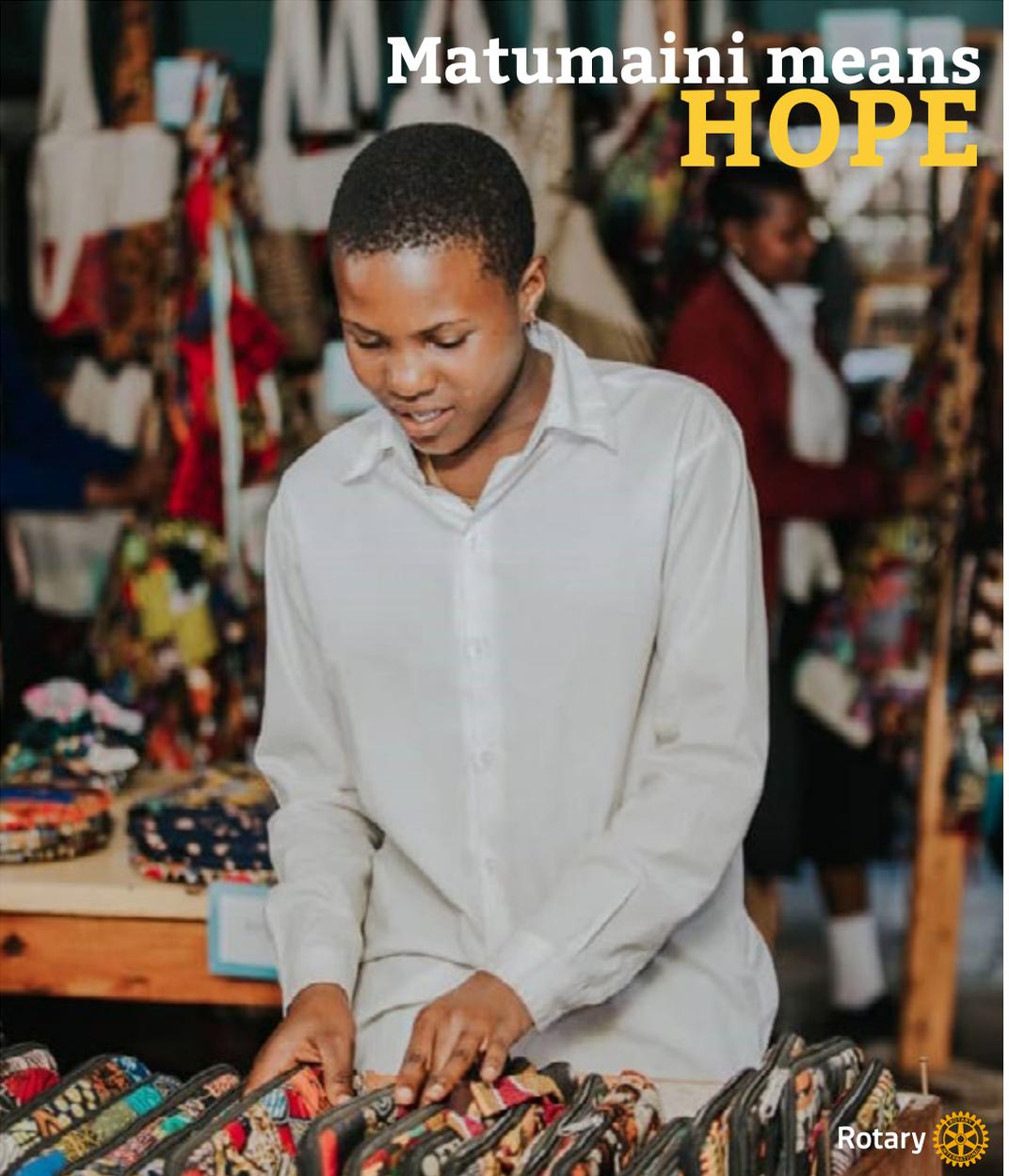


NOVEMBER 2021

# Rotary

AFRICA | south

Matumaini means  
**HOPE**



Rotary 

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# WELCOME



Sarah van Heerden  
**Editor**

This time of year is always one for reflection and I would normally write that I can't believe how quickly the year has gone by. However, these last 20 or so months haven't been normal at all. COVID-19 has presented challenges and brought many to their knees as lockdowns and restrictions were implemented to contain the spread.

Fortunately we were able to begin rolling out vaccines this year and life is slowly, but surely, becoming a little less restricted. As more people have been vaccinated, we have seen greater freedom of movement. We are slowly starting to return to a world where we can, to some extent, enjoy some of the freedoms we were used to.

I remember how united people were at the beginning of our very first lockdown. It was sad (and probably inevitable) when that unity started to crumble - some started sowing the seeds of dissent for political gain and then out popped the conspiracy theories which spawned the denials. The naysayers were quick to brand as sheep those who acted responsibly because they were concerned about their health, and their impact on others, and arrogantly ridiculed them for "living in fear". But the weird thing was, those people weren't living in fear. What they were actually doing was saying, "I am responsible for me. I am responsible for my actions and I am responsible for the impact of my actions upon those whom I come into contact with."

There are many discussions that start off with something along the lines of, "It's my right..." and yet, we seldom hear the corresponding comment of, "I have responsibilities that come with the freedoms I enjoy. Yes, I have the freedom to assemble, but it's my duty to behave in a lawful fashion."

Just as you have the freedom of speech, but you also have the corresponding responsibility not to defame people, not to use hate speech and not to incite violence. Or what about the current 'biggie'... Yes, you have the right to make decisions regarding your health and yes, that must be respected. BUT, at the same time, I have the right not to enter a public space and be exposed to a potentially deadly disease that is easily transmitted and has the potential of harming me or those I associate with. Whose right is the most important? Does one supersede the other?

It's interesting when you start thinking about rights and responsibilities. Your train of thought invariably leads to something we are all very familiar with - The Four-Way Test, and in particular the two questions: Is it the truth? Is it beneficial to all concerned? I realised the other day that the test is also a simple way to explain rights and corresponding responsibilities. How do we make people realise that while their rights are precious, those of their neighbours, their friends and their fellow community members are equally so. How do we remind them, without isolating them, that their rights don't supersede the rights of others?

Well, I don't have all the answers (*yes, I admit it!*), but I think it's worth pondering - and as tensions around rights continue to rise, it could make an interesting peace project.

## The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

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



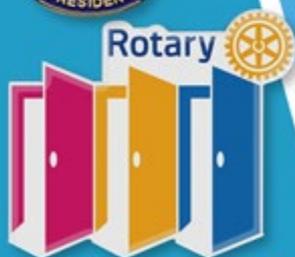
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These are not medical-grade masks. They are designed to keep our normal exhalations, coughs and sneezes close to the body so they do not spread to others.

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# President's message

*Rashi and I drove 200 kilometres to meet a patient from Pakistan who was being treated at the Mission Hospital in Durgapur. His mother said, "My son was born in Pakistan but got his life in India. Thank you, Rotary."*



## Greetings, my dear changemakers,

I first discovered the value of service when I saw how a few simple acts can immeasurably change lives. It began when I joined others in my club for a project to bring toilets and clean drinking water to rural villages near our city. It moved forward when we promoted sanitation and provided opportunities for education across the country, thanks to generous gifts from supporters who believed in our projects as much as those of us on the ground did.

There is no better time of the year to be reminded of that generosity than November, which is Rotary Foundation Month.

As the charitable arm of Rotary International, The Rotary Foundation is the engine that powers so many Rotary projects throughout the world. The Foundation transforms your gifts into projects that change lives. It is the Foundation that helps us to get closer to our goal of eradicating polio, to show more people how we promote peace through tangible actions and to demonstrate the impact our projects have in our areas of focus.

Consider some recent projects that were made possible by the Foundation:

- The Rotary Clubs of Guatemala La Reforma, Guatemala, and Calgary, Alberta, received an \$80 000 global grant to organise a comprehensive plan to train nurses and rural health care workers to prevent and treat cervical cancer and to implement a sustainable system of referrals in seven regions of Guatemala.
- More than two dozen hospitals in Honduras

received personal protective equipment for their medical staff thanks to a \$169 347 global grant sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Villa Real de Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and Waldo Brookside-Kansas City, Missouri.

- The Rotary Clubs of Cotonou Le Nautille, Benin, and Tournai Haut-Escaut, Belgium, received a \$39 390 global grant to provide agricultural training at an ecologically responsible permaculture mini-farm connected to a centre for children in Sowé, Benin. This will help a new generation of farmers become economically self-sufficient.

I like comparing The Rotary Foundation to the Taj Mahal, a monument of one man's love for a woman. The Foundation is a dynamic monument of our love for all of humanity.

This month I am asking all Rotary clubs to bring attention to the Foundation. It is what connects all Rotarians worldwide and transforms our collective passions into projects that change lives. Visit [rotary.org/donate](http://rotary.org/donate); once there, you will have an opportunity to give directly to the programme you're most passionate about.

Thank you for giving your all to Rotary. You are the reason that Rotary is able to do more and grow more. Let's continue to represent that important legacy this month, this year and beyond as we Serve to Change Lives.

*Shekhar Mehta*

Shekhar Mehta,  
Rotary International President (2021/22)



 **Find Project Partners**

Thousands of Rotary and Rotaract clubs have shared their projects on Rotary Showcase since it launched in 2012. Now Rotary has added new features that make this online tool even more useful.

Your club can now post proposed projects and seek partners for those projects. You can share project details, ask for financial or other support and connect with other clubs. Potential partners can search Rotary Showcase to find proposed projects to join and contact project creators directly.

Learn more at [my.rotary.org](http://my.rotary.org)



## AN EVENT FOR ALL AGES

### 2022 Rotary International Convention

If you are planning to go to Houston for the 2022 Rotary International Convention 4-8 June, why not make it a trip for the whole family? With attractions like Downtown Aquarium, Children’s Museum Houston and Kemah Boardwalk theme park, the Houston area has something for everyone.

