

Rotary

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July 2020



26 Young at heart
Meet our new RI President

Rotary 

MEET OUR TEAM

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TOGETHER, WE

END POLIO

Rotary believes healthy communities are strong communities. That's one reason we've worked tirelessly to help immunize 2.5 billion children against polio. Bringing the world closer to eradicating a deadly disease — that's what people of action do. [Learn more at Rotary.org](http://Rotary.org).

Rotary  **PEOPLE of ACTION**

Let's tell the world we are

PEOPLE of ACTION

The new Rotary public image campaign is now available. Bring your club's story to life and help the world understand who we are: leaders who work together to connect, inspire, and transform our communities.

Get started at rotary.org/brandcenter today.

Rotary  **PEOPLE of ACTION**

IN THIS ISSUE...



How is your club remaining connected during lockdown? Share the fun and innovation with us. Email rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- 5 | President's message
- 6 | Trustee Chair's message
- 7 | Our leaders
- 8 | Convention Countdown
- 9 | Public Image
- 10 | Taking advantage of opportunities

- 31 | Easing the burden
- 32 | You can't stop the service
- 34 | It's raining chicken!
- 35 | Exploring opportunities

AROUND AFRICA

- 36 | Club and district news

IN DETAIL

- 12 | Find your inspiration
- 13 | Apply yourself
- 15 | High connectivity
- 16 | Young at heart
- 24 | Pass the peace pipe
- 27 | ?

WELCOMED & HONOURED

- 40 | Here is to another 82!
- 41 | 2020/21 Club Presidents
- 42 | Welcomed and honoured

ROTARIANS AT WORK

- 28 | A great Aussie invasion!
- 30 | Feeding the children



Spider Baby Boom. Three words I never, ever wanted to hear. However, at the end of last month a news article caught my attention.

Researchers, and by this I mean scientists and not all the 'Facebook PhDs', led by Toke Høye from the Arctic Research Centre and Department of Bioscience at Aarhus

University have found that the warming of the Arctic has impacted on the reproduction of invertebrates.

The study revealed that species such as the wolf spider (yes, it is as hairy and scary as its name implies) have adapted to the warmer Arctic climate and are now hatching two clutches of eggs in a summer, instead of the usual one. This is not 'thumb-suck science' as people have been gathering data on these spiders for more than 20 years.

Sure, this sounds like the rant of an arachnophobe – well, yes, it is and before you say that I am being ridiculous and need to get over it, remember, a phobia, by definition, is an irrational fear! But there is a very important point here. We have done a lot of damage to this planet and society needs to unite to do something. The problem could be, as with many other issues, that climate change became a political catch phrase and we all know that in most cases, when a cause is backed by a politician, little is achieved. Our world has become more emotive and less scientific. Rational debate has been replaced by division and mudslinging – it's easier to win by confusing the audience than informing them!

This is why the announcement, amazing on the same weekend that I read of the spider baby boom, that the Rotary Board of Directors and the Foundation

Trustees had approved Supporting the Environment as an additional area of focus is important - look out for our amazing feature in the August issue.

Rotary has the power to accomplish things where others have failed. It is our diverse membership and the fact that we are an organisation of community leaders working at various levels – grassroots, regional, national and global – that gives us the power to create real change. To fix, to heal, to build and to empower. In December 2010, Rotary Africa carried a story about chartering a Rotary club on the West Bank. The Rotary Club of Ramallah (D2450) was the first club chartered in territory under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority. Rotarians in neighbouring Jordan co-sponsored the club, Israeli Rotarians supported its establishment and from thousands of miles away, Rotarians in Colorado Springs (D5470 USA) played a crucial role. By all accounts it was not a simple process, but Rotarians were able to do it. Similar stories have emerged from our polio eradication campaign. We have also printed articles about how Rotarians have bridged divisions created by conflicting customs, different belief structures, politics and entrenched superstition, and quelled fears of vaccination that led to resistance. I remember most of the articles we have had on our pages over the last 12 years and could recite more examples; but I won't!

It's been a chilly winter, but not as cold as it was 15 years ago. I can remember winters when nearly every fortnight, there was snow on the KZN Drakensberg. Blankets of it - and air so cold, that even from forty or more kilometres away, the mountains looked enormous and purple-hued. What about the massive thunderstorms we had nearly every afternoon in summer? Those too have become irregular and infrequent.

There is no denying it. Our planet is in trouble and we need to do something... and now, we, as Rotary, have more power to do more good in, and for, our world!



President's message



Dear Rotarians, Rotaractors and friends,

This does not seem like a time for great optimism, but it has to be. Long before Rotary was founded, the world dealt with great crises that tested humankind's ability to progress and endure. In the age of Rotary, the world has faced many more catastrophes; however, we have survived and every step of the way, Rotary has helped the world heal.

Every great challenge is an opportunity for renewal and growth. I revealed the theme of Rotary Opens Opportunities at the International Assembly in San Diego just as the COVID-19 crisis was beginning, but these are words that I have believed for many years.

Rotary is not just a club that you join; it is an invitation to endless opportunities. We believe in creating opportunities for others and for ourselves. We believe that our acts of service, large and small, generate opportunities for people who need our help and that Rotary opens opportunities for us to live a richer, more meaningful life, with friends around the world, based on our core values.

Governments and institutions are gaining a greater appreciation for the types of public health partnerships that are critical to our work. People stuck at home, eager for greater connections and hungry to help their communities, are now embracing the values we have promoted since our beginning.

All of this is positive news, but just because there are greater opportunities than ever for Rotary to thrive does not guarantee that we will succeed. The world is changing rapidly - and was doing so even before this crisis. People were starting to move away from regular lunch meetings and toward online gatherings.

Friendships were being cultivated and revived in social media relationships even before most of our meetings moved to Zoom and Skype. Younger generations have a strong desire to serve - but have questioned whether they could play a meaningful role in organisations like Rotary or whether they might make a bigger impact forming different types of connections. Now is the time to put everything on the table, test new approaches and prepare Rotary for the future.

The COVID-19 crisis has forced all of us to adapt. This is good and our new Action Plan specifically calls on us to improve our ability to adapt. But adaptation is not enough. We need to change, and change dramatically, if we are to face the challenges of this new age and provide the Rotary that the world so desperately needs.

This is our great challenge, not just in the next year but into the future. It is up to us to remake Rotary for these new times - to wholeheartedly embrace the ideas, energy, and commitment of young people eager to find an outlet for idealism. We must become an organisation fully enmeshed in the digital age, not one that simply looks for online ways to keep doing what we have always done.

The world needs Rotary now more than ever. It is up to us to make sure that Rotary Opens Opportunities for generations to come.

HOLGER KNAACK
President, Rotary International



A message from The Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair **K R Ravindran**

I believe that RI President Holger Knaack's theme, Rotary Opens Opportunities, fits the times so well. You might ask how that can be, given all the turmoil happening around us today. The following story, paraphrased from British author Alan Watts' telling of a Taoist parable, helps explain why.

Once there was a farmer whose horse ran away. That evening, all his neighbours came around to commiserate. They said, "We are so sorry to hear your horse has run away. This is most unfortunate." The farmer said, "Maybe."

The next day, the horse came back, bringing seven wild horses. In the evening, everybody said, "Isn't that lucky. What a great turn of events. You now have eight horses!" The farmer again said, "Maybe."

The following day, his son tried to break one of the horses, and while riding it, he was thrown and broke his leg. The neighbours said, "Oh dear, that's too bad." The farmer responded, "Maybe."

The next day, officers came around to conscript people into the army, and they rejected his son because he had a broken leg. Again all the neighbours said, "Isn't that great!" Again, the farmer said, "Maybe."

What we learn from this is that nature is immensely complex. It's impossible to tell whether anything that happens is good or bad, because you never know what the consequences will be. All we can know is that with every action and reaction, there is an opportunity - a chance to live our values, express our desires and take action to make the world a bit closer to the way we want it to be.

The Rotary Foundation is our conduit to make those meaningful changes. Through the Foundation, we do our part to help rid the world of polio. In addition, we can help support important COVID-19 projects and prepare the world for the massive vaccination effort that will be needed soon. And we can help keep some continuity in service to people in need when so many regular services are being disrupted.

Will this be Rotary's great moment to become an even stronger organisation in the 21st century? Maybe. Is this your great opportunity to live your values? Maybe! It's up to you and me.

