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Rotary

AFRICA | south

**The
Purveyor
of Peace**



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Sarah van Heerden
Editor

WELCOME

As I write this, we are but a few days from the one-year anniversary of South Africa entering the hard lockdown. Wow, what a year.

We have been forced to think about how we do things and to pay more attention to our safety and behaviour. But for me the most remarkable change has been seeing how many ordinary people were spurred to action when hearing of the suffering of others. Which, if viewed in context of the normal “Rotary moan” (you have heard it: People don’t want to join Rotary/help others/be involved) is a little confusing. Because it turns out that people DO want to be involved and help others, perhaps they don’t know what we do or who we are?

I do a lot of freelance work and often assemble teams of freelancers to work with me on projects. There have been many opportunities for me to discuss Rotary, what the Rotary footprint in Africa looks like and to share my Rotary stories. I have noticed that they are interested, they are amazed and they are inspired when they hear them. What I have also noticed is that they seem to think that Rotary is not a place where they would be welcome or fit in.

Which is nonsense because the vast majority of Rotary members are wonderfully kind and friendly people. I know this, but they don’t.

The question now is, how do we change this? Well, we grab hold of any opportunity we can to wow them and show them how amazing our clubs are! The best way to do this, would be to ask some of them to join you in watching the Rotary in Africa Centennial Conference this month and to join you as you click your way through the virtual house of friendship exhibition.

These events are important as they give people the opportunity to be inspired, motivated and more importantly, find common ground on which to build lasting friendships. And that is an important component of our Rotary world.

I know my life is richer because of the friendships I value – and many of those have their roots in Rotary.

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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President's message

Holger Knaack,
Rotary International President (2020/21)



Dear Rotarians, Rotaractors and friends,

This year, we celebrate Earth Day on 22 April with a new sense of purpose. The environment is now an area of focus for Rotary. Solutions for all great tasks always start with you and me, and there is much we as individuals can do simply by changing our behaviour: Cutting down on our use of plastic and using energy wisely are just two examples. But now we have the opportunity to do more together.

Supporting the environment is not new to Rotary; clubs have long worked on environmental issues based on local needs. Now climate change - a problem that affects us all, rich and poor - requires us to work together more closely than ever. Alberto Palombo, a Venezuelan engineer living in Brazil and a member of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers, shares his view.

For 30 years, my work has been to connect with communities and policy officials to take care of the environment. Today, I am excited about Rotary's opportunities to help reduce environmental degradation and make communities more environmentally sustainable.

In every community where we have a Rotary, Rotaract or Interact club or a Rotary Community Corps, there are environmental challenges. As Rotary members, we can become stewards of environmental sustainability and adopt the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in our daily lives at home and in our clubs. Then we can incorporate them into our Rotary projects.

My club has been involved with water and environment projects since day one. We seek opportunities to empower Rotarians and foster partnerships in our region and beyond, working with groups such as the Inter-American Water Resources Network and the World Water Council. Local clubs worked with the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Rotary Action Group (wasrag.org) to

help Rotary get a seat at the table during the 2018 World Water Forum in Brasilia, where we discussed how communities can recover from environmental disasters like the one caused by the failure of a mining dam on Brazil's Rio Doce in 2015.

Taking care of the earth is an effort that never stops. To make an impact, we must align our knowledge, abilities and enthusiasm - and Rotary is already great at doing this. As a volunteer with the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (esrag.org), I have seen how our work for the environment dovetails with much of what we are already doing in water and in our other areas of focus. Rotary members are not passive spectators; we take action. Let's work together and make a positive impact.

Support from The Rotary Foundation will define this new chapter in our service. Through District and Global Grant projects, we will build upon our previous projects that help the environment. We will look for ways to collaborate more closely and make a greater impact on global environmental issues. And we will incorporate environmental concerns into all of our programmes, projects and events.

Rotaractors and participants in our youth programmes expect Rotary to take a clear position and provide leadership with vision. We will work with them, seeking intelligent solutions to the problems they will inherit. Our incredible members, networks and Foundation give us the capacity to make an important and lasting contribution. Now, we will discover together how Rotary Opens Opportunities to help us expand our service to preserve the home we all share.

Holger Knaack



Foundation Trustee Chair

KR (Ravi) Ravindran

“Make no little plans,” American architect Daniel Burnham said. “They have no magic to stir [our] blood and probably themselves will not be realised.”

When Rotary heeds Burnham’s advice and follows through with action, we shine. We made big plans when we spearheaded a global initiative to eradicate polio; last year the World Health Organisation’s African region was certified polio-free.

When the coronavirus hit about a year ago, The Rotary Foundation quickly mobilised and awarded 319 COVID-19-specific Disaster Response Grants totalling \$7.9 million. To date, we have awarded another 317 COVID-19 Global Grants for about \$24 million, which, combined with our previously approved Global Grants, which grant sponsors repurposed to support coronavirus response, has resulted in a total outflow of more than \$32.7 million.

We are now thinking big again, through our Programmes of Scale Grants. We will award a \$2 million grant annually to one project that aligns with one or more of Rotary’s Areas of Focus. The grant should solve problems for many people in a large geographic area through a measurable and sustainable approach within a three to five-year period. It also requires like-minded partners who are committed and resourceful. The idea is also to replicate these programmes in different communities around the world, applying the lessons learned.

The Rotary Club of Federal Way (D5030, USA) has

made no little plans. As sponsor of the first Programmes of Scale Grant, the club is leading, in partnership with Zambian Rotary clubs and Malaria Partners Zambia, in an effort to help end a disease that is widespread in that country.

Through the programme, called Partners for a Malaria-Free Zambia, Rotary will help train 60 Zambian district health officials, 382 health facility staff and 2 500 community health workers to save lives; it will also equip them with the necessary supplies and gear to get the job done. Their aim is nothing less than reducing malaria by 90 percent in 10 target districts in two of Zambia’s provinces.

Rotary members are also applying the power of partnering by teaming with several organisations. They include Zambia’s Ministry of Health through its National Malaria Elimination Centre, which will ensure that the programme contributes to the national strategy, as well as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and World Vision, which are also investing substantial resources in co-funding and implementing this \$6 million programme.

This first Programmes of Scale Grant will inspire others and make a great impact in the years ahead. It is just the latest chapter in the story of Rotary, one that recounts how ordinary citizens unite to not only plan big but also take bold action to help others in need. It is a stirring story that you, the dedicated members of Rotary who support The Rotary Foundation, are helping to write.

Rotary at a glance

Rotary clubs: 36 490

Members: 1 182 601

Rotaract clubs: 8 444

Members: 215 205

Interact clubs: 15 681

Members: 359 214

RCCs: 11 580

As at 17 February 2021

▲ Increase

▼ Decrease





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



CONVENTION UPDATE

Last June, Rotary held its first virtual convention, which met with great success. For seven days, more than 60 000 attendees listened to a variety of keynote speakers, and at least 75 000 visitors watched one or more of the general sessions that were broadcast live on YouTube in eight languages.

The roster of breakout sessions was dramatically expanded, with events held into July. And in the second half of June, when the convention took place, nearly \$1 million was donated to The Rotary Foundation. Rotary adapted and, by doing so, found a way to engage more members than ever before.

In January, the RI Board of Directors made the difficult but prudent decision to convert the 2021 Rotary International Convention to a virtual event. “As an organisation that is at the forefront of eradicating polio and other preventable diseases, we have clear responsibilities in mitigating the threat of COVID-19,” said RI General Secretary John Hewko.

This decision was reached in response to the ongoing crisis, but Rotary is committed to using this change as an opportunity. The 2021 Virtual Rotary International Convention, scheduled for 12-16 June, will open opportunities for Rotary members who might not have been able to attend an in-person event. The virtual experience is being crafted to offer new ways for participants to engage with Rotary members from around the world. Wherever you are, in June you can be a part of the Virtual Rotary International Convention.

Learn more about the virtual convention at convention.rotary.org.



A New Perspective

**WITH ASSISTANT ROTARY REGIONAL FOUNDATION COORDINATOR
HUTCH MTHINDA (ZONE 22, REGION 28)**

COVID-19 has taken the world by storm. As many were thinking that it was starting to retreat, in the fourth calendar quarter, it reared its ugly head again with a mutated strain that was more ruthless and fast spreading. It worries me that few clubs have taken on the challenge to fight COVID-19 through The Rotary Foundation (TRF).

TRF is no longer providing funds dedicated to fighting the pandemic as it did last Rotary year. However, it will be able to accept Global Grant proposals to fight the pandemic. I have been proud to see a few such Global Grant projects come from D9210, as well as D9350, D9370 and D9400. We surely can do much more to alleviate the suffering and loss of life. We owe it to our communities to harness funds from TRF.

