs, 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."

President-elect Barry, who received the Service Above Self award for his disaster relief work in Haiti, described how, in the hours after the 2010 earthquake, the low-lying Bahamas waited for a possible tsunami. That tsunami never came; the Bahamas were untouched. To Barry, that experience taught him that the "them" that need help and the "us" that can provide that help are never far separated.

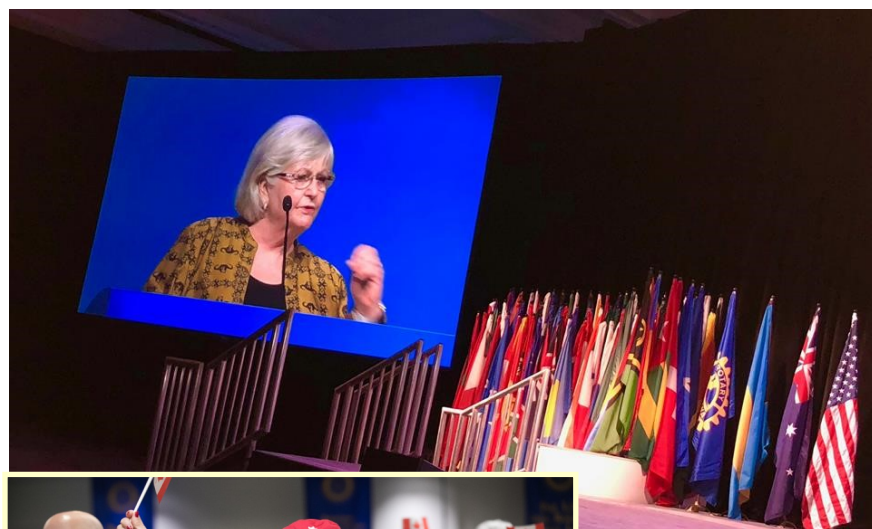
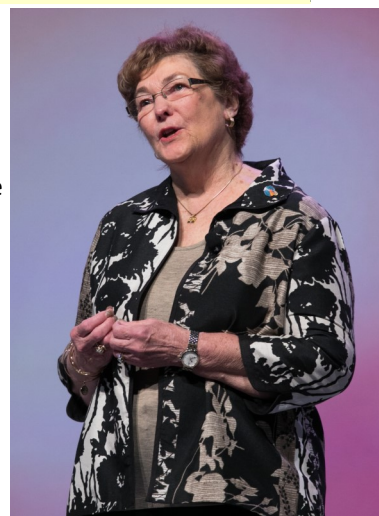
Barry Rassin is clearly the inspiration he asks us all to be.

International Assembly 2018



Monika Lozinska© Rotary International

Clockwise from above: Ken Grabeau carries in the Rotary flag; Ruth Grabeau speaks to the partners; Jeffry Cadorette presents; Mike Colasurdo speaks in plenary; Gayle Knepper introduces the training leaders, Ian Riseley enjoys the moment; Valarie Wafer shows her colors, Dean Rohrs wows the audience; Esther and Barry Rassin greet the crowd.



Inspired Leadership at International Assembly



Behind the Scenes: Facilitate, Facilitate, Facilitate!

By Marty Helman, International Assembly Training Leader

The International Assembly began for me back last May, when I received an email from Evanston asking if I would be a Training Leader. Would I! But in actual fact, prep for the January 2018 Assembly had begun much earlier, in the late summer of 2016, when then-RI President-nominee Sam Owori selected our own Past RI Director Ken Grabeau (D-7870) as 2018 Moderator.

Every year, the President-nominee, his Aide, and the Moderator select a Trainer Leader from each of the Zones to serve as facilitator during the breakout sessions at the IA. That's the concept at least: Because of language requirements, a few additional non-English speaking Trainers are needed. Of the 40 of us asked to serve this year, about one-third were "second years," trainers invited back for a second (and usually final) time.

It's a rarified atmosphere. Each of us fortunate enough to be Training Leaders this year were well aware of both the privilege and the responsibility that Rotary had offered us to train the next generation of Rotary leaders. No pressure.

