



# 7150 NEWS

**ROTARY DISTRICT 7150  
AUGUST 2021 NEWSLETTER**

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 7150 | DISTRICT GOVERNOR DANA JERRARD**

## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**


---



**SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES**

GREETINGS FROM DG DANA JERRARD .....	2
ON A ROLL WITH ANOTHER PALLET .....	3
MEET OUR NEW ROTARY PRESIDENT (CALCUTTA-MAHANAGAR) .....	4
CLUB #42 CONTINUES PHILATHROPY THROUGH ITS FOUNDATION... ..	5
UDDERLY AWESOME ROTARIANS MOOOVING MILK IN AUBURN .....	6
TULLY ROTARY EMBARKS ON T.R.E.E.S. PROJECTS .....	7
FULTON SUNRISE KICKS OFF 21-22 .....	7
WHAT TYPES OF MEMBERSHIPS ARE YOU OFFERING? .....	8
ROTARY CLUB OF THE KUYAHOORA VALLEY SAYS, "PLAY BALL!" .....	8
WALK FOR HUNGER .....	9
RI PRESIDENT SHEKHAR MEHTA CHALLENGES ROTARY CLUBS .....	10
DISTRICT 7150 TO HOLD VIRTUAL TOWN HALLS MONTHLY .....	10
2020-21 REVISITED .....	10
B'VILLE ROTARY INVITES YOU TO SENECA RIVER DAYS .....	11
WHAT THE LATEST IEP REPORT SAYS ABOUT WORLD PEACE .....	11
2021-22 RI CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN HOUSTON.....	12

**District Governor**

 2021-2022 Governor  
Dana Jerrard ..... Utica

**District Executive Committee**

 **DG Elect**  
Jerry Seguin ..... Fulton

 **DG Nominee**  
Elise Hereth ..... V.V.S. Community

 **Immediate Past DG**  
Cheryl Matt ..... Dewitt

 **District Trainer 2021-22**  
PDG Deb Glisson ..... Marcellus

 **District Trainer 2022-24**  
PDG Dennis Schonewetter ..... V.V.S. Comm.


**Assistant Governors**


 Wendy Mucica ..... Little Falls


 Judy Reilly ..... Greater Utica Sunrise

 Jim Cook ..... New Hartford

 Jim Eklund ..... Chittenango

 Steve Osborne ..... Fulton

 Blessed Sikhosana ..... Onondaga North

 Charlie Smith ..... Marcellus

**Assistant Governor Trainer**

 Jenny Doane ..... Baldwinsville

**SEND US YOUR NEWS**

Submit club and district news to:  
[rotary7150@gmail.com](mailto:rotary7150@gmail.com)

The deadline to submit brief articles with great photos for publication in an issue of 7150NEWS is the 25th of each month.

**GREETINGS FROM DG DANA JERRARD**

Dana Jerrard | DG | Utica

My recent official visit to the New Hartford club was their first in-person meeting in more than 16 months. For my benefit and that of another guest present, club president Jim High asked each person to introduce him/herself to the group. These introductions only took a few minutes, but this was the perfect way for everyone to get reacquainted and make guests feel relaxed and welcome. We learned much about each other in a short time.

This philosophy will be central to our 2021 District 7150 conference, only on a larger scale. The Conference of Clubs will be held at the Ramada by Wyndham Liverpool/Syracuse (the rebranded Holiday Inn) on Saturday, October 30, 2021 with a focus on getting to know District Rotarians, and to learn more about the history and current activities of our 41 district clubs. We will also celebrate 300 years of combined Rotary service from four 2021-22 Diamond Anniversary clubs – Camden, Cato, Hamilton, and West Winfield.

The presence of our inbound Youth Exchange students has always been a highlight of past conferences, and with no exchanges this year, our ability to adapt is being put to the test. PDG Phyllis Danks and Rotarian (and former exchange student) Heather Beebe have come to the rescue! Through their work we will be having a conversation with some Youth Exchange alumni, via Zoom, to learn about how their YE experience has shaped their adult lives.

