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Rotary

AFRICA | south



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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?



Sarah van Heerden
Editor

WELCOME

I am tired of being online. I am exhausted and the thought of attending just one more virtual meeting makes me want to weep - I often have to drag myself to my computer, even if I do enjoy the meetings.

With the accessibility of virtual meetings there is an expectation that you are always available. If you are home, you can spare the time and quickly connect. But the problem is this, if twenty people a month expect you to 'quickly connect', how much time do you have to see to your other commitments and spend with family, children, friends or just relaxing with a good book.

Not having this time and being required to attend things, at any time of the day or evening, because you can 'just quickly connect' leads to what is now known as digital fatigue. I am not afraid to say, I have it and I can't wait to start getting back to having more in-person meetings and gatherings and getting offline.

The point is quite simply, while we enjoy greater access and connectivity, we must be mindful not to expect too much. However, we also need to be safe and avoid unnecessary contact.

We know that the third wave of the coronavirus pandemic in South Africa has begun and we must take this seriously. We must ensure that while we all want to get offline and meet in person, we don't risk the health of ourselves and others.

Our presidential induction season is about to start and I ask everyone to be mindful of how we hold these special events. Yes, we may need to be online and for those who feel that a safe social distanced induction can be held, please remember the importance of space, masks and sanitising. This is not a political issue. Yes, mistakes have been and will continue to be made, but if we all try to get it right, we will get through this!

We have lost too many people to this disease and even though there are those who say, "Yes, but malaria killed more people," I say, "So what!" Malaria probably would not have killed those who died from COVID-19 and if it were not for the pandemic, they would probably be alive today. There is not a single death that is acceptable.

Please be careful and stay safe.

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President's message

Holger Knaack,
Rotary International President (2020/21)



Dear Rotarians, Rotaractors and friends,

In January 2020, when I announced my presidential theme, Rotary Opens Opportunities, and spoke of the changes that Rotary needed to embrace, none of us had any idea how quickly change would arrive. But I am a long time believer in seeing challenges as opportunities. This year, we seized new opportunities to reimagine what Rotary could be. For years, we had discussed ways to make Rotary flexible and adaptable, and we had tried a few experiments. This year, we all experimented - and succeeded! Online meetings are a regular fixture now as clubs invite guests from across the globe.

Susanne and I love to meet members of the family of Rotary around the world, and we've missed seeing you in person over the past year. But for me, it was a new way of experiencing Rotary. We travelled the world virtually. I definitely met thousands more of you than I would have otherwise. I never set foot in my office in Evanston as president, yet we found new ways to get the job done while cutting travel costs.

This is the Rotary we experienced in 2020/21: nimble, adaptable and creative. The next step is not to go back to the way things were before the pandemic. We must move forward. Let's apply what we have learned in order to offer new experiences and opportunities for our members, such as online attendance as a regular option.

We need a younger, more diverse Rotary at every level to keep our clubs strong. What diversity means is different from region to region, but I encourage you to welcome people from all backgrounds. Another step we can all take is to increase the number of women and amplify their role everywhere.

I am glad that many now see Rotary and Rotaract clubs as equals. Let's keep going in this direction by inviting Rotaract clubs to be a part of everything we do. Let's not squander any opportunity to reach young leaders, but partner with Rotaract and invest

in our many new approaches.

I am very proud of the work Rotary is doing to fight COVID-19 by supporting vaccination campaigns through advocating for fair distribution and combating misinformation. But we must also continue to do everything we can to end polio. And we now have opportunities to work in a new area of focus: the environment.

The world is a different place today from when I first announced that Rotary Opens Opportunities. We can all be proud of how we updated what Rotary can be this year. Let's continue on this path, always taking care of our clubs and of our friends in those clubs. They are precious, and they keep Rotary alive and thriving.

Susanne and I are thankful for all the opportunities to serve the organisation during this special year, a year of finding new meaning in Service Above Self. We see Rotary as a community of people who live their values by putting them into action. In these extraordinary times, there is no doubt that we must place increased emphasis on service. This is our opportunity to show the world what Service Above Self means for Rotarians.

There are so many opportunities waiting for us that will help us change the world. Let's seize them together and get ready to open doors to achieving greater things. And as we open these doors to new ideas, our minds and our hearts also open. Remember that everything we do in Rotary opens another opportunity for someone, somewhere.

Holger Knaack



Foundation Trustee Chair

KR (Ravi) Ravindran

“I have no fear of the future,” Winston Churchill once said. “Let us go forward into its mysteries, let us tear aside the veils which hide it from our eyes, and let us move onward with confidence and courage.” Churchill used the phrase “let us go forward together” in some of his most famous speeches. He had no other choice but to look forward as he led his war-battered nation with courage.

Each generation inherits its own share of challenges; we are living through ours, never once stopping in the face of this challenge. In a year when people were unable to meet, families stayed secluded and businesses struggled to flourish, we still managed to go forward together in many areas. Through Rotary Foundation grants, clubs and districts brought creative solutions to their pandemic-hit communities. Since March 2020, the Foundation has awarded over \$34 million in grants to initiatives related to COVID-19.

The demand for our Global Grants was high. They were so popular that we had to adjust grant funding policy that will take effect on 1 July in a prudent effort to balance demand with resources, so that more districts can participate.

This year, The Rotary Foundation took bold steps forward, breaking new ground: The Foundation expanded its reach with recognition of the environment as an area of focus and awarded our first Programmes

of Scale grant to a Rotarian-led programme that aims to greatly reduce malaria for severely affected communities in Zambia.

Even though our polio immunisation activities paused for a few months in 2020 because of the pandemic, they began to resume in midyear. We also were finally able to celebrate a huge step forward in our journey together to a polio-free world: The World Health Organization (WHO) declaration that the African region is now free of wild poliovirus.

The Otto and Fran Walter Foundation signed an agreement with us to fully fund the establishment of a Rotary Peace Centre in the Middle East and North African region. This welcome development gives Rotary the opportunity to make a tangible contribution to an area where lasting peace has been so elusive.

Our accomplishments are a reminder that Rotary is a great force for good everywhere and that you are the reason we did not stop. At this writing, we’ve raised more than \$282 million, putting us on track to reach our \$410 million fundraising goal. The great work we have done this year and the work we will do next year and, in the years, ahead, is all thanks to your support. On behalf of The Rotary Foundation Trustees, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for keeping the Foundation - one of our greatest gifts to the world - thriving.

Rotary at a glance

Rotary clubs: 36 782

Members: 1 198 766

Rotaract clubs: 10 063

Members: 216 186

Interact clubs: 15 035

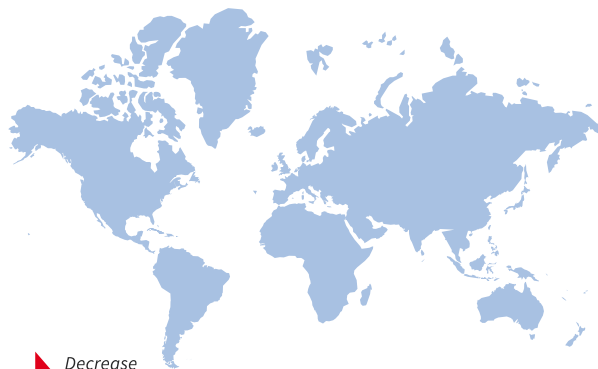
Members: 368 805

RCCs: 11 587

As at 18 May 2021

▲ Increase

▼ Decrease





DISCOVER NEW HORIZONS

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can be found at **convention.rotary.org**.

**Registration must be paid in full between 12 and 16 June 2021 to receive the US\$425 rate.*





Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator Jankees Sligcher, PDG Francis Callard, DG Annemarie Mostert and Janet Callard at the Major Donor presentation.

Why Giving Works

Major Donors provide substantial support for their choice of The Rotary Foundation's Annual Programmes Fund or The Permanent Fund.