This year, our own Valarie Wafer (D-7010) and husband Mark returned for a second year and represented Zone 24. Other Rotarian friends were in the mix: I know Rodolfo Bianchi from Guatemala (D-4250) and Stephen Mwanje from Uganda (D-9211) from service activities in those countries. I have worked with Peter Kyle from Washington, D.C. (D-7620) on Rotary Peace Center activities, and I met Brian Hall from Louisiana (D-6840) during a Friendship Exchange back in 2012-13.

We received the curriculum and training leader's guide just after Thanksgiving. We also received an assignment to present two modules during our own training, which took place the week prior to the Assembly itself. We were strongly advised to be familiar and comfortable with *all* the material well before arriving in San Diego. Now you know how I spent my holidays — and why the Helman Christmas cards never got mailed this year.

I flew to San Diego two days early, so that jet lag would be behind me before our training began. This proved to be a wise decision. From the time we registered (which really meant picking up name badge, markers and flip-chart paper) through to the end of the Assembly 10 days later, our days were a blur of prepping, setting up, facilitating, and prepping once again.

Our training was led by Seminar Trainers Jessie Harmon from Australia and our own Gayle Knepper (D-5010). Partner Program Coach was Jessie's husband Andrew Harmon. Every day started with a general session designed to make good facilitators better, and continued with practice sessions during which we were able to use the techniques we were learning, and after which we all received constructive criticism. Every day ended with fellowship in the hospitality suite and (at least for me) a



A bucket-list moment: Training Leaders had the privilege of carrying the flags in the opening session of the 2018 International Assembly.

bedtime that recognized the early start we would be making the next day.

Because Rotary has six official languages, our training was conducted with simultaneous interpretation from Rotary's interpreting staff. Sometimes this required double translation: For example, if Japanese, Spanish and English speakers were all together in a breakout room and someone asked a question, the job required translation from Japanese to English and then from English to Spanish (or vice versa). While the interpreters' capabilities are impressive, this meant that there was a slight delay before the question would be "heard" around the room.

This delay required some getting used to, but was well worth it: This year, for the first time, some of the breakout rooms during the Assembly itself were bilingual. Preliminary results suggest that the Brazilian, Korean and Japanese Governors-elect were very pleased to be able to interact with classmates from beyond their home countries.

Being a Training Leader is one of those Rotary opportunities that has to be experienced to be properly understood. But as I think back over the past few weeks, one parallel comes to mind: What if Rotary were a for-profit organization, and I a middle manager? What then? If not led by volunteers, training of this caliber would easily cost tens of thousands of dollars, and clearly comes with both a commitment and a promise: A commitment that Rotary values me as a member, and a promise that I can help build a renewed and invigorated — and inspired — Rotary.

May it be so.

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Jeffry's Journey

At the Board Table

As I write this February entry for our newsletter, I'm sitting in California and about to begin day two of "back benching" the Board meetings that are occurring here this week. What a fantastic opportunity to be able to observe the RI Board of Directors in action! That same opportunity will occur in April in Evanston. It wasn't all that long ago that Director-elect orientation was not as structured or formal as it is now. The current process positions all of the incoming Directors from around the globe with the best possibility to hit the ground running in July.

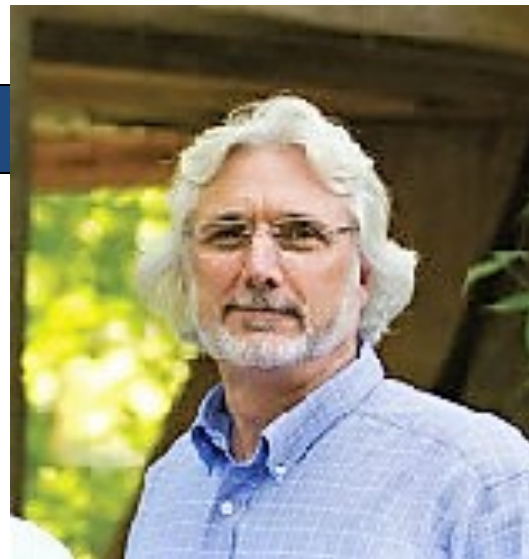
Last week we were also in California for the International Assembly (IA) in San Diego. What a great week! Congratulations to all of the Zone 24/32 District Governors-elect who completed their training at the IA. Our best wishes to each of you as you bring to life President-elect Barry Rassin's theme, **"Be the Inspiration."** I look forward to working with you as you lead your districts in 2018-19. Best wishes as you continue with your preparation for July 1 and bring the training to your club presidents and district teams.