Kemah Boardwalk, located on Galveston Bay, about 40 kilometres from downtown, is a collection of waterfront restaurants, rides and shops. Hop a ride on a replica 1863 steam train; the Iron Eagle, a 10-story-high zip line; or on the Boardwalk Bullet, a roller coaster with a heart-stopping 28-metre drop. The convention’s Host Organisation Committee has scheduled an outing to Kemah Boardwalk on Saturday, 4 June. Tickets are limited, so act fast at [houstonri2022.org/events](http://houstonri2022.org/events).

Do you have fish fanatics in the family? Downtown Aquarium is home to more than 300 aquatic species, including an electric eel, pufferfish and sea turtles, which are located in themed areas such as an underwater shipwreck, a Gulf Coast bayou and a stingray reef.

Children’s Museum Houston offers hands-on activities, including a multi-obstacle ropes course, a wildlife habitat certified by the National Wildlife Federation and the Inventors’ Workshop. It’s also a highly regarded NGO that provides innovative programming to children throughout the city.

And don’t forget the House of Friendship at the convention itself, which will feature plenty of exhibits to entertain and inspire budding Rotary members. — Miyoki Walker



# Foundation Trustee Chair

John Germ

Do you know your Foundation? When people ask me what The Rotary Foundation is, I tell them it's the heart of Rotary. You may have heard before that Rotary has an intelligent heart. The Foundation combines our emotional response of compassion with pragmatic action. With both heart and brains, you can change the world.

So, what does the Foundation mean to you? November is Rotary Foundation Month, but do you really know our Foundation?

First, it truly is our Foundation. The Rotary Foundation doesn't belong to me or the other 14 trustees, nor to the RI Board of Directors, nor to the RI president. It belongs to each Rotarian around the world. And it's there for all of us to change the world. We save mothers and children because we have compassion and we know how to plan. We provide clean water and sanitation where they're needed to those who need them, because we build strategies based on a community's needs. We combine support for peace, education and economic stability for at-risk communities with an ability to manage big projects.

Giving to the Foundation is smart, too, because in doing so, you multiply the value of that gift. How many other foundations can you think of that identify the projects, fund them and run them on the ground

themselves? Ours is the only one I know. And we get it all done at such a relatively low administrative cost. This is one reason Charity Navigator consistently gives the Foundation a four-star rating.

I sometimes get asked a question: How much should I be giving to the Foundation? Each year, make a gift of what you can afford to give. For some, that is \$100, and for others, more. What's most important is that you give something, because each generous gift helps us meet the increased demand we're seeing from members for global grants and our other programmes.

This year, we want to raise \$50 million for PolioPlus, which will be matched 2-to-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, for a total of \$150 million. If every Rotary club contributed just \$1 500, we would surpass this goal. We have other goals as well - for the Annual Fund, the Endowment Fund and outright gifts - adding up to a grand total of \$410 million.

We will get there if we set our hearts - and minds - to it. But remember, it's not about the money; it's what the money can do.

There's a saying that goes, "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." The Foundation is that stone, so let us turn ripples into great waves with it, using our hearts and our minds.

## Rotary at a glance

**Rotary clubs:** 36 922  
**Members:** 1 196 404  
**Rotaract clubs:** 10 609  
**Members:** 227 177  
**Interact clubs:** 16 673  
**Members:** 383 479  
**RCCs:** 11 875

As at 18 October 2021

▲ Increase

▼ Decrease





# Foundation Update

WITH ROTARY REGIONAL FOUNDATION COORDINATOR JANKEES SLIGCHER

Time has flown by, and we are already well into what has been a busy Rotary year! Region 28, part of Zone 22, has a particularly active group of members who have taken on the role of promoting and supporting Foundation giving within their clubs and districts.

## They are:

- Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator Jankees Sligcher
- Assistant Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinators PDG, Francis Callard (D9400 and D9370), PDG Carl-Heinz Duisberg (D9350), PDG Hutch Mathinda (D9210 and D9212) and PDG Rosetti Nabbumba (D9213 and D 9214)
- Endowment Major Gift Advisor PDG Eric Kimani (D9212)
- End Polio Now Coordinator PDG Richard Brooks (D9370)

This team has regular monthly meetings and is starting to understand where and how assistance can be given to Foundation chairs in the relevant Rotary districts. The main theme of these meetings is how to promote the understanding of what TRF can do for Rotary clubs if they apply their minds and their budgets to create a win/win situation for deserving projects.

Basically, what this means is to make the clubs understand that if they follow our International President Shekar's Foundation slogan (Give more,

to Do more, to Grow more), they will have a three-year strategic plan to support and serve their communities.

The annual Rotary Foundation report has provided some interesting information. When you focus on Africa, and especially our Region 28, you will see that only Uganda made the list of the top 30 countries that give to the Foundation (*see next page*).

Please understand, this is not meant as criticism on all the hard-working District Governors and DRFCs but it is just a sign that, perhaps, we should change our perception of the importance of giving.

Giving is fun, but it is also essential if we want to achieve bigger and better projects that have a greater and more sustainable impact.

So, what have we done lately to make an impression? District 9210 organised a very informative and well-received three-hour multi-district virtual Giving Symposium.

The virtual symposium was convened by PDGs Rosetti Nabbumba, Jankees Sligcher and Hutch Mathinda. A host of speakers, introduced by moderator DRFC Stella Dongo (D9210), motivated the participants, who were mostly from the northern districts of Region 28. Subjects such as TRF Doing Good in Africa, Giving for Good, Polio Giving, TRF Utilisation and Harnessing Significant Giving led to in-depth discussions and understanding that if districts and clubs cooperate, we can do so much

more. The symposium was so successful that, with the assistance of the DRFCs and DGs in the various districts, we are going to roll out a similar symposium in February 2022.

We hope this will entice more Rotary clubs and members to participate and achieve a greater understanding of the importance of giving and ultimately inspire a Culture of Giving. We all want to participate in doing good in the communities we serve and although time spent on projects is very important, it also means these projects need funding to be successful.

Is it fair to expect The Rotary Foundation to award us with grants for our projects if we don't make a concerted effort to raise funds or contribute ourselves over and above our yearly dues? The amount is actually not that important, regular giving to the Foundation even in small amounts, is. Call it the Power of the Pennies and remember the Rotary Foundation started with \$26.50 all those years ago. The power of the Pennies indeed. Let's hope that we can see a few more African countries positioned in the 'hit parade' of top giving countries.

I challenge you to give!

## Our Top 30 Giving Countries

	Country	Rotarians	% of members	Clubs	% of Clubs	Annual Fund	Polio Plus Fund	Other Funds	Endowment Fund	Total Contributions	Annual Fund per Capita
1	United States	297,809	25%	7,486	21%	\$51,985,511	\$114,733,336	\$7,142,244	\$14,572,314	\$188,433,405	\$174.56
2	Korea	60,225	5%	1,659	5%	\$16,602,265	\$551,998	\$1,680,044	\$3,854,083	\$22,688,390	\$275.67
3	India	148,231	13%	3,940	11%	\$7,857,479	\$2,000,016	\$10,750,509	\$1,780,904	\$22,388,908	\$53.01
4	Japan	85,096	7%	2,238	6%	\$12,598,570	\$2,289,959	\$313,683	\$1,972,351	\$17,174,563	\$148.05
5	Taiwan	32,080	3%	892	2%	\$7,038,965	\$1,069,368	\$2,296,326	\$4,427,976	\$14,832,635	\$219.42
6	Canada	21,242	2%	711	2%	\$4,081,350	\$1,531,472	\$2,150,341	\$993,401	\$8,756,564	\$192.14
7	Germany	56,625	5%	1,094	3%	\$4,910,406	\$1,710,500	\$898,999	\$49	\$7,519,954	\$86.72
8	Australia	25,295	2%	1,037	3%	\$3,217,167	\$913,599	\$893,706	\$830,826	\$5,855,298	\$127.19
9	Italy	38,650	3%	909	3%	\$3,759,157	\$1,089,746	\$308,514	\$237,713	\$5,395,130	\$97.26
10	Philippines	25,285	2%	922	3%	\$3,764,929	\$584,603	\$298,238	\$702,538	\$5,350,308	\$148.90
11	Brazil	52,328	4%	2,403	7%	\$3,305,159	\$476,247	\$374,131	\$529,026	\$4,684,563	\$63.16
12	UK	39,962	3%	1,616	4%	\$2,273,031	\$975,648	\$315,575	\$155,481	\$3,719,735	\$56.88
13	France	29,099	2%	1,072	3%	\$2,583,082	\$858,288	\$238,550	\$10,279	\$3,690,199	\$88.77
14	Switzerland	13,108	1%	219	1%	\$798,929	\$393,297	\$536,536	\$173,944	\$1,902,706	\$60.95
15	Nigeria	10,361	1%	400	1%	\$1,083,361	\$377,366	\$37,279	\$262,962	\$1,760,968	\$104.56
16	Thailand	7,458	1%	334	1%	\$1,427,434	\$77,141	\$136,261	\$116,204	\$1,757,040	\$191.40
17	Singapore	771	0%	23	0%	\$295,772	\$101,598	\$124,108	\$1,151,765	\$1,673,243	\$383.62
18	Mexico	9,375	1%	605	2%	\$1,004,728	\$162,432	\$421,099	\$20,402	\$1,608,661	\$107.17
19	Belgium	9,711	1%	270	1%	\$845,280	\$287,629	\$63,277	\$234	\$1,196,420	\$87.04
20	Bangladesh	11,157	1%	400	1%	\$377,838	\$104,087	\$553,159	\$90,894	\$1,125,978	\$33.87
21	Austria	8,282	1%	158	0%	\$872,144	\$55,622	\$27,649	\$2,746	\$958,161	\$105.31
22	Netherlands	16,165	1%	491	1%	\$668,103	\$216,959	\$6,579	\$15,603	\$907,244	\$41.33
23	New Zealand	6,823	1%	230	1%	\$524,016	\$154,328	\$199,940	\$6,363	\$884,647	\$76.80
24	Nepal	4,922	0%	125	0%	\$340,754	\$17,636	\$459,087	\$0	\$817,477	\$69.23
25	Hong Kong	2,010	0%	78	0%	\$553,202	\$74,120	\$128,298	\$59,000	\$814,620	\$275.22
26	Denmark	9,019	1%	253	1%	\$276,728	\$125,352	\$133,752	\$260,972	\$796,804	\$30.68
27	Turkey	5,655	0%	228	1%	\$172,998	\$52,707	\$142,777	\$275,935	\$644,417	\$30.59
28	Uganda	4,308	0%	131	0%	\$229,648	\$69,272	\$269,618	\$62,004	\$630,542	\$53.31
29	Pakistan	3,298	0%	258	1%	\$168,465	\$128,149	\$309,292	\$0	\$605,906	\$51.08
30	Spain	4,373	0%	229	1%	\$336,300	\$149,612	\$102,858	\$16,297	\$605,067	\$76.90





# Changemakers

## ROTARY FOUNDATION MAJOR GIFTS INITIATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER, PDG PATRICK COLEMAN

We sometimes make the mistake of believing that Changemakers are loud and forceful in their efforts to create change. On the contrary, many of the people who work quietly behind the scenes often make the biggest difference in the lives of those around them.