**ROTARY
AT A
GLANCE**

As at 16 June 2020

ROTARY

Members:

1 213 465

Clubs:

36 246

ROTARACT

Members:

175 735

Clubs:

10 602

INTERACT

Members:

340 377

Clubs:

14 799

RCCs

Corps:

11 096

• Increase
• Decrease

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

First. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

Second. High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

Third. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

Fourth. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

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?

Learn more about Rotary at: www.rotary.org

The 2020/21 Rotary Directors and Foundation Trustees

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Rotary Club of Kyiv
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General Secretary

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D3141, India

Sangkoo Yun

Rotary Club of Sae Hanyang
D3650, Korea

John Hewko

Rotary Club of Kyiv
D2232, Ukraine
General Secretary



TAIPEI ENERGY

12 TO 16 JUNE 2021, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

The iconic Taipei 101 tower, one of the tallest buildings in the world, is designed to evoke a stalk of bamboo, a staple of traditional Taiwanese building techniques. It's one example of the way that, in this city, innovation springs from tradition.

When you're in Taipei for the 2021 Rotary International Convention from 12 to 16 June, you'll find historic and modern architecture, urban and natural settings, lively nightlife and serene spirituality. You can visit tea houses that honour centuries-old customs and enjoy fusion cuisine that embraces the influences of China, Japan, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain. And everywhere you go, you will be sure of a friendly welcome.

For some Rotarians, this will be a chance to revisit Taipei, which played host to the 1994 convention. Whether this is a return visit or your first time here, you will find much to explore: Awe-inspiring palaces and temples, engaging museums and lively shopping districts are all within easy reach of the city centre.

Beyond the city limits, Taiwan has even more to offer, from the pastoral splendour of a ride on the Alishan Forest Railway to the ornate beauty of the Tianliao Stone Temple, built of seashells, corals and stones.

- HANK SARTIN

To learn more and register, go to convention.rotary.org.

RICHARD'S EPN APPOINTMENT

PDG Richard Brooks (D9370) has been invited by Rotary to be the 2020/21 End Polio Now Coordinator for Region 28 and team leader for Team F (regions 26, 27 and 28).



IT'S A NEW ROTARY YEAR!

By Lee-Ann Shearing, Regional Public Image Coordinator

Welcome to a new Rotary Year! To the outgoing district governors, district teams, club presidents and club officers: thank you for your service in the last Rotary year and for connecting the world through Rotary.

To the new district governors, their district teams, new club presidents and club officers: we look forward to a year of opening doors and embracing new opportunities as you lead Rotary in the region this year. May your year in office strengthen Rotary membership, increase giving to the Rotary Foundation, enhance Public Image and complete bigger and more impactful projects.

The last six months of the past Rotary year were months of change and reflection. For some time now, Rotary has been calling for clubs to be more flexible, but we could never have anticipated how we would be thrown into the deep end. Change is never easy and I applaud all the districts and clubs who have adapted their ways of meetings under lockdown conditions. I have seen such innovation in virtual meetings, conferences, fundraising and fellowship events and I encourage clubs and districts to share the challenges and successes in these areas. We can learn so much from one another, but we do need to communicate with other clubs and districts: Knowledge is power and we are stronger and better together!

Not only did the pandemic affect every nation in the world, but we have also witnessed a call for a change of our collective mindset by protesters around the globe. To think that one incident in one country can have such a far-reaching impact, made me realise that single moments may have a ripple effect that we are unaware of.

Now, more than ever before, with all the anger and frustrations being on display so blatantly, Rotary needs to step up as the peace builders, the bridge between communities and opposing viewpoints to advocate for change. We need to be the third alternative that Stephen Covey encourages all people to be in his book of the same name. He asks: "Are you willing to go for a solution that is better than any of us have come up with yet?" and "What would better look like?". Questions that

we can ask ourselves as peace builders and change makers.

John F Kennedy said, "Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures". I believe that as Rotarians, we are more than equipped to share this truth and create a world where differences of opinion rather than hatred are celebrated. We can create a world where all people are respected regardless of their skin colour, gender, religious or political beliefs. A world where we serve and protect the most vulnerable, treat one another as we would like to be treated and take care of our precious planet.

So much to do, so little time..... but let's take the first step and find the open doors of opportunity so we can impact, reach, engage and adapt to a post-pandemic normal and the communities that we love to serve.

**FEEL
THE
ENERGY**

AT THE 2021 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

SAVE THE DATE!

TAIPEI, TAIWAN, 12-16 JUNE 2021
Learn more at convention.rotary.org
#Rotary21

Rotary  

Taking advantage of opportunities

IN 10 STEPS



**By Patrick Coleman - Rotary Club of Luanshya (D9210)
Rotary Governors' Council of Southern Africa Secretary: 2019/21**

An opportunity is commonly defined as a time or set of circumstances which makes it possible to do something.

To take advantage of an opportunity we need to plan to do so. Plans require goals. Goals are as unique as we are. They reflect our unique personality and passions. We arrive at them via different avenues. These ten steps to goal setting can guide us as we circle our life goals.

1. Remove Limitations

Sir Richard Branson made a provocative statement: "Opportunity favours the bold... If somebody offers you an amazing opportunity but you are not sure you can do it, say yes – then learn how to do it later!"

Resolution – a firm decision to do or not to do something.

2. Check Your Motives

If you set selfish goals, you would be better off if you did not accomplish them. Check your motives. Take a long, honest look in the mirror and make sure you are going after your goals for the right reasons.

Focus away from "getting goals" and start setting "giving goals." Our motivation for making more is giving more. Sir Winston Churchill said, "You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give."

3. Think in Categories

It is hard to pull life goals out of thin air, so I look at the life goal lists of others. Do not cut and paste someone else's goals, but it's a great way of getting your own ideas.

Set goals divided into five categories:

- (1) family,
- (2) influential,
- (3) experiential,
- (4) physical, and
- (5) travel.

4. Be Specific

Our goals need to be specific. If a goal is not measurable, we have no way of knowing whether we've accomplished it.

Losing weight (my perpetual goal) is not a goal if we do not have a target weight within a target timeline. Timestamp your goals.

It is extremely difficult to attach numbers to some goals, but it is better to aim high and fall short than to

aim low and hit a target that was not a challenge. (And it's OK to make revisions to our visions.)

5. Write It Down

The shortest pencil is longer than the longest memory. If you have not written down your goals, you may well forget them. Something powerful happens when you verbalise a goal, whether in a conversation or in a journal. It's more than a good idea; it's a GREAT idea: Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets. Remember, God wrote the Ten Commandments in stone!

6. Include Others

Personal goals are good, but shared goals can be better. Nothing cements a relationship like a shared goal.

When someone else achieves their goal, congratulate them!

When you go after a goal with another person, it doubles your joy.

7. Celebrate Along the Way

When you accomplish a goal, celebrate it. With every success along the way, throw a party!

We should celebrate with the same intensity with which we work. You need to find a unique way to celebrate it and commemorate it. Setting goals is the way you turn imaginations into memories and once you do, you need to celebrate them.

8. Dream Big

Your life goal list will include goals that are big and small. It will include goals that are short-term and long-term. Make sure you have a few Big Goals on the list. You need some "Branson-sized" goals that qualify as crazy. Here's why: Big Goals turn us into big people.

9. Think Long

Most people overestimate what can be accomplished in two years, but underestimate what can be accomplished in ten years. If we want to dream big, we need to think long. Big dreams often translate into long goals. If you want to dream until the day you die, you need to set goals that take a lifetime to achieve. And it's never too late to start. Remember that Moses spent 40 years in the wilderness!

10. Don't Quit

Goal setting begins and ends with determination.

Thomas Edison's teachers said he was "too stupid to learn anything." He was fired from his first two jobs for being "non-productive." As an inventor, he made 1 000 unsuccessful attempts at inventing the light bulb.

Since the 1960s, spaceflight missions have resulted in the accidental deaths of more than 20 astronauts. It would have been easy to quit, but Gene Kranz, flight

director of Gemini, Apollo and Space Shuttle missions said: "Failure is not an option."

As we enter this new Rotary Year, look for the opportunities, plan your steps to achieve and dream big!

Your enhanced online Rotary experience is beginning to unfold. Enjoy a modern design and search functionality that's fast and easy-to-use. Easily manage your club's administration functions. Gain access from your mobile device. Search for Rotarians or clubs to connect instantly. Update your personal profile to control what information is shared with whom. Coming this fall, all of these improvements will begin to funnel into one clear and simple platform.

Welcome to the start of the new

MY ROTARY.

VISIT **MY.ROTARY.ORG** TO SEE YOUR LATEST IMPROVEMENTS.





Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbours, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change - across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

The criteria for membership are simple. For Rotary clubs, a member needs to be an adult - or for Rotaract clubs, a person age 18-30 - who demonstrates good character, integrity, and leadership; has a good

reputation within their business or profession and community; and willing to serve in the community or have an impact elsewhere in the world.

All clubs share similar values and a passion for service, but no two clubs are the same because each community has its own unique needs.

This month we take a look at the different types of Rotary clubs we can charter.

TRADITIONAL ROTARY CLUB

Description: Professionals and aspiring leaders who meet regularly for service, connections and personal growth

Appeals to: People looking for connections, service opportunities and traditions

Minimum number of charter members: 20

SATELLITE CLUB

Description: A club sponsored by a traditional club with its own meetings, projects, bylaws and board

Appeals to: Those who want a club experience or meeting format or time other than what's offered by the traditional clubs in the area

Minimum number of charter members: 8

E-CLUB

Description: A Rotary club that meets primarily online

Appeals to: People who travel frequently, whose schedules make it difficult to meet in person, or who prefer an online experience

Minimum number of charter members: 20

PASSPORT CLUB

Description: A Rotary club that allows members to attend other Rotary club meetings as long as they attend a specified number of meetings in their own club each year

Appeals to: People who travel frequently, or those who enjoy trying a variety of club experiences and meeting lots of new people

Minimum number of charter members: 20

CORPORATE CLUB

Description: A club whose members (or most of them) work for the same employer or organisation

Appeals to: Employees of an organisation who want to come together to do good in their community

Minimum number of charter members: 20

CAUSE-BASED CLUB

Description: A club whose members are passionate about a particular cause and focus their service efforts in that area

Appeals to: People who want to connect with others while addressing a particular set of problems or area of focus.

Minimum number of charter members: 20

ALUMNI-BASED CLUB

Description: A club whose members (or most of them) are former Rotary or Rotary Foundation programme participants

Appeals to: People who have participated in Rotary outside of a club

Minimum number of charter members: 20

ROTARACT CLUB

Description: A club of members ages 18-30 that is sponsored by a Rotary club and often works with that club on projects

Appeals to: Younger people who want to serve their communities, develop leadership and professional skills, while having fun through service.

Minimum number of charter members: 15

Apply yourself

Would you like to contribute further to Rotary by serving on a committee? Each of Rotary's committees, made up of Rotarians and Rotaractors from around the world, works with the organisation's leadership to ensure efficiency and promote the goals and priorities laid out in the strategic plan.

The following committees are searching for qualified candidates for limited openings in 2021/22. All committees correspond via email, teleconference, or webinars as needed and some also involve at least one mandatory in-person meeting per year. Most committee business is conducted in English.

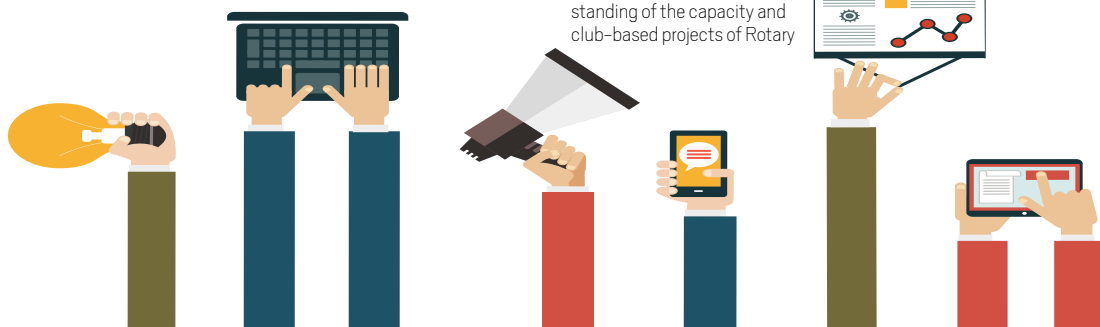
To be considered for committee membership or to recommend someone for an appointment, visit on.rotary.org/application2020.

Applicants must be registered on My Rotary at rotary.org/myrotary and should make sure their My Rotary profile includes current contact information.

Candidates may apply for only one committee.

The application deadline is 15 August.

COMMITTEE	FUNCTION	PREREQUISITES	COMMITMENT
Audit	Advises the Board of Directors on financial reports, internal and external auditing, and the system of internal control	Independence, appropriate business experience, demonstrated financial literacy in accounting, auditing, banking, insurance, investment, risk management, executive management, audit governance	One position for a six-year term; two meetings in Evanston per year and two teleconference / webinar meetings per year
Communications	Advises the Board on communication with key audiences	Professional background and experience in a communications-related field	Three positions for three-year terms; multiple conference calls; annual meeting in Evanston
Finance	Advises the Board on Rotary's finances, including budgets, investment policy and sustainability measures	Professional background in a finance-related field; nonprofit experience preferred. Candidates should have experience in financial matters at the club and district levels.	Two positions for three-year terms; two meetings per year in Evanston
Joint Committee on Partnerships	Advises the Board and The Rotary Foundation Trustees on partnership and sponsorship matters	Knowledge of Rotary grant-making and international service portfolios; extensive experience in cultivating and developing partnerships with corporations, the NGO sector and government; experience in cause marketing, sponsorship, and resource-generating relationships as well as international strategic partnerships; and clear understanding of the capacity and club-based projects of Rotary	Two positions for three-year terms; annual meeting in Evanston





COMMITTEE

FUNCTION

PREREQUISITES

COMMITMENT

Leadership Development and Training

Advises the Board on Rotary's leadership training programme for Rotarians, clubs, and districts, with a special emphasis on training for district governors

Must have significant training or education experience with a preference for leadership development

Two positions for three-year terms; annual meeting in Evanston

Operations Review

Monitors the effectiveness, efficiency, and implementation of operations and all internal systems; advises the Executive Committee on compensation matters; performs other oversight functions requested by the Board

Experience in management, leadership development, or financial management, and a thorough knowledge of Rotary's operations. Appointments will be limited to past RI directors.

One position for a six-year term; two meetings per year in Evanston

Rotaract

Advises the Board on Rotaract; develops the Rotaract Preconvention programme

Rotarians: Experience working with Rotaract; direct experience as a mentor or Rotaract adviser or district chair. Rotaract alumni are strong candidates.

Rotarians: One position for a three-year term; annual meeting in Evanston

Rotaractors: Leadership at the club, district or international level. Strong candidates have served as a district Rotaract representative, organised projects or attended a Rotaract Preconvention.

Rotaractors: Three positions for one-year terms; one meeting in Evanston

Strategic Planning

Reviews Rotary's strategic plan and associated measures; advises leadership on other matters of long-term significance

10+ years experience in strategy development, monitoring, implementation, and strong understanding of RI and Foundation

One position with a four-year term; two meetings per year in Evanston

High connectivity

Rotary Club of La Marsa Impact, Tunisia

Chartered: 2018

Original membership: 28

Membership: 24

CLUB INNOVATION:

The founders contacted acquaintances, mostly young professionals, to join them in a new club that would meet two evenings a month. A major appeal was its attention to skills development and service, an emphasis that broadened its appeal to collegians. The club keeps annual dues very low (about \$135) and gives students a discount.

SOLID FOOTING:

In the two years since its founding, this club has already matured into a high profile member of the Tunisian Rotary family by focusing on the development of young professionals. Data-driven could be a byword for a club that taps the technological proficiency of its members. The club tracks member involvement by Excel spreadsheet, and it developed an internet platform and database shared by clubs across the country. But it's not all analytics and geekiness; a reputation for hands-on work and cultural outings is what really computes.

Picking a name with a punch helped set the tone for the Rotary Club of La Marsa Impact, says member Eya Chaouch. "In the meetings to plan the club, our idea was to work on long-term projects that had an actual impact on improving people's situations," hence the appellation for the French-language club.

"During the creation of our club, we thought of integrating students in community life to let them benefit from the experience of the other professional members," says Khaled ben Hafaiedh, the club's charter president. "Our student members are highly motivated and dedicated to learning, especially when it comes to volunteering." But all benefit from the interplay among students, financiers, marketers, engineers, lawyers, art

managers, event managers, accountants, and other young professionals.

Karim ben Ammar appreciates the opportunity to enhance his leadership, public speaking, planning, team-building, and fundraising acumen. "As a student, being part of the club has brought me a lot of experience and know-how," says Ammar.