A presentation from a technology professional with expertise in virtual and hybrid meetings is scheduled to describe the tools needed to bring cost-effective solutions to meeting virtually. Imagine bringing the world to your club as well as your Snow Birds that head south at the first sign of a flying flake!

I am asking each club to be represented at the conference by at least one of their Rotarians and to tell their club's story in the House of Friendship. Our Diamond Anniversary clubs will have the opportunity to celebrate their history at a dinner on Saturday night. Also, please bring your ideas for collaborative projects.

Online registration, along with cost information, will be available beginning Saturday, August 14. Watch your email for details.

To sweeten the Rotary deal, on the day before the conference our four Empire Rotary Districts will host World Polio Day events in Syracuse, with a dinner planned at the Ramada by Wyndham. PDG Randy Wilson is chairing this event which is open to over 5000 Rotarians of Districts 7120, 7150, 7170, and 7190. Special conference room rates will be available for both Friday and Saturday nights. ♦



**ON A ROLL WITH ANOTHER PALLET**


Mitch Maniccia | Auburn

Auburn Rotary has already started on its second pallet of gently used books for its contribution to the **CNY Books For the World** project for Rotary year 2021-22. The club has four additional pallet shipments scheduled with Auburn High School and Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES this summer.

The Auburn Club has proud and extensive participation in this project, having shipped 32 pallets since 2011. ♦




**District Officers**

 **District Secretary**  
Pete Cardamone ..... Tully


 **Treasurer**  
Tara Renner ..... Onondaga North


 **Finance**  
PDG Randy Wilson ..... Sauquoit

 **District Conference**  
Chair, Linda Iannone ..... Utica

 **District Rotary Foundation**  
Chair, Don Reese ..... Utica

 **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**  
Co-chair, Darnell Hayes ..... DeWitt

 **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**  
Co-Chair, Cheryl Matt ..... DeWitt

 **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**  
Co-chair, Devin White ..... Eastwood

 **Membership**  
Joe Caruso ..... Utica


 **Innovative Clubs**  
Lizzy Martin ..... Baldwinsville

 **Public Image**  
Lizzy Martin ..... Baldwinsville

 **Parliamentarian**  
PDG Dennis Schonewetter... VVS Community

 **Rotaract**  
Jonathan Yost ..... Eastwood

 **Veterans Service**  
John "Ziggy" Zygmunt ..... New Hartford

 **Youth Exchange & Rotary Youth Leadership Awards**  
PDG Phyllis Danks ..... Marcellus

 **Rotary Leadership Institute**  
Donna Schonewetter ..... VVS Community

 **Rotary Leadership Institute**  
PDG Dennis Schonewetter... VVS Community

 **New Generations**  
Tom Taylor ..... Onondaga North

## MEET OUR NEW ROTARY PRESIDENT (CALCUTTA-MAHANAGAR)

Shekhar Mehta envisions Rotary's next chapter – and is ready to make it a reality

Rotary International | John Rezek

Over the years, I caught glimpses of Shekhar Mehta when he came to One Rotary Center in Evanston, Illinois, for Board of Directors meetings. I met him formally during one of the days of back-to-back meetings with various staff members that every incoming Rotary president participates in. During the session I attended, he was the most relaxed person in the room, despite being the only one suffering from jet lag. He was alert, patient, and asked perceptive questions — not surprising for someone as successful as he is in his professional and philanthropic life. I kept thinking that he was assessing each of us to see how we could be recruited to help him achieve his dreams for Rotary.



Shekhar and Rashi Mehta at home in Kolkata.

I was lucky to have met Shekhar in person back when we could meet in person. We are now well into the second year of the global COVID-19 pandemic, and as I write this, India is in the depths of a tragic outbreak. Rotary has had to make adjustments, but the business of Rotary goes on.

In a normal year, one of the Rotary editors would have traveled to Kolkata, where Shekhar lives with his wife, Rashi. We would have spent time with him, his family members, and his friends and fellow Rotarians, exploring how his upbringing and adulthood in India have shaped his perspective on life and on Rotary. This

year, of course, no one was able to travel — so instead, we asked the people who know Shekhar best to tell us about him in their own words.