The people who make Rotary so effective, through their generosity and passion for positive change, come from all over the world and all walks of life.

Even so, they share a powerful trait: they're compelled by a desire to share their good fortune with others, simply because they want to make a positive impact. Giving works because Rotary works. And Rotary works because of these people.

Rotary recognises individuals or couples making cumulative outright gifts of \$10 000 or more as

Major Donors. PDG Francis and Janet Callard (D9400) were recently recognised as Major Donors, level two.

Their gift to The Rotary Foundation is a powerful catalyst for empowering Rotarians in communities at home and abroad.

The gift that major donors give enhances Rotary's capacity to initiate projects, demonstrate leadership and values, raise awareness of Rotary, build friendships and inspire others to give.





Public Image

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

Reflecting on the last three years that I have been submitting columns to Rotary Africa, I cannot help but contemplate how Rotary handles change and transition.

Every year Rotary International inducts a new president, districts induct a new governor and clubs induct new presidents. We have been going strong for 116 years and each new leader brings new ideas that shape the course of Rotary during the next year, while always aligning with the vision, mission and strategic plan for the future. These transitions, for the most part, are undertaken seamlessly with continuation and succession planning already in the pipeline.

However, if we in the family of Rotary adapt so readily to this change, it begs the question – why are we so reluctant to change in other areas?

Eight years ago, Rotary introduced the new branding, but there are many, many clubs and districts around the world that still use the old retired branding. Just as there are still many clubs that don't welcome people from all genders, ethnicities, religious backgrounds or cultures. There are clubs that don't welcome younger members and clubs that hold on to often outdated and antiquated meeting protocols or 'ways that things are done' - the list goes on and on, but I am sure you get the gist of what I am saying.

A quote from Seth Godin may give a new perspective to those who are reluctant to embrace change: "Change is not a threat, it's an opportunity. Survival is not the goal, transformative success is."

If it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you. And, if you are not open to change you may be missing opportunities that will benefit and enrich you.

Difficult conversations and discussions need to be held within clubs and with every member. Members need to be asked what they want their clubs to look like in 10 years' time and if their club embraces diversity, equity and inclusion and to decide if the traditions it holds onto still serve the club or if they deter potential members. Then ask the club members to come up with a few ideas. Ask the members to suggest one thing that each person could do to add more value to the club and one small change to impact the future of the club, while making every member feel valued and recognised. I applaud each and every person who so willingly gives of their time, talent and money to assist communities to have better lives.

We have so much to be thankful for. Rotary has survived and, in some cases, thrived, over the past difficult year. We have connected with members of the Rotary family around the world in ways we would never have imagined.

Thank you to the outgoing governors and presidents and your teams for your service this Rotary year and I wish the incoming leadership a year of success and change for good.

Old ways won't open new doors and I wish for every member of the Rotary family to find some new ways to many more open doors of opportunity while serving their communities.



Opportunity

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

The story was written by Paulo Coelho – Brazilian author and Messenger of Peace for the United Nations. The reflections are mine.

THE STORY OF THE PENCIL

The little boy was watching his grandfather writing a letter. At a certain moment he asked: “Are you writing a story that happened to us? And is it by any chance a story about me?”

The grandfather stopped writing, smiled and said to his grandson: “I’m writing about you, that’s true, but the pencil I am using is more important than the words I am writing. I hope you are like it when you grow up.”

The boy looked at the pencil with curiosity, but did not see anything special about it. “But it’s just like all the other pencils I have ever seen in my life!”

“It all depends on how you look at things. There are five qualities in it that if you can manage to keep in yourself will make you a person always at peace with the world:

The first quality: you can do great things but you must never forget that there is a hand that guides our steps. This hand we call God and He must always guide it according to His will.

The second quality: from time to time I need to stop what I am writing and use a sharpener. This makes the pencil suffer a little, but in the end it becomes sharper. So, learn how to bear some pains, because they will make you a better person.

The third quality: the pencil always lets you use an eraser to rub out what was wrong. Understand that correcting something that we have done is not

necessarily bad, but rather something important to keep us on the path of justice.

The fourth quality: what really matters in the pencil is not the wood or its outer shape but rather the lead that is inside it. So, always take care of what happens inside you.

Lastly, the pencil’s fifth quality: it always leaves a mark. In the same way, know that everything you do in life will leave traces, and try to be aware of each and every action.”

REFLECTIONS

As I pondered these points I began to reflect on my life - both in Rotary and my vocational endeavours. I have been able to accomplish a few great things. I also recognise that I have been helped by others who guided, trained and counselled me along the way. I was taught early to allow others to influence me and develop the gifts I possess.

I was speaking to PDG Derrick McDiarmid (2000/01) from Harare (D9210) a few weeks ago. He called himself a “dinosaur” in Rotary, but I reminded him that he was more like a diamond - one who has survived years of pressure and heat and yet still shines in Rotary. He was one of my mentors as I prepared myself for Rotary service! My faith and my obedience to God has been an inseparable part of my life, but God has brought people into our lives to develop us into the leaders that we all need to be.

I have, indeed, experienced painful sharpening from time to time. By going through particular events, we all become stronger persons. We need to experience problems and trials to learn and become

stronger people. My father used to tell all four of his sons. “What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger.”

We are able to correct any mistake we make if we are WILLING to make the effort to do so. I would like to tell you that I have never made a mistake, but I have a wife, children and grandchildren! We experience mistakes in our life. To correct them we must apply every lesson that we learned from the mistakes we make.

Lailah Gifty Akita, Ghanaian founder of Smart Youth Volunteers Foundation, said, “Mistakes and failures are valuable experiences. With every experience you increase in knowledge and wisdom

for the ultimate success.”

The most important part of us will always be what’s on the inside, it’s not about our physical appearance. Beauty is in the eye of behaviour. The most important part of us is intangible and it will not be seen by other people. They will, however, know that it is there!

Finally, on every surface we walk we will leave our mark. No matter what the situation, we continue our life and never give up. Our thoughts, words and actions always leave a mark. This is why the Four Way Test is so important every day of our life.

We have had many opportunities to “leave our mark” this Rotary Year! Let us all keep drawing!

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modern design and search functionality that’s fast and easy-to-use.

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**BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY**



**COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**



ENVIRONMENT

NEW

AREA OF FOCUS ICONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN THE BRAND CENTER

Rotary's area of focus icons promote the causes that reflect the critical humanitarian issues that Rotary clubs address worldwide.

The newly designed icons are available in a variety of colors and easier-to-use formats, both as grouped icons and as individual icons. Use these icons in your social media graphics, websites, and other materials to show the causes your club supports.

Download the icons and guidelines at brandcenter.rotary.org. Click **Logos** and then **Rotary Logos**.

Rotary 



FOUR QUESTIONS

As a teenager living in Palestine during the second intifada, Reem Ghunaim says, she was “sad, disappointed and let down by humanity. I attended the funerals of friends my age and I saw the bullets in the walls.” But with the help of her father, a physician, and her mother, a beauty salon owner, she says, “I also was able to see the olive branch.” She was helping organise the Ramallah Contemporary Dance Festival at the time she learned about the Rotary Peace Centres programme.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ramallah, Ghunaim (D2452) earned a certificate in international peace and conflict resolution at the Rotary Peace Centre at Duke University and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, alongside her master’s degree in city and regional planning from UNC.

Later, she moved to Portland, Oregon, to work for the Rotary Action Group for Peace (RAGFP), where she is executive director. She’s also a member of the Rotary Club of Portland (D5100) and hosts Together for Peace, a YouTube webinar series in which she interviews peacebuilders from around the world. At the 2018 Rotary International Convention in Toronto, RAGFP launched an initiative to certify what it calls “peacebuilder clubs”; more than 270 Rotary and Rotaract clubs in 30 countries and geographical areas have since received the designation.