Clubs have a responsibility to do something to help people and communities in the face of this pandemic. Many clubs mistakenly think that they

will need to contribute funding when making the application. This is no longer the case. TRF has removed the requirement of 30 percent funding from international partners.

With the decline in the economy, as a result of the sustained pandemic, most organisations can ill afford to sponsor Rotary for their fundraising activities. We can't go on the streets to do big walks, nor can we hold cycling or golf competitions to fundraise for our projects. COVID-19 has closed those avenues and this is where the foundation grants come in handy.

It's our foundation and it's always there for us. Let's make use of our Foundation to fight Covid-19.

Hutch Mthinda is a past district governor of District 9210 and serves as the district's International Service Chair. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Lilongwe, Malawi.





Public Image

**WITH ROTARY REGIONAL PUBLIC IMAGE
COORDINATOR LEE-ANN SHEARING**

As you would send your car in regularly for servicing, so too should we all consistently check on the health of our clubs, regardless of whether or not we believe that we are strong, vibrant, and growing or otherwise. Despite being a Rotarian for 15 years and holding some senior district and regional positions, I found this a really interesting exercise to undertake. Taking a long hard look at how I perceive my club, and being very honest about it, was fascinating to say the least.

It is especially holistic in that it covers topics such as your club experience, service and socials, members, image, business and operations. If your club has never gone through this, I encourage you to try this sooner rather than later particularly in your preparations for the coming Rotary year and finalising of your club strategies for 2021/22. I know you will find it worthwhile.

Another remarkable tool for clubs to use are the Membership Assessment Tools found on the Rotary website. There are surveys covering the following: Representing Your Community's Professions: A Classification Assessment; Diversifying Your Club: A Member Diversity Assessment; Finding New Club Members: A Prospective Member Exercise; Improving Your Member Retention: Retention Assessment and Analysis; Enhancing the Club Experience: Member Satisfaction Survey and Understanding Why Members Leave: Exit Survey

You can choose to do one or more, but it is suggested that if you want to cover them all over a period of time, that you do them in order.

Of course, my favourite learning tools of all are the Learning Centre courses. There are so many topics to choose from and most importantly, specific to your needs whether at club or district level or beyond! Many of the modules are helpful not only in our Rotary lives but can also be directed into our professional and social lives too.

In my district, there are currently seven past district governors, a district governor-elect and a district governor nominee undergoing training to be RLI trainers. This is all happening once a week online. One of the attendees served as Governor in 2000/2001 and is still serving Rotary! There is definitely no shelf life in our organisation.

I urge you all to continue to be curious and to Never Stop Learning! It keeps us young, keeps us up to date with how our organisation is changing, and enables us to share the knowledge we gain with our members and the greater family of Rotary.

Have a wonderful month and see you all at the Virtual Africa Centennial Conference where we will have the opportunity for friendship, make new friends, and hear from some truly inspiring speakers.

Register at: <https://bit.ly/RotaryAfrica100>

Download a Club Health Check document from <https://my.rotary.org/en/document/rotary-club-health-check>. Try the Membership Assessment Tools at: <https://my.rotary.org/en/document/membership-assessment-tools>



Opportunity

**THE ROTARY FOUNDATION CADRE MEMBER,
PDG PATRICK COLEMAN**

Archbishop Tutu, elegant solutions and the making of a movement – Tutudesk

Last month I “sat down with” (virtually, of course) Thandeka Tutu-Gxashe, the daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Shane Immelman, the CEO of the Tutudesk Campaign, and asked them about their story and the founding of this incredible initiative to improve the educational opportunities of the children of Africa. Here is that story:

The story started when a retired professor of education developed the concept of a portable desk, or Lapdesk, in response to the fact that more than a third of school going children in rural and peri-urban South African schools attended their lessons without the benefit of a classroom desk.

The movement started when Shane Immelman, Tutudesk’s founder, backed a professor’s idea and developed the donor model and media (imprinted) component of the desk. In so doing, increasing its efficacy by ensuring it addressed the issue of classroom desk shortages both sustainably and by providing powerful and important social messaging. The Lapdesk became a ‘walking billboard’ when distributed to beneficiaries in affected schools and vulnerable communities.

Shane’s vision was driven as a response to address what he saw as a basic human rights issue,

as well as in response to his brother having died from HIV/AIDS. In this regard he wanted to ensure that important, life-saving information could be imprinted onto the desk and by doing so, shared in vulnerable communities.

He believed that by ensuring the distribution and repetition of important, educational messaging

concerning HIV, the number of people who would ultimately perish could be significantly reduced.

As part of this development process, Shane came to investigate education systems more holistically – not just in South Africa, but across sub-Saharan Africa, too. One of the things he realised

was how widespread the issue of classroom desk shortages was and that basic educational facilities were almost non-existent in many communities. He wanted to make a difference in the lives of learners’ educational experience and amongst impoverished communities as a whole. To that end, he saw Lapdesk as the vehicle with which to make a high-impact contribution.

Over the course of many years of work the Lapdesk gained many premium donors and supporters, as well as a great number of accolades and recognition

**That is part of giving a desk
to every child – it’s a gift
of education, given to the
beneficiary child as their
personal property, to develop
a love of learning and to use
at school and at home.**



The social impact alone makes the desk an awesome product and social development programme intervention.

as a simple, yet elegant, high-impact solution to a pressing social issue. The lack of classroom desks correlates directly with compromised academic outcomes, never mind the lack of dignity and its associated myriad issues of not having a dedicated workspace when at school. These efforts and programme recognition were to receive a massive boost when, in August 2005, Archbishop Desmond Tutu agreed to become the patron.

Metrics, initially anecdotal and then empirical, began to emerge proving the efficacy of the programme – writing skills, concentration and academic performance were all significantly improved. Classrooms were more orderly for teachers and learner motivation was impacted positively. The homework improvements were also exponential. Children who had given up on school because the conditions were so awful, actually returned to school!

These were important gains, but for the Tutudesk Campaign something that had not been considered and which had a major impact, was the issue of boys returning to class. Most of the children who dropped out were boys, as they are the ones who are less likely to stick with it when conditions are hard. Thandeka said the question that arose was, “If the boys are not in school then where are they, what are they doing and who is influencing them?” With the introduction of Lapdesks, they found that boys were back at school!

By 2012 it was obvious that the Lapdesk programme was highly credible and its impact significant. However, it was mostly a South African initiative and needed to scale up in order to address the wider, international problem.

After some discussion between Thandeka and Shane, Archbishop Tutu agreed that not only would

he stay on as Patron, but that we could use his name to rename the desk to Tutudesk. This reflected his passion for education and for the work of the organisation, an action which would propel it onto the international stage and to the next level of its development. And so, Tutudesk and The Tutudesk Campaign were born.

Thandeka explained that “It is difficult to tell this story because it can be seen as an extremely poor reflection on us as a country and our world. When my father was in school, there weren’t any desks. When the teacher asked him to write, they would have to kneel on the floor and use their benches as a desk. Here we are, more than 80 years later, and our children are still going through the same thing! That just doesn’t make sense!”

“It doesn’t compute that South Africa is 30 years into democracy and the conditions our children are going through are, in many instances, as bad as what my father went through 80 years ago. That is a poor reflection on us as adults and on our government. We need to, and must do, better.”

This is not exclusively a South African or African issue. In sub-Saharan Africa an estimated 95 million children attend school without desks. Globally, that number is estimated to be around 500 million. The question is, “Where are our priorities? What is it that we really want for our world and for our children?”

This is the solution... YOU can be a part of ‘Opening Opportunities’ for school children across Africa for the cost of a croissant and a cappuccino. Get involved, see: <http://bit.ly/RotaryTutuDesk>

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SKU: BLAZ-4930



6 Panel Embroidered
Rotary Cap
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Navy



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Drawstring Bag
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SKU: RTM00106



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**THIS IS
OUR ACTION
PLAN.**

OUR PRIORITY

**WE'RE
INCREASING
OUR
IMPACT**



Thriving in a data-driven world.

We all want Rotary to have an enduring legacy of change. But if we can't offer concrete proof of what we're achieving together, it's hard to engage innovative, motivated change-makers to join or partner with us. And it's even harder to improve our programs and projects in ways that really matter.

We can reach our full potential by improving our ability to collect and analyze data. We can figure out which programs are having an impact and which ones need adjustment. And using what we've learned from our polio eradication efforts, we can look for ways to replicate and scale programs with the most potential to create lasting change.

What we will do.

Apply what we've learned from the fight against polio to all of our areas of focus

Direct efforts and resources to the most impactful programs

Build a measurement methodology and infrastructure that's right for Rotary

What your club can do.