Elizabeth Lamberti, The Rotary Foundation (TRF) former Senior Major Gifts Officer for Africa, tells of one such incredible Changemaker – Dries Lötter.

“When I first met Dries, he was very engaged in the PolioPlus campaign and had made several large gifts to PolioPlus. His goal at that time was to be the leading South African donor for PolioPlus. He achieved his goal and gave over \$100K to PolioPlus over the years. Dries flew to Rome to participate in the Gladiator PolioPlus fundraising event at the Colosseum. There, he received his Major Donor 4 pin for his gift to PolioPlus.”

Dries had visited a school in the townships where there was no running water or toilet facilities for the students. He understood the students could not go to school for a full day without these facilities, so he wanted to find a way to support Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in schools so that young students could continue their education. Elizabeth introduced the idea of a named fund for WASH. Although he knew what the endowment fund was, he had never heard of a “named fund”. He decided his new giving goal would be to establish a named fund for WASH so that he could continue to support these projects every year. He made a cash gift to establish the Dries Lötter fund for Water and Sanitation. Dries worked together with Elizabeth so that his estate gift could one day flow into the fund and grow the fund even after his passing.

Dries was passionate and deliberate about each

stage of his giving. He loved the various recognition items and collected each PHF, Benefactor or Major Donor and Bequest Society pin or crystal and proudly displayed them in his office. He had each pin framed and displayed.

Dries soon realised he was not far away from the Arch Klumph Society (AKS) – TRF recognition for contributing \$250 000 to TRF – and made it his new goal to be the first living South African AKS member. He continued on his giving goals and achieved his dream. He was inducted into AKS at the Hamburg Convention in the company of his granddaughter Elvee and PDG Gianna Doubell. I was also present at that celebration. Dries Lötter was so proud to lead in this way and made it his life’s ambition to help others through his giving. He was completely humble and selfless in his quest. One does not need to be a District Governor, Rotary Director, Rotary Foundation Trustee or the President of Rotary International to be a Changemaker.

Sadly, Dries passed away on 27 June 2021. His life was a testament of selfless giving and dedicated service, and his legacy lives on through his contributions to The Rotary Foundation. While I personally miss his effervescent smile, we can all remember and benefit from his example of giving so others will live a more abundant life. His generosity encouraged and motivated me to give just a bit more.

If you would like more information about a “Named Fund” or the Bequest Society, just let me know and I’ll be more than happy to put you in contact with the experts at The Rotary Foundation.

November is The Rotary Foundation Month. Please consider an extra gift to TRF so we can all be Changemakers.

# Disability Desk

WITH JEREMY OPPERMAN, THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEWLANDS (D9350)

## IS IT THE TRUTH?

Like countless others I imagine, I watched the compelling celebrations for our very own Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, or ‘Arch’, birthday celebrations.

What struck me almost immediately was that the messages from Thuli Madonsela, Graca Michelle and Mary Robinson departed from the usual gushy sentimental birthday tributes so loved by celebrities. After short heartfelt tributes to their dearest Arch, they all leapt straight in with some serious no holds barred truth telling. Corruption, crime, climate change and poverty were the order of the day. No mincing of words or diplomatic fluffiness. Just hard facts and straight talking.

I know some people were surprised and even disappointed, expecting perhaps a glamorous bio-pic of the Arch, made the more memorable by the presence of such deservedly vaunted personalities as those four larger than life people, including of course the Dalia Lama.

But I loved it!

It reminded me of a little controversy I witnessed recently while attending a high-level organisational strategy discussion. Essentially, is it wise or appropriate to highlight past mistakes and to regretfully acknowledge an organisation failing in the past? The context in this instance, was Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, or DEI. I was interested that not everyone agreed with the idea, preferring rather to downplay the past and highlight future inclusive practices.

When asked, I categorically agreed that disclosure and acknowledgement of past failing was essential if you wished for change in matters of diversity and inclusion. I used the analogy of getting directions to visit someone.

The first thing they will say when directing you, is where are you coming from.

It is normal for people to feel uncomfortable when they must face up to the past if they wish to progress in an area they are unfamiliar with. The

problem all too often lies in people’s genuine or wilful ignorance of issues making up the status quo.

This must be confronted with hard facts to jolt them into realising that change is paramount, simply because it would be totally unacceptable to continue with the status quo. In a word, the truth.

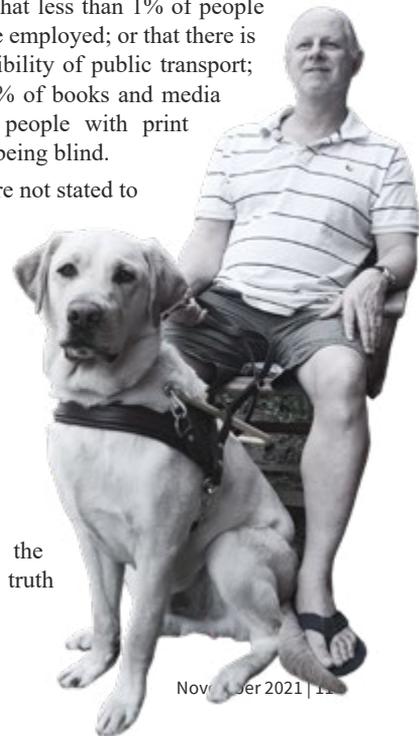
The sluggish uptake of diversity, equity, and inclusion in so many organisations and societies, in particular with disability equity and inclusion, can absolutely be attributed to both wilful and genuine ignorance. It is essential that this be met with facts and realities to create a working baseline upon which you can drive practical change.

Which is why in my work as a diversity practitioner, I spend a lot of time on dispelling myths and showing the facts and realities of the situation.

How else would they know for instance that: 65% of children with disabilities don’t go to school; or that there are only 400 special schools in the country and that less than 70 of those go all the way to matric; or that less than 1% of people with disabilities are employed; or that there is near total inaccessibility of public transport; or that less than 6% of books and media are accessible to people with print handicaps such as being blind.

These realities are not stated to solicit pity, they are used to wake us up and to demand change, just as Thuli, Graca and Mary called for change with regards to poverty, corruption and the climate crisis.

As long as it’s the truth, I applaud truth telling.



# Your voice...

Send your letters to  
[rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za](mailto:rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za).  
 Please include 'letter' in the subject

**EDITOR,**

What a pleasure it was for me to read of two toilet/ablation facilities that Rotary clubs sponsored in your latest August edition of Rotary Africa!

The Rotary Club of Polokwane has provided EnviroLoo toilets where they were needed in their community, and Rotary Club of Durban-Morningside has built 2 toilet blocks at the Windy Heights Primary School, in response to its Principal's urgent request. We are bombarded in the media with dreadful stories of schools that do not have toilet facilities at all and those whose facilities are inadequate, as well as shocking experiences suffered by learners in those facilities, some even causing deaths of young children and rapes of older ones.

I believe every Rotary club should make every effort to find out where the needs for toilets are in their communities, and make a concerted effort to provide them, so that our schools can at least have the basics for their learners. I doubt any Rotary members can imagine what it is like when a place you have to attend every day lacks such basics!

After all, there is a good Rotary story that I believe is true, that the first project undertaken by Paul Harris and friends when they first formed Rotary in Chicago, was to build a public toilet where it was needed there.

Yours truly  
 Lesley Satchel  
 Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350)

# Coming up...

Submit your Rotary club or district events to [rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za](mailto:rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za).  
 Please include 'calendar' in the subject

## November

**12-14 NOVEMBER**

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF SANDTON** (D9400) is hosting The Yards of Art Festival, an art exhibition featuring over twenty local South African artists. It is aimed at rebuilding and assisting artists to reconnect with their fellow art lovers and sell their artwork. Attendees will be given a chance to test their talent by participating in a still life drawing. Opening night is on Friday 12 November: 18:00 to 20:00. On Saturday and Sunday 13-14 November: 9:00 to 17:00. A unique rosewood deck chair with hand painted canvas seats will be sold by silent auction, closing at noon on Sunday 14 November. Venue: Victoria Yards, 16 Viljoen Street, Lorentzville, Johannesburg. Safe parking, cash bars and food stalls will be available. Tickets: [www.sandtonrotary.org.za](http://www.sandtonrotary.org.za). Contact Val Thompson: [yardsofartfestival@gmail.com](mailto:yardsofartfestival@gmail.com)



# 7 REASONS NOT TO MISS THE 2022 CONVENTION

Whether in person or virtual, Rotary’s annual gathering can be life changing, writes *Vanessa Glavinskas*



Toronto 2018. Alyce Henson © Rotary International

**I love the beautiful clothes of many members, so representative and full of history and tradition.**

— Betsy Pizaña,  
Rotary Club of Brownsville Sunrise

## **1 YOU CAN ATTEND IN PERSON**

“There’s nothing like shaking hands and seeing smiles in person,” says John Smarge, chair of the 2022 Rotary International Convention in Houston. “We need to resume sharing our stories about what we’re doing in our communities around the world.”