WHAT ARE PEACEBUILDER CLUBS?

A peacebuilder club is one that has peace action at the forefront of its agenda. All a club needs to do

is create a peace committee of at least two Rotarians or Rotaractors who assist their club in leading peace-related projects and serve as liaisons to RAGFP.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BECOMING A PEACEBUILDER CLUB?

Clubs are part of our global peace-builders network and included on the RAGFP peacebuilder clubs map. This allows clubs to find and interact with one another. Through their access to action group members from more than 125 nations, peacebuilder clubs are better positioned to be successful in applying for Global Grants focused on peace.

Peacebuilder clubs also have a private Facebook page where they can connect with each other, promote their projects and ask for funding and support.

DO PEACEBUILDER CLUBS EVER WORK TOGETHER ON PROJECTS?

Peacebuilder clubs collaborate extensively on local and global initiatives, and RAGFP helps to facilitate that. For example, the Rotary clubs of La Paz San Jorge, Bolivia, and Taos-Milagro, New Mexico, have been collaborating on economic development projects in Bolivian mining communities to empower women who are at risk of discrimination, domestic violence, and multigenerational poverty. Several peacebuilder clubs in District 5100 (parts of Oregon and Washington) have worked with the NGO Creating Friendships for Peace to pair young people from global conflict zones and sponsor them to come to the United States for four weeks and experience life with an American family. They pair Cypriot-Greek and Cypriot-Turkish teens and have expanded the programme to include teens from Israel and Palestine. This effort is close to my heart.

HOW ARE PEACEBUILDER CLUBS ADVANCING ROTARY’S PEACE WORK?

Peacebuilder clubs help to launch peace initiatives and to increase public awareness of Rotary. The Rotary Club of Bornheim, Germany, is educating immigrant youth about participating in the democratic process and about the government resources available to them. The Rotary Club of Winnipeg, Manitoba, is working with the Rotary Club of Chittagong, Bangladesh, to address the needs of the Rohingya, who are facing brutal ethnic persecution and genocide in Myanmar, by helping adolescents in refugee camps access education and rebuild their lives. The Rotary Club of Los Alamos is working with remote communities in northern New Mexico to strengthen food security, which is essential for social cohesion, community resilience, and peace. Conflict is easy; peace is not.

Well and Good

To mark World Health Day on 7 April, Rotary honoured six members who are building the foundations of good health at home and abroad. In a year when the COVID-19 pandemic upended life for people everywhere, the work of these People of Action: Champions of Health was more important - and more challenging - than ever.



James Ham
ROTARY CLUB OF
HONOLULU SUNSET,
HAWAII (D500)

Since 2005, the Hawaii HOME Project - the acronym stands for

Homeless Outreach & Medical Education - provides medical services through free weekly clinics in nine sites across Oahu. Ham, an emergency physician at the Straub Medical Centre in Honolulu and a clinical assistant professor at the University of Hawaii's School of Medicine, began volunteering with the project four years ago; his club helped buy, renovate and stock a mobile clinic that expands the project's reach. When the pandemic hit and the needs of Hawaii's homeless population changed, Ham organised 12 Rotary clubs to provide hot meals, masks and hygiene kits to a quarantine camp for homeless people, as well as personal protective equipment to the volunteers who offer frontline care. "You don't have to have a college degree to serve," says Ham, quoting Martin Luther King Jr. "You only need a heart full of grace."



Teguest Yilma

ROTARY CLUB OF ADDIS ABABA ENTOTO, ETHIOPIA (D9212)

In August 2020, when the World Health Organization's African region was declared free of wild poliovirus, Yilma celebrated. "I was elated to be part of this significant accomplishment," says the newspaper editor and tech entrepreneur, who also serves as chair of the Ethiopia PolioPlus Committee. But at the same time, she recognized how the COVID-19 pandemic could interfere with the routine immunisation of children and ongoing polio eradication initiatives. Together with the national PolioPlus committee, the federal Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization, and others, Yilma helped organise a high-level panel discussion on World Polio Day last October that addressed the problems posed by COVID-19. The media attention that event received helped people understand the importance of continuing National Immunisation Days and assisted the government in its efforts to provide polio and measles immunisations throughout the pandemic.

Isabel Scarinci
ROTARY CLUB OF
BIRMINGHAM,
ALABAMA (D6860)



In 1963, when she was a baby in Brazil, Scarinci contracted polio. She recovered and she and her mother eventually became strong advocates for polio vaccination. Now Scarinci is leading efforts to eliminate another disease: cervical cancer. Funded by a Global Grant, the Rotary Clubs of Birmingham and Colombo, Sri Lanka have joined with the Sri Lankan Ministry of Health and the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Centre at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where Scarinci is a behavioural scientist, to vaccinate girls in Sri Lanka against the human papillomavirus and to screen women for the disease at ages 35 and 45. Scarinci hopes this project can serve as a model. "My mom departed this world two years ago knowing that she contributed to ending one disease," she says. "I hope that when my time comes, I will have helped to eliminate two deadly diseases."



Julie Dockrill

ROTARY CLUB OF TIMARU,
NEW ZEALAND (D9980)

Dockrill has two favourite sayings. The first combines Māori and English: Kia kaha with aroha, or “Be strong with love.” The second comes from Nelson Mandela: “Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.” The spirit

behind both expressions is manifest in Dockrill’s work with the Maternal and Infant Health Education programme, which she and other midwives have introduced in Mongolia over the past eight years. They created a “train the trainer” curriculum, which has been implemented by the Mongolian Ministry of Health, and have made numerous trips to the country to help educate health care workers, university students, and expectant mothers about the fundamental practices and protocols of childbirth. According to Dockrill, the maternal and infant mortality rate has decreased by 60 percent in some parts of Mongolia since the programme was launched in 2013.

Mohan Kumar

ROTARY CLUB OF BANGALORE
PRIME, INDIA (D3190)

According to Kumar, among the two-thirds of India’s 1.3 billion inhabitants who live in rural areas, accidents often lead to amputation. Since 2007, through the NGO Reach the Unreached, Kumar



has led efforts to provide functioning prosthetic hands to people in Africa and South Asia - more than 20 000 in India alone - most of whom live in poor communities. “One of our greatest assets in Rotary is the ability to mobilise our volunteer network,” Kumar says. He credits that network with leading him to the people who most needed help: among them, a mother who can now hold her baby, a barber able to resume his profession and a boy who lost both hands in an electrocution accident. At a Rotary club meeting, the boy demonstrated how he was able to pick up a pen and write again. “He was our first recipient of a prosthetic hand,” Kumar says. “We have never looked back.”



Rohantha Athukorala

ROTARY CLUB OF COLOMBO
RECONNECTIONS, SRI LANKA (D3220)

When the first cases of COVID-19 were detected in Sri Lanka in March 2020, the government of that island country announced a strict nationwide lockdown. Athukorala, a marketing expert and former chair of Sri Lanka Tourism, asked himself, “What can I do to help my country get back on its feet?” With help from his Rotary club, he devised and implemented a campaign called Stop the Spread, which has brought Sri Lanka’s Olympic athletes together with some 15 000 Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors to create awareness of the health protocols that can slow the pandemic. Working with the Sri Lanka Standards Institution, the Rotary members created a certification programme that helped control the spread of the virus in schools and businesses. Rotary clubs also collaborated with the Ministry of Health to develop a booklet to facilitate a successful COVID-19 vaccination programme.



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

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

DEADLINES

20th June - Final day for updated subscriber list for
billing period **July to December 2021**.

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

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

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

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

Your co-operation in this matter would be appreciated.