Want to know more?

Read the full Action Plan at rotary.org/actionplan

Maybe it is time to consider a few things

What do we see?

When disaster strikes, why do we only pay attention to the death toll? asks Jeremy Opperman, a member of the Rotary Club of Newlands (D9350)

Notwithstanding the enormity and generosity of Rotary activity, as Rotarians, are we prone to overlooking a significant segment of the most vulnerable in our communities?

Before we get started, it's time for a short general knowledge quiz. 1. How many people were killed in the recent attack on the Capitol in Washington DC? 2. How many people were killed in the Christchurch shooting in 2019? 3. Who was Breonna Taylor? 4. Who was George Floyd?

Well done! I am sure most people reading this were correct in their answers. But, give this one a try. How many people were seriously injured in those attacks? And for the bonus prize. Who is Jacob Blake? I am willing to bet that less people got this one without looking it up. The difference between the first four questions and the last two, of course, is that the first four involved death while the last two were about serious injury and very possibly permanent disability.

The point I am getting to is that for some reason we tend to direct our attention, horror and outrage toward death, while almost never showing lasting interest in those that get seriously or permanently injured or disabled in these kinds of horrific incidents. Interestingly, media, not just our own, but globally, perpetuate the ghoulish fascination by repeating over and over again the death toll of a tragic event. Soon, after about a day, the numbers of those who have died are still high on the agenda, while for some reason, details of injured fall away from view and are almost immediately forgotten.

To me, the greatest illustration of this, is the comparison between George Floyd and Jacob Blake. They were both involved in high profile incidents, one was killed, Floyd, while Blake was terribly injured (no surprise as there were seven bullets in his back) and left paralysed. Yet who is the more famous? So what? you may ask.

Is there an Economist in the house? Ask yourself, what is costlier to a family, community or economy, death or disability? With the greatest respect to those who have lost someone and those who have died, death is pretty finite. Tragic, certainly for those left behind, but they have no choice but to move on and deal with the aftermath,



For those who might struggle to see the cartoon, it depicts a person in a Hazmat suit, staring in fear at a classic person with a disability in a wheelchair. The caption reads, "Disability is not contagious."

emotionally and perhaps financially, should the person have been a breadwinner.

However, if you have just been "lucky" enough to have "survived" a gang shooting, taxi or bus accident or some other trauma and have been left with a serious and lasting injury, like Jacob Blake was, what does your future look like? Who will pay for hospital care? Rehabilitation? Assistive devices such as wheelchairs, prosthetics or other tech? Who will convince your boss that you actually can work again, but will need a little time or some reasonable accommodation, to be able to do so? Who will care or even know that you exist, if we and media do not shift the attention towards the more significant issue?

As a new Rotarian, I am constantly humbled and in awe of the sheer enormity of Rotary energy and project munificence. Far be it from me to criticise, but I wonder in the light of our universal tendency to overlook and therefore underestimate the sheer scale of later onset disabilities, whether we are not missing whole swathes of communities left vulnerable by our ignorance and inattention.

Due to our atavistic and almost pathological avoidance of disability, in our everyday society, is it a surprise that we understand so little and see even less? In a country like ours, with so much crime, so many accidents and other phenomena that disable so many, can we afford not to open our eyes and pay a little more attention?

Coming up...

Submit your Rotary club or district events to rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za. Please include 'calendar' in the subject

This month

15 APRIL – 7PM (SAST)

THE WORLD AND SOUTH AFRICA BEYOND 2020/21. Learn about the latest flags, scenarios and probabilities. CLEM SUNTER, the world-renowned futurologist, keynote speaker and scenario planner will give a 40-minute zoom presentation. Hosted by the Rotary Club of Helderberg Sunrise (D9350) in support of Sustainable Food Gardens.

Book at <http://bit.ly/RotaryHS>

24-25 APRIL

ROTARY IN AFRICA CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE. Celebrate 100 years of Rotary creating lasting change on our continent. For the first time ever, a cutting-edge online platform, will allow thought leaders to share our collective story of building communities and addressing challenges. Hear from inspirational speakers such as Bill Gates.

Book at <https://bit.ly/RotaryAfrica100>

Next month

1 MAY

DISTRICT 9350 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE from 9am – 4pm. Open to anyone on or off Facebook. The programme and a registration link will be made available closer to the event date. Follow <http://bit.ly/9350DisCon> for updates.

21-22 MAY

DISTRICT 9370 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE in the Sky. Join DG Maud Boikanyo for her district conference and celebrate a remarkable year of service in the face of adversity. To register: <https://forms.gle/gdMi8Uv6hKow66XcA>

The Sun Never Sets in Rotary

The Rotary Alumni Association of District 3232 (Chennai, India) had a dream to create a 24-hour programme to connect the world on the anniversary of Rotary. The idea developed into a relay of meetings by Rotary clubs and districts around the globe, with a common theme to celebrate Rotary's investment in people, its anniversary and to connect with Rotary Alumni. This event ran from 7:30pm IST on 23 February to 7:30pm IST on 24 February.

District 9400 was the only district in Southern Africa that took part in this event and secured two 90-minute sessions on 23 February to showcase RYLA and its alumni. The meeting was opened with a warm welcome from District Governor Annemarie Mostert followed by a recorded message from RIP Holger Knaack.

The RYLA session showcased RYLA and youth leadership programmes with interactions from RYLA alumni, who shared their experiences. Each RYLA programme, including Eswatini, White

River, Magoesbaskloof and East Rand, as well as the Rosebank Senior Youth Leadership Course and Rotary Club of Springs Kindness Convention, was represented and included videos about their programme as well as interviews with past participants. This was a night of celebration put together by the D9400 RYLA committee.

The Alumni session was jointly hosted by the Rotary Club of Johannesburg and the D9400 Alumni Committee and focused on Alumni that included Rotaract, Interact, Youth Exchange and Rotary Peace Fellows.

Both events were attended by Rotarians, alumni and guests from all over the world. All participants shared amazing stories of the opportunities and experiences that Rotary had afforded them.

A full recording of both sessions is available on the D9400 Facebook page: <https://fb.watch/3RBJXER7na/>

HANDBOOK

New beginnings

Starting a club takes a mix of inspiration and good planning

Tom Gump has thought a lot about what it takes to start a successful Rotary club. In a little over two years, Gump, governor of D5950 (Minnesota, USA) and a member of the Rotary Club of Edina/Morningside, has helped form four new cause-based Rotary clubs, including ones focused on serving veterans, ending human trafficking and protecting the environment.

It may seem like a daunting undertaking, but as Gump notes, “If you start a new club, you can ask: ‘How do you want to meet, where do you want to meet and what do you want to focus on?’” By breaking the process down into steps, you can start a new club that has the strong sense of purpose and solid basis that will allow it to thrive.

— JOSEPH DERR

CHECKLIST

To apply for a new club, you'll need:

- ▶ Club constitution
- ▶ Club bylaws
- ▶ New Rotary club application
- ▶ Club charter fee (\$15 per charter member)

Templates and forms are available on My Rotary.

Step 1

SET EXPECTATIONS

Chartering a club takes time - you can't rush developing new relationships - as well as careful planning and dedication. Be prepared, but don't be overwhelmed, says Gump. “If I can start the world's first Rotary club for veterans in a state that doesn't have a single active-duty military base, then you can form a club too.”

TIP: Look at what the clubs that are already in your community are working on, what the community needs that those clubs might not be addressing and what potential members are missing from those clubs. Think about different meeting times, locations and formats.

Step 2

EXPLORE OPTIONS

Today's Rotary is flexible. Do you want to start a Rotary, Rotaract or satellite club? Will meetings be in person, online or a hybrid? In addition to traditional and cause-based clubs, options include passport, corporate and alumni-based clubs. “Whatever you do, make sure it is the members of the new club who make the decision, and not you,” says Gump. “After all, it is their club and not yours.”

Illustration by James Graham



RESOURCES

- Find links and resources, including the Starting a Rotary Club guide, on the Start a Club page: rotary.org/start-club.
- Complete the new Starting a Club training module on the Learning Center, rotary.org/learn.
- Read Tom Gump's guide to starting cause-based clubs at bit.ly/3iGA0Yz.



Step 3

FIND MEMBERS AND SUPPORT

Reach out through traditional and social media and invite the community to informational meetings, keeping diversity and inclusion in mind. Look for new ways to find members, says Ramesh Hariharan, a member of the Rotary Club of Silicon Valley Passport and past governor of D5170 (California, USA), who helped form four clubs that brought in more than 300 members, almost all of them new to Rotary. “Rather than bringing potential new members to existing clubs and adding them incrementally, we brought potential new clubs to people, to their organisations,” Hariharan says.