All members are expected to serve on two club committees. For students, this is a chance to learn from more experienced members. In addition, five members are professionally certified job coaches. "They focus on soft and hard skills, budgeting, personal development, 'elevator pitches,' practical philosophy," says Mohamed Mehdi Nafti, the club's president.

The abundance of talent helps other clubs as well. Hafaiedh, Ammar, and fellow club member Selim Bousbih created a database and web platform, dubbed Raconnect, which is already being used by several clubs.

The club boasts a robust lineup of projects that address community needs and cultural interests: La Marsa Impact Rotarians have held an autism awareness seminar, hosted a "supermom" class that delivered expert advice on the care of newborns, and helped coordinate a blood drive that involved more than 20 Rotary clubs.

The club, two-thirds of whose members are women, sponsored a screening of Papicha, a controversial film focused on religious fundamentalism and women's rights in 1990s Algeria. The event's box office proceeds have been donated to equip and refurbish the paediatric surgery department of the Institute of Neurology. More recently, 10 club members joined members of the organisation Tunisian Campers to plant 4,000 pine and eucalyptus trees in the Dar Chichou forest near El Haouaria.

The club also puts an emphasis on nurturing friendships, with outings to musical events and Moorish and Roman sites. "Through brainstorming sessions, our members come up with new activities," Hafaiedh says. "The most important thing is to frequently meet, whether it is for a coffee or an evening out."



From top: Club members enjoy a trip to Harqalah, where they visited religious sites and zip lined; the club gets a hands-on lesson in Japanese cooking.

YOUNG AT HEART



President Holger Knaack (2020/21). "He looks youthful," says a friend. "He is youthful!"



The Küchensee, one of Ratzeburg's four lakes, provides a scenic backdrop for lunch with Holger's sister, Barbara (left) and Susanne's sister, Sabine (right).

Holger Knaack has a fresh vision for the Rotary of the future. With a little help from his friends, things should go swimmingly!

by Jenny Llakmani | photography by Samuel Zuder

Holger Knaack is vacuuming. The Rotary Club of Herzogtum Lauenburg-Mölln has wrapped up its annual Christmas bazaar in the cloister of the 12th-century Ratzeburg Cathedral. Two days of selling handicrafts, mistletoe and homemade cakes and cookies have netted the club some 8 000 euros, which this year will go to a German NGO that supports children who are critically ill. As the club members break down booths and put away tables and chairs, Knaack grabs the vacuum cleaner and, head down in concentration, tackles the crumbs, dirt and bits of tinsel that litter the floor.

At this moment, Knaack is president-elect of Rotary International, preparing to take office on 1 July 2020. But at the same time, he's a regular Rotarian, a 27-year member of his club, pitching in like everybody else. "He just wants to be one friend among friends," says club member Barbara Hardkop.

There's a German phrase: *man holt die Leute ins Boot*. It means getting people on board to work together toward a common goal. In the coming year, Rotarians will find that Holger Knaack is not one to stand on the side lines while others do the work. But equally important for Knaack is the philosophy that working hard doesn't

mean you can't also have a good time. As he spends this year getting people on board — especially to carry out his highest priority, investing in young people — he will also be doing his best to make sure everyone is enjoying themselves.

"It's a basic principle with Holger," says his longtime friend Hubertus Eichblatt, a fellow club member. "When we get together, it has to be fun."

Holger Knaack is an atypical Rotary president, and not just because he wears jeans and eschews ties much of the time. He's the organisation's first German president and he came to that position in untraditional fashion. Unlike many of his predecessors, he didn't rise step by step through the ranks of Rotary offices. He served as club president and district governor, but he had held only one Rotary International post, that of training leader, before becoming director. And he remembers being at a Rotary institute where people asked him what other district offices he had held before becoming governor. "I said, 'None. None.' All of them were very surprised," he recalls.

What Knaack is most known for is his involvement in Rotary's Youth Exchange programme. That experience is deep, broad and extraordinarily meaningful to him and



Knaack greets members of the famed local rowing club as they come back from a training run. Inset: Ratzeburg with its 12th-century cathedral and its glacial lakes.



his wife, Susanne. They have no children of their own, but they have opened their home and their hearts to dozens of students. “The Knaack house is always full of guests, especially young people,” says Helmut Knoth, another friend and member of Holger’s club. “They’ve had hundreds of guests over the years.”

Shortly after joining his Rotary club in 1992, Knaack helped with a camp for short-term Youth Exchange students in northern Germany. He was immediately hooked. “I thought it was a really great programme,” he says. “This is something, you’d say in German, *wo dein Herz aufgeht*: Your heart opens. Whenever you talk to the young people, they’ll tell you, ‘It was the best time in my life.’ Sometimes I think they are surprised about themselves, about what they can do, and about the possibilities that are open to them through Rotary.”

The opportunities opened for Knaack, as well. He became Youth Exchange chair for his club, and after serving as governor of District 1940 in 2006/07, he was asked to chair the German Multi-District Youth

Exchange, a position he held until the day before he started his term on Rotary’s Board of Directors in 2013. Along the way, he notes, he always relied on other

people. “You develop a vision together and then let’s go ahead,” he says. “Everybody’s going a little different way; there’s never just one road. But the goal should be the same.”

Young people seem to intuitively understand Knaack’s way of doing things. “Holger has a vision, and he is executing on that vision,” says Brittany Arthur, a member of the Rotaract Club of Berlin and the Rotary Club of Berlin International. “And you recognise that this vision is not new for him. Holger and Susanne have had dozens of

Youth Exchange students. Do you think they did all that so that in 2020 he could say, ‘We need to invest in youth’? This is who they are.”

Arthur also sees Knaack as unusual in his willingness to invest in “potential, not experience.” In 2012, as an

“He’s super funny and nice, but he’s dead serious when it comes to certain things, which is why he’s such an interesting leader.”



Over hot punch at the Rotary Club of Herzogtum Lauenburg-Mölln's Christmas party in December, Knaack chats with fellow club member Barbara Hardkop and her husband, Gerrit (with Jan Schmedes in the background). Right: Enjoying club friendships are (from left) Karsten Lessing, Susanne Lessing, Andrea "Sunny" Schulz and Harro-Meinert Petersen.



Australian Ambassadorial Scholar in Germany, she had a brief exchange with him at a club meeting. That led to her speaking about her "Rotary moment" at a Berlin peace forum sponsored by 2012/13 RI President Sakuji Tanaka. After her presentation, she thought she was done. But Knaack, who had organised the forum and was now putting together a Rotary institute, had other ideas. "I had just finished speaking to hundreds of Rotarians," she recalls. "I was feeling so great and he said, 'Do you want to help with the institute?' I said, 'Yes!'"

Like other Rotarians, Arthur perceives the depth of Knaack's persuasive personality. "He's super

funny and nice, but he's dead serious when it comes to certain things. Which is why he's such an interesting leader: He can show up on so many different levels when you need him."

Holger and Susanne Knaack love to travel, but they have lived their entire lives not far from where they were born: she in Ratzeburg and he in the nearby village of Groß Grönau, about 40 miles northeast of Hamburg. Their upbringings were remarkably similar. Each was born in 1952 and lived over the shop of the family business: Susanne's father and grandfather were sausage makers and Holger's family bakery was founded by his great-great-grandfather in 1868. "We were very loved," Holger remembers. "Everybody took care of you; everybody always knew where you were."

Hubertus Eichblatt also grew up in Ratzeburg, where his sister and Susanne, whose maiden name was Horst, were childhood friends. "The Horst family had a very open house and it's exactly the same with Holger,"

he says. "Friends are always coming in and out."

Holger and Susanne live in the home that once belonged to Susanne's grandmother; next door, Susanne's sister, Sabine Riebensahm, lives in the house where the two grew up. About a decade ago, after her husband died, Holger's sister, Barbara Staats, moved into an apartment on the top floor of that house. The two homes have a total of nine guest rooms, and what with Barbara's 12 grandchildren, dozens of current and former Youth Exchange students and various other friends, at least one of those rooms is usually occupied.

Every morning, everyone meets for coffee in a cozy nook off Holger and Susanne's living room, where floor-to-ceiling windows offer views of the KÜchensee, one of four lakes that surround Ratzeburg. They often lunch together as well, followed by more coffee. Then Holger has a ritual: He folds his long frame onto a little sofa for a nap while Susanne, Barbara and Sabine continue their chat. "He likes to hear us talking while he's napping," Sabine says.

