



A journal of the triumphs and despairs of the philosophies and failings of the future and the past of Rotary District 7780 in the years two thousand and two thousand and one



THE ORACLE



July, 2000

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THE ORACLE is a monthly publication of Rotary International District 7780 for the Rotary year 2000-2001. Its editorial purpose is to reinspire Rotarians to the spirit of philosophical idealism and inquiry into service as the key to success and happiness in life, that were strongly evident in the founding years of Rotary at the start of the last century. Articles contributing to these themes are welcome and need to be received by the 15th of the month prior to the month of publication. Call (603) 679-5443 or write The Oracle, 234 North Road, Fremont, NH 03044

A PARABLE ON TRUST

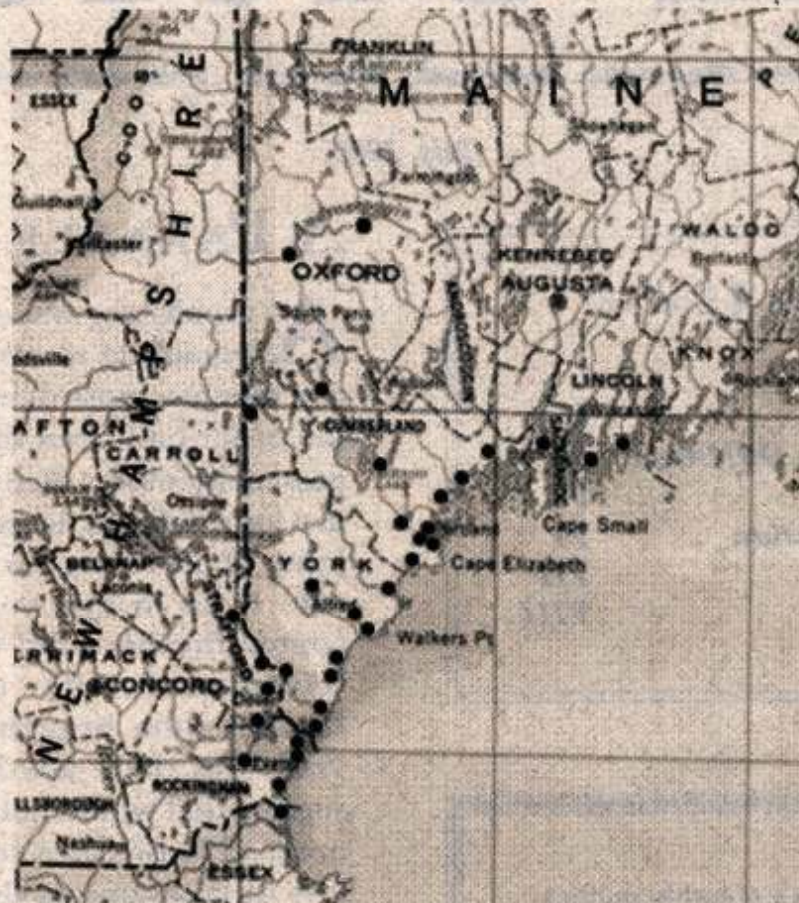
A monastery was slowly dying. The five remaining monks, all in their eighties and nineties, were deeply discouraged. Once the order had been thriving but as decades passed, members died and no one had joined in a long time. In despair, the Abbot, Brother John, went to see his old friend the Rabbi who lived in the woods. The Rabbi welcomed Brother John warmly and gave him refreshment. After talking of old times, Brother John brought up the point of his visit. Was there anything the Rabbi could suggest that would help the monks save their order? The two men commiserated about the loss of faith among the youth and how sad modern times were. No, said the Rabbi, there is nothing you can do. The men cried and embraced and as Brother John took his leave, the Rabbi said, "Oh, there is one thing you should know. One of you is the Messiah".