TIP: Club and District Support staff at Rotary International are multilingual professionals who help guide the formation of hundreds of Rotary clubs every year. Find your CDS representative at my.rotary.org/cds.

Step 4

PLAN MEETINGS AND PROJECTS

At this stage, the club will define its name, vision and values. Gump is convinced that cause-based clubs help attract volunteers, especially younger ones, to Rotary projects. “Many volunteers today want to have great impact in one area of service, such as ending human trafficking,” he says.

Step 5

CHOOSE CLUB LEADERS

Elect your club officers and work with RI staff to approve the club name. Sponsor clubs can play an important role in answering questions and providing guidance at this stage. Blessing Michael, a member of the Rotary Club of Port Harcourt North (D9141, Nigeria) who has helped form three new clubs, recommends getting two or three members from the sponsor club to become members of the new club whenever possible. “Clubs with all new members face challenges and need support,” says Michael.

Step 6

CHARTER, CELEBRATE, PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Have your district governor sign the new club application before submitting it to RI. Once it's approved, your club is official. As you celebrate, be sure to share the excitement on social media. Draw up a strategic plan and maintain contact with your club's support network to help it grow and thrive. “Nurturing the new club in its early period of growth is just as important as, if not more than, setting up the club,” says Yvonne Kumoji-Darko, governor of District 9102 (Benin, Ghana, Niger, and Togo) and a member of the Rotary Club of Accra-South, Ghana.

TIP: Form committees to share responsibilities such as creating a strategic plan, organising projects, and planning club meetings.

THE HISTORY OF VACCINES

Erin Biba is a science journalist whose work has appeared in Scientific American, Wired, the Daily Beast, Popular Science and the BBC.

2 000 years of innovation gives the world a shot in the arm

BY ERIN BIBA

Vaccines have prevented about 10 million deaths from disease since 1963, researchers estimate. Rotary members know the power of vaccination well: The oral polio vaccine has helped bring cases of wild polio down 99.9 percent since 1988, with the virus remaining endemic in only two countries today. And now, as COVID-19 vaccines are being distributed around the world, the experience and knowledge that Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative have gained are helping protect communities from the pandemic.

Rotary members are getting involved in supporting the COVID-19 vaccine roll out in some of the same ways they've been working to end polio - by raising awareness for vaccination in their communities, supporting health workers, combating misinformation and vaccine hesitancy, and advocating for fair and equal vaccine distribution in vulnerable communities. Clubs can partner with local health agencies and, where applicable, with our polio eradication partners WHO and UNICEF at the country level.

World Immunisation Week, celebrated the last week of April every year, will take on outsize importance this year. As the world looks toward immunisations to stop the COVID-19 pandemic, we look back at the fascinating history of these lifesaving medicines. Share the efforts of your club or district - and see what other Rotarians are doing - to support COVID-19 vaccination and prevent the disease's spread at my.rotary.org/showcase. Learn more about Rotary International's efforts at rotary.org/covid-and-our-members.



Left: Ancient Greek historian Thucydides made one of the earliest written observations about immunity. **Below:** Smallpox pustules are a hallmark of the disease.

430 BC

As observed by Greek historian Thucydides, people who survived a plague in Athens that started in this year were never affected by it again.



Smallpox, thought to have been carried to the Americas in the 1500s on Spanish ships, decimated indigenous populations.

1549

The earliest written mention of variolation appears in China. The technique, whose name is derived from the Latin word for smallpox, involved inoculating a person with the virus to induce a mild form of the illness. Health practitioners removed dried scabs from people with smallpox, ground them and blew the powder into the nostrils of the uninfected (left nostril for girls, right for boys). About 1 to 2 percent of those who underwent the technique died from small-pox, compared with 30 percent of people who contracted the disease without variolation. The use of this method is thought to have begun as early as 200 BC.

1706

Onesimus, a Libyan-born enslaved worker in Massachusetts, shows his enslaver, Puritan minister Cotton Mather, a childhood scar and explains how variolation was used in North Africa. After studying the procedure, Mather is convinced it could be an effective weapon against the scourge of smallpox and persuades a local doctor to use it when Boston is hit by an epidemic of the disease in 1721.

Smallpox vaccine inventor Edward Jenner appeals to vaccine opponents in this 1808 caricature.



1777

US General George Washington orders the vaccination of every soldier in the Continental Army who has never had smallpox. Washington himself had contracted the disease at age 19. “George’s nose was lightly pitted with pockmarks, a defect discreetly edited from most sanitised portraits,” writes Ron Chernow in his Pulitzer Prize-winning *Washington: A Life*, in which he characterised the young man’s illness as “a fantastic stroke of luck, furnishing him with immunity to the most virulent scourge of eighteenth-century armies.”



Above: Jenner performed his first vaccination on a local boy.

1796

In rural England, after investigating a folk belief that milkmaids never got smallpox, Edward Jenner, a London-trained doctor, inoculates eight-year-old James Phipps with liquid drawn from the lesions of Sarah Nelms, a milkmaid who had contracted cowpox, a significantly milder ailment than smallpox. After the boy’s relatively quick recovery from cowpox, Jenner variolates James with smallpox, yet no symptoms appear. The boy’s exposure to cowpox, Jenner concludes, had made him immune to smallpox. He dubs his discovery “vaccination,” from the Latin word *vacca*, meaning cow.

1801-03

After the inept handling and administration of the first Jenner vaccine in the United States, President Thomas Jefferson designs a container that will more reliably transport the vaccine and inoculates 30 people at Monticello. “It was mainly thanks to ... Jefferson that the reputation of vaccine was saved,” asserts Arthur Allen in his book *Vaccine: The Controversial Story of Medicine’s Greatest Lifesaver*.



Left: The anti-vaccination movement escalated in the late 1800s; tens of thousands of people protested compulsory smallpox vaccinations at a rally in Leicester, England, in 1885.

1925

While working on a vaccine for tetanus and diphtheria, Gaston Ramon, a French veterinarian, demonstrates that the addition of substances such as tapioca, agar, starch oil and even breadcrumbs increases the vaccine's effectiveness. The following year, British immunologist Alexander Glenny finds that aluminum salts are the most effective additive or "adjuvant," as such additives come to be known - to increase the effectiveness of the diphtheria vaccine. Adjuvants remain an essential ingredient in vaccines. Most recently, modern biotech pharmaceutical companies have been forming partnerships to add their proprietary adjuvants to help boost the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine and reduce the dosage needed for each patient, allowing for the inoculation of more people.



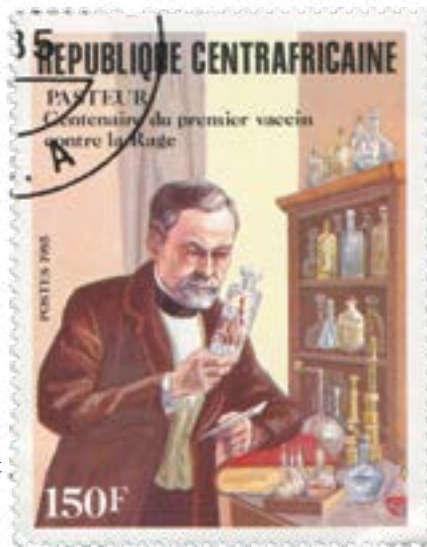
School nurses administer the diphtheria vaccine in New York in the 1920s.

1952-53

Leone Farrell, a biochemist and microbiologist at the University of Toronto, finds that gently rocking vials of the poliovirus stimulates its growth. The discovery, known today as the Toronto method, enables researchers to mass-produce poliovirus in order to conduct vaccine trials and revolutionises the production of vaccines. Farrell is not allowed to attend a dinner honouring polio vaccine developer Jonas Salk that is held in a men's-only venue - although, according to one account, she is permitted to "stand at the door-way of the dining room to shake the great man's hand."

1879

After instructing his assistant to inject some chickens with *Pasteurella multocida*, the germ that causes cholera in birds, French chemist and microbiologist Louis Pasteur (who first isolated the bacterium) goes on vacation. So does his assistant - without following his boss's orders. When the assistant returns, he belatedly injects the month-old bacteria into the birds, and, though they become sick, they do not die. Pasteur discovers that they are immune to additional doses of the bacterium. He calls the intentional lessening of an organism's virulence "attenuation." Over the next 50 years, scientists will use live attenuated or inactivated (killed) bacteria or viruses to create vaccines for typhoid, plague, pertussis, tuberculosis and other diseases.