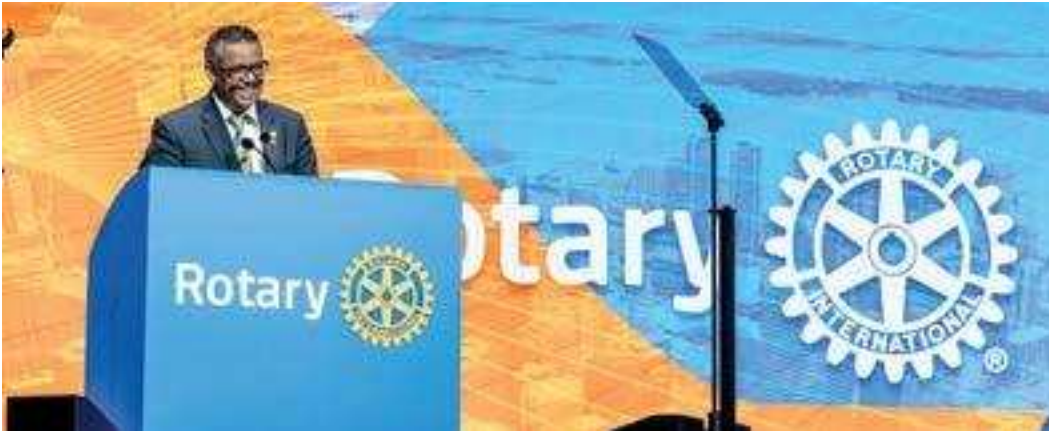
2021 ROTARY AFRICA SUBSCRIPTIONS:

1st January 2021 to 30th June 2021

- Printed magazine posted to South African subscribers: R195.00 per member per 6 months
- Printed magazine posted to subscribers out of South Africa: R250.00 per member per 6 months
- Digital magazine to all subscribers: R135.00 per member per 6 months

1st July 2021 to 31st December 2021

- Printed magazine posted to South African subscribers: R200.00 per member per 6 months
- Printed magazine posted to subscribers out of South Africa: R250.00 per member per 6 months
- Digital magazine to all subscribers: R135.00 per member per 6 months



WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus praised Rotary as he accepted the Rotary International Award of Honour on behalf of his organisation.

Honouring the UN

Between September and February, Rotary conferred its highest recognition, the Rotary International Award of Honour, on the United Nations and two of its agencies, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF. The awards, which were presented by 2019/20 Rotary President Mark Daniel Maloney, celebrate 75 years of cooperation between Rotary and the UN.

In accepting the award for the United Nations, Secretary-General António Guterres said, “My profound gratitude to Rotary. Through me, you are also recognising the United Nations and our efforts to build a healthier, safer, and more peaceful world.” UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta H. Fore thanked Rotary on behalf of her agency, adding, “UNICEF’s partnership with Rotary is one of our most cherished relationships. Our work together to end polio has been lifesaving and historic.”

Receiving the award on behalf of WHO, Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, “We are deeply gratified to be recognised by Rotary. ... I look forward to the lessons learned from Rotary projects and discussions on how we can work together to build a safer, healthier, and fairer world for all.”

Rotary holds the highest consultative status offered to an NGO by the UN Economic and Social Council, which oversees many specialised UN agencies. Each year, Rotary joins with the UN to celebrate the organisations’ shared vision for peace and to recognise significant humanitarian activities

around the world.

The most critical partnership between Rotary and the UN is the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which was launched by Rotary, WHO, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 1988. Since then, nearly 3 billion children have been immunised against polio in 122 countries, and polio cases have been reduced 99.9 percent worldwide. This public/private partnership now also includes the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. “Our progress toward ending polio demonstrates the positive impact we can have when we work together,” said Maloney.

As the world fights the coronavirus pandemic, the global health infrastructure that has brought polio to the brink of eradication is now being used to help protect communities from COVID-19. Rotary has awarded more than \$32 million to club projects that support communities during the pandemic. “The world is benefiting from the infrastructure that the polio eradication initiative has built over the last three decades,” said Rotary President Holger Knaack.

The Rotary International Award of Honour was established in 1990 to be given to heads of state and other dignitaries who have made a significant contribution to international understanding and goodwill.

Past recipients include Pope Francis, Queen Elizabeth II, and Bill Gates.

A HIVE MIND

A global fellowship is abuzz on a mission to help save the bees

Bees are in trouble. According to a recent study, in North America, you are nearly 50 percent less likely to see a bumblebee in any given area than you were before 1974. Bee species have seen dramatic population declines all around the world - and without bees, global food security may be at risk, because pollinator-dependent crops make up 35 percent of global food production volume.

Rotary members in Slovenia, which is home to many experts in apiculture - one in every 200 Slovenians is a beekeeper - are behind the creation of the International Bee Rotary Fellowship (IBRF). It grew out of a conversation in 2018 between Nina Kolenc, a member of the Rotary Club of Maribor-Park and Janez Lipec, then governor of District 1912 (North Macedonia and Slovenia). The fellowship hopes to work on projects such as building bee houses and organising bee-focused camps for young people.

Their passion is infectious. "I admittedly know little about this incredibly productive little animal. But that's why I am in the fellowship: to learn about the bee population decline from practical advocates and experts," says John Blount, a member of the Rotary Club of Sebastopol (D5130).

"Rotary and bees have a lot in common," says Kolenc. "Bees are hardworking, creative and productive - and so is Rotary."

"Bees are among the most important animals in the world."

- Jean-Claude Brocart, Rotary Club of Toulouse Ovalie, France

"Bees are among the most important animals in the world."

- Jean-Claude Brocart, Rotary Club of Toulouse Ovalie, France

LITTLE WORKERS

AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, DO NOT USE chemicals that are harmful to bees. Let us take care of our environment, because without bees, humanity would face many big problems. Without bees, many plant species would face the threat of extinction - **Mali Levi, Rotary Club of Gedera Habluim, Israel**

THE BEE HAS BEEN ON OUR EARTH for more than 100 million years. It helps ensure that we have flowers in our fields, trees full of fruit and forests that

grow and expand. Much of a bee's work is for the existence of the bees and benefits the natural world. Only a small portion of what a honeybee produces is taken by the beekeeper in the form of honey and honey products; the rest goes toward the survival of the bees - **Janez Lipec, Rotary Club of Zagorje Kum, Slovenia**

TO HELP BEES, YOU CAN plant or sow pollinator-friendly flowers and plants in the garden, terrace or balcony, or make simple panels with holes as shelters for solitary bees. Or get involved in organisations like ours that raise awareness - **Anton Končnik, IBRF chair**



Members of the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group are also working on bee population concerns in Australia. Learn more at rotariansforbees.org.

While Slovenians account for 27 of the group's 50 members, 18 other nations and geographical areas are also represented. Fellowship members don't necessarily tend their own hives: "Most new members are interested in increasing awareness of bees for our survival and future," says fellowship member Matej Vošner.

Learn more at facebook.com/InternationalBeeRotaryFellowship.