In the following pages, members of Shekhar's family, some of his oldest friends, his personal assistant, and his presidential aide share anecdotes and talk about the man they know, in order to help Rotary members everywhere feel that they know him, too. Many of you will, of course, meet him yourselves — virtually, if not in person — over the course of the coming year.

Shekhar Mehta, a member of the Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar, has been a Rotarian since 1985. He trained as an accountant and founded a real estate development company, Skyline Group, which he also chairs. But his professional title tells only a small part of the story of who he is. He is also a director of the India arm of Operation Eyesight Universal, a Canada-based nonprofit focused on preventing avoidable blindness. He helped establish more than 15 eye hospitals, in several Indian states, that together carry out nearly 50,000 surgeries each year. And he started Saving Little Hearts, a project that has facilitated more than 2,500 heart surgeries for children from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and some African countries and that is now an India-wide program.

As you'll read in these pages, he also has been actively involved in disaster relief work. Among other undertakings, he helped build 500 homes in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

At the International Assembly this year, Shekhar talked about how he and some fellow Rotarians decided to start a local version of ShelterBox, a Rotarian-founded organization based in the UK. "We named it Shelter Kit and put 52 items of daily need in a large trunk," he told the incoming district governors. "Over the last 15 years, in every major disaster in India, Indian Rotarians have volunteered to bring Shelter Kits to areas struck

by disasters." The program already has served about 75,000 people. Shekhar also served on the ShelterBox board of trustees.

And he is also the architect of the TEACH program, which aims to do nothing less than end illiteracy in India. (You'll read more about this ambitious program in a future issue.)

Although Shekhar is skilled in the business arts, he prefers to en-

*Shekhar has a deep soul and a large heart.*

~ Rashi Mehta

gage his other fluencies. He told me that, after so much studying and reading during his career, he now favors learning by talking to people. He added, "I hate accounting." It all follows his belief that we would do well to think from our hearts as much as our minds.



As part of the TEACH program to increase literacy rates in India, Mehta often visits schools that are part of the program. Rotary members in India have transformed more than 3,000 schools into "Happy Schools". The Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar supports this girls' school in Kolkata, Bhowanipur Arya Vidya Mandir, with a daily break-fast for more than 1,000 students.

Rashi, Shekhar's wife says her husband has a deep soul and a large heart. He is not only genuinely kind but also sees kindness in others, and never shies from praising and encouraging others for the smallest acts of goodness. He loves to work with people; he is a team guy as much as a leader. His joy, energy, and capabilities double up when he works with a team. He is an exceptionally positive and enthusiastic person. I have not seen the thought of failure bogging him down. If anything, he emerges stronger and smarter out of challenging situations. He has trained his mind to see the silver lining in difficult situations and firmly holds on to the faith that we will overcome. ♦

## CLUB #42 CONTINUES PHILANTHROPY THROUGH ITS FOUNDATION

Syracuse Rotary Foundation was founded in 1958

James Morrow | Syracuse

Since its inception over six decades ago, The Syracuse Rotary Foundation has given away hundreds of thousands of dollars to worthy agencies and community organizations in need. The foundation was originally created to support the operation of Camp Goodwill, a day camp for handicapped children once located at Rotary Park along Chittenango Creek.

In 1958, after considerable searching, Syracuse Rotary, through the newly created Syracuse Rotary Foundation, purchased a 69 acre farm along Chittenango Creek in Madison County. Rotary Park, the home of Camp Goodwill, was opened in the fall of that year. By 1961, over 130 children were participating in six-week summer programs at the camp.

Eventually, it became obvious the programs at Camp Goodwill had grown to a point where it was no longer feasible for Syracuse Rotary's continued operation of the camp. So, in 1980 the New York State Easter Seal Society leased, and a year later took title to, Rotary Park along with the full responsibility for the operation of Camp Goodwill.