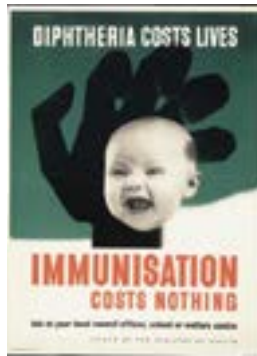
Louis Pasteur developed the first vaccines for fowl cholera, anthrax and rabies.

Jonas Salk used a chemical called formalin to inactivate poliovirus samples. His polio vaccine was approved for use in 1955.



1925

After a field trial involving 1.8 million Americans, Thomas Francis Jr of the University of Michigan announces that Salk's polio vaccine is "safe, effective and potent." The work, the university's press release of 12 April reported, was "financed by nearly one million dollars worth of dimes which have been donated to the National Foundation [for Infantile Paralysis]." The vaccine used cells from a cancer patient whose story was made famous in the 2010 book *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*.



Above: Posters have long been used as part of the public health efforts to encourage people to get vaccinated, including in Rotary's fight to end polio. Below: Vaccinators used jet injectors for smallpox.



1961

The world's seventh known cholera pandemic sweeps the globe, affecting 117 countries and infecting 1.7 million people before it is quelled in 1989. In a single week in 1973, health officials vaccinate 1 million people in Naples, Italy, limiting fatalities there to 12.

1966

The World Health Organization (WHO) launches the Smallpox Eradication Programme to stop the spread of the disease among the 60 percent of the world's population who are unvaccinated against it. In 1980, WHO announces that smallpox has been eradicated worldwide.



Left: Rotary members transport a cooler of oral polio vaccine during a National Immunisation Day in Nigeria. Bottom: Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative launched the Kick Polio Out of Africa campaign in 1996.

1985

Rotary International launches PolioPlus, kick-starting the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. The programme grows to include the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, WHO, UNICEF, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. By the end of 2020, cases of wild polio occur in just two countries worldwide.



2020

In one of the most spectacular scientific efforts ever, researchers around the world study, test and release two vaccines to tackle the previously unknown COVID-19 virus. Rather than using killed or attenuated viruses, the vaccines use a type of genetic material called mRNA (messenger RNA). A snippet of the COVID-19 virus's genetic material, encased in a special coating of fatty acids, acts like a codebook for the immune system to build defences against the virus. This revolutionary type of vaccine, which has been studied for several decades and trialled since the 1990s on other diseases, is thought to be much safer than the traditional method of using live whole virus. Experts predict the breakthrough of this successful technique will forever change the course of vaccine development and production.



Above: A member of the US military's smallpox response team receives a vaccination. Left: Share how your club is supporting COVID-19 vaccination efforts at my.rotary.org/showcase.

2002

Routine smallpox vaccination in the United States ended in 1972, but anticipating the use of the disease as a biological weapon in a possible war with Iraq, President George W Bush lays out a plan for inoculating 500 000 military personnel and up to 10 million civilian health care and emergency workers. On 21 December, to promote public awareness, the president receives a smallpox vaccination, "pricked 15 times," according to Arthur Allen's Vaccine, "with a tiny, bifurcated needle, whose prongs held between them a droplet of vaccine virus derived from an infected calf."

ROTARY IN AFRICA

REG.NO. 1971/004840/07

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 21ST MAY 2021 AT 09H00

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Rotary in Africa will be held at 22 Beare Drive, Padfield Park, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa on Friday 21st May 2021 commencing at 09h00.

AGENDA

1. Call to order and announcements
2. Confirmation of the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 15th May 2020
3. Chairman's report
4. Editor's report
5. Treasurer's report and submission of annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020.
6. Appointment of Auditors
7. Election of directors (up to 3) to serve on the Board for a period of 2 years. In terms of the Company's Article of Association, the following directors are due to retire from the Board:
 - i. Peter Hugo
 - ii. Annemarie Mostert
 - iii. Gerald Sieberhagen

Being eligible, the abovenamed individuals make themselves available for re-election together with any other nominations that may be submitted to the Secretary on or before Friday 14th May 2021.

Nominations must be emailed directly to Rotary in Africa at rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za.

8. To conduct or transact any other business pertinent to an Annual General Meeting.

**All current, immediate incoming and past Governors of Rotary Districts 9200, 9210, 9211, 9212, 9220, 9250, 9270, 9350, 9370 and 9400 are ex officio members of Rotary in Africa. A member may appoint a proxy to attend and vote on their behalf, provided that such appointment is advised to the Secretary at the offices of the company at least 48 hours before the meeting.*

Members may also attend online (contact us for a link).

Natty Moodley

Secretary

05 March 2021

REGISTERED OFFICE: 728 Main Road, Northdene, Durban, 4064

EMAIL: ROTARYAFRICA@MWEB.CO.ZA

TELEPHONE: 031 267 1848

Peace in the Age of Chaos: Best Solution for a Sustainable Future

by Steve Killelea

Driven mainly by overpopulation and increasingly impactful advancements in technology, humanity is facing a series of existential threats unlike anything it has experienced before in its short history. Countering environmental degradation, pandemics, species extinction, our increasingly scarce stock and overuse of natural resources, population growth, social discontent and the proliferation of extraordinarily destructive weapons – to name but a few – will require a new way of conceptualising our relationships with each other and the ecosystems we depend upon.

We need to find a new approach that will allow us to adapt in the short term and reverse the decline in the longer term. Despite the diversity of the problems, they share one important characteristic: they cannot begin to be solved without collaboration. And neither collaboration nor adaptability are possible without peace.

To put it simply, without peace we will never achieve the level of trust, cooperation and inclusiveness necessary to solve these challenges. Therefore, peace is a prerequisite for the survival of society as we know it in the 21st century. In the past, peace may have been the domain of the altruistic, but in this century, it is in everyone's self-interest. Peace is central to a safe and productive society.

I believe peace, when properly defined, is the first fundamental human right that makes all other rights possible. The right to life, liberty and the pursuit of

happiness, to use the examples enshrined as 'unalienable rights' in the US Constitution, will remain forever out of reach in the absence of peace.

The most common definition of peace is the absence of violence or conflict, which is also referred to as Negative Peace. The problem with this definition is not that it is wrong, but that it is incomplete and leads to many misconceptions of how peace can be achieved. Much of the work that has been done under the banner of Peace Studies has in reality been conflict studies. Trying to understand peace by studying war is like trying to understand what it is to be healthy by studying illness: it might help us to understand how to cure a particular sickness, but will tell us little about how to stay healthy and avoid illness in the first place.

For me, this conundrum became painfully clear on a visit to Goma, which lies on the northern shore of Lake Kivu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and is one of the most violent and geographically unstable places on earth. When faced with the sort of conflicts that wrack North East Kivu, the obvious line of inquiry is to ask what makes countries such as the DRC and its neighbours, Rwanda and Burundi, so violent. But it was a more opaque and potentially more interesting question that occurred to me: Which are the most peaceful countries and what can be learned from them to help those countries that are not? This turned out to be a paradigm-changing question.

While it was a simple question to ask, it quickly became clear that there was no simple answer. The

first problem was that there was no objective ranking of countries in terms of their peacefulness, thereby making informed comparisons impossible. I was dumbfounded.

What struck me was that if a simple businessman, such as myself, could be walking through Africa and wonder which are the most peaceful nations in the world and the research hadn't been done, then how much do we know about peace? In any pursuit, if we can't measure something, how can we truly understand it? And if we can't measure something, then how do we know whether our actions are helping or hindering us in achieving our goals? We simply don't, and peace is not an exception.

This realisation started a life-changing journey for me, one in which understanding the positive qualities that sustain and create highly peaceful societies became the central theme of my work life.

POSITIVE PEACE

If Negative Peace represents the absence of violence or the fear of violence, Positive Peace represents the attitudes, institutions and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies. It's a positive expression of an active peace, one that allows humanity to flourish,

providing more avenues for more people to achieve their full potential.

There are many parallels between physical health and social health. Just as exercise and a healthy diet build physical resilience against the onset of disease, Positive Peace builds social resilience against the onset of violence: it is preventative. Importantly, just as we can measure the healthiness of apparently healthy people by looking at markers such as cholesterol levels or testing their performance on a treadmill, we can measure Positive Peace by measuring aspects such as the levels of governance, the flow of information and the acceptance of the rights of others.

Positive Peace, like healthiness, is a measurable phenomenon. To do this we started by taking the countries at the top of the Global Peace Index – the world's leading measure of global peacefulness that ranks 163 countries, and comprehensively covers over 99.7 per cent of the world's population – to find the factors that are most statistically associated with these countries, by analysing tens of thousands of datasets, indexes and attitudinal surveys against the Global Peace Index.