The four share duties, including shopping and cooking. "When someone needs something, you just shout," Holger says. "I think this is the perfect way to live: together. The secret to anything is to ask: What's our goal? This is exactly our goal, how we live right now."

One Saturday in December, Holger, Susanne, Barbara and Sabine are preparing boeuf bourguignon to serve at a dinner party for 23 close friends the Knaacks will be hosting the next day. They're simultaneously planning the menu for Christmas, when they'll have 15 people — 16 if a young Egyptian woman who is studying in Germany, the daughter of some Rotarians they met at a Rotary institute in Sharm el-Sheikh, takes them up on their invitation.

Helmut Knuth calls the Knaacks' hospitality "a stroke of luck for Rotary. At least once a year we have a party there, in their beautiful garden," he says. "When the weather is nice, we go swimming. In winter, there's a traditional event for Holger's birthday. We meet at the rowing club and hike around the lake." All the birthday gifts are donations to the Karl Adam Foundation, which Knaack founded to support the rowing club. (Ratzeburg is world-famous for its rowing club, whose members formed the core of the German teams that won gold at the 1960, 1968, 2000, 2004 and 2012 Olympics. The club's co-founder and longtime trainer, a local high

school teacher named Karl Adam, is considered one of the best rowing coaches of all time and developed what's known as the "Ratzeburg style.")

Looking through family photo albums, the Knaacks talk about childhood vacations to the seaside — Holger and his family to the island of Sylt on the North Sea and Susanne and her family to the Baltic Sea coast. A few kilometres from their home, Holger's family also had a small summer house with a large garden where they would spend weekends. The forests and meadows were his to explore. "It was a perfect childhood," he says.

Holger's boyhood home was situated about 500 metres from a small river, the Wakenitz, that formed the border with East Germany. "For me, that was really the end of the world," he remembers. In the summer, he and his friends would test their courage by swimming across the river. On the other side was a swamp, a minefield and watchtowers manned by East German guards. After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, he says, "the first thing we did was to explore the other side by bicycle. All the watchtowers were open. I had never seen our own village or our own house, from that perspective."

As a young man, on holidays and weekends, Holger worked as a driver for his family bakery. After finishing secondary school, he learned the trade working in another bakery for two years for his Ausbildung, or apprenticeship. "So I can bake a lot of things," he says cheerfully. "And I still like to bake. You have to love what you do in order to be very good. Whatever marketing techniques you may use, it's all about the quality. Quality is about loving the product and trying to make it the best you can. But you have to take your time. That's the secret to many things."

After completing his Ausbildung and another year of internship in a large bread factory in Stuttgart, he went to the city of Kiel to study business administration. At the first student assembly, he caught sight of his future wife. "I saw Susanne on the 20th of September 1972," he says. "I remember that quite well."

Holger didn't make the same impression on Susanne, perhaps because there were 94 men and only three women in their class. But they soon got acquainted and on weekends, they would drive home together to each work in their family's business. Before returning to Kiel on Sunday evenings, they would load up the car with bread from the Knaack bakery and sausage from the

"I think this is the perfect way to live: together. The secret to anything is to ask: What's our goal? This is exactly our goal, how we live right now."

Opposite page: An active couple who enjoy the outdoors, Holger and Susanne take a break from bicycling in front of the regional history museum in Ratzeburg.



Horst shop. “Our friends always knew to come over on Mondays,” Susanne says with a laugh.

They graduated in 1975 and got married the next year. Each of them continued to work in their own family’s business. At the time, the Knaack bakery had several shops and about 50 employees. After taking over from his father in the late 1970s, Knaack decided to expand the company. He also decided that he wanted to know exactly where the grain used to bake his bread was coming from. So, he turned to his friend Hubertus Eichblatt, a farmer, who started a cooperative with other farmers. Knaack also worked with Günther Fielmann, Europe’s largest optician, who invested in cultivating organic grain on his own farm, Hof Lütjensee. Together Knaack and Fielmann built their own mill and marketed organic baked goods —something new 30 years ago. “Holger was always very innovative,” Eichblatt says, “very forward-thinking about those kinds of things.”

Another of Knaack’s innovations was to move the baking of the bread into the shops. Before that, bread was baked in the factory and the loaves were trucked to the shops. Knaack’s idea was to continue to make the dough in the factory, but then to freeze it in portions that were distributed to the shops to be baked. His motto was *Der frische Bäcker* – “the fresh baker.” Today, almost every bakery in Germany does it that way.

Knaack kept expanding the business; eventually there were about 50 shops and the factory with hundreds of employees. He received an offer to buy his company from an internationally active firm that was investing in bakeries. It was a very good offer and Knaack took it. Still a young man in his 40s, he pursued other business ventures and took up golf (and was quickly tapped to be president of his golf club). He had been an active member of Round Table, an organisation for people under age 40; at 39, he joined the Rotary club in the nearby town of Mölln (remaining a member there even when a new club was chartered shortly afterward in Ratzeburg with many of his friends as members). And before long, he found his calling with Rotary Youth Exchange.

Medieval Ratzeburg, with its ancient cathedral and half-timbered burghers’ houses, is situated on an island surrounded by four glacial lakes. The northern German state of Schleswig-Holstein is dotted with such lakes; winding roads lead through rolling green countryside past farms and villages built in the characteristic regional style of brick architecture. But the students who have stayed with Holger and Susanne have found something much deeper than a picture-postcard experience of Germany.

Juraj Dvořák was one of the first students the Knaacks hosted, in 1996. After returning home to Slovakia, the 16-year-old sent a card to Holger and

Susanne, who invited him back for another visit. But when Dvořák’s father died of a heart attack, the young man told the Knaacks he couldn’t come after all. Holger and Susanne, along with Dvořák’s mother, insisted the visit go on as planned.

“Holger told me that money is not the most important thing, that I have to enjoy my work and I should also enjoy life.”

“I stayed one month with them and they did everything to help me,” Dvořák recalls. “Since then we have been close friends. If I had not met Holger and Susanne, and if they had not mentored me in many aspects of my life, I would not have achieved what I have.” Dvořák now heads a private equity company in Vienna, but he’s not talking about material success. “I went from zero to somebody, not in terms of money, but in terms of a healthy personality.”

He and Holger “always had deep discussions,” says Dvořák, who still visits every year. “He told me that money is not the most important thing, that I have to enjoy my work and I should also enjoy life. He told me I should travel and see the world. And he took me to many meetings with his friends, Rotarians. I didn’t understand why at the time, but when I got older, I realised it was an absolutely unique chance to learn how to behave with people you don’t know. He grew me up.”

About Holger and Susanne, he says: “They have a big heart and a strong responsibility for the people they are mentoring. They are different from other people. They are championship league people.”

The Knaacks take that responsibility to mentor students seriously. “The major goal of Youth Exchange is to dive into another culture, to learn everything you can about that culture,” Holger says. “And the amazing thing about Youth Exchange is that parents send their kids around the globe and trust that Rotarians will treat them like their own children. It’s something that makes us unique. No other service organisation does it this way.”

Paula Miranda spent three months with the Knaacks, who were her first hosts during her exchange year in 2008. She arrived in Ratzeburg from her home in Argentina in January: “I remember it was 4 pm. It was already dark in Germany and I was like, oh, my God, where am I? And they welcomed me with a German meal.”

When Miranda turned 19 a month later, Holger and Susanne organised a birthday party with some of her new friends from school. “They made barbecue asado like we do in Argentina,” she recalls. “They wanted to make me feel at home and I really appreciated that. My year wouldn’t have been the same without them. I really love them.”

Alois Serwaty, a past governor of District 1870, first met the Knaacks 25 years ago at a German Multi-District Youth Exchange conference. “Both Holger and Susanne have an uncomplicated and open manner

that appeals to and motivates young people,” he says. “When you meet them, you recognise right away that they like young people. Holger’s attitude is that Rotary must remain young and that working for and with young people keeps you young.”

Dvořák agrees: “I was with Holger in December and he has not changed in 24 years. He’s still the same, maybe just some wrinkles. This Youth Exchange programme gives him energy.”

A phrase you hear often among German Rotaractors is *auf Augenhöhe begegnen* — to meet someone at eye level. “That means everyone is equal, on a level playing field,” Susanne says. “It doesn’t make any difference if someone is a director or a driver. You discuss something and come up with a solution without the other person feeling like he’s received an order.”

According to his friends and family, Holger has a real flair for this. “If he can’t do something himself, he can delegate really well,” Susanne laughs. “He can recognise who would be good at something. It’s a talent of his.”