THE BEE'S KNEES

HONEYBEES LIVE IN colonies. For them, one lone bee cannot do anything; it cannot survive. When we Rotarians and Rotaractors act as a family, like bees, we can change the world - **Matej Vošner, Rotaract Club of Slovenj Gradec, Slovenia**

WHAT IS REALLY inspiring is the bees' sense of community. When a hornet attacks a Japanese honeybee hive, bees unite in defence. Fifty or more bees will surround the hornet, raising its temperature with their bodies, which ultimately kills it. Some bees die as well, but the hive is saved. Great things can be done when we work together - **Otmaz Zorn, Rotary Club of Ljubljana Iliria, Slovenia**

MY PASSION IS bumblebees and other wild bees. They are extremely important for the ecosystem. This year, we plan to promote do-it-yourself nesting boxes for wild bees: You take a piece of wood, bore some holes in it, and set it up in your garden in early spring, protected from the rain - **Anton Gradišek, Rotary Club of Ljubljana Tivoli, Slovenia**

HOW SWEET IT IS

HONEY CONTAINS VITAMINS, amino acids, minerals, sugars and enzymes. Pythagoras is said to have eaten only honeycomb, bread and water for dinner - **Janez Lipec**

THERE ARE SEVEN DIFFERENT honey types in Slovenia: acacia, linden, chestnut, multifloral, forest, spruce and fir honey. Forest honey is well known for its great taste and quality - **Boštjan Noč, president of the Slovenian Beekeepers Association**

THE MOST DELICIOUS HONEY is acacia flower

honey. I learned a recipe from my grandmother: Take one part butter and two parts acacia honey, mix well and spread it on fresh bread - **György Balogh, Rotary Club of Budapest-Budavár, Hungary**

MY FAVOURITE KIND OF HONEY is acorn, which has a sweet-and-sour taste. I also really like its derivatives, like soap and wax ointment - **Kostas Misialis, Rotary Club of Thessaloniki, Greece**

MY GRANDPARENTS KEPT BEES. Honey was natural sugar, for free. When I was 10, I would help with the bees and I learned about them. Beekeeping is in my blood - **Matej Vošner**

Among friends

Rotary Fellowships are international groups whose members share a common interest. Being part of a fellowship is a way to make friends around the world, explore a hobby or profession and enhance your Rotary experience.

Membership in a fellowship is open to any interested individual and new fellowships are added frequently.

See: rotary.org/fellowships.



The International Fellowship of Rotarian Scuba Divers has been making friends both above and below water for three decades.

- 4 x 4 vehicles
- Amateur radio
- Antique automobiles
- Badminton
- Bathhouse
- Beard and moustache
- Bee
- Beer
- Birdwatching
- Caravanning
- Chess
- Computer users
- Corporate social responsibility
- Cricket
- Cruising
- Cultural heritage
- Curling
- Cycling
- Doll lovers
- Draughts (checkers)
- E-clubs
- Editors and publishers
- Educators
- Environment
- Esperanto
- Ethics
- European philosophy
- Executive managers
- Fishing
- Flying

- Genealogists
- Gin
- Go
- Golf
- Gourmet cooking
- Graphic designers
- Healthcare professionals
- Hiking
- Home exchange
- Honorary consuls
- Horseback riding
- Hunting
- Internet
- Italian culture
- Jazz
- Latin culture
- Lawyers
- LGBT
- Magicians
- Magna Graecia
- Marathon running
- Metalhead
- Military veterans
- Motorcycling
- Music
- Old and rare books
- Palmwine
- Past district governors
- Peace fellows
- Photographers

- Police and law enforcement
- Public health
- Quilters and fiber artists
- Railroads
- Recreational vehicles
- Rotary global history
- Rotary heritage and history
- Rotary means business
- Rotary on pins
- Rotary on stamps
- Rowing
- Rum
- Scouting
- Scuba
- Shooting sport
- Singles
- Skiing
- Social networks
- Strategic planning
- Surfing
- Table tennis
- Tennis
- Travel and hosting
- Triathlon
- Wellness and fitness
- Whisk(e)y
- Wildlife conservation
- Wine
- Yachting
- Yoga



Rotary's Rainbow

Fellowship has created a global home for LGBT members and friends

During a breakout session on “Welcoming the LGBTQ Community ‘Into the Family of Rotary’” during the 2017 Rotary International Convention in Atlanta, Michelle Wilson, a member of the Rotary Club of Athens Sunrise (D6690) had a question. “I asked, ‘Why doesn’t Rotary have a group for LGBT+ people?’” When she added, “We should start one,” she says, “the response was overwhelming.”

Before the session had even ended, Sean O’Hara (a member of the Rotary Club of Lake Charles Happy Hour, D6200, and later the fellowship’s first president) had opened a Facebook group for LGBT people (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender).

Wilson left the meeting with a stack of business cards from people who wanted to be part of the new group. The LGBT Rotarians and Friends Fellowship was born.

In between regular Zoom events held in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, members like Wilson - who is the group’s current president - are talking to clubs about promoting diversity and telling the story of being LGBT in Rotary.

The fellowship is seeking to work with clubs on projects that support the LGBT community and to offer resources to clubs that want to be more diverse and welcoming to all.

ROTARY PRIDE

I've been a Rotarian for over 20 years, and Service Above Self is in my DNA. I'm 66 and came out at age 61. Serving the LGBT community is an acknowledgment that many others went before me, and it's now my time to be of service.

— Ronald Schoenmehl, Rotary Club of San Diego Downtown Breakfast, California (D5150)



When I became president of my club, my husband was seated at my side. The following year, when I passed my gavel, my husband pinned on my lapel the past president's diamond pin my late father received in 1976 when his term ended. I've worn it ever since!

— David Bricka, Rotary Club of Sedro Woolley, Washington (D5050)



The fellowship has 196 members from 36 countries and geographical areas and it is open to everyone, not just LGBT people. "Allies and friends are welcome," says Wilson. "Our purpose is to promote global friendship, service and education with the goal of ending discrimination against LGBT+ people and realising a world that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all." Learn more at facebook.com/Rotary.LGBT.

MAKING PROGRESS

► **I was one of the first openly transgender** presidents of a Rotary club in the world. When I was president, we had a Rotary/LGBT community information exchange meeting. None of those things could have happened 10 years ago.
— Monica Mulholland, Rotary Club of Queenstown (D9980)

► **I have been involved in Rotary** since I participated in Rotary Youth Exchange in 1989. I was a member of the Rotary Club of Hollywood, California, in the late 1990s and helped to charter the Rotary Club of San Francisco-Castro. Rotary is far more inclusive today than at any other time in our history.
— Brian Rusch, Rotary Club for Global Action District 5150, California

► **I'm optimistic** pandemic future Rotary clubs will come together in Pride event LGBT community. Our clubs also LGBT community that need our and mentors.
— John Culsh: Iowa City, Iowa

Illustration by Zulema Williams



To have a fellowship where I can meet and visit - virtually now - with other gay Rotarians in a completely “out” environment really affirms that we are now completely included in Rotary.

— **Valleri Crabtree, Rotary Club of Wellston, Ohio (D6690)**



FAIR TO ALL CONCERNED

► **MANY MEMBERS**, and indeed clubs, tend to shut down people who talk about LGBT in Rotary, as they see this as being political. They are wrong! This is not political. This is human rights we are talking about. Remember The Four-Way Test!

— Monica Mulholland

► **AS A TRANSGENDER** woman, I am interested in the issue of fair treatment of all genders. Today, most people understand that differences in gender identity are not a disease but are very common. Although younger generations are gradually adopting an open attitude toward LGBT groups, it is still awfully slow overall.

— Wen-Yue Huang, Rotary Club of Taipei Nanlung, Taiwan (D3481)

► **IT'S PAST TIME** that we tell the whole story of who we are regardless of whether it is different from some established norm, because living an authentic life takes courage. This acceptance is freeing people and allowing us an opening rather than hiding who we are. — Mary MacLean, Rotary Club of Bozeman, Montana (D5390)

“Joining Rotary and connecting with the fellowship has given me more purpose and drives me to get involved more than I ever have before.”

— **R Lee Donaldson, Rotary E-Club of Hawaii**

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A funny thing happened on the way to...

By Jeremy Opperman

"Ok, left, left, good boy!"
"Find the pole, find the pole, good boy!"
"Wait, ok, forward."
"Find the kerb, good boy."
"Find the pole, good boy!"
"Forward, find the kerb, good boy!"
"Straight on, no, find the kerb, forward, good boy!"
"Left, left, good boy."
"Straight on, good boy!"
"No, we are not going right here, straight on, good boy."
"Clever boy!"
"Good boy!"
"Yes! Good boy!"
"Yes, you are such a clever boy!"
We have arrived at our destination.

This transcript is verbatim what I would say to my guide dog Ronnie, when we are walking to a Rotary friend's home every Tuesday and Thursday. The distance is just shy of two kilometres and takes about 20 minutes.