Today, the Syracuse Rotary Foundation still exists because of Syracuse Rotarians' continual contributions in conjunction with healthy growth from its investments. It issues an annual round of grants through Syracuse Rotary's Philanthropy & Charity (P&C) committee which benefit 501(c)3 organizations. Recently, the grant process of Syracuse Rotary's P&C was opened up as a year-round endeavor in support of COVID-19 relief. ♦

## UDDERLY AWESOME ROTARIANS MOOOVING MILK IN AUBURN



Eileen Daloia | Auburn

The Auburn Rotary Club sponsored the first of three Milk Giveaways at the Auburn Housing Authority Brogan Manor and Olympia Terrace apartment complex on July 15.

The motive of the project is two-fold: First, there are several areas of Auburn that are deemed to be food deserts where many residents do not have their own transportation. Second, local dairy farmers require a boost in revenue to strengthen their businesses crippled by the pandemic. Cayuga County's Hillcrest Dairy, a family-owned dairy and milk bottling plant, is assisting Auburn Rotary by securing over 800 gallons of milk for the project. At each planned giveaway, guests will receive enough half-gallon containers of milk for their household.

A number of community businesses were contacted to request sponsorship of this project and generously stepped up with support. Those sponsors are: Generations Bank; R.G Wright Agency, Inc.; Savannah Bank; The Duke Company - American Rentals; Dan Cuddy, CPA; WHMB, PC Law firm; Joseph P. Calarco - AFLAC; and Five Star Bank.

The club worked closely with the Auburn Housing Authority who delivered memos to every household in the Brogan Manor and Olympia Terrace complex on Monday July 12 to inform residents about the milk giveaway on Thursday July 15. Unfortunately, with the extreme heat, only eighteen residents took advantage of the free milk opportunity, but, as Rotarians we have backup plans in place to make the best of any situation. In this case, to make sure no milk was wasted, 24 cases were delivered to the Booker T. Washington Center, six cases to the Salvation Army, six cases to the St. Alphonsus food pantry, and two cases to the E. John Gavras Center. Each case held four gallons of milk. All agencies were extremely thankful for the donations.

Thank you to the Auburn Rotarians who volunteered for Thursday July 15: Gary McIlvain; Deb English; Don Grillo; Mitch Maniccia; Henry MacDonald; Joe Shepard; Mike Trapani; Jim McKeon; Toni Colella; and Pamela B. Gratton. They went above and beyond in following Rotary's motto - Service Above Self, and to deliver the cases of milk around the city.

Two more Milk Giveaways are scheduled for August. Stay tuned for reports in the next newsletters. ♦

## HAMILTON ROTARY GETS BACK TO IN-PERSON MEETINGS TO BEGIN 2021-22

Anastasia Wells | Hamilton ~ Members of Hamilton Rotary were excited to see each other, in-person, on July 1 and traded "very happy dollars" for the whole meeting. They shared things about themselves while the dollars went to the club's pennies for Polio kitty. Two following meetings featured a couple of very interesting speakers: Troy Carey, a Fraud Investigator with NBT Bank, and Samuel Cooper from the Wellness Center in Hamilton.

The Hamilton club is madly planning for their golf tournament on August 26. [Download registration form.](#)

## TULLY ROTARY EMBARKS ON T.R.E.E.S. PROJECTS

Rotarians planting one thousand trees in the southern hills Onondaga County

David Perkins | Tully

The Tully Rotary Club has embarked on a long-range series of environmental projects. The Tully Rotary Ecological and Environmental Sustainability (T.R.E.E.S.) will incorporate a series of projects over several years which will improve the environment in the southern hills of Onondaga County and around the world.

T.R.E.E.S. will create a central theme for a range of projects that will be funded by Tully Rotary with help from gifts and grants. Rotarians will involve citizens and local youth in completing the projects.

The central project of T.R.E.E.S is a goal by Tully Rotary to plant 1000 trees over the next few years in the Tully area and perhaps around the world. Each tree planted would represent a thing of beauty as well as a way to improve the environment by improving air quality, improving drinking water, providing adaptable habitat for plants and animals, as well as being a highly efficient carbon capture.