This will be Rotary’s first in-person convention in three years, due to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. “Houston is a great convention city,” says Smarge. “There are plenty of hotels near the George R Brown Convention Centre [the principal venue for the 2022 convention].” Everything is within walking distance.

Because it’s also the first in-person convention since the adoption of Rotary’s new area of focus - protecting the environment - emphasis will be placed on holding the 4-8 June convention in an environmentally friendly way. For example, convention attendees are encouraged to download the Footprint app to track and offset their carbon footprint from the moment they leave home until they return.

Learn more about the convention and register at [convention.rotary.org](https://convention.rotary.org)



Honolulu 1969. Courtesy of Rotary International

## **2** YOU CAN TAKE PART EVEN IF YOU CAN'T TRAVEL THERE

Luis Monteiro only started attending Rotary conventions in 2020, when the Honolulu event went virtual. “My career in nursing makes it hard to travel,” says Monteiro, a member of the Rotary Club of Lamego, Portugal. But once he experienced a convention, he was hooked. He attended virtually again in 2021 and plans to log on to the Houston event. “I really enjoy participating in meetings with Rotary leaders,” he says. “I will continue to participate virtually whenever there is the option.”

The Houston convention will be conducted in-person, along with an online experience. “We’ll follow health guidelines,” Smarge says. To make the event as international as possible, he also promises that he will do everything he can to help members from other countries get to Houston. “I’d like everyone who wants to come to be able to come,” he says.

## **3** YOU MIGHT MEET AN ASTRONAUT ...

Houston’s nickname is Space City, so local Rotary members made sure to showcase Space Centre Houston when planning extra activities around the city for convention attendees - and they also invited astronauts to mingle with convention-goers at the opening night’s welcome event. “Space Centre Houston is a must-see,” says Rhonda Kennedy, chair of the Host Organisation Committee. “But you don’t have to go on your own because we’ve planned an event for you. We will have transportation to and from the Space Centre, food and astronaut meet-and-greets.”

Discover - and sign up for - host committee events, which include museum tours, sporting events, and more, at [houstonri2022.org/events](https://houstonri2022.org/events).

**The online convention this year was my very first one! I made great connections and new friends, and I found out about action groups. I can’t wait to meet face-to-face next time. I’ve already got my tickets.**

- Gwen Jones, Rotary Club of Whidbey-Westside, Washington

## 4 ... OR THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE

Jenny Bates had no qualms about attending the 2014 convention by herself, even though it was being held in Sydney, Australia, halfway around the world from her home. “Meeting people everywhere you go is part of the magical experience [of a convention],” says Bates, a member of the Rotary Club of San Rafael Evening, California. So, when Laine Hendricks took the seat next to her at an early morning interfaith service, Bates struck up a conversation. The two women, both from California, hit it off.

Later in the week, Bates ended up with an extra ticket to climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge and asked Hendricks if she’d be willing to go. “I wanted to challenge myself because I was afraid of heights,” Bates says. Hendricks agreed and together they climbed the 1 332 steps to the top of the bridge. Since then, Bates and Hendricks have made it a point to climb something high any time they travel - including the EdgeWalk atop the CN Tower during the Toronto convention in 2018. “Laine inspires me to do crazy things,” Bates says. “She’s very supportive.”

Bates and Hendricks, a member of the Rotary Club of San Francisco, were married in 2019, and they continue to attend conventions together. “The minute we could sign up for Houston, we were all in,” Bates says. She also attended the virtual conventions in 2020 and 2021, but for her it wasn’t the same.

“I’m always moved by the speakers but watching it on a screen in my living room doesn’t have the same impact for me as walking into a stadium with 10 000 Rotarians. Plus, going to the convention is special to us because that’s how we met. Going to Sydney created a trajectory that changed my life forever.”

**I enjoy going to the food court and finding a vacant chair at a table of Rotarians I don’t know, sitting down, finding a common language, and learning about each other’s clubs.**

- Steve Hitchcock, Rotary Club of Grand Junction Horizon Sunrise



Hamburg 2019.

Monika Lozinska © Rotary International

## 5 THE WORLD-RENOWNED SPEAKERS

“The level of speakers alone makes it worth going,” says Erin Kelly, a member of the Rotary Club of Chattanooga Breakfast, Tennessee. “I’ve seen Bill Gates, John Cena, Ashton Kutcher and Justin Trudeau.”

Tracy Carroll, a member of the Rotary Club of Vero Beach Sunrise, Florida, agrees. “Being in the same room with Princess Anne, Bill Gates and others was a thrill,” she says.

While the list of speakers for Houston hasn’t been announced yet, Smarge says members should expect a varied programme that includes experts on environmental issues. “This will be the first in-person convention since the adoption of our new area of focus, protecting the environment,” he says.

“We hope to reflect that both in the way we conduct the convention and in our speakers. My personal goal is to ensure that we schedule a diverse line-up of speakers.”

“The convention changed my life as a Rotaractor and empowered me. I feel that I am someone who can make a difference in the world,” says Nagisa Sakamoto, Rotaract Club of Kobe Suma, Japan.

## 6 YOU WILL EXPERIENCE A NEW CITY

Houston’s reputation as the city that launched America’s exploration of space is well deserved and, as mentioned, its Space Centre definitely warrants a visit. But there are many more places to explore.

At least 145 languages are spoken in the Houston metro area and that diversity has spilled over into the local food, music and art scenes. There are also world-class museums, such as the Houston Museum of Natural Science, the Lone Star Flight Museum and the highly rated Children’s Museum Houston.

Houstonians also dine out more often than the average American, so restaurants are plentiful. The city’s trademark food offerings include Gulf Coast oysters, crawfish drenched in spices, Tex-Mex and, of course, barbecue - but imaginative chefs representing the city’s diverse cultures also provide culinary surprises aplenty.

On the convention’s opening night, the host committee will stage a welcome event at Discovery Green, a park in the heart of the city. “This is the event that everyone will be at,” says Kennedy. “There will be so much entertainment around the park, from armadillo races to an aerial act - and you won’t want to miss the huge grand finale.”



Atlanta 2017. Elliot Liss © Rotary International



Lisbon 2013.  
Alyce Henson © Rotary International



São Paulo 2015.  
Alyce Henson © Rotary International



Hamburg 2019.  
Thies Ibold © Rotary International

## 7 YOU’LL BE STRUCK BY ROTARY’S POWER TO CONNECT YOU TO THE WORLD

Giselle Holder has travelled to four Rotary conventions. And though she doesn’t recall every speaker that she has heard or every plenary session that she has attended, she does remember how being at the convention makes her feel. “There is this electric atmosphere,” Holder says. “There’s nothing like walking through the House of Friendship surrounded by thousands of Rotary members from around the world.”

Holder attended her first convention in 2011 when she was a member of the Rotaract Club of Port of Spain West, Trinidad and Tobago. It was a financial stretch - and a lengthy journey. “We flew from Trinidad to Miami, and then took a bus for 23 hours to New Orleans,” she recalls. But, she adds, it was worth it. “That was the first time I saw what Rotary can be and the reach of Rotary across the world. That was my ‘wow’ moment. Rotary is so much bigger than my club or my country.”

In 2017, Holder joined the Rotary Club of Maraval. She says going to conventions has helped keep her excitement for Rotary alive. “Conventions remind you of how many things are happening worldwide that require our assistance,” she says. “You always meet someone new, someone willing to partner on a project. It’s a great way to discover new opportunities in Rotary.”

**Houston is home to a truly diverse and thriving culture and with more than 90 languages spoken locally, it is also known as the most ethnically diverse city in the country. Which is probably why there is so much to see and do when you**

# Head to Houston



They say there is something for everyone in Houston, Texas, and since Rotarians from across the globe will descend on the city in June 2022 for the International Convention, we decided to see if this statement holds water!

## FOR THE MUSEUM AND ART LOVERS



### THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FUNERAL HISTORY

The National Museum of Funeral History is an educational experience like no other and offers something for everyone.

The museum was recently named the 2021 Best Of Houston® Readers' Choice Winner: Best Museum!

Discover America's largest collection of historical funeral service items. Thousands of visitors each year explore 15 different permanent exhibits housed in over 30 500 square feet of exhibit space.

Learn about caskets and coffins, hearses through history, plus the funerals of Presidents, Popes and celebrities while you witness the cultural heritage of the funeral service industry and its time-honoured tradition of compassion.

The museum is open Monday-Friday, 10am to 4pm and Saturday-Sunday, noon to 4pm. Tours are offered Monday through Friday 10am to 2.30pm.

Tours last one hour and cover most of the artefacts in the museum, as well as little known facts about funeral heritage.

Website: [www.nmfh.org](http://www.nmfh.org)

## 1940 AIR TERMINAL MUSEUM

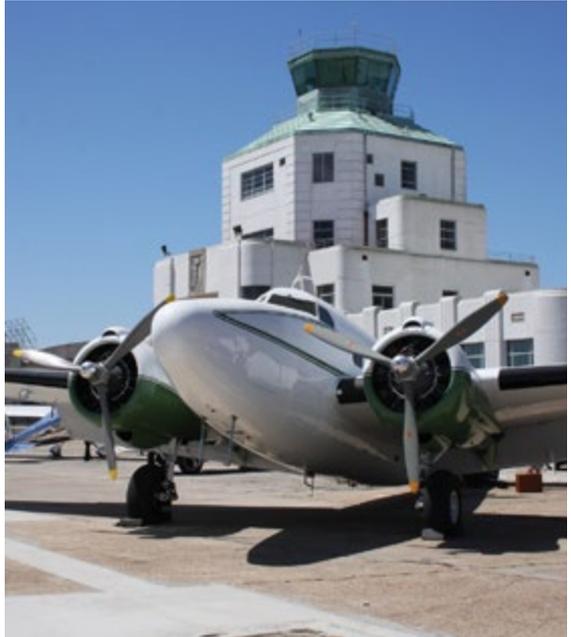
What was the only commercial terminal in Houston until 1954, the 1940 Air Terminal Museum demonstrates the impact of aviation on Houston’s history and economic development through the prism of architectural beauty.