The results were further analysed using statistical techniques to cluster them together, resulting in eight groups that became known as the Pillars of Positive Peace: well-functioning government; sound business environment; equitable distribution of resources; acceptance of the rights of others; good relations with neighbours; free flow of information; high levels of human capital and low levels of corruption. These are intentionally broad categories. For the model to work, it needs to be spacious enough to accommodate the cultural, moral, social and political specifics of different peoples, cultures and countries.

One of the important qualities of Positive Peace is that it creates societies that are more resilient. In other words, better capable of adapting to their changing environments. This is especially

In 2018, the global cost of violent conflict was well over \$600 billion. In that same year only \$7 billion was spent on what can be termed peace-building – just one per cent of the cost of conflict. It's hard to create peace without the appropriate investment.



Steve Killelea while travelling in Burma. He is the founder and executive chairman of the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) – a global think tank dedicated to shifting the world's focus to peace as a positive, tangible and achievable measure of human progress and well-being.



needed in the 21st century as the planet's ecosystems are stretched by the sheer number of people inhabiting it, pandemics, such as COVID-19, or because of the technological changes reshaping work and the way people interact.

The stronger the Positive Peace the more likely the systems are to adjust to change. These adaptive qualities are not only expressed in avoiding violence, they are the very processes by which societies adjust to new technologies, cultural practices, immigration flows and new-found wealth. On the other hand, low Positive Peace countries have weaker mechanisms, they find it harder to adapt to change, and when challenged by shocks are more likely to violently suppress them, and if they are not suppressed, are more likely to descend into violence.

Since Positive Peace can be used as a measure of resilience and adaptability it can also be used as a predictor of

which nations are most likely to adjust to or absorb shocks, whether financial, ecological or societal. It can also be used as a measure of the likelihood of a country descending into violence. Research suggests that countries that performed the most tests for COVID-19 were highly correlated with Positive Peace.

There have been numerous attempts to try to create models to predict outbreaks of violence or conflict, but they all suffer from the impossibility of predicting black swan events like terrorist attacks, pandemics or economic collapses.

The IEP's conception of Positive Peace largely avoids this problem by assuming that shocks of one sort or another are inevitable. What is important is the ability of the country's formal and informal institutions to withstand those shocks, recover from them and prepare for future shocks. This is the key to understanding risk. When using this approach, it is possible to predict with roughly a 60 per cent accuracy rate the countries that will have the largest falls in peace, up to seven years prior to the falls.

Through understanding the levels of Positive Peace, it is possible to identify and assist fragile states, so they do not descend into violence.

Excerpt from 'Peace in the Age of Chaos: The Best Solution for a Sustainable Future' by Steve Killelea. The IEP and Rotary International are strategic partners in the effort to spread Positive Peace in communities.

*See www.peaceintheageofchaos.org. For an exclusive Rotary Africa discount, use the promotion code **PEACE20** at checkout.*



Perpetual Student, Purveyor of Peace

As far as first impressions go, deliberate is what comes to mind when one meets Anas al-Hamati – even if it is on Zoom. Whether it's because English is not his mother tongue, but one of the three (soon to be four) languages he speaks or if it's simply his manner, each spoken word is deliberate and intentional. Which is why it is not surprising that this unassuming man was the one who, with zero related training or experience, successfully negotiated the release of Yolande Korkie, a South African woman, who was kidnapped for ransom by al Qaeda in Yemen in 2013, writes *Rotary Africa* editor, *Sarah van Heerden*

Exiled from his homeland for more than six years, the self-described 'forever student' and his Johannesburg-based family will move to Japan in July as he prepares to join the Rotary Peace Fellows programme. He plans to use knowledge and insight he gains during his Rotary Peace Centres Master's Degree to help turn fragile states, such as Yemen, into nations of peace.

While in Japan, he will continue to work remotely as The Gift of the Givers Foundation's Deputy Director of its Middle East Office. His wife and children will move with him and the family is looking forward to the experience. His wife, Fadia Alqutami, a graphic designer, is excited as the move will present her with the opportunity to learn more about animation since, as he puts it, "Japan is a paradise for animation." The exposure to a different country and culture is a great opportunity for the al-Hamati children, "to open their minds to the world," as the couple is trying to bring them up as, "global citizens."

Al-Hamati will complete a one-month Japanese language course before beginning his master's degree at

the International Christian University in Japan, hosted by Rotary District 2750, on 15 September.

"The topic of my masters will focus on the fragile states - countries in the world that are not strong enough to achieve long-term peace. I will use my home country of Yemen, which is the number one fragile state in the world, according to the Fragile States Index, as my case study."

Being in Japan will offer al-Hamati an opportunity to study the nation's history in conflict resolution and peace building. "I am interested to see how they made it – from a collapsed country in the second world war to one of the best countries in the world. How they achieved this kind of long-term peace. There is no war, they focus on economics and growth; this is what every nation in the world is looking for."

Visiting Hiroshima is something he looks forward to, as is learning from Japanese academics, "How they made the vision for a new Japan after World War II work." He also hopes to engage with leaders in Yemen to help them identify the weaknesses and reasons why

they can't implement programmes or build the solid groundwork needed for peace. He also hopes to visit some of the United States aid agencies that have been working in Yemen for about six years to learn why their peacekeeping efforts have achieved little. "I want to gather information from different aspects, not only my point of view, and find practical solutions to help my country."

"I also want to contact the fragile states index to understand how they classify fragile states and use that to determine what we need to build strong states."

Building stronger states is essential to global peace building, as these states are able to withstand internal disruption. "Like what happened in the USA when they invaded the capitol, if it was any other nation they might have fallen or collapsed. But they did not, and now they are carrying on with democracy. They protected their democracy, and this is what we want to see all over the world," explains al-Hamati.

His academic and professional journeys to this point have been interesting. He holds a diploma in graphic design, a bachelor of French Literature, a post-graduate diploma in management practice and plans to finish an MBA before leaving for Japan. "I started my career as a graphic designer. It [graphic design] opens your mind to help organise your ideas; you have to organise information so that it can be understood by everyone." He progressed to run his own advertising business and also worked for the Yemen News Agency, but when his country collapsed, al-Hamati joined Gift of the Givers as the Country Manager based in Sana'a, Yemen.

"I started to make a change; I started to become part of the solution – in every case we work, we are part of the solution. Then came the case of Yolande Korkie. This is where I believe it [my work] matches with the spirit of Rotary as Rotary is where people go beyond their duty, and if I am not mistaken, I think I went beyond my duty," chuckles al-Hamati, albeit a little self-consciously.

He was working for Gift of the Givers as the Yemen Country Manager when he heard that Yolande and Pierre Korkie had been kidnapped in May 2013. "Many South Africans travel [through Africa and the Middle East] and because they look like Americans or Europeans, they become targets for kidnapping." Despite having no experience in hostage negotiation, al-Hamati did not hesitate to act. "When I heard there was a South African in captivity, I just tried to help – it was with good intentions. Nobody asked me to get

involved and I believe that if you work with good intentions, you will be protected."

With the blessing of Gift of the Givers founder and CEO, Dr Imtiaz Sooliman and an instruction to take care, al-Hamati began working to build networks among the tribes to reach the kidnappers. "Because you are Yemeni, you understand more than foreigners.

I know more tribes, more people."



The spirit of Rotary as Rotary is where people go beyond their duty, and if I am not mistaken, I think I went beyond my duty
- Anas al-Hamati

After months of work, he received word from them, but was surprised to learn the kidnappers were al Qaeda. "I thought the kidnappers were tribal leaders. But you can't step back and say no, because it's people's lives on the line and they really need your help." After careful negotiation, he secured the release of Yolandi without the payment of a ransom eight months after the kidnapping.

"The South African government would not pay and has a policy of not negotiating. But I am Yemeni and had more flexibility. I moved step-by-step and I managed to get Yolandi released without paying. We were about to get Pierre released but then the American raid happened... well, you know what happened."

Sadly, Pierre Korkie was killed on 6 December 2014 during the failed US-led operation to rescue Luke Somers, a US photographer who was being held with Pierre.

By then al-Hamati, whose efforts to free the Korkies had dominated South African and international headlines, was no longer in the country. Gift of the Givers had extracted the al-Hamati family that January after al Qaeda sent a picture of a bomb belt to the organisation, making it clear that al-Hamati was now targeted.

Although he left Yemen, al-Hamati says he will return, "People will not kick me out of my country because I did something great! When I go back, I will go back with knowledge; I will help my country to grow!"