T.R.E.E.S. will also include efforts by Tully Rotarians to clean up our community. Tully Rotary has joined the Adopt-A-Highway program with the NYS Department of Transportation. Rotarians can be seen picking up trash along Route 11 in Tully several times each year.

Future T.R.E.E.S. projects may include efforts to help protect and encourage pollinators like butterflies and bees which are needed to help grow our fruits and vegetables. Rotarians are hopeful to be able to partner with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation in the future to improve land in the Tully Valley that is presently unavailable. T.R.E.E.S. may someday soon be the source of funding for environmental projects in Kenya working with Rotarians in that country.

Tully Rotary will be asking for support from the citizens and businesses in Southern Onondaga County to help make our project ideas become reality. Tully Rotary will be holding a golf tournament on September 20th at the Vesper Hills Golf Club to raise money for the projects. Contributions and gifts may be sent to Tully Rotary, P.O. Box 91 Tully, NY 13159. ♦

## FULTON SUNRISE KICKS OFF 21-22

Linda Rossiter | Fulton Sunrise



Fulton Sunrise Rotary held its annual Changing of the Guard ceremony on June 18 at Foster Park. Peg Donnelly, the 2020-2021 president, passed the gavel to the incoming president, Dennis Merlino, during the celebration. Foster Park holds a special place in the hearts of Fulton Sunrise Rotarians. For many years the club has helped maintain the park through projects such as painting the pavilion and donating playground equipment. The local club members were honored by the attendance of several Rotary District 7150 officers and the Fulton Mayor. All enjoyed a delicious breakfast served picnic style before the meeting. Adding to the joy of the occasion was the fact that this was the first in-person get-together for all in attendance in over a year.



Fulton Sunrise Rotary recently made a donation to Can Do Kids International. The organization serves children in Kenya.

The donation will be used to provide water tanks to classrooms. Access to clean water is an issue that hinders children's ability to attend school. Children are tasked with the responsibility of walking long distances to carry water from its source to their villages. With the installation of the water tanks rainwater can be collected and purified in the village thereby allowing the children more time to attend school. Rotarians Linda Rossiter and Doug Stevens presented the check to Fallon Cooper who volunteers with Can Do Kids. ♦

## WHAT TYPES OF MEMBERSHIPS ARE YOU OFFERING?

Lizzy Martin | D7150 Innovative Clubs Chair  
emartin@advancemediany.com

When we think of joining Rotary, we traditionally think of it as an individual membership, but did you know there are many other ways in which we can structure a "membership?" Offering alternative types of membership is a great way to innovate your club to help it grow. Here are some examples of different membership types to consider:

- Corporate Membership allows a business to join with multiple employees participating
- Family or Couples Membership could make it so people in the same household can all become members
- Junior Membership might feature discounted dues for young people just getting into Rotary

These are just three examples. You could come up with other ideas based on the makeup of your community. Rotary gives clubs the flexibility to implement these alternative membership types in a way that works best for them.

Let's say your club is ready to offer a Corporate Membership. How do you make that happen? First, have your leadership team set the rules surrounding this alternative membership. How many employees can be part of this membership? How much will dues be for this type of member? Click here for a worksheet

that walks you through some more of the questions to answer in order to set your guidelines, as well as what information will need to be updated in your club's by-laws to formalize this new option for joining your club. You will want to be sure to consider how the membership will work logistically as well. Will it require a different application form? How will you enter the members into the ClubRunner database? To get support in going through this process, club leaders can reach out to Lizzy Martin, Innovative Clubs Chair.

Once you have the guidelines and know how to handle your first applicant, it's time to spread the word. Use your club's web site and social media to share information on this new way to join Rotary. Click here to see how Baldwinsville Rotary promotes their Corporate Membership option on their web site. Be sure that all members know about the new membership type and how it works by communicating it at meetings, via email and in your club's newsletter. You will need your existing members to be informed ambassadors.