The 1940 Air Terminal Museum is housed in the historic art deco terminal building that once served the City of Houston as the Houston Municipal Airport. The building is now a protected landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

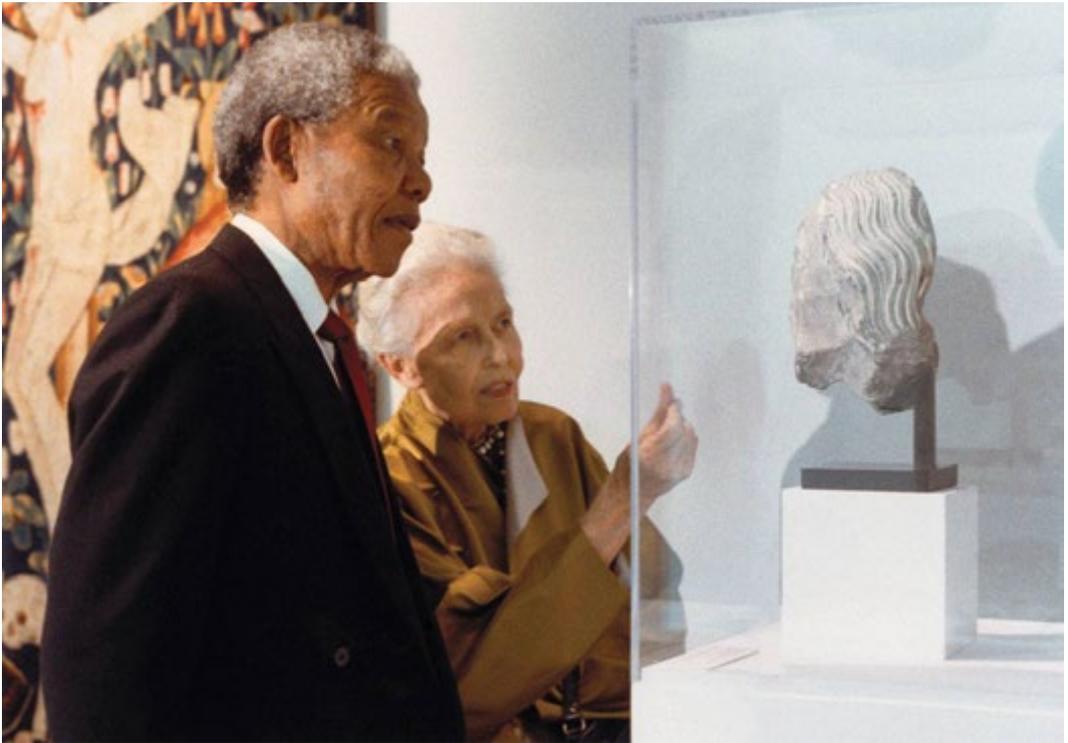
Between Hobby Airport’s airline traffic, business aviation and frequent fixed wing and rotary wing general aviation traffic, a visit to the museum will provide each guest with a front row view of the active runways!

**Website:** [1940airterminal.org](http://1940airterminal.org)

*Photo: Christopher Ebdon/Flickr*



## THE MENIL COLLECTION



*To celebrate the 20th anniversary of neighbouring Rothko Chapel, Nelson Mandela visited Houston. During his trip, he toured the Menil Collection with Dominique de Menil. To mark this moment in Menil history, “Untitled (Rothko Chapel Alternate Panel),” one of Mark Rothko’s alternate panels designed for the Chapel is on view as part of “Thirty Works for Thirty Years.” Photo: David Crossley (The Menil Collection/Facebook)*



The Menil Collection is regarded as one of the world's premiere cultural institutions.

Houston philanthropists and art patrons John and Dominique de Menil established the Menil Foundation in 1954 to foster greater public understanding and appreciation of art, architecture, culture, religion, and philosophy. In 1987, the Menil Collection's main museum building opened to the public.

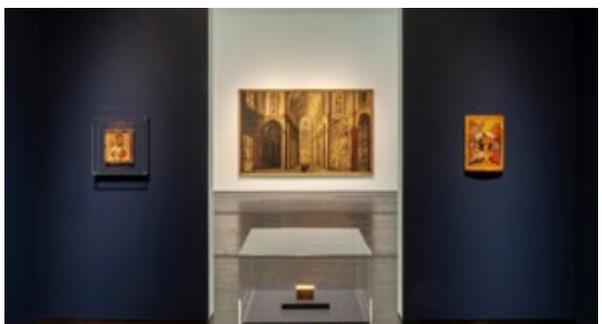
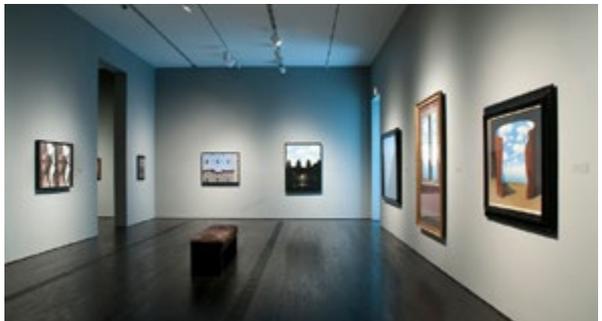
Today, it consists of a group of five art buildings and green spaces located within a residential neighbourhood. The museum's holdings are diverse, including early to mid-twentieth century works of Yves Tanguy, René Magritte, Max Ernst, Man Ray, Marcel Duchamp, Henri Matisse, Jackson Pollock, and Pablo Picasso, among others.

The museum also maintains an extensive collection of pop art and contemporary art from Andy Warhol, Mark Rothko, Robert Rauschenberg, Vija Celmins and Cy Twombly Jr among others. Permanent collections include Arts of Africa, Arts of the Americas and Pacific Northwest, Arts of the Ancient World, Arts of the Pacific Islands, the Drawings Collection, Medieval and Byzantine Art, Modern and Contemporary Art, Surrealism, and Witnesses.

The Menil Collection remains committed to its founders' belief that art is essential to human experience and fosters direct personal encounters with works of art. The museum welcomes all visitors free of charge to its buildings and surrounding green spaces.

**Admission: Free.**

**Website: [www.menil.org](http://www.menil.org)**



## FOR THE NATURE LOVERS

### DISCOVERY GREEN

Discovery Green is a beautiful, vibrant 12-acre park in the heart of downtown Houston that opened to the public in April 2008. The park was envisioned by several committed Houston philanthropists, who saw the space as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create an urban park that would redefine the landscape of downtown. In less than four years, the site that became

Discovery Green exemplifies a successful public-private partnership between the City of Houston, the Houston First Corporation and Discovery Green Conservancy, the non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that operates and maintains the park. The Conservancy produces hundreds of free events each year and receives no direct city funding.

As befits its name, Discovery Green is an environmental showcase in the heart of downtown Houston. The park is designed to use the latest technology in “green” building methods, energy conservation, and sustainable, environmentally-friendly park operations.

Discovery Green has earned a Gold rating from the LEED Green Building Rating System, which is the national benchmark for the design, construction, and operations of high-performance green buildings. Discovery Green uses electricity from 100% clean, renewable wind sources to power the park, which offsets carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) pollution.

**Website:** [www.discoverygreen.com](http://www.discoverygreen.com)

*From the earliest stages of planning, Discovery Green Conservancy committed to building a park that could meet the highest environmental standards while providing beauty and usability to the public.*



*Discovery Green was transformed from an undeveloped, concrete eyesore into a beautiful and vibrant destination adjacent to the George R Brown Convention Centre (primary venue for the International Convention).*





**JAMES TURRELL TWILIGHT EPIPHANY SKYSPACE**

Built in 2012, the pyramidal structure accommodates 120 people between two levels. Twilight Epiphany is acoustically engineered to host musical performances and to act as a laboratory for Shepherd School of Music students.

Constructed of grass, concrete, stone and composite steel, the structure is equipped with an LED light sequence that projects onto the ceiling and through an aperture in the 72-foot square knife-edge roof during sunrise and at sunset.

Turrell’s composition of light complements the natural light present at twilight, and transforms the Skyspace into a locale for experiencing beauty and reflecting on the surrounding campus and the natural world.

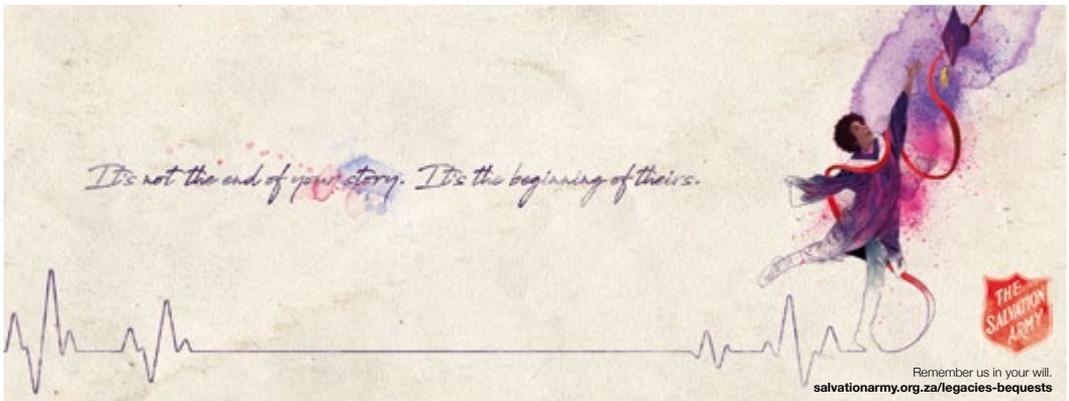
Located at the Rice University Campus, the Skyspace structure is open and available to the public throughout the day. Light sequences occur daily at sunrise and sunset.