On his return to the monastery, John told his fellows of his visit, and the sad news that the Rabbi could offer no help. He also mentioned the Rabbi's curious parting message. At first, no reaction, but as they came to contemplate the possibility, they began to wonder, "What if one of us truly is the Messiah?" Well, surely it would have to be

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MAP OF DISTRICT 7780



MAINE

Bath
Bath Sunrise
Bethel
Biddeford-Saco
Boothbay Harbor
Bridgton-Lake Region
Brunswick
Brunswick Coastal
Casco Bay-Sunrise
Damaiscotta-Newcastle
Freeport
Fryeburg Area
Kennebunk
Kennebunk Portside
Kittery

Ogunquit
Oxford Hills
Portland
Rumford
Saco Bay
Sanford-Springvale
Scarborough
South Berwick
South Portland-Cape Elizabeth
Wells
Westbrook-Gorham
Windham
Yarmouth
York

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Dover
Durham Great Bay
Exeter
Hampton
Portsmouth
Rochester
Seabrook-Hampton Falls
Somersworth

MASSACHUSETTS

Newburyport

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TWENTY WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

by Marie Williams

RI President Frank Devlyn has established 20 Task Forces for the year 2000-2001 to help us focus on the problems surrounding Rotary and the World. RI President Frank writes, "We are faced with enormous challenges in this new century and millenium: conflicts and violence, poverty and disease, hunger and homelessness, population pressures, degradation of the land and water, illiteracy, avoidable blindness and disability, and abuse and neglect of children.

"Through Rotary, we possess tremendous opportunities to redress these problems, to spread hope, to build a foundation for a better world. The programs of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation of RI offer effective ways to help clubs and districts to achieve our goals. But first, we must build our own membership base.

"I ask every Rotarian to Create Awareness of those challenges and Take Action to address them. If we do so, we can make a difference in the lives of others."

These are not new problems or problems that we aren't already aware of but what have we done as individuals or clubs to help alleviate them to improve our communities locally and worldwide? I have listed below the Task Forces, their mission statements, and the name of one of the coordinators

from our Zone and their e-mail address. They will be your resource in obtaining more information or assisting you and your club with that particular Task Force.

AVOIDABLE BLINDNESS – Create a world wide awareness of the magnitude of blindness and to encourage districts and clubs to take action by supporting 1,000 new programs to prevent blindness or restore sight.

Leon Horwitz
pandlhorwitz@msn.com

CHILDREN AT RISK – Initiate 2,500 New projects to meet the needs of Children at Risk in your community and worldwide. Buffy Sutherland, PDG MKBuffy@aol.com

Crime Reduction & Violence Prevention – Promote at lest 500 new club sponsored projects to address the problems of community crime, violence, gangs, personal safety, family abuse, unemployment and other community concerns.

Jonathan Bursaw
jonna@mdc.net

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS – Increase International Understanding through contacts with ambassadors, consuls general, consuls, honorary consuls, and other diplomats seeking a two way involvement.

Daniel Vachon
abacss@aol.com

ENVIRONMENTAL – Create 500 New club service projects undertaken by Rotary clubs that focus on the preservation of natural resources and promote awareness of environmental issues.

Harry Blaeser
h.blaeser@worldnet.att.net

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☛ from 20 Ways page III

JOBS FOR DISABLED PERSONS – To initiate new activities in at least 1000 clubs to eliminate barriers to employment for qualified disabled person. To work with local employers, vocational training organizations, governmental and other support groups and by working together to lead to the possible creation of 500,000 job opportunities for disabled persons by the year 2002.

Christopher Fraser
crfraser@nh.ultranet.com

LITERACY – To establish effective literacy projects among the quarter of the World's population which is illiterate and where the level of literacy is substantially low.

Nicholas Troisi
nicholas.troisi@plattsburg.edu

MATCHED CLUBS – Encourage at least 2000 of Rotary Clubs to form a matched partnership with a club in another country to promote international friendship.

Williams Adams
billadams@cheerful.com

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT – As the needs of our communities and of our world grow, so must the membership of Rotary clubs grow to address these needs and fulfill our motto "Service above Self".

Michael McGovern
cetm@maine.rr.com

MEMBERSHIP RETENTION – Retain 90% of all new members for a minimum of five years (except for death and movement from the area).