Innovative membership types make your club more accessible. Every new member means more support for your projects, more people to meet and have fellowship with, and more value to everyone's membership experience. Connect with Lizzy for any support you need to innovate your club today and visit the Innovative Clubs page on the district web site for more resources. ♦

## ROTARY CLUB OF THE KUYAHOORA VALLEY SAYS, "PLAY BALL!"

Ann Maher | Kuyahoorra Valley

It has been an eventful and exciting year for the Rotary Club of the Kuyahoorra Valley (RCKV). Despite the pandemic, our club stretched our technology skills to embrace Zoom meetings when we couldn't meet in person.

Since our traditional fundraisers could not happen, we created a new one, holding not one but two successful drive-through chicken barbecue events, assisted in generous fashion by members of the Newport Fire Department. We were excited to receive a Rotary Foundation grant that supported the annual scholarships we award to students from the Poland and West Canada Valley Central School Districts.



Ending the 2020-21 on a social note, club members attended a baseball game featuring the Mohawk Valley Diamond Dawgs in Little Falls. Club member Bob Duprau, a retired PE teacher, was invited to throw out the first pitch of the game!

Club member Bub Barra is our President for the 2021-22 year, and we are excited about what the future holds for our club. New members and a return of our favorite fundraisers give us confidence for another successful year of "Service above Self". ♦

Inviting ALL clubs from District 7150 to send a team to compete

\$80 per person - Captain & Crew  
Dinner / Raffle / Prizes  
Call or text 315.696.1825 to RSVP

FIRST ANNUAL  
**TULLY ROTARY  
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

SEPTEMBER 20 | 10AM  
**VESPER HILLS  
GOLF CLUB**

Proceeds to benefit Tully Rotary Ecological and Environmental Sustainability project (T.R.E.E.S.)

**KEEP US UP TO DATE WITH YOUR CLUB'S LATEST NEWS**

Email photos and articles to [rotary7150@gmail.com](mailto:rotary7150@gmail.com). Deadline to submit information is the 25th of each month.

Save The Date!



August 14th  
Paper Mill Island  
Baldwinsville

Live Music • Food Trucks  
Children's Fun • Duck Race  
and more!

Get your duck tickets from any  
Baldwinsville Rotarian

Follow Seneca River Days on  
Facebook for the latest news & info



## WALK FOR HUNGER

George Mango | Camillus Solvay Geddes

On Saturday, September 11, the Camillus Solvay Geddes Rotary Club will be sponsoring a Walk for Hunger. The Walk will begin at Reed Webster Park on Warners Road, Camillus at 10 AM and proceed along the Camillus Erie Canal Park over the Aqueduct to the Sims Store and return to Reed Webster Park for refreshments and lunch.

In addition to community groups, we at Camillus Solvay Geddes Rotary, would like to make this a district event and are inviting clubs to participate. Tents and food will be set up at Reed Webster Park. We then can congregate, socialize, and eat.

All funds raised will go to support the Central New York Food bank, local food pantries, and the India Rotary relief fund.

**Let's make this a successful district-wide, Rotary event and fundraiser.**

[Download donation sponsorship forms.](#)

Funds will be collected at the Walk or mailed to:  
**PO Box 432, Camillus NY 13031.**



## RI PRESIDENT SHEKHAR MEHTA CHALLENGES ROTARY CLUBS

Shekhar Mehta | 2021-22 President, Rotary International

With Service Above Self at the heart of all we do, we are in a unique position to provide meaningful, participatory volunteer experiences for Rotary and Rotaract members while introducing prospective members to our clubs.

I challenge every club to plan and host at least one practical and action-oriented Rotary Day of Service during the 2021-22 Rotary year. The event should address a challenge facing your community that fits in one or more of Rotary's areas of focus and brings together volunteers from within and outside of Rotary.

This is a chance to create meaningful volunteer opportunities for families and partnering organizations in your area, regardless of their profession or affiliation with Rotary. Remember to broadly promote your good work throughout your community. With your help, I look forward to doing more good in the world. ♦

## DISTRICT 7150 TO HOLD VIRTUAL TOWN HALLS MONTHLY

DG Dana Jerrard | Utica

Each month during this Rotary year, DG Dana will conduct a virtual Town Hall and every Rotarian in the district will be welcome to join. The sessions will occur on the fourth Tuesday of each month, starting at 6:00 pm. The next Town Hall is on August 24 at 6pm. We hope that each club in the district has at least one attendee, ready to exchange ideas and address the issues that many of our clubs are facing.