Congratulations to our own Valarie Wafer and Martha Peak Helman for serving as International Training Leaders at the IA. Valerie was in her second year and Marty in her first; they were two of the 40 International Training Leaders who facilitated the discussions and led the training for the Governors-elect from around the globe. Thank you ladies! We're all so proud of you and the contribution you made. Well done.

There is a lot happening in the Rotary world at this time of year. Current Governors are heading toward June 30 and helping President Ian with his theme, **Rotary: Making a Difference**. Incoming Governors are gearing up to help all Rotarians **Be the Inspiration**. No matter though, whether you are a current Governor, incoming Governor, or Past District Governor, each of us has one primary goal, one primary objective. That is to make our clubs stronger; to support our clubs. Stronger, more engaged, current clubs and innovative new clubs are what our Districts need in order to keep our organization relevant for years to come.

To the 2018-19 class of Governors, you will be the CIO in your district. The *Chief Inspiration Officer*. We appreciate you.

Jeffry Cadorette, Zone 24-32 Director-elect
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You don't have to dress Canadian to be here.



Prepping Rotary's Future Leaders

Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI), which just celebrated its Silver Anniversary, is a multi-district, grass-roots leadership and development program designed to strengthen Rotary clubs through education, collaboration and the exchange of ideas among its future leaders. RLI gives its participants the chance to network with Rotarians from clubs from all over — not just their own clubs — and come back refreshed and excited about sharing and implementing new ideas.



RLI is recommended for future club leaders, new members who have completed club orientation and, in fact, all active Rotarians.

The program consists of three separate days of breakout sessions, which should be taken sequentially but can be taken over as short (or long) a period as desired. The program is facilitated by experienced Rotarians who engage participants through discussion, problem solving and creative role-play. There's also a "graduate" course that gives veteran RLI participants a chance to continue to learn more about Rotary and leadership.

Each of the three days of breakouts typically includes modules on leadership development, Rotary knowledge, The Rotary Foundation, service projects, strategic planning, improved communication, team-building, vocational service and public relations.

RLI is usually held on Saturdays throughout the fall and spring months in a school, hotel, or a university setting.

RLI was founded by Past RI Director David Linett. The first course was held in the fall of 1992 in Edison, NJ. Today, over 400 districts worldwide participate in the program.

— Bonnie Sirower, RLI Northeast America Marketing Coordinator

Membership Matters

New Ideas for Next Gen Rotary

By Cecily Smith, RC of Metro NYC

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

—Margaret Mead



A small group of Rotary "citizens" came together at Zone 24/32 Institute in Hartford, CT, last October for Rotary: NOW. Young Rotarians and Rotaractors from coast-to-coast gathered for a weekend of teamwork, fellowship, peace-building, sharing ideas and much more. Organized by Assistant Rotary Coordinator Drew Kessler, our Rotary: NOW team mixed plenary sessions with our own intensive weekend program. The goal was to have a Rotary leadership experience for young professionals and to get new ideas about the future of Rotary.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION: As Rotarians we support peace endeavors worldwide. How do we deal with conflict in our own clubs and community? We had a Peace "World Café" discussion of the Four-Way Test in our everyday life, and how that Rotary ideal can be used in conflict resolution in our clubs and communities.

SERVICE: Break up a day of listening to speakers to "Do Good and Have Fun." Service Above Self was an integral part of the weekend — we made fleece blankets for a local organization, which we later visited for an afternoon of games with the children.