Experience the Twilight Epiphany sunset light sequence: Walk up and take a seat. Note: Arrive 10-15 minutes early to guarantee a seat. Visitors are subject to Skyspace guidelines at all times when in and around the structure.

The Twilight Epiphany Sunrise light sequence: Can be viewed every day except Tuesdays. It begins approximately 40 minutes before sunrise and visitors should arrive an hour before sunrise. Each sequence lasts approximately 40 minutes.

**Cost: Free**

**Website: [moody.rice.edu/james-turrell-twilight-epiphany-skyspace](http://moody.rice.edu/james-turrell-twilight-epiphany-skyspace)**



## HERMANN PARK

In May of 1914 Houston real estate investor and industrialist George H. Hermann announced publicly his intention of deeding to the City of Houston 285 acres of this property for a municipal park across the street from the Rice Institute and thus Hermann Park was born. A century later, Hermann Park is 445-acres of beautiful green space and is visited by an estimated 6 million people per year.

Hermann Park was recently named one of America’s great public spaces by the American Planning Association and the park’s McGovern Centennial Gardens was honoured with the Landmark Award from Keep Houston Beautiful (Mayor’s Proud Partner Awards). Hermann Park is a wonderful place to spend a day. Whether you wish to ride the train along the Hermann Park Railroad, pedal around in a pedal boat on McGovern Lake, jog along the trails, or enjoy a peaceful moment in the Japanese Garden, Hermann Park offers countless opportunities for relaxation and rejuvenation.

Enjoy refreshments at Ginger Kale Cafe, next to McGovern Lake, between Kinder Station and the pedal boat house, across the plaza from the Houston Zoo.

**Admission: The park is free to visit. There are fees to use the conservancy amenities such as the railroad and pedal boats.**

**Website: [www.hermannpark.org](http://www.hermannpark.org)**



## FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART AND FAMILIES



### DAIRY ASHFORD ROLLER RINK

The 1970’s was a time of great changes, big and small. The USA was experiencing an energy crisis, the war in Vietnam was coming to a close, disco music was beginning to emerge on the dance floors and the Dairy Ashford Roller Rink opened its doors in Houston in 1974.

It was the mid 1970’s, a time of bell bottoms, big hair, big cars and great music. In the middle of all these things going on was roller skating. The majority of those trends came and went, but Dairy Ashford Roller Rink kept on going

The family-owned throwback offers both roller skates and rollerblades for all ages, a top-of-the-line sound/light system with more than 3000 songs, 25 strobe lights, a huge wooden floor to skate on and fully stocked snack bar complete with refreshments, snacks and hot meals.

**Learn more at: [www.skatedairyashford.com/](http://www.skatedairyashford.com/)**

# FOR THOSE WANTING SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT

## THE HOBBIT CAFÉ

Ideal for Tolkien fans who are looking for food, friends, wine, and good times while visiting Houston, the Hobbit Café is a must-see! Since 1972, the café has been making fare that honours Tolkien’s hobbit tradition.

Visitors can look forward to small-batch, fresh dishes including stacked burgers; huge, hobbit-sized sandwiches; nachos; seafood, like shrimp and fish; and a variety of stellar breakfast and brunch options.

A large wooden deck under a giant oak tree is one of the best places in Houston to enjoy a brew from the ever-changing list of Hobbit-approved beers and wines

Guests over the years have included Mama Cass (formerly with The Mamas & The Papas), Peter Max, Neil Young, Governor Connally, Jack Nicholson, Lynyrd Skynyrd, and Depeche Mode. We’ve even celebrated a birthday with Woody Harrelson.

**Website:** [www.hobbitcafehtx.com](http://www.hobbitcafehtx.com)



## NEWMAN'S CASTLE

Not far from Houston, just a short drive really, is the small town of Bellville Texas which, believe it or not, is home to a medieval castle!

The castle has a massive working 3,000 lb. drawbridge with an accompanying portcullis, a chapel, five round corner turrets, a courtyard, and a central keep with a dramatic view of the surrounding lands.

A perimeter wall encompasses the castle, ensuring you are safe from oncoming marauders during your visit.

Newman’s Castle is open for day tours 6 days of the week, and available for special events. Visitors must make reservations beforehand by calling the Newman’s Bakery at 979-865-9804. All tours begin at 10:30 am at Newman’s Bakery in Bellville.

**Website:** [www.newmanscastle.com](http://www.newmanscastle.com)



Rotary

Rotary Africa  
Magazine

## SUBSCRIPTION NOTICE

Rotary Africa magazine subscriptions are billed bi-annually in January and July of each year. **We do not have access to ClubRunner or My Rotary and rely on clubs for member updates.**

Clubs will be billed according to the mailing lists in our records.  
Please ensure that we have all the correct information!

### DEADLINES

**20 December** - Final day for updated subscriber list for  
**billing period January - June 2022**

At this time, Rotarians may decide to change from the printed magazine to the digital version and clubs will be billed accordingly.

**Credits will not be processed on notifications of resignations or changes in subscription choices (printed to digital) received after invoices have been sent out.**

*New subscribers will be invoiced pro-rata as notifications are received.*



# Matumaini means Hope

Together with the Rotary Club of Iringa (D9214), the Matumaini Centre has implemented a programme that will empower 30 girls a term with skills they need to gain economic independence.

Founded in 1990, by Sister Azucena (Ceny) San Pedro from the Philippines, the Matumaini Centre is located at Iringa in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania. When she arrived in Iringa to do missionary work, Sister Ceny was astonished by the high rates of prostitution and HIV and decided to create the centre to offer hope and help to young girls leaving prostitution.

The Matumaini Centre is a NGO that works with vulnerable girls and young mothers, focusing on those who are unable to continue their studies. This includes orphans, street children, and girls who do not have access to secondary school education - primarily due to early pregnancy. When young girls are registered at the centre they receive vocational training, entrepreneurship skills and a free education. Due to policies in Tanzania that prohibit school-aged girls from attending school if they are pregnant, the centre has become an alternate path to completing their education.

After Sister Ceny's departure in 2003, women who had started as girls at the centre assumed the responsibility of running it. Sister Ceny had trained these young women how to run, lead and grow the Matumaini Centre and she left the centre in the care of Hellen Nkunda (Mama Vicky) who was her assistant.

To support their sustainability, Matumaini Centre also runs a craft shop, workshop, day care, nursery school and vocational training centre. The day care and nursery school service is not just for mothers from the centre, but it is also open to local families



and supports the centre's income generation. Girls trained at the centre are not just those from vulnerable backgrounds, but also include those whose families are able to pay for their daughters to attend and learn vocational skills.

A core focus for the centre is identifying how to reintegrate young women into society after motherhood, while giving them an identity, means of earning an income and dignity. Since

its inception, the project has helped over 1 500 girls some of whom have gone on to become so economically independent that they own their own homes or businesses.

Girls are able to join the programme by invitation or if they have been identified during home visits. Additionally, referrals and recommendations for placement come from other organisations that work with vulnerable children.

## ROTARY SHOWCASE



# Attention Rotary clubs!

An Empowering Girls tab has been added to Rotary Showcase. Project champions are encouraged to log into My Rotary and upload their empowering girls projects. This will allow you and other Rotary clubs to collaborate, showcase and inspire more projects through a single platform!

# Update: Empowering Girls



## DISTRICT 9400

The Assistant Empowering Girls Ambassadors of D9400 have begun their work – to try and engage with the clubs and to reach out to prospective partners to help drive this initiative forward. In fact, before COVID-19 and before this call to action, clubs from the district had been involved in the following projects:

### In South Africa

Making of reusable sanitary pads, and teaching arts and crafts, make-up artistry, hat making and crocheting to girls in South Africa.

### In Eswatini

A partnership with Days for Girls (Eswatini), an organisation involved in the empowering of girls in schools and communities around the country.

Days for Girls had been active in the country for a number of years creating awareness on women’s health, menstrual hygiene and the choices available aimed at breaking the cycle of period poverty. It does this by ensuring access to sustainable, environmentally friendly, and cost effective reusable sanitary pads.



Maughreen Ladbrook of the Rotary Club of Cape of Good Hope (D9350), Principal Babalo Ndzaba (acting) and Ricardo Stringer at the handover of sanitary pads for schoolgirls at LSEN School for Special Needs Children in Ocean View. As an added surprise, each of the female teachers received a Women’s Day gift from the club.



*President-Elect Lanese Hesselman is championing a project aimed at empowering women working in the NGO space.*

*Annatjie Crocker is championing the project to empower young women and girls.*

## Big plans coming from Strand!

The Rotary Club of Strand (D9350) has decided to use a two-pronged approach as it answers RI President Shekar Mehta’s call to empower girls, writes *President Elenore Baiocchi*.

Most of the organisations that the club works with are run or managed by women. The club has devised a project, championed by President-Elect Lanese Hesselman, that will provide a series of workshops to support and empower these women.

They will help them with ensuring organisational compliance with all NGO regulations and in other areas such as marketing, social media and fundraising.

These workshops will be held once a quarter, or possibly every second month. In addition to targeting the women currently in charge of these organisations, the club will ask that women with potential to operate in or to even lead organisations also attend.

The second prong will assist young women and this is being led by the club’s community project lead, Annatjie Crocker. By partnering with organisations the club has worked with, such as the SAPS Victim Support Unit, Badisa and ACVV, young women will be identified as candidates for the Chrysalis Youth Development Academy. The three-month residential programme provides youth (aged 18 to 25) with life skills, vocational and work readiness training, as well as therapeutic care to support them on a psychosocial level. It also includes access to a range of further learning opportunities including a 12-month work placement to acquire work experience.