One week prior to each town hall, Rotarians in the district will be invited to register and those who do will receive a personal link to the meeting. Please mark your calendar, and we'll see you there. ♦

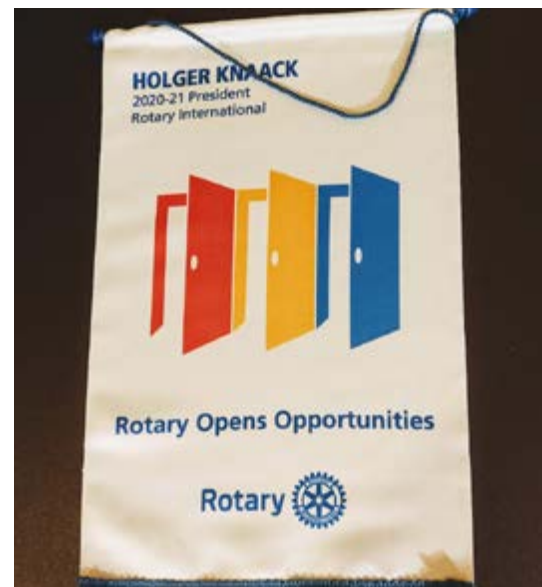
<https://zoom.us/j/94766329506?pwd=TK8zK3p4Q0tRcmtmTUwxVOIGRIA5QT09>  
passcode: 71502021TH

## 2020-21 REVISITED

PDG Cheryl Matt | DeWitt

Are you looking for a memento from the Rotary year that was challenged by a pandemic — Rotary year 2020-2021? A year like no other? A year when our clubs overcame obstacles and Rotarians stayed connected as best as they could?

Last fall, every club president was mailed theme pins for their members and theme banners for their clubs. Many were not handed out because we were holding virtual meetings. Now that we are easing back into in-person and hybrid meetings, ask your club's past-president for your 2020-21 theme pin. Let's remember that theme of "Rotary Opens Opportunities". ♦



## B'VILLE ROTARY INVITES YOU TO SENECA RIVER DAYS

Lizzy Martin | Baldwinsville



After missing two of the normal June dates for this community event, Baldwinsville Rotary is putting together a full day of festivities on Paper Mill Island for Saturday, August 14th. It will be a two-part affair: Noon until 5pm (Family Festival, no admission) and 6pm-10pm (Food Trucks & Fireworks), \$5 admission

The traditional duck race on the river is being transformed into a duck pluck at 4:30pm that will engage kids from the audience to help pull out a winning duck. You can get duck tickets now and right up until a few minutes before the pluck for \$5 each or a flock of 6 for \$25. Click here to download an order form, connect with a Baldwinsville Rotarian to get your tickets or come to the event and purchase them on the island. The grand prize is \$1,000 cash, sponsored by Horan Insurance. The day will conclude with a beautiful fireworks display over the river, sponsored by Honda City of Liverpool.

Details like which food trucks will be there and which bands will be playing are still being put together. Follow Seneca River Days on Facebook or check out [www.SenecaRiverDays.com](http://www.SenecaRiverDays.com) for more information as the event comes together. The main goal of this event is to provide affordable fun for our community, so come join us! ♦

## WHAT THE LATEST IEP REPORT SAYS ABOUT WORLD PEACE

Michael Collins | Rotary Voices, July 16, 2021

In June, the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) released its 15th annual Global Peace Index, one of the leading measures of peacefulness globally. Since 2017, the IEP and Rotary have been in a strategic partnership, providing members with new tools to effectively build peace in communities around the world.

What can we glean from the latest report? Well, there's good news and bad news. Overall, the 2021 Global Peace Index reveals a world in which decades-old conflicts are beginning to abate. But at the same time, civil unrest and political instability are creating new challenges as the world looks toward a recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. For the ninth time in twelve years, the level of global peacefulness has declined, but it was also the smallest decline recorded by the index.