One example, she says, is the success he had working with Rotaractors on the Rotary institute in Berlin. “They said, ‘We’ll do the breakout sessions,’ and instead of saying, ‘You can’t do that,’ he said, ‘Go ahead.’ He trusts people to succeed. But he’s still in the background keeping an eye on things. It was the same for the convention in Hamburg,” where Knaack and Andreas von Möller were co-chairs of the 2019 Host Organisation Committee. “There were lots of Rotaractors involved there too.”

One of her husband’s main goals, Susanne says, is to continue to bring Rotary and Rotaract closer together. “He’s excited about what he wants to accomplish.” And when he’s excited about something, “he’s able to get others excited as well,” adds Susanne’s sister, Sabine. As Brittany Arthur noted, “You feel like you’re investing in his vision.”

Over cappuccinos in the sunny cafe of Ratzeburg’s Hotel Seehof, with its views of the sparkling Kuchensee, Knaack’s friends Hubertus Eichblatt, Helmut Knoth, Jens-Uwe Janssen and Andreas-Peter Ehlers — like Holger, all members of the Rotary Club of Herzogtum Lauenburg-Mölln — agree that he possesses a certain genius for marshalling volunteers. Ehlers remembers how it was when he served as district secretary during Knaack’s year as district governor. “Before that time,” he says, “under other governors, it was always ‘somebody should do this’ or ‘who is going to do this?’ But Holger would say, very specifically, ‘Hubertus, I’ve been thinking about it and you’re the perfect person to do this. Here’s how I envision it. This is just right for you, Hubertus, I would really love it if you did this. It’s great that you’re going to do this!’ The way he puts it to you, you can’t say no. And you do it gladly, because he doesn’t hand it to you and then walk away. He comes back in a month and asks, ‘Hubertus, everything going

OK? Can I help with anything?’”

Eichblatt laughs at this depiction, but stresses that Knaack is successful because his enthusiasm is infectious — and because he sets the example: “He exemplifies these positive characteristics, so it’s relatively easy for him to convince people to do things.”

As they chat about Knaack’s good qualities, they echo what many people say — that he’s never in a bad mood. But close friends that they are, they insist he’s not perfect. “We have to find a weakness,” muses Eichblatt, before settling on a benign character flaw. “He’s very fashion-conscious. His glasses!”

The mention of Knaack’s signature eyewear elicits an immediate reaction from the group. “He’s the only one who wears glasses like that,” Ehlers says. “And if they break, no problem: He has another pair!”

“They’re his trademark,” Knoth adds. “I’ve only ever known him to wear these glasses. And he seldom wears a tie. Jeans, always. He looks youthful. He is youthful!” The old friends nod and laugh as they finish their cappuccinos.

Knaack’s philosophy — that no matter how hard you work, you should also have fun — applies especially to Rotary. “Traveling around, talking with people, is really fun for him,” says Susanne, a charter member of the Rotary E-Club Hamburg Connect. “Rotary is fun for him — and it’s just as much fun for me.”

Knaack wants everyone to enjoy Rotary — and to be proud to be part of it. “All of us love this organisation and all of us should feel we ought to do something to make Rotary stronger,” he insists. “It’s not hard to do more: be more involved in your club, more interested in your friends, more involved in projects and programmes. Ask yourself: Is our club involved in youth service? Can we come up with better ideas for fundraising? And the club also has a responsibility to make people feel good, feel welcome, feel proud. It has to feel special to be a Rotarian.”

As he thinks about the year ahead, he notes that a Rotary president gets invited to lots of events, including district conferences and sends a representative to most of them. But Knaack plans to attend — if only virtually — the conference in District 1940, whose governor this year, Edgar Friedrich, is a member of the Rotary Club of Herzogtum Lauenburg-Mölln. “I think you’re allowed to make an exception for your own district, especially if the district governor is from your own club,” Knaack says. “Your Rotary club is really important. Whatever office you have had in Rotary and however important you were, at the very end, you’re always a member of your own Rotary club and happy to be among your friends.

“That’s why we need to take care of our Rotary clubs, and our friends in our clubs. It doesn’t matter if you were president. At the end, it’s important that you’re among friends.”

“We need to take care of our Rotary clubs and our friends in our clubs.”



Rotarians Tony Conn, Jack Hoschouer and Yogi Reppmann reading some of the replies to the 1931 Peace Pipe Letters.

PASSING THE PEACE PIPE

In December 1931, a time when many were concerned about rising nationalism and populism in Germany and many parts of the world and the danger of war, Jewett Fulton of the Rotary Club of Keokuk (D6000) sent 504 letters to Rotary clubs in sixty-five countries outside the United States, encouraging members to smoke a symbolic and communal peace pipe, a ritual practised by Indian tribes as a way of dealing with conflict.

While this initiative was ultimately unsuccessful in preventing what became a devastating world war, it demonstrated nonetheless the willingness and courage of an individual and of groups of people to stand up for the ideals they believed in.

Today, 89 years later, the world situation is alarmingly similar as nationalism and populism which are known to violate human rights are on the rise again. In this context, a new peace pipe initiative has been launched by Rotarians Tony Conn and Yogi Reppmann. They have extended an invitation to any person or organisation around the world to epitomise international friendship.

One of these clubs that received a Peace Pipe Letter in 1931 was the Rotary Club of Johannesburg (D9400). The two clubs share another connection, they were both chartered in 1921. While next year marks the centennial celebration of both clubs, it will also be the



One of the 504 hand typed letters sent out in 1931.

centennial of the arrival of Rotary clubs in Africa. Amazingly, the theme for the 2021 Rotary African Centennial Celebrations will focus on a peace and mediation theme.

The project will establish mediation teams known as “African Mediators in Africa for Africa” in all Rotary districts of Southern Africa. These teams will not be part of other mediation bodies, such as those established by the courts of other initiatives for dispute resolution. The mediators will be trained by a Rotary vocational training team in collaboration with the University of South Africa’s Institute for Dispute Resolution in Africa (IDRA) and will be accredited by Mediators Beyond Borders International (MBBI).

The countries that will benefit are: South Africa, Namibia, Angola, Lesotho, Botswana, eSwatini, and Southern Mozambique.

According to research at the University of South Africa and by other organisations, there is a need for modifications in the mediation of differences and conflicts in Africa. Currently, not all segments of society are represented during mediation sessions. Young people, women and other marginalised groups need to become key participants in using mediation as an option in the resolution of disputes.

The need for African mediators fits the Rotary focus area of peace and conflict resolution. Since Rotary is a politically neutral body, it is trusted by communities.


The reply the Rotary Club of Johannesburg sent in 1932.



CELEBRATE ROTARY

#RotaryAfrica100

On 21 April 1921, the Rotary Club of Johannesburg, the first Rotary club in Africa, was chartered and so began an era of people exchanging ideas and creating lasting change. We call these friends, neighbours and leaders Rotarians... And in 2021, we will celebrate them!

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Bored and home alone? The Rotary Club of Grahamstown (D9370) has shared a cryptic quiz to tickle your brains!

Viv de Klerk devised a series of excellent cryptic quizzes about famous people to test the grey matter during lockdown and raise funds for the club's COVID-19 projects. People were invited to complete the quiz in their own time and donate to the club account. The first quiz (below) finished at the end of May.

Cryptic Quiz: Famous People

1. Was our leading man Horatio? No, named 'Al', correctly
2. Take note: a valued transport service for our space traveller
3. 'It's military quarters for most of a mad mob', says the president
4. 'Is oily?', I ask - a South African rugby player
5. Does this auntie write Afrikaans poetry at the bar?
6. Chop the same kale into a jazzy salad
7. Goliath's enemy is right in an Afrikaans room – he's an actor.
8. PW's homonymous try-scorer
9. Liz the heron a Roman Catholic? Rubbish! She's from Benoni.
10. Prospero's tempestuous girl with a male deer for an actress.
11. One totem bow in a mess? He's the man to set the account straight
12. Adipose mum, simply put, for this Natal activist
13. Take a swing at him with a 4-iron, or just lie and sneer
14. Colour change raw bread for this singer
15. Girl with punch and a floral necklace
16. A wanton famous bear without direction? Well-heeled too.
17. Is Lana mixed up? Boo! Fire the politician!
18. Only slightly here with lumberjack's cry at pond for an entertainer
19. A comrade who won the Battle of Bannockburn for a game of dice?
20. Not many watch over Master Harold in this Jo'burg suburb
21. Cinnamon and nutmeg ladies
22. Lindberg crooner with a ballerina costume in church?
23. This patriot must bend over south with van Riebeeck
24. Confused plant on a cry for this beloved South African author
25. Sir's wife: completely mad

Answers on next page





Floor mats, chairs and supplies for the Agape Pre-School and Bophelong Pre-School.