From here, we will all go to the park for a proper walk, where Ronnie can run free and my friend can be my guide dog for a while.

Over the past few weeks, in this routine, I have been watching and enjoying my friend's fascination and unbridled admiration of Ronnie as he performs his duties, getting me to and from his home and the park.

It gave me paws (sorry I couldn't resist) to reflect on the past 14 years of having owned my three guide dogs, Barklee, Gatsby and Ronnie. It would require a fair-sized book to adequately relate all the extraordinary adventures I have had with each of the dogs. So, one or two anecdotes must suffice here.

First a little lesson in what they can and cannot do: It is fairly simple to 'programme' routes into the dog. *Step one:* Download available routes, tricks and sundry adorable habits onto your USB device. *Step two:* Insert USB device into the appropriate port, conveniently included on all current versions of guide dog. *Step 3:* Simply hit upload on your device...

No, no, only kidding.

Actually, the dog only needs one or two trips along a given route to internalise it.

This was most incredibly proved when Barklee, on only his second visit (the first being done some weeks before with sighted help) remembered the entire journey from the arrival hall of OR Tambo Airport to the Gautrain terminal in Johannesburg. Anyone who has walked that route, knows that it is long and rather complicated.

This wonderful confidence was invaluable over the next seven years when Barklee and I flew more than 450 times mostly to Johannesburg.

Another thing to remember is that the blind person actually does do some of the navigation, especially in areas that the dog is not familiar with or where deviations of known routes are required.

In my case, I am blessed with a pretty good sense of direction, also, I am not afraid to ask for help. So, I was quite happy to teach Ronnie the new route to my friend's home. All I needed was Ronnie to make sure I don't walk into poles, trees, cars, fall off pavements or step in any holes en route.

In this case, I employed the navigation app on my phone to let me know the names of the roads I needed to look for and to ultimately find his house. Ronnie now knows the route, so it's mostly up to him and I don't need to even turn on the GPS.

Being guided by the dog is a joint effort between user and dog. Having said that, I used to love coming home in the evenings from the station. I would tune out entirely and read a book or audio magazine and pay little attention to the twenty-minute journey home.

But the funniest thing that ever happened to us, was when I walked into a well-known office building in Cape Town with Barklee.

Barklee, as he was trained to do, headed for the nearest counter. Before I had arrived, however, a strident voice accosted me. "Sir", it said. "Can't you read? The sign says 'No Dogs'!"

Now, I need to point out that this is the bane of all guide dog users all around the world. Security officials trying to prevent our access. In truth there are few places we cannot legally access.

Nevertheless, this problem persists.

Anyway, I rarely resort to rudeness or anger when this happens and smiled at him, “No, it’s ok. He’s allowed in, he’s a guide dog.” Quick as a flash, he retorted; “No sir, it does not matter what breed of dog it is, he is not allowed in!”

GLOSSARY OF GUIDE DOG TERMINOLOGY

LEFT: Unlike many humans, guide dogs do actually know their left from their right. Telling him to go left lets him know which direction we are embarking on, which in turn informs him of the probable routes associated with that direction.

FIND THE POLE: This is one of those pre-programmed techniques. In training, when we know there is a pedestrian signal call button on a pole at an intersection, teaching the dog to find the pole is invaluable.

WAIT, OK, FORWARD: This is used when crossing roads. Contrary to popular mythology, the dog does not look at the traffic light, then at the cars and then decide to walk. These decisions are left to the fortitude and anxiety of the blind person crossing the road, saying forward tells the dog to go ahead.

FIND THE KERB: This focuses the dog on a specific task within a route. Useful when deviating from an assumed route.

NO, WE ARE NOT GOING RIGHT HERE: This is spoken kindly, acknowledging that he knew where to turn, but informing him of a change of route.

STRAIGHT ON: This helps to focus him and lets him know that he is on the right track.

GOOD BOY, CLEVER BOY: Simply constant affirmation during a trip, apart from pleasing him, it also serves to focus his attention. These verbal gestures have also been known to work on men in their fifties and older.

Finally, I think it only appropriate to give a big shout out to the South African Guide Dog Association.

For the past 66 years, SAGDA has trained thousands of guide dogs and service dogs for blind and physically disabled people as well as youngsters on the Autism spectrum.

In addition to training dogs, SAGDA is also responsible for the training, through the College of orientation and mobility, of all the orientation and mobility instructors in the country. Once trained these instructors go into urban and rural communities to train blind people in the use of the cane and skills for daily living.



*Jeremy Opperman with his guide dog Ronnie.
Below: Ronnie is one of the three guide guides that
Jeremy has owned over the last 14 years.*





It's a Dog's Life

The tagline for Irish Guide Dogs is 'Changing lives.' While I know they mean the lives of those who need a service dog, being part of the programme has made my life fuller and given me great company during the pandemic. And I love knowing that each dog has a full and happy life making someone's life easier, writes Jane Moffatt, a former member and past president of the Rotary Club of Kromboom (D9350), who now lives in Ballincollig, Ireland.

The thing I have really missed, living in Ireland, is having a pet. I always said to myself, "When I retire, I will get a dog". So, when I heard about the fostering programme run by Irish Guide Dogs, I put my name down.

Irish Guide Dogs have their national headquarters in my town – just about three kilometres from my house and well within our restricted travel zone. Here they have a school for visually impaired children and train assistance and guide dogs and their owners.

My first dog was Comet, a huge yellow American Labrador. He was hyper! Unfortunately, he had to be withdrawn from service after a few months

because he had a habit of eating things – stones and finally, a spring. Not at all good for the digestive system!

Junior, another huge dog, this time black, was my next dog. He came to me at the end of January 2020 when he started his advanced training. He was due to go to his new owner on 18 March, but we went into lock down on 12 March and that put paid to him starting work.

He was with me until the beginning of August when he went to a lady in Dublin, just down the road from where I used to work. Junior was a lifesaver during the first lock down. He was great company, and I got lots of exercise. I really missed him when

he started working. He certainly brought a routine into my days. As he went everywhere with me, I got to experience a little bit of what it must mean to a blind person to rely on a dog. He even took his blanket outside as he hated cold damp ground!

My next dog was Qeb, another black Labrador. His is a rather sad story but with a happy ending. His owner is dying of cancer and so he had stopped working. Her husband's dog, also a guide dog, had just died of cancer and the man wanted to take on his wife's dog. Qeb had not worked for nearly a year when he came to me. He was back at the centre for a refresher course and to see if he could actually work with the man. He was a delight and keen to get back to work - after eight weeks, Qeb went back to his family to be a guide dog.

I now have Dora, who has just started her formal training. She is much smaller than the boys, a real little lady, and so eager to please that it makes her a little anxious.

She is an English dog, coming from Lancashire. England has a surplus of dogs, so the two organisations have formed a partnership whereby some of the English dogs are trained here as guide or assistance dogs – some go back to England and some stay here. Dora waits for her trainer, each morning – even in the snow.

I am involved with the temporary boarding programme. The dogs need to be used to home life and so are put out to board with local families once they start their formal training. In normal times I drop the dog off at the centre each morning after breakfast at about 8:30am and pick it up after 'school' at about 4:30pm. Weekends we do our own thing going for walks or lazing at home. With COVID and our level 5 lockdown the trainers are picking up the dogs and dropping them off after

class. Each morning Dora waits at the front door for the van. She can't wait to get out and about. The dogs I have had just love going to school and working. The transformation from normal dog to working dog when the collar or harness goes on is really a thing to behold!

It takes 18 months to two years for a dog to be fully trained and to go out to its new owner. It is a very costly process – about €50,000 per dog. The costs would be very much higher but for the input of many volunteers throughout the country. There are those who breed dogs, there are puppy walkers and there are those who look after puppies for the first year of their life, teaching them the basic skills they will need and socialising the dogs. Then there are the temporary boarders who, like me, who live here in Ballincollig and have the dogs in their homes whilst they are undergoing their training in the centre.