TEACHING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY: Amazing speakers are just a few clicks away. We had inspiring presentations on the future of philanthropy from world-class speakers — all screened from downloaded TED talks with live discussion afterwards.

FORUM: We are stronger together. We gave everyone an opportunity to speak at an open forum on Rotary -- all ideas, criticisms, stories were welcome. We want to hear from thoughtful presenters; we also want people to feel their voice matters too.

But the absolute favorite part of the weekend was ... time! President Ian Riseley, Vice President Dean Rohrs, and General Secretary John Hewko generously spent time with our group. Taking questions from the team, sharing their "Rotary stories," and listening to our feedback was inspiring, informative and so appreciated.

What next? The team determined four project ideas on which to collaborate and submitted them to the RI Strategic Planning Committee for review.

- ◆ **Toolkit for Young Professionals Summit:** Template and resources to plan a one-day leadership retreat plus fresh ideas for District events.
- ◆ **Club Culture:** A ten-step action plan and calendar to develop a dynamic club where all members feel valued and engaged their Rotary experience.
- ◆ **Sharing Our Stories:** A virtual exchange program for teens to build tolerance, cultural awareness, and conflict resolution skills.
- ◆ **People of Action Campaign:** A step-by-step social media and PR plan synchronized throughout Rotary to build brand awareness.

Interesting in learning more? Details here: tinyurl.com/rotarynow-ypinclusion; tinyurl.com/rotarynow-yppeacecafe; tinyurl.com/rotarynow-ypdoogoodhavefun

Membership Matters

Downward Membership Slide Continues Across Both Zones

District	Prior Year 2016-17			Current Year 2017-18 Activity to Date				
	July 1, 2016		Jun 30, 2017	July 1, 2017		December 31, 2017		
	# clubs	# members	Net Change	# clubs	# members	# clubs	# members	Net Change
			# members					# members
57	26	415	-41	24	374	24	356	-18
5010	39	1722	9	40	1731	40	1726	-5
5040	48	1413	29	49	1442	49	1462	20
5050	57	2575	-64	57	2511	57	2528	17
5060	60	2693	-56	58	2637	58	2650	13
5360	47	1889	-44	47	1845	47	1788	-57
5370	58	2187	-57	57	2130	57	2087	-43
5550	46	1413	-27	46	1386	47	1421	35
6330	59	1784	-72	57	1712	57	1687	-25
7010	42	1557	-47	42	1510	41	1500	-10
7040	69	1860	-46	69	1814	67	1820	6
7070	54	1979	24	56	2003	55	1999	-4
7080	49	1642	-28	49	1614	49	1599	-15
7090	68	2212	-88	67	2124	68	2177	53
7790	52	1733	-58	50	1675	50	1675	0
7810	39	1130	-14	40	1116	40	1108	-8
7820	47	1572	-51	47	1521	47	1555	34
Total 24	860	29,776	-631	855	29,145	853	29,138	-7
7210	59	1635	-31	57	1604	57	1629	25
7230	43	1235	-23	44	1212	44	1227	15
7255	75	1845	-103	73	1742	73	1770	28
7390	45	2319	-5	43	2314	43	2292	-22
7410	43	1142	-48	43	1094	43	1089	-5
7430	43	1739	38	45	1777	45	1760	-17
7450	51	1457	-47	50	1410	50	1381	-29
7470	50	1152	-28	48	1124	48	1095	-29
7490	50	1221	-14	50	1207	50	1189	-18
7500	37	1149	8	37	1157	37	1161	4
7510	39	1033	-33	39	1000	39	1002	2
7640	46	1109	-62	44	1047	45	1070	23
7780	40	1632	-15	40	1617	40	1619	2
7850	42	1458	-42	42	1416	42	1427	11
7870	60	2101	-17	60	2084	60	2078	-6
7890	59	2097	-52	59	2045	59	1996	-49
7910	51	1455	-68	51	1387	51	1369	-18
7930	47	1865	-91	47	1774	47	1776	2
7950	66	2225	-76	65	2149	65	2135	-14
7980	60	2167	-57	58	2110	58	2078	-32
Total 32	1006	32,036	-766	995	31,270	996	31,143	-127

Foundation Facts

Building Economic Development Through Microfinance

By Judy Cochran and Steve Rickard, Calgary West RC, District 5360

This Rotary project started six years ago in District 5360 with a vision to transform the recipients' lives by freeing them from endless cycles of poverty.