Marie Williams
mawilliams@cybertours.com

NEW GENERATIONS – Sponsor 500 new Interact and 500 new Rotaract Clubs and insure that 100 new Districts participate in RYLA, Youth Exchange and other Rotary sponsored youth and young adult programs. Promote the introduction of new Generation Rotary Clubs.

Caroline Pierce
WADCAR2204@aol.com

PARTNERING WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS – Identify other Agencies and Organizations with whom Clubs and Districts can cooperate in Humanitarian or educational projects and complete at least 200 New projects.

Arnold Blethen blethenassoc.@landmarknet.com

POPULATION & DEVELOPMENT – Increase awareness of critical issues related to world over-population and depletion of limited natural resources and implement relevant projects.

Abe Gordon
Gordon Al@compuserve.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS & ROTARY'S IMAGE – Develop in each District at least 5 major activities to enable the public to know what Rotary is and what Rotary does in the Community and the World.

Kenneth Grabeau
grabeau@aol.com

RAPID DISASTER RELIEF – Develop a proactive plan for rapid disaster relief efforts in disasters to be implemented in every District.

Eugene Hastings
wlvrk@shore.net

ROTARY COMMUNITY CORPS – Encourage at

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TRUST RESTORED

by Elias Thomas

Nearly two years ago, I was a part of a team traveling to Romania, for the purpose of project assessment and working closely with members of two Rotary Clubs there - one in Ramnicu Valcea and the other in Alba Iulia. The outpouring of friendship and hospitality was nearly overwhelming, but there was another feeling, which seemed to surface at times, but hid just beneath the veneer. This "feeling" was not verbalized, at first. However, after being in Romania for several days, our hosts and we exhibited a certain candor and forthrightness.

One day, when we were visiting a prefect of one of the counties, we were asked, "What took you so long?" and "Where have you been?" Never having traveled to this country before, I did not understand the questions. These same questions were modified somewhat and asked on several different occasions, until finally one evening, following dinner, I was sitting at a table with four Rotarians from Romania and a Youth Exchange Student from Pennsylvania, who acted as my interpreter.

All of us had enjoyed a wonderful dinner of fresh game and, of course, the national drink - *suica*. It is a homemade plum brandy that is often served hot with sugar and peppercorns added for enhanced flavor. One of the Rotarians repeated the same questions, "Where have you been?" and "What has taken you so long?" When I asked for clarification, it was explained to me that some

fifty-five years ago, the American soldiers who were fighting in Romania had made a promise of returning and a further oath to defend the people of Romania against the threat and the horror of communism. The Americans never returned!

This explanation took me by surprise. In retrospect, I know I should not have denied any wrongdoing or responsibility, because I was not even alive at the time in question. However, I tried my best to have these new friends understand that there was a new language being spoken and a new meaning to the promises of our return. This language was the language of Rotary International. At that meeting around the table, as Rotarians, we all pledged our friendship and a most remarkable thing happened - trust was restored. Although we spoke different languages, we had a common, binding language - that of Rotary International.

Today, partly because of a new understanding of peace and love, Rotary International is able to include Romania in the newest District in the Rotary world. Furthermore, members of our group have returned and have brought with them needed medical supplies, furniture for orphans, and have brought funds for the purchase of water heaters for orphanages.

Why should it take over fifty years to restore TRUST? If each of us looks to a colleague or a family member or a total stranger and says, "I trust you", how do you think the complexion of the world would change?

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from 20 Ways, page IV

least 300 Rotary clubs in both developed and developing countries to sponsor New Rotary Community Corps (RCC's), in addition to revitalizing existing ones.

Robert Golosov
engco@juno.com

ROTARY RECREATIONAL & VOCATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS – Expand awareness of Rotary's Recreational and Vocational Fellowships and encourage greater Rotarian participation.

Harley Jordan
hjordan@drbs.com

TECHNOLOGY – Strengthen Rotary's ability to serve communities and the world by improving communications and training through the use of available technology.

Robert MacDonald
rmacwoc@yahoo.com

UNITED NATIONS – Increase awareness of and cooperation with the United Nations and affiliated agencies and Rotary Clubs in achieving common objectives.