There are at least four to five people on my estate who temporarily board dogs. Our town is well used to seeing dogs in training round and about as well as a few working dogs.

For me it is an ideal way of having an animal around. I get all the benefits of having a companion that is extremely well trained and easy to handle and none of the hassle of training a dog. I also do not have the worry of what to do with an animal when I am away. They are happy to work around my holidays or activities. Guide Dogs do not like any dog being left alone for more than about two hours at the most so if I am out for an evening or going somewhere, that I can't take the dog, it can stay in kennels overnight. This last Christmas, Dora went to a family with two small boys whilst I was away. Dora had a ball. I think she found me a bit staid and boring after having two boys to play with.



Living his dream

When he was born on 24 June in 1993, the odds were stacked against Nkosikhona Khumalo (or Brian as he likes to be called). His early life was a sad story of poor schooling and inadequate education. “He could so easily have been one of those poor youngsters begging at street corners and smoking dangerous substances,” writes David Jenvey, a retired trustee of The Mike Strong Educational Trust (TMSET) and a member of the Rotary Club of Westville (D9370).

Life changed considerably when in 2008, as a 15-year-old, Nkosikhona was taken in by the Durban branch of Street-Wise, an NGO that works to reconcile abandoned and neglected children living on streets with their families. In the case of those with nowhere to go, Street-Wise helps the state care for them.

Nkosikhona received moral and financial support, accommodation and regular meals from Street-Wise. However, it was after starting at Khabazela High School in Hillcrest that he really started to shine - he received a trophy for being the best speaker in a debate and in the



first term of his Grade 12 year (2013), he received a certificate for outstanding performance. He obtained a National Senior Certificate in December 2013 and he met the minimum requirements for admission to a bachelor's degree, a diploma or a higher certificate study option.

In 2014 he stayed on at Street-Wise and became a volunteer where he developed a programme for drug abuse among the youth. He became a trusted confidant to many of them as he counselled and helped them with their personal and social problems. His high moral and ethical standards were already surfacing.

His passion was to become an educator so that he "could teach and develop future leaders," as he said on his bursary application to The Mike Strong Educational Trust (TMSET), a trust set up in honour of Mike Strong, a past district governor of District 9270 (1997/98), which is administered by members of the Rotary Club of Westville.

Again, with financial help from Street-Wise and Sister Helena, but also because of his determination to improve his life, he registered with UNISA in 2014 to study for a qualification as a Bachelor of Education (Senior and Further Education and Training Phases). In November of that year he passed four modules, one with distinction. A year later, he had passed seven more modules.

It was incredible to think that in spite of the difficulties presented by unreliable taxis, having to share study notes and computer facilities with other students and the inefficiencies of UNISA's administration department where lecture notes and assignments either arrived late or not at all, this young man had passed 11 modules in two years.

Sister Helena McKinney, the Street-Wise fundraising manager, reached out to TMSET and asked if Nkosikhona could receive financial help.

He was invited to an interview with the TMSET trustees. He told them that the opportunity to wear his formal jacket and tie to the interview made him feel confident and gave him hope that one day things would be better.

Nkosikhona's composure, character and passion to serve impressed the trustees who awarded him a bursary for the calendar year 2016.

By November 2016 he had passed another six modules, another one with distinction. To assist

him with his studies, TMSET gave him a fairly powerful laptop that was donated by the legal firm where Elize Hogg, a member of the Rotary Club of Westville, worked.

In 2017, he received a second bursary for his studies and by that November, he had passed five more modules, again achieving distinction in one. During that year he had done his required practical work at Potchefstroom University and was amazed to find lectures started on time and not when lecturers chose to appear. It was no surprise that he received a third bursary for the 2018 academic year. After passing nine modules, Nkosikhona had one practical module left for 2019 before he would qualify with his full degree.

On 9 July 2020, after many hassles and frustrations from UNISA, but with significant help from Trevor Hall, a retired headmaster of Westville Boys' High School, Nkosikhona was told that he had been awarded his full degree.

The trustees of TMSET assisted him to prepare a professional CV, but he still found it very difficult to find suitable employment as an educator and his first job was as a part-time supervisor of a supermarket's cashiers.

It was at this stage that Trevor Hall, now also a trustee of TMSET, became the biggest influence in Nkosikhona's life when he was able to find Brian a temporary position as a learner teacher at Westville Boys' High School.

Trevor would fetch him each morning from the bus station in Pinetown and drive him to school which ensured that he would always arrive on time. He was also instrumental in ensuring that Nkosikhona had sufficient shirts, trousers and shoes to be smartly attired for his new teaching post.

Towards the end of 2020 Brian received an official letter from the school appointing him as a full time history teacher at a salary which "made me very happy, because now I will be able to bring food to the table, put a roof over the heads of my family and make my home a better place to be."

He was also appointed to the position of house master for one of the Westville Boys' High School boarding establishments. Throughout his contact and correspondence with TMSET and the trustees, Nkosikhona has consistently expressed his gratitude for the help, both financial and moral, he has been given.

It's incredible to think that in spite of the difficulties presented, this young man had passed 11 modules in two years!

Planting for Life

For nine months, in an effort to reduce the desperate plight of starvation in the George, Wilderness and Touwsrante communities, the Rotary Club of George (D9350) has provided supplies to four soup kitchens.

This ongoing programme has become the club's major activity and to date it has contributed close to R143 000 and will continue to do so as long as funds are available.

Contributions were made from club project funds, a district disaster grant, personal appeals for donations and donations from members and international donors. Project beneficiaries have included the George JAG (Joint Action Group), 7 Passes (Blanco/Golden Valley), Gloryland Community Centre (Kleinkrantz/Wilderness) and Masithandane.

In another project, the club partnered with the community and 7 Passes initiative to establish a garden project to enlarge and expand on a pilot project already in place. All parties involved, including an adjacent school, churches, farmers and gardeners supporting the project, made land with fertile soil available.

This garden project was designed to provide a sustainable solution of fresh vegetables for community kitchens as well as training to enable adults and children to become self-sufficient by developing their own vegetable gardens. Gardens were established at 7 Passes in Touwsrante, Wilderness, Zenzele in Blanco, George and at Kleinkrantz in the Wilderness area.

The club members decided to streamline the process by merging the two initiatives to form a Food Aid and Gardens project.



YOUTH NEWS



EarlyActors Liandri Lamprecht, Nina-Mari du Plessis, Anika Pretorius and Jani Fourie.

Service Starts Early in George

“We are being outdone by our EarlyActors,” declares Simon Swann of the Rotary Club of George (D9350) after the EarlyAct Club of Outeniqua Primary School concluded its latest community service project.

A few years ago, the EarlyActors learned of Wikkeldwurms, a stimulation project for children with developmental delays. The project, which is based in Bethesda, targets children aged two to six years, many of whom come from disadvantaged families. “Over the past few years, we have reached out to these very special children, and this year we again wanted to do something for those leaving to go to Grade 1. We had to do this while curtailed by the COVID-19 pandemic and our EarlyActors proved to be more than able,” explains Danielle Barnard, an educator and EarlyAct coordinator at the school.

The learners at the EarlyAct club, assisted by



EarlyActors Joshua Gee, Jonty Jackson and Quintus Lutsch with the gift packs.

their parents, gave the children of the Wikkeldwurms project backpacks that were filled with a complete set of Grade 1 stationery.

“Part of our mission as a school is providing emotional and social support in the development of our learners towards adulthood,” notes Johan Smit, principal of Outeniqua Primary, “and EarlyAct provides a forum for answering this responsibility.”

Members of the Rotary Club of George were equally impressed by the project, says President Andrew Jeffery, “Their initiatives embody the leadership, compassion and community spirit our country needs.”