Both projects will be driven by the club’s fundraising and donor engagement activities.

## Training, development and Mentorship in Zambia

The Rotary Club of Maluba (D9210) is empowering girls through projects such as skills training and entrepreneurship development, by providing mentorship and safe spaces for girls, assisting with school fees and through a referral programme that will assist girls with, for example, finding counselling and jobs.

So far two strategic partners have been

identified and the club will work within the schools where its presence has already been established.

Assistant Empowering Girls Ambassador for Zambia, Lucy Masiye, said that it is hoped that no less than 50% of clubs in Zambia will have active projects aimed at girl empowerment.



At the training course are Sue Hackforth (mentor), Simone Davel (Project Manager Grootbos), PP Ann Wright (mentor), grant winners Aphiwe Songelwa and Thokozama Tukutezi.

## Great Grants for Grootbos

The Rotary Club of Hermanus (D9350) Welfare and Development Trust partnered with the Grootbos Foundation in extending grants to small businesses in the Overstrand region.

Candidates attended a three-day entrepreneurial workshop and thereafter submitted their business plans which were presented to a panel of adjudicators. Rotarians attended the workshops, two Rotarians sat on the adjudicating panel and three of the successful women are being mentored

by Rotarians for the next year or two.

The club had previously worked with the Grootbos Foundation and chose to partner with it due to its experience in running workshops of this nature and the global recognition the foundation enjoys. The club contributed R230 000 this year that allowed Grootbos to award 23 applicants' grants of between R5 000 and R10 000.

Additional grants of R10 000 each were awarded to three women.

**TOGETHER, WE**

# INSPIRE

Rotary believes in taking action to create positive change in communities. That's why Rotary members participate in thousands of events around the globe, including the Miles to End Polio bike ride, to raise funds to help eradicate polio and support other causes. Inspiring others and leading by example - that's what people of action do.

**Learn more at [Rotary.org](http://Rotary.org)**

**Rotary**  **PEOPLE OF ACTION**



*Mauritian Prime Minister, Pravin Kumar Jugnauth, receiving a demonstration of the drug analyser from an official.*

# A Gift to Government

The Rotary Club of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill (D9220) gave a drug analyser machine to the Government of Mauritius, writes *Rakesh Gaju*

A drug analyser, worth more than \$92 000, was presented to Prime Minister Pravin Kumar Jugnauth at the New Treasury Building, Port Louis, in September. Club President Arvin Authelsingh was joined at the presentation by Rotarians Mahesh Chackoor, Reetesh Bissessur and the Acting Commissioner of Police, Mr Anil Kumar Dip, and other dignitaries.

Prime Minister Jugnauth gratefully accepted the gift saying that the Rotary Club of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill has contributed to the efforts of government by helping other organisations to foster a better society so that the country prospers and progresses.

The Prime Minister reiterated government's determination to fight against drug abuse and trafficking, adding that this modern equipment will help in this fight. He further emphasised that

the easy-to-transport drug analyser will enable authorities to test for and detect illegal drugs, including synthetic ones.

President Arvin Authelsingh stressed that the Rotary Club of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill is engaged in the fight against drugs and said that it has collaborated on several projects and supports the governmental efforts.

The drug analyser will be able to check for up to 21 drugs and alcohol in one sample of blood, urine or oral fluid. With a minimal sample preparation required, it takes less than 20 minutes to receive qualitative results, offering a more efficient and accurate toxicology screen than was previously available. The drug analyser also allows for simultaneous screening for multiple drug classes, including common narcotics, and prescription and synthetic drugs.



*The only way to reach the island is by canoe, but the journey is worth it!*

# Rotary: Island Style

A real impact is being made on Buyiga Island thanks to the Rotary Club of Rubaga Lake View (D9214) and its local and international partners. As a club we happily accepted the invitation to ‘adopt’ the beautiful island. The people are friendly, welcoming and full of gratitude. They continuously pledge to work in collaboration with us to ensure the sustainability of our projects. Most of all, the smiles and laughter from the men, women and children of Buyiga make each visit worth it, writes *Christabel Arie Kot Madsen*.

If you have never heard of this small island, you are not alone! The island, found in Mpigi district of Uganda is hidden away from most people, even those living in the same district. Those in the know have heard of it from friends or visited the island.

Situated in Lake Victoria, Buyiga is 17.7 square kilometres wide with a population of about 20 000. It falls under the Kammengo sub-county in Mpigi district, about five kilometres from Buwama town council. The Rotary Club of Rubaga Lake View ‘adopted’ the island through its five-year project in 2019. The ‘Adopt a Village’ Buyiga project mainly concentrates on education, water and sanitation, maternal and child health, and economic empowerment of the residents.

In 2019, the club took on one of the island’s biggest challenges – clean water for all!

A needs assessment showed that the only source of running water on the entire island

was a privately-owned borehole which charged residents extremely high prices to fill a jerry can with water. This borehole served less than 10% of the population and the remaining 90% got their water from the swamp where they washed clothes, bathed and bred their animals. The risk of contracting diseases like cholera, diarrhoea and bilharzia was high, and residents had little to no access to medical care.

In the two years since taking on the water project, five boreholes have been sunk and their ownership and management has been transferred to the community. This is very important for us as a club because we want the community to be part of their own project and development.

Community-based water management committees have ensured that locally sourced building materials are used for the boreholes. These committees also ensure that residents commit to



*Keep up to date with the Buyiga Adopt A village journey by following: @RubagaLakeViewUganda (Facebook), @BuyigaMpigi (Facebook) or @Rubagalakeview (Twitter)*

saving towards maintenance of the boreholes and that while on the island, the technical team doing the actual sinking of the boreholes is welcomed warmly.

With one borehole left to be constructed, by the end of this year the island will have six boreholes located in six of its bigger villages. Over 2 000 households will benefit from the project, with each household having an average of eight occupants.

In the five villages that have already received boreholes, the cases of water-borne diseases have decreased significantly. The residents now have sources of clean water that are within their reach. One borehole was constructed near the only primary school on the island. Since then, St. Martin Buyiga Primary School has reported that more pupils are coming to school and exercising better hygiene. This borehole is also close to the island's only health centre, a great advantage to the medical staff who need clean water to provide medical care to patients.

Tackling water and sanitation on an island with as many residents as Buyiga Island, is indeed a joint effort. The project would not have been possible without the support of several partners, including District 2390 (Sweden), the Rotary Clubs of U-fonden, Malmo Limhamn and Burlov-Karstop, the Help@hand Organisation, Sydatten, VA Gruppen and Consafe Logistics.

This project will be ongoing as the islanders still need more clean water, schools and education facilities, economic empowerment projects and support for health projects. The club is actively sourcing additional project partners.



*Before the boreholes were sunk, the islanders' only source of water was a swamp.*



*One of the new boreholes at Buyiga Island.*



President Brian Blumrick with Assistant Governor Anne Thompson and two of the volunteers who helped unpack and sort the books.

## 20 Plenty Books

Led by Assistant Governor Anne Thompson, a literacy project implemented by the Rotary Club of Hibiscus Coast (D9370) has ensured that a shipping container load of books has been distributed to organisations in need, writes *Wilma Lig*

Many partners make a greater impact and this project is proof of that. Members of the Rotary Club of Pittsford (D7120, USA) collected the books from local schools, libraries and private individuals.

These books were sent to South Africa by the Second Wind Foundation and when the shipping container arrived, it cleared customs thanks to help received from Charlie Panday (Rotary Club of Reservoir Hills). His custom clearing and forwarding agency has helped Rotary clubs with importing containers for many years.

Once cleared, the container travelled down the KwaZulu-Natal south coast and was received by the Rotary Club of Hibiscus Coast. The club partnered with the Rotary Club of Port Shepstone in this project. Geoff Howard-Tripp (a member of Port Shepstone) donated the use of a warehouse to store the books before they were distributed.

The members of the Interact Club of Eaglecrest eagerly joined the project. The young and energetic Interactors joined the Rotary club members, family and friends as they opened boxes and sorted books into various categories.

The pandemic caused by COVID-19 had already hit South Africa and the country was under strict

lockdown, which did not make the task any easier, but the club succeeded with only one casualty - a Rotarian who slipped on the steps while carrying an enormous armful of books and severely cracked several ribs.

With the books sorted, it was time to identify beneficiaries. Through Facebook posts and other means of communication, many organisations requested books which were happily donated to them. More than 70 organisations, ranging from crèches to retirement villages, received books.

The most interesting donation was to Luthubeni Mission in Mquanduli in the Eastern Cape (previously the Transkei). Eighty-year-old Kaye Ter-Morshizen had a dream to finish the library in the mission school where she grew up and more than three tons of books were loaded on a truck for the five-hour trip. It was heart-warming to hear how the club's donation motivated other organisations to donate computers, storage containers and shelving to the library.

Now that the container is empty it will be moved to Genesis Trust, which will convert it into a safe place for vulnerable persons fleeing abuse, and gender-based and sexual violence.

# Nurturing a Love for Reading

Through its Let's Read project, the Rotary E-Club of East Rand (D9400) is instilling the love of reading in young children, writes *Cheryl Havenga*.

Rotarian Clare Botha, an experienced educator who sees children struggling to read on a daily basis, devised an awesome project to help reduce the number of little children struggling to learn to read.

The newly launched reading programme began with providing Grade R educators with enough books to rotate among the children in their classes. Each week, every child receives a new story book to take home for their parents to read to them.

However, sending books home to be read does not help much if parents don't know the correct way to read to their children.

It sounds simple, you read the words and show them the pictures. But the problem is that this does

not help the child to learn to read. To help parents, the e-club is making and sharing demonstration videos that show parents how to read a story, while following the words with their fingers.

The videos also share many simple lessons for parents to incorporate into story time.

The techniques in these videos help make reading and story time fun and engaging for the child while teaching them to recognise sight words and start learning how to read.