SHOWCASING AFRICA'S Home-Grown Solutions

Uniting people from all continents and cultures and taking action to deliver real, long-term solutions to some of the world's most persistent issues, is the cornerstone of what our global network is all about. This year we will celebrate 100 years of Rotary doing good and facilitating impactful socio-economic change in Africa.

This year's Zone 22 Rotary Africa Centennial International Conference is taking place on 24 and 25 April and will see delegates from around the world gather online to hear from and network with leading visionaries, pioneers, leaders and icons. These include the likes of Bill Gates, Kenyan designer and eco-innovator Anyango Mpinga, the chair of Rotary's Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee and one of TIME's 100 Most Influential People Dr Tunji Funsho and UN Women's South Africa Multi-Country Office (SAMCO) representative Anne Githuku-Shongwe.

Running parallel to this year's conference is a virtual exhibition where organisations are invited to showcase their CSI initiative to this captive global audience of potential donors and funders. Because real-life humanitarian service happens when business and professional leaders partner for good, this African

House of Friendship Virtual Projects Fair will unpack the latest trends, challenges and innovations in the local and international socio-economic, impact investing and volunteering space.

"In commemorating 100 years in Africa, we celebrate a global network of passionate and dedicated problem-solvers who take action to create lasting change. We invite innovative companies, those with ground-breaking products, and individuals whose services and solutions have the potential to move the continent forward, to join our virtual exhibition in April," says District Governor Annemarie Mostert, Chairperson of the 2021 African Centennial Celebrations.

To secure exhibition space at the Virtual House of Friendship go to: www.webtickets.co.za/v2/Event.aspx?itemid=1505366838.



Designing Africa's Brand Excellence

Meet the headline sponsor of the Rotary in Africa Centennial Conference! African Brand Architects is a collective of powerful thought leaders in the marketing and communications space on the African continent.

The product of lockdown, African Brand Architects brought together competitor agencies and professionals to collaborate on a pro-bono basis in support of the tourism sector.

“What sets us apart must be the collective intellectual capital that sits around the boardroom table,” explains African Brand Architects Commercial Director and Rotarian Shereen Hunter. “In a space where we’ve almost been forced into lockdown, what has been birthed is a real desire to cultivate community work together and leverage off the power of collective.”

Africa Brand Architect’s mission is to foster an empowered African business community that develops strong, supportive global linkages attracting business interest, growth and investment for job creation, as well as sustainable commerce guided by the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

To achieve this, African Brand Architect’s approach is to design, develop and implement practical Communications, Marketing, Reputation and Business Development strategies with measurable tactics delivering an impact for brands across Africa and beyond. Combining all the strategic thinking, communications and marketing skills and Africa-brand expertise, the collective

creates market linkages that grow businesses, impacting job creation and opportunities.

With a pan-African perspective, an African approach and experience working in almost 20 African countries, African Brand Architects delivers solutions which really work in and for Africa.

“We delight in focussing a different lens on Africa by moving perceptions and highlighting the continent’s excellence,” adds Hunter.

If there has been a lesson to be learned from COVID-19 it is that this authentic collaborative approach is beneficial and is what is needed to deliver results for brands seeking to connect with their communities as opposed to tick-the-box marketing.

As the proud headline sponsors of Rotary in Africa Centennial Celebrations in April, African Brand Architects shares the vision of African possibilities and sees the potential that Africa and its people have. “Our hopes and dreams for African Brand Architects is that we will be a strategic partner in reframing the narrative of Africa into the future.

“There is synergy in the shared passion between African Brand Architects and Rotary International to serve the African continent. This is what has brought us together and made it so exciting,” concludes Hunter.

Visit www.africanbrandarchitects.com for more information about African Brand Architects.





Inspired to Act

My name is Rex Omameh. I am a dual member of the Rotary and Rotaract Clubs of Blouberg and also served as the District Rotaract Representative of District 9350. My passion is fighting hunger.

According to a report from the United Nations food agencies, about 690 million people around the world go to bed hungry on a regular basis. This distresses me as we live in a world where each day, there is enough food being produced to feed everyone on the planet. I know we have the ability to end hunger. If each one of us were to help a hungry person just a little bit, we could make a huge difference.

With this in mind, I took action to help contribute to the fight against hunger.

In July last year, I was inspired into action by the struggles people faced during the COVID-19 hard lockdown and turned my living room into a sandwich factory. With the help of my family, friends and a few Rotaract members, I can proudly say that I have been privileged enough to feed over a hundred people a week. On four different occasions, we made the effort to feed 1 000 people a week. We funded this ourselves; everyone gave what they could spare. To date we have made 9 377 sandwiches and when we were restricted from gathering, my family helped me. The three of us would spend between four and 12 hours a day making sandwiches... and we have not stopped!

On 17 October to commemorate World Food Day, I organised an epic weekend where Rotaractors, Interactors and friends gathered to make more than 2 000 sandwiches. Truly, it was an amazing experience and I am thankful to have been supported by so many!

On Boxing Day last year, my family and I decided to make more than 1 000 sandwiches, 1 270 to be exact. This took a great amount of time and with help from a few friends (while following COVID-19 prevention protocols) we managed to do it and have fun. We decided to do the same on Valentine's Day and on 13 February, my family and I were joined by some of the Blouberg Rotaractors to make 1199 sandwiches. In the spirit of the day, we added little stickers with endearing notes to tell those we fed that they were appreciated, loved and cared for. These notes were also a demonstration of our commitment to peacebuilding and reducing conflict. As a DRR, this initiative was a good opportunity to get Rotaract clubs actively involved in a multi-club initiative. So, I started a sandwich challenge. As young professionals, I know we often get very busy but if a cause is fun and challenging, we will always make time for it! Most of the sandwiches we made were given to Milnerton Community Action Group (CAN), a group of wonderful individuals doing so much for the community, for distribution. Recently, Blue Ribbon Bakeries joined our project and started to donate 150 to 200 loaves of bread and 100 to 200 litres of soup two to four times a month.

This has taught me that what we can spare is never too little; it will always make a difference. Our wealth isn't measured by what we have, but what we give – and the best is yet to come in 2021!



Children receive a meal at the community kitchen run from Dianne Oosthuizen's home while community volunteers remind them keep their distance in the queue.

KEEPING LITTLE Tummies Full

More than R60 000 was given by the Rotary Club of Grahamstown Sunset (D9370) to help fund community kitchens that have been operated by the Makhanda Circle of Unity since the start of lockdown.

The handover took place at the home of Dianne Oosthuizen, where a long queue of masked children waited patiently in the heat to collect their meal of rice, soya mince and carrots. It was humbling to see the gratitude and disciplined behaviour of the children, who promptly sat down on the lawn to eat, many bowing their heads in private thanksgiving for their meal.

Dianne and her team of volunteers feed more than two hundred people twice a week, cooking the food in a makeshift kitchen in her garage.

She had started cooking in her home, but the number of people needing food forced her to expand into her garage. With the help of the Circle of Unity and other donors, she cooks in giant pots on gas cookers and has the support of many community members who come to assist with peeling vegetables, cooking and dishing up.

Dianne said, "I realised after sitting down to a Sunday roast lunch last year that I had so much and many people had so little. That inspired me to start feeding the hungry people in my community." This empathy and generosity often meant the difference between starvation and survival for many families.

Dianne's kitchen is one of several operating around

Grahamstown. Tim Bull of the Grahamstown Resident's Association (GRA) estimates that community kitchens produced about 500 000 meals since April 2020.

Funding has been received from various sources, and local resident and GRA member Sally Price-Smith has been championing the kitchens, even running the equivalent of the 56-kilometre Two Oceans Marathon in her garden in April for sponsorship.

She raised more than R50 000. "But the need is never-ending" said Price-Smith who spearheads fundraising for the kitchens with support from Tim Bull. Funds are handled by the Makhanda Circle of Unity and coordination is provided by Ntuthu Blow, Administrator of the Grahamstown Residents' Association.

The Rotary Club of Grahamstown Sunset pledged the proceeds of both its annual Mountain Drive Half Marathon and the Charity Auction to the Circle of Unity community kitchen project. Club President Javier Martin said, "It was a learning curve for us to have virtual fundraisers, but we have managed to raise almost R75 000 using the web platform developed for us by new member Robyn Cooper.

This meant that people from all over the country, even the world, could participate. Now that we've mastered the virtual format, we will be launching more fundraisers like this."



Our Home/ Ons Tuiste resident Lena van der Ryst, President Naas Vorster and Rotarian Hugo van den Dool with the roses that were donated to the home.

Festive Outreach

Members of the Rotary Club of Pietersburg 100 (D9400) who did not leave the city during the festive season, used their spare time to help institutions and individuals in need.