A GREAT AUSSIE INVASION!

Led by Rotarian Charmaine Wheatley, who lives in Australia and is a member of the Rotary E-Club of South Africa One (D9370), a team of five Australian volunteers, Heather Braithwaite, Bernii Kuhn, Walter Borell, Bianka Glesk and Joanne Rouse, visited South Africa as part of a Rotary Australia World Community Services project tour earlier this year. The team members, who self-funded their travel, spent months planning and fundraising for their trip through parts of District 9370, south-eastern South Africa and Lesotho.

The Rotary E-Club of South Africa One had funded the building of two new classrooms at Agape Pre-School in the Thabong township near Welkom and the team visited the project to decorate and stock the classrooms with school equipment, desks, toys and teaching aids.

The Rotary Club of Gibsons (D5040, Canada) and the Hippo Roller Foundation sponsored 120 Hippo Rollers for the team to distribute in South Africa. They worked closely with Rotary clubs based in the towns of Bethlehem, Welkom, Klerksdorp, Bloemfontein and Odendaalsrus, as well as the Rotary E-Club of South

Africa One to identify recipients.

Hippo Rollers hold 90 litres of water and are manufactured in South Africa. This assists people to roll the water that they would normally have had to carry in buckets or push in a wheelbarrow. For most of these people, the distance between the water supply and their homes is significant. As the roller is tightly sealed, it reduces the amount of water lost during the walk home.

The reality of extreme poverty hit home when the Australians visited a landfill near Welkom to feed 150 people living in the dump. The stench of rotting household waste was overwhelming. It was sobering to realise that those living in the landfill often have to forage through the rubbish for food and other necessities. All preconceptions of poverty and hunger were dispelled as they watched the residents wait patiently for AG Dulcie Harris to say a prayer of thanks before sitting down to enjoy their one hot meal of the month!

Inspired by a very interesting Rotary E-Club of South Africa One online presentation by Linda Hill of Singakwenza, the Sunshine Coast Rotary Community Corps, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bribie Island

Cryptic Quiz answers

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Nelson Mandela | 10. Miranda Hart | 19. Bruce Fordyce |
| 2. Mark Shuttleworth | 11. Tito Mboweni | 20. Athol Fugard |
| 3. Barack Obama | 12. Fatima Meer | 21. Spice Girls |
| 4. Siya Kolisi | 13. Ernie Els | 22. Desmond Tutu |
| 5. Antjie Krog | 14. Dido | 23. Jan Smuts |
| 6. Hugh Masekela | 15. Judy Garland | 24. Alan Paton |
| 7. David Kramer | 16. Anton Rupert | 25. Lady Gaga |
| 8. Naas Botha | 17. Alan Boesak | |
| 9. Charlize Theron | 18. Justin Timberlake | |



Delivering desks to the Agape Pre-School in Thabong. AG Jacques Venter of Aliwal Toyota sponsored a minibus and trailer for the team to use during their project tour.

(D9600), raised enough money to pay for workshops at three Early Childhood Education Centres.

Singakwenza means *We can do it* in Zulu. Singakwenza is an NGO providing Early Childhood Education to economically disadvantaged communities. Parents, caregivers and educators of young children were taught the importance of play and to make toys from repurposed materials like old bread bags, yogurt cartons, bottle tops and used cereal boxes. Parents were encouraged to collect these reusable items in their communities.

The group also distributed 400 Days for Girls Kits (personal hygiene products) that were supplied by the Rotary Club of Rockhampton (D9570, Australia).

However, it wasn't all just hard work – the team also visited private safari parks and enjoyed a sundowner while on safari with Rotarians from four different Rotary clubs and three districts. They also attended the D9370 District Conference Cruise and had the pleasure of reuniting with members of the Rotary Club of Klerksdorp.

The conference gave the team the opportunity to embark on another small fundraiser to buy a sports wheelchair for a 15-year-old boy who President Cheryl Katz (Klerksdorp) had introduced them to on their first day in South Africa. The young man who coaches soccer and attends a mainstream high school, was carried by his twin brother and three of their friends up and down the three flights of stairs at their school. They were so inspired by the boy's story that it was decided to buy him a wheelchair that would make it easier for him to play and coach sport. The Australians auctioned a mini Hippo Roller and raised R13 600 for the new wheelchair.

The next day while on the cruise, WHO declared the Coronavirus outbreak a pandemic and the team was ordered by the Australian Government and RAWCS Project Manager Mary Grant to return home immediately and self-isolate for 14 days. Three frantic days later, the volunteers returned to an eerily quiet airport as the world entered lockdown.

Did they regret their trip? Not for one moment! "We had touched and changed so many lives. However, it was the friendships and Rotary connections made that has changed our lives forever," said Rotarian Charmaine Wheatley.



Team members with some of the 120 gardening tool sets donated by Lasher Tools. A set of tools was given to each person who received a Hippo Roller (below).





Won Life staff, Lance Turner, Saronie Ngxisho and Akhona Masakal with Rotarian Mike Rosewall.

FEEDING THE CHILDREN

A more than 10-year-old relationship has been strengthened by the COVID-19 pandemic

Won Life, an educational NGO in the Western Cape, started its Meet-A-Need campaign to raise funds to provide weekly food parcels to 120 pre-school children who attend its Early Learning Centre (ELC) and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A food parcel which could feed a family for four for seven days costs just R200. The total required per week was R24 000 and after eight weeks of handing out food parcels and activity packs for the learners, the project was still going strong. To date, the Rotary Club of Bellville (D9350) has given R50 000 to the Meet-a-Need campaign.

In addition to this need, Won Life provided similar food parcels to high school learners when it came to light that many of their families were also struggling. The Rotary Club of Bellville was able to provide 26 additional food parcels that were donated by Durbanville Pick n Pay.

Won Life has various educational programmes: The Early Learning Centre, Literacy Centre, Education

Centre and Teacher Mentorship Programme. Its flagship project is the Won Life Early Learning Centre which is an independent Grade R school. It was registered with the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) in 2007 and was the first Grade R school in its community.

The school is a no-fee school and learners receive breakfast and lunch at school. The Rotary Club of Bellville recently started providing extra financial support towards the feeding scheme which feeds the 120 Grade R learners at its ELC. For many of the children, this meal is their only source of nourishment during the day.

The relationship between the club and Won Life began 10 years ago when Won Life needed a minibus to use for school transport during the wet months. The club was able to assist and donated enough to cover half of the cost of the vehicle. Since then, it has continued to help Won Life with ad-hoc classroom improvements, such as custom-made frames for the classrooms and staff room and with other resource donations.

EASING THE BURDEN

*For Rotarians in Mauritius
their COVID-19 projects are
not charity, but a duty to
save their neighbours*

When the COVID-19 pandemic reached Mauritius, the Rotary Club of Beau Bassin Rose-Hill (D9220) acted swiftly to contribute to the national effort.

Hospitals and medical professionals are operating under high pressure and the club sourced and donated lifesaving medical equipment to help ease the pressure.

It recently donated a fully automated coagulation analyser, valued at approximately \$35 000, to Flacq Hospital, one of the Ministry of Health Hospitals.

This analyser is designed for simplicity, efficiency and reliability. Coagulation testing is essential for evaluating bleeding patients, including patients scheduled for surgery or during post-surgical care. With the latest updates regarding COVID-19, where it is believed the virus affects the vascular system and increases the risk of thrombosis in patients, this equipment will help with the early detection of the risk of a blood clot.

This analyser will benefit both patients' as well as the hospital's laboratory staff as it speeds up the process by efficiently handling of a large number of samples with more accurate and precise coagulation results. As it is fully automated, the system also reduces the margin of human error and can be used for performing multiple tests on a single platform with results being made available quickly.



2019/20 President Rakesh Gaju at the hospital when the unit was delivered.

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Desperate communities near Plettenberg Bay soon saw the little red pickup truck as the lifeline they needed to survive the COVID-19 lockdown.

You can lock down a country, but when it comes to Rotary,

YOU CAN'T STOP THE SERVICE!

By the time June arrived, the Rotary Club of Plettenberg Bay (D9350) had distributed 1 000 food parcels.