But how to do it? Through small affordable business loans which lend a hand up and not a hand out, the visionaries wanted to make a difference in Honduras, the third poorest country in Latin America where an unacceptable 65 percent of the people live below the poverty line. The originators designed a multi-year, multi-partner and multi-phase project. The goal was to raise US\$1 million over 10 years. Fast forward to 2018. Rotarians from Honduras (D-4250),

much needed expertise and experience to increase the scope and impact of the project — thus guaranteeing our success.

Commitment of all partners. OIC boosted fundraising with an additional donation of US\$500,000. IDH, which has 40 years of experience in providing holistic microfinance in Honduras, is providing training in financial literacy and small business management.

Microcredit borrowers typically fall below the sights of traditional banking. The unsavory alternative is loan sharks with their unrealistic interest rates and ruthless collection policies.



Alberta (D-5360), Ontario (Districts 7070 and 7080), and Washington state (D-5020) have successfully implemented the first four phases of the project, and more is underway.

Matching donations is the key. Thanks to generous donations from Rotarians, their clubs plus Provincial (Alberta) and Federal (Canada) matching grants, plus the leveraging system of Rotary Global Grants, we were able to generate US\$1.4 million and impact over 4,500 lives in Honduras through microfinance and sustainable water projects. The leveraging ratio has been as high as 8:1 — truly remarkable! We have surpassed our goal and look to match that amount in the near future!

The team is the backbone of the program. After a thorough vetting process, D-5360 Rotarians chose Opportunity International Canada (OIC) as the Canadian contact alongside Institute of Development in Honduras (IDH), their partner in the field. Working together, the team leveraged resources, tapped into



What a difference a loan makes. The life-changing impact of small loans is widespread. Statistically, over 60 percent of the loans go to women who create small businesses. Collectively, the repayment rate is over 97 percent.

Impacts through expansion. We have created a microfinance branch in Santa Cruz and Santa Barbara as well as providing loan funds. In addition, villagers in Las Camalias and Quebrada Chiquita now have sustainable fresh water supplies in their villages — which has vastly improved health, food supply and yes, even their education! It turns out the government built a school for the community only after a fresh water system was installed.

Our target in the summer of 2018 is to launch the next phase of the program, to create a round of loans to another new IDH microfinance branch, this time in Puerto Cortes. A water project will also be conducted, taking advantage of a separate Global Grant. The impact of our partnerships and the leveraging of The Rotary Foundation grant process remind us of how much can be done when we work together.

With our help, what will Honduras look like in the coming years?

Hearing-Impaired Dance Troupe Joins Eradication Effort

By Brian Finley, District 5040 Polio Plus Coordinator

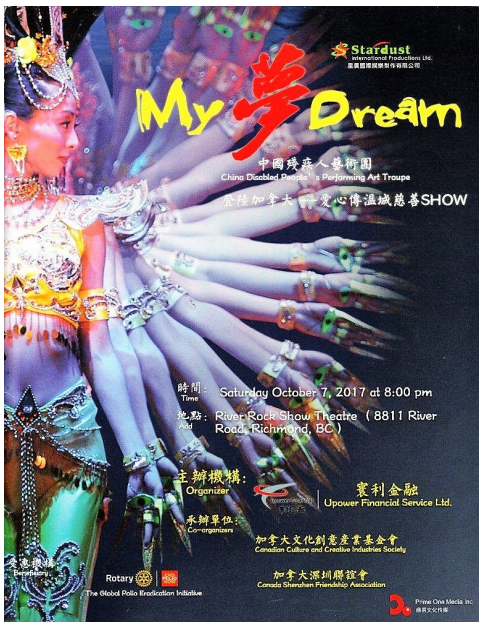
Last October 7, the 1000-seat River Rock Show Theatre in Richmond, BC, was sold out for a performance of "My Dream - Love to Vancouver" with the sights and sounds of the China Disabled People's Performing Art Troupe.