People interested in the programme can email their school's name, number of learners and contact details to Rotary. [EastRandEClub@gmail.com](mailto:EastRandEClub@gmail.com) or call Clare on 072 437 1108.



## Laptops for Students

Laptops were donated to four students of the Malawi College of Health Sciences, Lilongwe campus, by the Rotary Club of Lilongwe (D9210). The donation of the four laptops was in conjunction with Atsikana Paulendo Girls academy.

Speaking during the donation, Lifred Stanford, one of the four beneficiaries, shared his gratitude and prayed for more blessings for the Rotary club members.

The Dean of Students Ken Gama, applauded the club for its timely donation to the four second-year students saying, "It will help them during their upcoming survey project." He also expressed concern about the health and wellness of his students and that he would like to connect with people who own medical facilities, pharmacies and clinics. "Please let's form partnerships through which these students shall benefit."

## YOUTH NEWS



# RYLA goes digital in D9370

The first virtual District 9370 Ryla Leadership Summit was held in September with the theme *Embracing Leadership in Changing Times*.

Dr Ian Knott-Craig partnered in the event as its content-developer and facilitator. Ian was highly recommended having recently retired as Deputy Head of Port Alfred High School to follow his dream of developing leadership skills in young people.

A panel of guest speakers addressed the youth on various topics relating to leadership. As clubs in the district understood that a virtual summit could not replace the physical camps, they urged local secondary schools to consider alternatives.

### Topics included:

- The Relevance of Women in Leadership
- The Challenges Facing Youth in Leadership
- Growing up with an Absent Father
- Servant leadership
- Embracing Leadership in Changing Times
- Virtual Leadership
- Dealing with Change

The RYLA Leadership Summit encouraged participants to become aware of Rotary, realise that positive change begins with themselves, understand different leadership styles and the ethics involved, discover their own circle of influence, discuss issues facing teens today and offer possible solutions, see things from a different perspective and communicate in a non-violent or non-threatening manner.

More than 40 Rotary clubs in D9370 supported



the event and formed 'pods' of between six and 20 learners that allowed for some interaction and discussion.



Members of the Rotary Club of Port Shepstone (D9370) believe that it's their responsibility to give young people hope for the future, provide leadership skills to equip them for change and create the confidence to become the best version of themselves.

Usually at this time of the year, the Rotary Club of Port Shepstone hosts a five-day leadership camp, but due to COVID-19 it was forced to explore other options. With online learning becoming something of a norm, the club decided to participate in the District 9370 Virtual RYLA Leadership Summit by

hosting a group of learners from four schools.

The summit was held at the South Coast Hospice Training Centre in Port Shepstone, which had access to internet and a big screen. Learners and educators from Port Shepstone High, Port Shepstone Secondary, Marburg Secondary and Creston College attended the summit.

"We arrived with nothing, didn't have to pay anything but yet here we are leaving rich and fulfilled in body, spirit and mind. It was truly a stimulating day," said one of the learners.

*The Rotary Club of Estcourt (D9370) and Estcourt High School learners took part in the virtual Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Summit.*



## AFRICA IN BRIEF



Celebrate Community, a joint initiative of four major volunteer service organisations, was launched in October with a focus on local community service. The first public effort of the organisations – Kiwanis International, Lions Clubs International, Optimist International, and Rotary International – was to encourage clubs to partner in projects to benefit their communities. A joint project was undertaken by the Eden Lions Club, George Lions Club and the Rotary Club of George (D9350). Together, they packed 346 stew mix bags to feed more than 2 000 hungry people in the region. The Garden Route Food Pantry sponsored the supplies and the packing event ended with a well-deserved social braai. The project also included a beach clean-up in the spirit of service.



The Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400) bade farewell to two members, Debi Lilford and Pierre Mutton, who relocated to the eastern coast of South Africa. In the 2020-21 Rotary year, they had served the club as Secretary and President, respectively.

# Share your club's stories with Africa

Email stories and photos to [rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za](mailto:rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za)

Please note that photos need to be at least 1MB in size



The Rotary Club of Knighton (D1150) sent the Rotary Club of Hilton and Howick (D9370) a donation to provide food hampers for people from Shiyabazali informal settlement. The Angels' Care Centre partnered in this project and helped provide and distribute the 75 food parcels.



The Rotary Club of Flamingo-Welkom (D9370) and its friends have filled 28 Santa Shoeboxes for under privileged children.



Members of the Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400) celebrated Heritage Day. Enjoying a traditional Pedi meal is Phuti Ragophala.



Putla Makgato of the Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400) delivered a walker to Granny Florah Mokono who was born in 1929. The gift was so greatly appreciated that Granny Florah “refused to go back into the house after many years confined to her bed in a bedroom,” reported Putla Makgato.



Two years ago, the Rotary Club of Swellendam (D9350) and Specsavers embarked on a joint project to assist school children, aged 13 years and older, who do not qualify for government assistance. The club and Specsavers split the costs so that the school children can receive free spectacles. To date nearly thirty school children from various schools benefited from this project. Project champion Corrie Cloete, with President Bernard Steyn, Caldeira Plaatjies and Lelani van Tonder of Specsavers at a recent presentation.



In October, the Rotary Club of Benoni Aurora (D9400) hosted its annual golf day at Benoni Country Club. “This is one of our key fundraising events for the club,” said Larry Hyde, head of fundraising. The anchor sponsor for the event was F&I Insurance. The funds raised at the golf day will help fund various projects that the club supports in its community. At the golf day are (back) Yegalan Chetty, Larry Hyde and Sonja Shear, (front) Yolande Moseley, Jenny Murphy and Brian Moseley.



The Rotary Club of Benoni Aurora (D9400) celebrated Women's Month by helping The 200% Foundation promote its Sheroes Menstrual Cup Drive to end period poverty and promote environmental conservation. A workshop for 150 girls was held at Belvedere School and included self-defence training and a variety of presentations. It was held in collaboration with Bad Boyz Security, the SAPS Social Crime Prevention Unit, the Gauteng Department of Health and Guiding Light. The programme was coordinated and hosted by The 200% Foundation's Communications Manager, Nerissa Muthayan. Other project partners included Sherino Printers, Adcock Ingram, SMKSSA Wynburg Street Temple, AGL/Kumara Freight, the Rotary Club of Benoni Aurora and Stumbo Sweets.



After a devastating fire swept through Kurland Village near Plettenberg Bay, a number of families lost everything they owned. The Rotary Club of Plettenberg Bay (D9350) implemented a project to ensure that 15 children, ranging from pre-school to high school age, had their school essentials replaced. The Rotary Club of Dusseldorff helped fund the new school bags, while Park Stationers gave a generous discount on stationery for the high school learners. Three pre-school children received colourful bags containing a lunch box, crayons and scribblers. Seven primary school learners each received sturdy backpacks, basic stationery and a lunchbox, while the five high school learners received bags big enough to hold all the necessary books and stationery they needed. Mungo Mills provided each child with a full school uniform, while the Ubuntu ladies from the Kurland upliftment project coordinated the distribution. The beneficiaries were identified by a social worker.



The Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400) recently hosted a group of safari guests from Mexico. The Mexicans spent four days at Kruger National Park before going to Kings Camp Timbavati Nature Reserve for another four days. The club usually hosts four to five safaris annually as its major fundraising project, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this was the first safari in two years. Enjoying Happy Hour at the Dries Abraham Lapa at Polokwane Game Reserve are Adriaan Anderson, Mariette Pretorius, Linda Merialdo, Caryn Crump, President Mxolisi Bambo, Charles Hardy, Harriet Murray and Jack Sheridan.

Three wheelchairs were donated by the Rotary Club of Reservoir Hills (D9370) to Khanya Hospice. For many years, Charlie Panday of the Reservoir Hills club has been instrumental in sourcing donations of medical equipment from abroad for distribution.



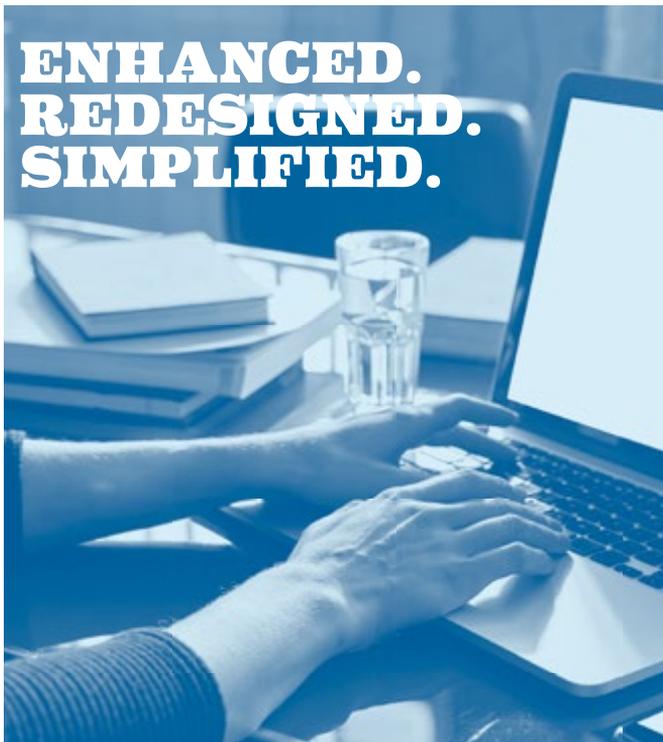
The Rotary Club of Phoenix (D9370) heard the pleas of parents who, due to the financial impact of COVID-19, have been struggling to buy the bare necessities for their babies. Their plight became worse after the looting and rioting in July. The club reached out to its donor base and 30 substantial hampers, worth R650 each, were made up and distributed to desperate families. Each hamper contained nappies, formula, bottled baby food, cereal, toiletries, groceries and a plastic baby bath. With some of the hampers is Past President Megs Pillay.

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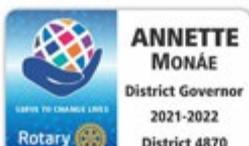
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