The club had raised R440 000 and by June had spent R330 000. The remaining funds will be enough to sustain the project for another six weeks. After the payment of social grants in the first week of May, the decision was made to reduce the size of the parcels to increase the reach of the project. Each parcel had enough food to last for about 10 days and included 10 basic items, such as maize meal, flour, macaroni, rice, soup packs, tinned fish, sugar, tea, yeast and five packs of fruit and vegetables.

The project also gave supplies to three women who, with the help of friends, each ran a feeding scheme from their home. Together, these women served more than 2 000 meals a week.

Deliveries were done five to six times a week and the two red pick-up trucks which were used became so well-known that at one



The delivery of pizza from a local restaurant was a Mother's Day gift from the club to the women who have dedicated their lives to ensuring others have nutritious meals.

stage reports were received that people who did not qualify for the parcels planned to loot or hijack them. Distribution was stopped for a few days and meetings were held with community elders and leaders who helped resolve the situation.

Some amazing initiatives supported the project. A Canadian couple in 'lockdown' in Wild Spirit Lodge started raising funds in Canada and USA and bought food for the project. Another fundraiser to support the project was started in Italy by an Italian woman in Cape Town.

In the meantime, the Southern Craggs Conservancy started an EcoNappies project to promote the use of reusable nappies, which create less landfill waste and are more affordable than the disposable ones.

The Rotarians also received support from the Nature's Valley Community, which asked the club to include the Covie Community comprising of 29 families living in the forestry area south of the Tollgate, where only five households had an income from SANRAL or the Forestry Department. The club bought 24 hampers for them.

A donation of food hampers to the Covie Community was distributed thanks to the support of Nature's Valley.



IT'S RAINING CHICKEN!

At the Rotary Club of Knysna, Wednesday is now Chicken Delivery Day! Over the past few weeks, more than 12 tons of Rainbow frozen chicken – procured by KILT through The Do More Foundation – arrived in Knysna for distribution to people affected by the Covid-19 lockdown.

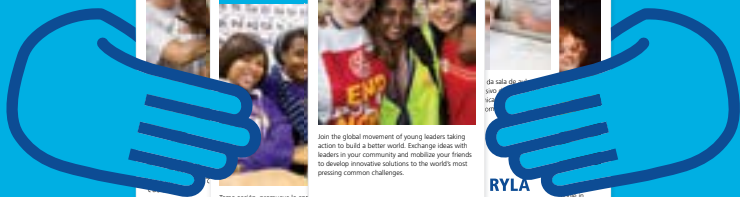
A Knysna Rotarian provided freezer storage facilities while other members delivered more than two tons of chicken to soup kitchens, old age homes, Epilepsy SA and other needy organisations.

To date, the Rotary Club of Knysna has given food to more than 8 000 households. Frozen chicken was also included in the food parcels distributed to households in need.



Master Chef Mick Furman cooking a chicken stew that was later delivered to a local old age home

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Philisiwe Mthembu, a Rotarian and the owner of Philisiwe's Soup Kitchen, and her team putting the food parcels together.

EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES

There may have been no physical meeting in recent months, but that does not mean that the Rotary Club of Umhlanga (D93270) is dormant.

The club has explored various opportunities to remain active and relevant in changing times. By embracing alternate fundraising methods such as using Zapper and advertising in community Facebook groups, it raised R100 000. Donations came from far and wide and at the end of June, the club had spent 75 percent of this on food parcels for Anchor of Hope, Philisiwe's Kitchen, Woza Moyo, TAFTA, JamSA and families in need. With the arrival of winter, the club collected and distributed more than 35 bags of clothing. Through donations of material, Rotarians (those with the skills) knitted and sewed masks, beanies, book bags and scarves for the children in need of them. Following a desperate plea for assistance from Philisiwe, the club members and donors contributed sixteen 25 kilogramme bags of maize meal; enough for 4 000 adult meals or 8 000 children's meals. This was added to other items collected by the club to create food parcels for the needy in Waterloo, north of Durban. The soup kitchen relies on donations to feed an average of 60 children a day.

The Interact Club of Our Lady of Fatima Dominican Convent School rallied its members to donate food and nappies for children's homes in the Durban area. Led by President Giselle Duval, the Interactors collected enough supplies for both the Ray of Hope and Sinekekele Children's Homes



Led by Sandy Smith, Rotarians made hundreds of masks that were given to children during the lockdown.



Some of the children who received masks.



Jerry Malahlela (far right), of the Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400) handing over a mobile hand washing station, complete with water bottles, drainage buckets, hand sanitiser and thermal thermometers, to the principal and staff at Siloe School for the Blind and Partially Sighted. The club will do another three installations before the schools reopen to all the grades.



Since the COVID-19 lockdown prevented the Rotary Anns of Helderberg (D9350) from holding its annual jersey drive, the Anns decided to do things a little differently. Normally during the jersey drive, local schools collected jerseys which the Anns distributed to those who needed them. This year the Anns, with a little help from their friends, collected warm clothes and delivered them to Kay's Caravan Park in the Strand. At the handover are Rotary Ann Trish Hawkins, Drina Schoeman and Hester van Niekerk of Kay's Caravan Park and Rotary Anns Ingrid Edelson and Gayl Boon.



A team of engineers and product specialists were deployed to provide proper training to hospital staff in the use of the medical equipment donated by the Rotary Club of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill (D9220, Mauritius). The equipment, valued at \$85 000, arrived in time to be used for patient management during the COVID-19 crisis and included portable ventilators, diagnostic equipment for the ICU, vital signs monitors and video laryngoscopes. The Rotary club was also represented during the training, which allowed the members to gain valuable feedback and information on current and future needs from the doctors and medical officers.



One of the activities enjoyed by the women who attend the Rotary Club of Swellendam (D9350) Railton Coffee Morning project is knitting. This knitting group is led by Rotary Ann Celia Cloete who has expanded it to include knitters from the community such as Edna Streicher and her Rotary Parknitters and Avlynn Kriel. The items knitted during the coffee morning are given to people and organisations who need them. Recently, a donation of beanies, scarves, baby blankets and bed socks was given to Pastor Joseph and Sister Hettie from Community Welfare and Hug-a-Baby for distribution.



The Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400) gave a wheelchair to an eight-year-old girl. Presenting the wheelchair to the child and her mother is Jerry Malahlele.



Since the beginning of lockdown, members of the Rotary Club of Pretoria East (D9400) have been trying to arrange food parcels for the Home for the Needy in Lethabong. While the provincial government is swamped with appeals for help, a few good Samaritans donated food to this community.



The Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400) gave 165 blankets to people and organisations in and around Polokwane. These included the Ivydale Shelter, staff of Ngwana House for unwanted babies, the Paediatric Oncology Ward at the Polokwane Provincial Hospital and members the Phuthaditshaba Lutheran Church.



HERE IS TO THE NEXT 82

The Rotary Club of Boksburg (D9400) will celebrate its 82nd charter anniversary next month. The club was chartered on the 31st August 1938 with many famous Boksburg residents as members, such as attorney Harry Massel, businessman Valois Terblans and photographer Jack van der Spuy, and prides still itself that many Boksburg streets are named after members of the Rotary Club of Boksburg.

One of the club's proudest achievements is the chartering of its sister club, the Rotary Club of Boksburg Lake 44 years ago and Nicky Savvides (83), a charter member, past president and Paul Harris Fellow, remains an active member.

The club has diligently kept its history book updated with information from that date until the present. The first volume of the book reached capacity just before the

club's 80th charter anniversary in 2018. A second book was started by the late Past President Dave Beattie.

The history book is the club's proudest possession and is continually made available to all interested guests, whether they be Rotary guests or not. The book is now maintained by club secretary and archivist Elsa Venter.

The club is one of the oldest clubs in District 9400 and believes it may well be the only club in South Africa which has such a book. If any other club has a similar book, the Rotary Club of Boksburg would very much like to connect with them.

Another unique asset the club can boast about is its oldest active member, Past President Jack Gray, who is a sprightly 93 years old and was inducted in 1970. Another long-serving member is Past President Dana Oosthuizen who has been with the club since 1999.



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Give your new presidents a Rotary Africa welcome! Email their names, photo and club name to rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za



Jeannette Horner was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400).



Stephan Ferreira was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400).



Louis Hattingh was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Kenton on Sea (D9370).



Charlotte Wormald was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Kenton on Sea (D9370).

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A man and a woman are sitting at a table, looking at a laptop screen. The man is smiling broadly, and the woman is also smiling. They appear to be in a casual setting, possibly a cafe or a meeting room. The background shows a brick wall and some outdoor furniture.

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