The Rotary clubs of Richmond and Richmond Sunset were sponsors of the performance and received a donation of C\$10,000 to Rotary's campaign to End Polio Now.

The project began at a casual get-together when the club presi-

musicians, who are blind, accompanied the dancers and also played solo and group pieces featuring Chinese and Western instruments.

Highlights of the show included the "Thousand-Hand Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva Dance" performed by 21 dancers where it appears that one dancer has 42 arms and hands. A video of that remarkable performance can be viewed on You Tube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=uUI0JR0QeG4.



dent of Richmond Sunset, Eric Wang, overheard the organizing group discussing potential beneficiaries. He asked, "why not Rotary?" Eric made a preliminary introduction of our organization as well as the End Polio Now project. Because 53 percent of Richmond's population identifies as Chinese ethnicity, this was seen to be an ideal opportunity to raise awareness of Rotary and polio eradication in the Chinese community.

On the evening of the event, as arrivals filled the theatre, a huge screen displayed the Rotary logo and the "we are this close" image. During the introduction, James Hsieh, President of the Richmond RC, gave an overview of Rotary and the campaign to eradicate polio from the world.

The audience was mesmerised by the show, performed by the amazing China Disabled People's Performing Art Troupe. The dancers are all deaf or hearing impaired — instructors signal the rhythm of the music from four corners of the stage. With repetition and diligent practice, the performance is flawless. This makes their choreography a truly amazing achievement. The

James Hsieh pointed out that the only Rotary clubs in China are for the ex-pat community. "Rotary is quite foreign to most immigrants from China. ... Because of this event, many have now been exposed to Rotary and totally impressed by Rotary's polio eradication efforts. They are now enthusiastically donating to polio and are making inquiries about Rotary membership."

At the conclusion of the show, all the artists and support staff assembled on stage with Rotary representatives who received the cheque for C\$10,000 to End Polio Now.



New York City Clubs Aid Recovery in Texas, Florida, and Haiti

By PDG Janet diBenedetto, District 7230

When Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas, James Kushner and Justin Shea of the Inwood Rotary Club and Comprehensive Disaster Response Services in New York City teamed with Larry Cohen of the New York Club. With support from PDG Helen Reisler, the three relief workers secured a generous \$25,000 grant from the New York Club to support disaster relief.

Justin headed to hard-hit Alvin, TX, while Jim and Larry stayed behind in New York to provide logistics support. For several weeks, Justin worked alongside Pastor Steve Vaughn, mucking-out mud and debris from water-soaked homes, providing food, water and living essentials to storm-struck people in a Cambodian immigrant community. Justin also secured a \$20,000 grant from Global Giving to help in the work.

Then, disaster hit again. Twice. Justin headed to the Florida Keys to address the devastation of Hurricane Irma. While there, Hurricane Maria slammed into Puerto Rico. That's when the real work began for the District 7230 Rotarians.

Jim raised another \$4,000 from friends and by selling Inwood tee-shirts at a local farmers' market. Larry connected with Danielle Butin at Afya Foundation in Yonkers and requested a donation of essential medical supplies. Jim connected with DG Jose Lucas Rodriguez of Puerto Rico's District 7000. Together, they assessed the needs of the Island and laid out plans for providing clean water, solar-powered lanterns, and medical supplies.

Larry researched water filter suppliers and contacted Sawyer Products about their filter kits, which can clean more than 1000 liters of water per day. Sawyer Products provided these filters to the Rotarians at cost. This enabled the Rotary Club of New York to place an initial order for 800 kits. These water filters provide communities with a sustainable source of clean water independent of the availability of boiled water, which is costly and requires disposal of plastic waste.