After the last batch of food parcels were delivered to households in need just before Christmas, elderly residents at Our Home/Ons Tuiste, Martha Hofmeyr Tehuis, Centenary House and the Moths' Peacehaven Housing Centre were surprised with colourful bouquets of roses that were donated by Marlo Farms.

A year-end dinner was also hosted by the club at Our Home/Ons Tuiste. One of the highlights was the drawing of the winning ticket in a raffle for a three-

metre high Christmas tree which was organised by resident Rina Myburgh.

Some shelters in and around the city also received donations from the club before the members visited frontline workers in the community. Several loads of fruit and vegetables were also delivered to the homes.

A personal holiday highlight for President Naas Vorster was the surprise children's Christmas party, which was hosted by the club and the Polokwane Hulpgroep. The club sponsored 250 boerewors rolls and cold drinks.

"The excitement and smiles on the little faces touched our hearts," Vorster commented.

Lockdown foodbank funding

In addition to its annual grocery collection, the Rotary Club of Westville (D9370) raised R29 000 for the Westville Churches Foodbank since mid-May 2020.

As the club moved into a virtual meeting space, members were asked to donate what they would have spent on 'door money' (R20 per meeting) to the club and continue to do so. The Rotary Anns contributed R2 160 and some of the 100 Club winnings and quiz evening refunds that were donated back to the club were also added to the fund.

The Foodbank initiative is a collaborative effort by the twelve churches in the Westville area to support those in the community who have been hard hit as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. The churches hold packing and distribution sessions each week.

The food parcels from this programme are much larger than many others that were distributed, with a typical family of four receiving two large paper bags of food, including mealie meal, rice, oil, tinned meat, fish and vegetables, soup powder, jam, oats and tea. The size of the food parcel is also adjusted according to the size of the family so that there is sufficient food for everyone.

The majority of the food parcels are distributed to Westville, Chesterville, Cato Manor and Reservoir Hills. Some of the food parcels have gone as far afield as Pietermaritzburg, Hammarsdale, Molweni and Stanger.

None of the people in the Foodbank's area of distribution had received government food parcels.



Congratulations to Partners for a Malaria-Free Zambia

The recipient of The Rotary Foundation's first Programs of Scale grant

The first program of scale is a Rotarian-led effort to dramatically curtail malaria in Zambia. The clubs leading the program are the Rotary Club of Federal Way, Washington, USA (sponsoring club), and the Rotary Clubs of Kabwe, Lusaka, Mansa, Ndola, Ndola Kafubu, and Nkwazi, Zambia. They are working with World Vision, the National Malaria Elimination Centre, Malaria Partners Zambia, Malaria

Partners International, PATH Malaria Control and Elimination Partnership in Africa, and local health leaders to reduce the incidence of this deadly disease by 90 percent in two provinces, reaching 1.3 million people. Co-funded by World Vision USA and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in line with their commitment to fight malaria, this \$6 million program will save lives and create lasting change.

Programs of Scale

Read more in the May issue of *Rotary* magazine about the devastating effects of malaria in Zambia and how the clubs organized an effective response and built this partnership.

For more information on how Programs of Scale increases impact in our areas of focus, visit rotary.org/programsofscale.



AFRICA IN BRIEF



Children are having more fun at Kleinfontein Primary School in the Swellendam district after the Rotary Club of Swellendam (D9350) answered an appeal for playground equipment. Until that point, the school had none. In February, a team of Rotarians, led by project champion Corrie Cloete, met at the school to assemble a jungle gym under the careful direction of President-Elect Bernard Steyn. AG Stephen Young was the first to test the slide while Rotary Anns Jackie Young and Celia Cloete opted for the swings. At the hand over of the jungle gym to principal Annuske Klaasin is President Johan Kriek.



Members and friends of the Rotary Club of Flamingo-Welkom (D9370) collected 37 pairs of Bata School Shoes during a recent marketing programme. These shoes will be given to the children in the community. With some of the shoes are John Penfold, President Jill Lombard, Zack Lombard, Audra Visser, Ian Buchanan, AG Doreen Cloete, Gerry Cloete, Dries Lotter and John Andrews.



In March, after nearly a year of lockdown restrictions, the Rotary Club of Johannesburg New Dawn (D9400) held a golf day. The club achieved most of what it set out to do and surpassed the goals in terms of total income, the number of golfers (28 teams), the quality of the field, the number of prizes and the excitement that the quality of prizes generated on the day. At the golf day are Helene Bramwell, Carl Chemaly, Mike Macdonald, PDG Jankees Sligcher and Dave Marshall.



The Anns of the Rotary Club of Kloof (D9370) paid for a new floor in the baby room at Philakade Care Home. This baby room will be completed once more funds are raised. One of the ways the Anns raise funds is through the jumble sales of clothing.

TAKE NOTE

The annual Which Club Meets Today directory is being prepared.

Please send your club's meeting and leadership details to rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za before 15 May 2021



The Rotary Club of Swellendam (D9350) and Specsavers have a joint project providing glasses to learners who fall outside the age group which qualifies for the free service offered by the Department of Health. To date, more than 30 learners have been helped. President Johan Kriek, Lee-Ann Wanza and Lelani van Tonder of Specsavers are just three of the people involved in the project.



The Breede Centre afterschool programme received LEGO sets from the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400). The donation was organised by James Crosswell of the Rosebank club, via the Rotary Lego Educational Programme and facilitated by Betty Mitchell-Innes, a local resident. The donation inspired Katleen Verschoore, who manages education programmes for the centre to attend LEGO training given by The LEGO Foundation, through its South African partner, Care For Education, at the Department of Education in Worcester.



The Rotary Club of Bulawayo (D9210) and the Rotary Club of Edina (D5950) partnered with MATTER, an NGO from America, and the Love for Africa organisation in a grant to provide medical equipment for the United Bulawayo Central Hospital (UBH) maternity and paediatric wards. The grant included a vegetable garden and egg production system to provide nutrition for mothers and children at the hospital. The mothers of malnourished children will also be trained in vegetable gardening.



The principal and the staff of Bhukaz Senior Secondary School in Lusikisiki were astounded when Themba and Maureen Nosenga of the Rotary Club of Durban Bay (D9370) delivered a donation of books from the club.



The Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark (D9400) gave a water tank and pump to the Lifeline Vaal Centre's Home for Abused Woman and Children. Alan Claase (front), the club's Foundation chair championed the project and applied for a District Grant to help finance it. Zama Shangwene (social worker), Shirley Hughes (centre manager) and Lynn Strydom (house mother) were present to accept the gift. Until they received this donation, the home often went without water for days, due to an inconsistent supply.



The Rotary Club of Grahamstown officially handed over its Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Global Grant project to Ntsika Senior Secondary School last month. The project saw the club invest R2 million in refurbishing and developing water and waste infrastructure at the school. Rotarian Andy Long, who oversaw the construction, gave the timeline background to the project which took five years of planning. President Ros Parker then handed over a replica of the commemorative plaque to Principal Madeleine Schoeman. The actual plaque has been erected at the front entrance to the school. Prior to this project there had been only one operational toilet block for the entire school (800+ learners); the remaining blocks were in an appalling state.



Rotarian Andy Long giving the background story to the project and remembering the crucial role played by the late Bill 'Mr Matching Grant' Mills.

WALL OF HONOUR



AG Tilla le Grange (back left) and President Sonja Gilliland (back, second from right) welcome new members Freddie Ludick, Benjamin Tsefu, Johan Nortje, Paula du Preez, Ian Finnie, (front) Chantel van Waveren and Jeanette Nortje to the Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark (D9400).



Anne Padmore is a new member of the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400).



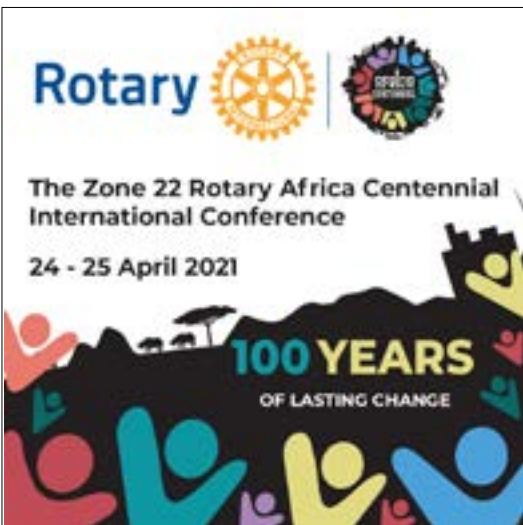
Gerry Cloete is a new member of the Rotary Club of Flamingo-Welkom (D9370).



Rene Houwald received a Vocational Service award from the Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400).



Charmaine Leesman is a new member of the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400).



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