



Multi-club Dinner Meeting:
Presentation by four recipients of the
Rotary Peace and Conflict Resolution Scholarship
18th July 2018, 6:00 pm for 6:30 start
Surfers Paradise RSL Club
9 Beach Road, Surfers Paradise 4217

(park across the road in the Bruce Bishop Car Park - first 3 hours included in ticket price)

The Rotary Clubs of Broadbeach, Burleigh Heads, Nerang, Southport, Surfers Sunrise and Surfers Paradise cordially invite you to participate in this Multi-club dinner meeting to hear these outstanding Rotary Peace Scholars present on what they do now and where they will go after their studies to apply their learnings to make a difference. **Just \$22.00 per person.**

You must book: click on this secure link: <https://www.trybooking.com/WMZP>

Main presenter: Michelle Helman (USA)



Michelle calls Portland, Oregon home. Her journey to become a Rotary Peace Fellow formalized after earning a BA in Anthropology from the University of Illinois in 2005. Practical application of her studies constituted joining the Peace Corps where she served as a Youth Development Volunteer in Peru. Thereafter, Michelle directed an academic enrichment program through the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization in Portland and led gap-year study abroad programs for university students. Through these challenging and rewarding experiences, she realized the importance of fostering communication skills to build community. In 2012, Michelle began studying communication and conflict resolution and learned to apply mindfulness and trauma-informed leadership techniques to create an advocacy program for Latinx immigrants. She then trained to volunteer as a small-claims court mediator and holds additional certifications as an advanced yoga instructor, scuba diver, and Wilderness First Responder, and is an award-winning career coach. Michelle recently worked in Nicaragua installing compost toilets with farmers in the Bosawás Biosphere Reserve and as a Spanish medical interpreter and tutor in Portland. Currently, Michelle is researching how the neuroscience of emotions is an integral and

often overlooked component of effective peacebuilding and conflict resolution. Her vision is to apply this concept by creating leadership training utilizing experiential education pedagogy to improve organizational development outcomes and impact.

Isabella Sinisterra Beron (Colombia)

Isabella was born thirty years ago in one of the world's most violent cities:

Cali, Colombia, referred to by loving residents as "Heaven's Local Office" She later moved to Bogotá, Colombia's capital, to acquire skills and knowledge to support her hometown's struggle against violence and impunity. This is how she came to study Political Science and, later, to undertake a Master's in Public Policy at La Universidad de los Andes.



Isabella has six years of experience in security policy implementation and analysis of the Colombian armed conflict. During this time, she worked with the Colombian government in the President's Office for Security and Coexistence, coordinating with different United Nations agencies. Thanks to her job, she had the opportunity to get to know the rural areas across the country and the real effects of the armed conflict on these communities.

In 2016, when Isabella was selected as a Rotary Peace Fellow, her country had just signed a peace agreement with the FARC, the largest guerrilla group in the continent. To help in this historic process, she joined the UN Mission in Colombia as a Liaison Officer in Villavicencio, one of the regions most affected by the conflict. Her tasks were related to verification of the bilateral ceasefire, the FARC-EP disarmament process, the verification of the FARC's reincorporation process, and security guarantees for the communities and ex-combatants. As someone who grew up in a country immersed in armed conflict, Isabella has a strong passion for reducing violence and contributing to peace-building processes.



Mikaela Francine (Miku) D. Lagarde (Philippines)

Miku is a lawyer, lecturer, and peace activist in the Philippines. She completed her undergraduate degree in International Studies major

in International Politics in Miriam College and her Juris Doctor degree in Ateneo Law School. While in college, Miku headed a peace organisation called Pax Christi-MC. In law school, she interned for the Ateneo Human Rights Center and for ICRC Manila. These combined experiences made her understand the crucial role of human rights and international humanitarian law (IHL) in building peace and creating safer communities.

Completing her studies, Miku started her career at the International Justice Mission. There, she worked with law enforcement to rescue underage victims of human trafficking and bring the perpetrators to justice. She then worked at the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP). In her time at this government agency, OPAPP had just brokered a final peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front after 17

years of negotiations. One of her tasks was to oversee the human rights and IHL aspects of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro.

Miku also participated in the Inter-Agency Committee Technical Working Group (IAC-TWG) on Extra-legal Killings, Enforced Disappearances, Torture, and Other Gross Human Rights Violations; the IAC-TWG on Children in Armed Conflict; and the TWG on Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development. Likewise, she was part of the National Monitoring Mechanism on Human Rights Violations, Ad Hoc Committee on IHL, and Bangsamoro Basic Law Peace Room Composite Team. These initiatives all aimed to build holistic peace throughout the Philippines, such as by protecting civilians in war and prosecuting gross human rights violations.

Miku then moved on to the Supreme Court as a Court Attorney and at De La Salle University as a part-time lecturer on constitutional law, legal writing, and public international law. She has given presentations locally and abroad on topics including IHL, human rights, gender, private military and security companies, and prospects for peace in Mindanao.

Miku seeks to live by Gandhi's words: to be the change she wishes to see in this world.

Mohamed Sheikh Yussuf (Kenya)

Mohamed is a Volunteer Program Officer with Garissa Mediation Council - a CBO based at the County of Garissa in Kenya. The organization's work is to foster inter-communal dialogue and cohesion amongst Somali Clans who live in the largely volatile areas that straddle the borders of Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia. The organization exists with a mandate of promoting peace, cohesion and integration among diverse communities living around the international borders and is in pursuant of a mission to promote peace building and sustainable development among the communities they work with so as to achieve peace, justice, dignity and respect for their womenfolk.

Mohamed is passionate about the socio-economic development of this region, which would change the mindset and character of the local population from perpetual conflict and strive to one of peace and development, where conflicts are resolved through dialogue and mutual understanding.

Mohamed is focused on the eradication of Female Genital Mutilation and giving equal opportunities to the girl child.

Mohamed is a trained Occupational Therapist and holds BA (Hons) in Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution from Mt. Kenya University.



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