After testing a number of solar-powered lanterns, Larry contacted LuminAID about their inflatable lanterns which provide a sustainable source of light. We are also testing their latest innovative product, which is twice as bright and can charge a mobile phone with solar power. Our goal is to launch a joint marketing campaign with LuminAID to ask donors to sponsor a "gift of light" to families in Puerto Rico. An initial purchase of 200 lanterns was funded by the Rotary Club of New York and a second shipment of 150 was funded by the Rotary Club of the Bronx. Interestingly, LuminAID received funding on the TV show, Shark Tank, by investor and entrepreneur Mark Cuban.

Justin spent his first two weeks in Puerto Rico familiarizing himself with the needs in local communities, and getting to know the

lay of the land. When all supplies were received, Jim took them to Puerto Rico and joined Justin.

By this time, Jim had partnered with Yolanda Mercado, a licensed nurse, who had received medical supplies donated by Afya Foundation. Jim and Justin then traveled the island, connecting with local municipalities and aid groups including Rubicon, a volunteer organization comprised primarily of military veterans. In San German, Jim and Justin partnered with Ayud Pa La Montana, a group of young volunteers who were working to bring supplies into isolated mountain hamlets. The two New York Rotarians met with Governor Jose Luca and the Rotary Club of San German and supplied the club with water filters and solar-powered lights.

Jim and Justin next traveled into the mountainous districts of Lares, Maricao and Adjuntas, where they distributed water filters and solar lanterns. They installed filters in schools and senior centers in the San German area. After returning home, Jim, Justin and Larry continued shipping supplies to Rotary Clubs in Mayaguez and San German. Local Rotarians are distributing the water filters kits and solar lanterns to isolated communities.

News Flash!

As we go to press, we learn that TRF has determined that Puerto Rico is an "international" destination for purposes of Global Grant partnerships. In other words, a U.S. or Canadian club can partner with a Puerto Rico club for a Global Grant.

The work has just begun. We have already raised an additional \$5000 from District 7230 clubs, and we are asking all Rotarians, regardless of District affiliation, to support the partnership with District 7000 in Puerto Rico. In addition to supplying solar lights and water filters, we would like to form a joint rebuilding and construction project. Volunteers will be needed, as will donations to aid in the funding. This is a chance for a hands-on Rotary experience, one that will enrich and stay with us all of our days.

Calendar of Events

February-March, 2018 — PETS planning season. (Note: Full schedule published in October newsletter, p. 14.)

February 9-11, 2018 — Presidential Peacebuilding Conference on Environmental Sustainability, Vancouver, BC. <https://environmentandpeace.com/>

February 17, 2018 — Presidential Peacebuilding Conference on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Beirut, Lebanon. <http://rotaryd2452.org/waterconf/>

Saturday, February 24 — Presidential Peacebuilding Conference on Disease Prevention and Treatment, Coventry, England. www.rotarygbi.org/peacebuilding-conference-2018/

Saturday, March 17 — Presidential Peacebuilding Conference on Economic and Community Development, Sydney. <http://rippc2018.com.au/>

Saturday, April 28 — Presidential Peacebuilding Conference on Maternal and Child Health, Taranto, Italy. www.rotaryitalia.it/presidentialconference/

Saturday, June 2 — Presidential Peacebuilding Conference on Basic Education and Literacy, Chicago, IL. www.rotaryliteracy.org/

June 22-23 — Preconvention Rotary Peacebuilding Summit, Toronto. FMI: <http://www.riconvention.org/en/toronto/rotary-peacebuilding-summit>

June 22-23 — Preconvention Rotaract 50th Anniversary Event, Toronto. FMI: <http://www.riconvention.org/en/toronto/rotaract-preconvention>

June 23-27 — RI Convention, Toronto. www.riconvention.org.

Sunday, June 24 — Beyond Borders Dinner, Hockey Hall of Fame, <http://tinyurl.com/beyondborders2018>

September 20-22, 2018 — Zone Conference 2018, Montreal.

June 1-5, 2019 — RI Convention, Hamburg, Germany.

Sept. 19-21, 2019 — Zone 24-32 Conference, place TBA. **SAVE THE DATE!**

International Convention

Rotaract is Celebrating its 50th Birthday!