The **Rotary Positive Peace Academy** introduces the concept of Positive Peace, which describes the attitudes, structures, and institutions that underpin and sustain peaceful societies. The IEP has developed a conceptual framework, known as the Pillars of Peace, that outlines a system of eight factors that work together to build positive peace. Derived from a statistical analysis of over 24,000 datasets, the Pillars of Peace provides a roadmap to overcome adversity and conflict, and to build lasting peace.

The report also notes that peace deteriorates more rapidly than it can be built. While this may be disheartening for some, I see it as a beacon, a challenge that Rotary members have met head on for more than 100 years as they embrace peace as a cornerstone of Rotary's humanitarian mission.

In order to help make the concept more tangible for members, Rotary created the Positive Peace Activator Program in 2020. By 2024, 180 new Positive Peace activators will be trained in six regions of the world. They complete a 20-hour training program and emerge ready to work with clubs and districts as project consultants, trainers, and speakers at Rotary events. Today there are cadres of activators in the U.S., Canada, Latin America, and Europe. Training will begin soon in Africa and Asia. ♦

Learn more about the [Rotary-IEP Partnership](#)

## **2021-22 RI CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN HOUSTON**

### **The event will bring more than 20,000 participants from around the world and deliver \$30 million in local economic impact**

[rotary.org](https://rotary.org)

More than 20,000 service-minded people from around the world will gather in Houston for Rotary's 113th annual international convention on June 4-8, 2022.

The coveted international event is returning to Houston for the third time, marking the 50th anniversary of the 1972 international convention. The Bayou City also hosted the 5th Rotary convention in 1914. The event is expected to deliver \$30 million in economic impact for the city's hotels, restaurants, retailers and attractions.

"As a global membership organization that brings people from all continents and cultures together to share, learn and take action to bring positive and lasting change to communities around the world, we are thrilled that our first in-person international convention since 2019 will take place in Houston," said Rotary's International President Shekhar Mehta. "And for the first time ever, our annual event will be open to members of the public who want to connect, learn and be a part of our work to grow and change lives."

Previous convention speakers include philanthropist Bill Gates; actor and philanthropist Ashton Kutcher; Prime Minister Justin Trudeau; actor, producer, host, entrepreneur, WWE Superstar and Rotary polio ambassador, John Cena; renowned primatologist Jane Goodall; and former United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Andrew Young.

Organized by Rotary International in conjunction with the Houston Host Organization Committee of local Rotary members, registrants of the convention will also experience Houston's hospitality with visits to local destinations like Space Center Houston, Kemah Boardwalk and one of Houston's premiere shopping destinations, The Galleria. Click

here to register for Rotary's International Convention.

"Houston and Houston First Corporation are thrilled to host Rotary's International Convention next summer," said Jorge Franz, Senior Vice President Tourism and Industry Relations at Houston First Corporation & Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau's president. "We look forward to welcoming the thousands of awesome Rotary members who through their volunteerism and commitment to problem-solving make our communities better from continent to continent. This global exposure to 1.2 million Rotarians worldwide will further elevate Houston as a travel destination, and the anticipated \$30 million economic impact from the convention will be a financial shot in the arm for Houston hotels, restaurants, retailers, attractions and many more."

Houston Host Organization Committee chair, Rhonda Kennedy, representing 62 Houston-area clubs and its 2,400 members, said, "as a proud member of the Rotary Club of Sweeny, I am excited not only to welcome our fellow members from around the world to our beloved city, but also to show how Houston-area clubs are taking action to make the world a better place at home and abroad."

With the safety and wellbeing of participants and the wider community a top priority, Rotary's previous two conventions were held virtually due to the global pandemic. Speaking during the press conference, John Smarge, chair of Rotary's International Convention Committee, said, "this convention will also have a virtual component to make the event accessible to all members. And as we continue our planning, we will work closely with global and national health authorities to ensure that our in-person event follows the most current health and safety guidelines." ♦