Frank Collins, Jr.
frankceil@aol.com

WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICE RESOURCE – Encourage involvement of all clubs in World Community Service and create an awareness of the resources available to facilitate active participation therein.

Ronald Cowan
rotaryron@aol.com

If you go to www.frankdevlyn.org/taskforces/, you can access all of these sites. They are very informative and a lot of time and energy has been put into each and ev-

ery one of them. You can have discussions regarding any of these Task Forces by just getting on the Internet!

Each Task Force is important in itself however you will find Membership Development and Membership Retention are a major focus for this Rotary year as RI President Frank stated above. Members are Rotary's lifeline, its greatest asset! Without new members and retention of the ones we currently have, we will go the way of other service organizations! Don't let this happen.

If we don't get the word out and let people know these Task Forces exist, we won't accomplish anything. So please talk about these Task Forces, pass the word to your club members about the website by publishing it in your club bulletin, talk about it during club assemblies and board meetings. Keep them in front of your club and its members. We should be able to hit everyone's "Hot Button" of interest with these Task Forces!

CREATE AWARENESS AND TAKE ACTION

THE PHANTOM ROTARIAN

Coming soon to a Club near you – the Phantom Rotarian! Yes, District 7780 has a Club Critic. Modeled after Boston's Phantom Gourmet, the Phantom Rotarian will critique the club customs, worry over the welcome, be finicky about the food, analyze the assemblage, observe the officers, rank the reception, and pontificate about the program, all in a new column to appear in the Oracle. Join the Phantom on a monthly quest for the most magnificent meeting.

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THE GIFT OF TRUST

by Peter Johnson

As I appear on these pages for the first time as a regular contributor, I can't help but wonder just how it came to be that I'm here at all. After all, my response to close friend and long-standing business partner, Peter Goffin (2000-01 President, Portland Club) when he suggested I join Casco Bay Sunrise Rotary was something like "You ARE kidding, aren't you? Why would I want to sing songs at breakfast with old men wearing lots of lapel pins?" "Trust me," he said. I did. And I've been trusting Rotary ever since.

Trust in the sense that when Casco Bay's incoming president for 1994-5 had to step away from Rotary, I could trust the other Club members as I stepped into those shoes at the last minute.

Trust in the sense that when we set out to start a new Club in Yarmouth, finding 25 other like-minded people would be possible.

Trust in the sense that when travelling, now twice, in Poland, I could trust Rotarians I have never met.

Now, it has become a simple matter of trusting that, whatever opportunities Rotary happens to create, those opportunities happen for a reason, and to trust the outcome. I'll be in these pages for the next twenty-three months. You can expect a continuing message about trusting the past, trusting the positive results that come from thoughtful change, and above all, recognizing that maintaining vibrancy within each Club is how we keep our Clubs current, and engaged.

from *Parable*, page 1

Brother John, who is the Abbot, but he is so depressed much of the time. What if it is Brother Richard? No it couldn't be, he is too critical and grumpy. But then again, he is very clever and can solve many problems. It could not be Brother Horace, who is frequently disheveled. On the other hand, he is the most mystical among us, so perhaps it is he, after all. It cannot be Brother Rinaldo, who always seems to want something in return for his gifts and favors. But then again, he does give. What about Brother Anselmo, who is so insistent about planting the beans in straight lines?

As they thought of these matters, the five monks gradually came to treat each other with increasing respect, on the chance that one of them truly was the Messiah. Now, occasionally, visitors would come near the Monastery grounds to frolic. As months passed, these visitors began to notice changes at the Monastery, small things such as the bearing of the monks, the appearance of the grounds. They relayed to their friends that this was a pleasant area. Over time more visitors came, and some of them fell into conversation with the monks. They couldn't help noticing the respect that the monks paid to each other, and found it inspiring. Then one day, one of the younger men from the town inquired about joining the order, and soon after that another, until before long the Monastery was once again thriving.

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Friends Forever is a district-wide program that brings young people from troubled, divided cultures to this country to learn trust



Here Protestant and Catholic teens from Northern Ireland learn to trust each other with their lives on a ropes course in New Hampshire last fall



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