The Interact Club of St Francis College, which is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Benoni Aurora (D9400), collected toiletries, shoes and clothing for needy children in the Benoni community.



Coming up...

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

July

10 JULY

Zoom 2021 AGM and Annual Governors' Council of Southern Africa (COSA) conference will be on Saturday 10th July.

CONTACT: geraldinehnicol@gmail.com

16-18 JULY

ZUURBERG WEEKEND hosted by the Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth West (D9370). A bench overlooking the Addo Park will be unveiled in memory of PDG Mel Smethurst and a tree planting held to celebrate the seventh Area of Focus. Cost: R2 100/person, (includes two nights' accommodation, meals, goody bag, entertainment and treasure hunt).

CONTACT: Angela Newton on 072 9400422 or email: info@organicalchemy.co.za

30 JULY - 1 AUGUST

YARDS OF ART EXHIBITION a project by the Rotary Club of Sandton (D9400) at Victoria Yards, 16 Viljoen Street, Lorentzville. Reception and official opening: 30 July, 5-8pm. Exhibition: 31 July to 1 August 9am - 5pm. A commission on all art sales will support projects of the Rotary Club of Sandton.

CONTACT: Val at yardsofartfestival@gmail.com

AFRICA IN BRIEF



A diplomatic corps luncheon was held by Rotary District 9400 in May. The luncheon introduced diplomats stationed in South Africa to Rotary and recognised two ambassadors who participated in the Rotary in Africa Centennial Conference. Ambassador Bene M'Poko, of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the dean of the Diplomatic Corps in South Africa, and Ambassador Manuel Carvalho, of the Republic of Portugal. Each received a small token of appreciation from the district. It also served as an invitation for the diplomats to join Rotary.



Paul Kirchmann of the Rotary Club of Germiston (D9400) received this numbered Rotary Medallion 25 years ago and is not sure where he got it. Can anyone shed any light on the story behind this medallion?



President Nitin Ganga of the Rotary Club of Vacoas (D9220) and Past President Rakesh Gaju delivered a donation of masks and other necessary items for the frontline workers of Mauritian Ministry of Health and members of the public at a mass coronavirus PCR testing initiative held in Bonne Terre, Vacoas.



Past President Charlie Panday and Norman Singh of the Rotary Club of Reservoir Hills (D9370) are supporters of Hospice and visited the CEO of Khanya Hospice, Neil McDonald, to hand over a donation of goods which could be sold in their hospice shops. The hospice is not state funded and as a result is dependent on the income it raises at its three charity shops, as well as the generosity of companies, individuals and families.



The Rotary Club of Welkom-Flamingo (D9370) held another successful cake sale at the squash club. The cakes, loaves, biscuits and bottled goods were sold from the back of two trucks.



Amina Frense and Judy Symons at the Easter egg event at The Wilds.



Lucille Blumberg also attended the event

The Rotary Club of Johannesburg New Dawn (D9400) made Easter special because club member Judy Symons collected and delivered Easter eggs for the children and residents of Woodside Sanctuary and the Christ Church Christian Care Centre.



Rotary Park is a retirement village and project of the Rotary Club of Swellendam (D9350). It was the brainchild of Rotarian Eric Koch (left) who lived there with his wife Francina until he died earlier this year. Eric received various acknowledgements over the years for service to Rotary but the renaming of the Rotary Club Room at the village to the Eric Koch Room was, according to Eric, the highlight of his Rotary years.



This year the Rotary Club of Durban Bay (D9370) used its District Grant to provide food parcels to people in the Ufafa Valley near Ixopo. Food parcels valued at R500 were provided to 17 families. The club partnered with WOZA MOYA whose community care workers identified the recipients and distributed the parcels.





Using a District Grant, the Rotary Club of Century City Cape Town (D9350) donated an air conditioner to the therapy room of the Friends Day Centre in Maitland. The centre provides valuable assistance to severely mentally and physically disabled people. The air conditioner will significantly improve the comfort level of the patients during therapy. People with disabilities are often sensitive to high temperatures and due to their lack of mobility, they are also more sensitive to the cold. Thanks to Feizal Gany, the owner of Flowtide Air Conditioners, the club received the air conditioner at a discounted rate.



There is a school for physically or mentally handicapped children in Elgin, near Somerset West, called Agapé. A handful of truly dedicated educators do exceptional work with the children. Each December, although it couldn't be done last year because of COVID-19, the Rotary Club of Somerset West (D9350) gives special Christmas parcels to each of the children. However, it wasn't just the children who had something to look forward to. Every year, Charles Dearlove searched for the best strawberries to make a special batch of jam and gave a bottle to each of the educators. Sadly, Charles developed COVID-19 and died just after Christmas. He will be fondly remembered by many, but especially by a small group of wonderful educators who loved him and his very special strawberry jam.



It was back to basics for members of the Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400) when they met with a few friends to be ‘trained’ in the correct way of using DUPLO building blocks to improve children’s development skills. The blocks were supplied by Care for Education and presented, in partnership with, Shayne Moodie (centre wearing the grey mask) of The Empty Toy Box Project. At the end of the session, the ‘trainees’ were split into teams and each team was given a task to perform with the DUPLO blocks.



The Rotary Club of Durban Bay (D9370) donated 60 textbooks to Bukazi Junior Secondary School near Flagstaff. The donation was made after the club received a letter from the school regarding a serious lack of resources.



Nifty knitters at Dawnclyffe Park spend hours each day crafting tiny booties, beanies and jerseys for premature babies born at hospitals across KwaZulu-Natal. Some of these babies weigh as little as 700 grams. The Rotary Club of Westville (D9370) provides the wool and collects the finished garments for distribution to Addington Hospital, Albert Luthuli Hospital, Clouds of Hope, Westville Baby House, Manguzi Hospital and various clinics in Zululand. Recently the club hosted a tea to thank the knitters for their generosity of spirit.



The Rotary Club of Gaborone (D9400) has chartered a new Rotaract club. In May, President Douglas Craig inducted the Charter President of the Rotaract Club of Gaborone, Sethunya Moshabele, and presented the Certificate of Organisation to the new club.



The Anns were helped by the members of the Rotary Club of Kloof (D9370) in a project to tidy up the Wall of Remembrance at Ipithi Conservancy. After tidying the wall they added a roof to the Wall of Remembrance.

The Rotary Club of Kloof (D9370) built a new workshop for the Inchanga Technical High School. The school desperately needed the additional teaching area as space for technical learning at tertiary institutions is severely limited.



The Rotary Club of Gaborone (D9400) bought 1 400 blankets to give to those in need before winter began. In May, the four teams of volunteers began handing out the blankets. Coverage by Botswana Television was provided at the first event when 180 blankets were distributed.

WALL OF HONOUR



Janice Angove is a new member of the Rotary Club of Johannesburg New Dawn (D9400).



Mayshree Bhim is a new member of the Rotary Club of Johannesburg New Dawn (D9400).



Babette Gallard is a new member of the Rotary Club of Johannesburg New Dawn (D9400).



Christina Rencken is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of South Africa One (D9370).



Cerene Rathilal and Faith Ndhlovu are new members of the Rotary Club of Northcliff (D9400). Welcoming them is President Andrew Buttress.



Margy Wakefield is a new member of the Rotary Club of Stanford (D9350).



PP Chymie Naidoo and Randal Jooste of Sizabantu Piping Systems received Vocational Service Awards from PP Keith Moodie of the Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400).



Bettina Rabiega of the Plumtree Lodge received a Vocational Service Award from the Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400).



Danielle Geddes is a new member of the Rotary Club of Johannesburg New Dawn (D9400).



Linda Hammond is a new member of the Rotary Club of Johannesburg New Dawn (D9400).



Brendon Martens is a new member of the Rotary Club of Johannesburg New Dawn (D9400).



Shan Vorster is a new member of the Rotary Club of Johannesburg New Dawn (D9400).

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