This is a BIG cause to CELEBRATE! And we will be doing just that at the **Preconvention 50th Anniversary Event** on Friday and Saturday, June 22-23. Rotaractors from all over the world will be in Toronto to celebrate and share ideas for the next 50 years.

Encourage Rotaractors in your District to come to Toronto and participate!

Ask YOUR club to subsidize one or more Rotaractors by paying the \$100 registration fee And perhaps the Convention fee or other convention expenses as well.

Your District will benefit from the involvement of these enthusiastic young people!

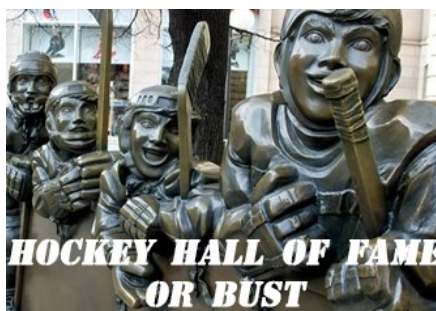


Rotaract Preconvention
Join Friends
TORONTO *Exchange Ideas*
2018 *Take Action*
Celebrate 50 years of Rotaract
Friday/Saturday June 22/23

Fellowship & Fun at Beyond Borders Dinner

The Beyond Borders dinner for Rotarians in Zones 24 and 32 will be held this year at Toronto's Hockey Hall of Fame on Sunday, June 24. All are invited! Beyond Borders is THE social gathering for Rotarians across our two zones and is a great opportunity to catch up with friends and make new ones!

Because the Convention is on home territory, we are guessing that your clubs will be sending Rotarians who haven't participated before. Make sure they receive this invitation and that they register before the event is sold out!



Which way to the
Beyond Borders Dinner, eh?
It sold out again last year.
It's gonna sell out this year.
Register now!
<http://tinyurl.com/beyondborders2018>

Hotel Options Tighten in Toronto

Rumor has it that only 500 hotel rooms remain available via Expedia, the Rotary vendor. Don't despair (and don't end up in the boondocks, either)! Give AirBNB a try! Once you get to the site, type in "Toronto," and you will find pages of condos, rooms and more to choose from, all at rates starting at less than \$50 a night.



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Zone Conference

It's All New, and Just for YOU!

(Plus all of your
friends)

Save the dates!

September 18-22,
2018, for the
Montreal Zones
24&32 Conference.
Conference? Yes!



This year's theme: "People Coming Together," is perfect for our idea that ALL Rotarians can be engaged and inspired with a vibrant event, and EVERYONE is welcome. No matter what your role is in Rotary, you are invited to join us in Montreal. The 2018 Montreal conference boasts a stimulating schedule containing interactive sessions, exhibits from vendors along with hands on opportunities to experience Rotary and Montreal, plus exciting networking and service opportunities. We'll even throw in some morning athletics. ... Check it out here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTNcLLjbnQ4&t=99s>

You can expect the unexpected in Montreal.

From an all-new type of learning opportunity, to expanded social events, and even service projects ... there's something for everyone. If you're a District Governor "type", then you'll join us beginning Tuesday. And for everyone else? Thursday's your day to start the fun. And, we are proud to announce that we've created an exciting program for Young Professionals too! So, join us in Montreal. Head on over to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/RotaryMontreal2018/>. You'll find all sorts of information, PLUS a new additional group to join if you are looking to share your room/housing with a fellow Rotarian.

And, we couldn't have an extraordinary event without world-class speakers.

From inspirational speaker Dr. Rick Rigsby, Alan Mallory, Paul Chappelle and more, you won't want to miss a moment of the action. Check out a sneak peek of Dr. Rick here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bg_Q7KYWG1g

Register today! Don't forget to check out the interactive new app that allows you to create and follow your own schedule on your phone, plus tell your friends which events you're attending! <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/50077/sitepage/2018-montreal-conference>

It's all new, it's all different, and we'll see you in Montreal!

— Michelle O'Brien,

General Chair, Zone 24&32 Conference Montreal