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Rotary

AFRICA | south



Changing the Narrative

Innovation in Education

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Sarah van Heerden

Editor

WELCOME

I believe that if you look to the positive, even when things are awful, you make better decisions. I can be very negative; it is one of my weaknesses. I used to always say that I would prefer to be prepared for the worst and delighted when I was wrong than be expecting the best and shattered when it was not so.

However, I have noticed that when I make myself look for the positive, it often works out. This does not always mean that I get what I want, but it just seems that I make better decisions when I have faith that things will work out in the end. I suppose that is the wisdom which one acquires throughout life. It suddenly dawned on me this morning, that this faith in the good and believing things will work out, is what Rotary is about. We believe there is good, we know there can be good and we see the potential for good. This is why we do many good things in our communities and the world.

It seems that every year becomes more of a challenge. I can remember at the height of the Syrian refugee crisis some years ago, gagging in revulsion as I saw images of a child's body washed ashore and read the vile and horrific comments made by people. For me that was a "We Need More Rotary in the World" moment.

There have been many more sad and horrifying events since then, but that one is burnt in my memory. It happened on a day much like today. I was sitting in front of a screen, thinking of something to write while flipping through my newsfeeds. This pandemic and the first lockdown were another of those moments and I don't doubt that we will have more in the years to come. But, I find peace in knowing that Rotary is out there... That you are out there. It is through what you do, and our Areas of Focus that Rotary makes a real difference.

We may not stop all the hurt, but we are more than one million people who are passionate about doing good, so we can do a lot!

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,

In Rotary, 23 February is our anniversary and February is also the month when we focus on promoting peace. There is a reason for this: Contributing to peace and international understanding has been a high priority for us since our earliest days.

We are often asked: “How can we get involved in peace now?” There are many paths to peace in Rotary. Our youth programmes point us in the direction of Positive Peace, as does the work of intercountry committees and the Rotary Action Group for Peace.

Another path is the Rotarian Peace Projects Incubator (RPPI), an inspirational collaboration among Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Rotary Peace Fellows and alumni. Led by Rotarians in Switzerland and Liechtenstein, RPPI has designed 48 global projects that any club can support, either directly or through Rotary Foundation Global Grants. Nino Lotishvili and Matthew Johnsen, alumni of the Rotary Peace Centre at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, are two of the many volunteers.



During my Rotary peace journey, I have learned how personal resilience helps build inner peace and creates sustainable outer peace. This was the inspiration behind the Women Peace

Ambassadors for the South Caucasus project, which is based on my field research in Georgia. The RPPI team of Rotarians and peace fellows recognised the incredible potential of women from mixed-ethnicity families who live on borderlands to be role models for peace within and beyond their communities. Through workshops on building inner and outer peace that draw on the power of storytelling, 40 participants will be sharing their stories and reaching around 400 extended family and community members. These inspiring but marginalised women will reclaim their inner strength as peacebuilders at the grassroots level. In this way,

we will take steps toward the sustainable, peaceful society we need so much, not only in our region, but throughout the world. — Nino Lotishvili



I was excited to join the peace incubator project and to further strengthen my ties with Rotary's peace community by working with past and current peace fellows to develop these proposals. My team wrote five proposals — three in Bangladesh, one in Iraq, and one in Poland — that focus on the arts and on education to generate dialogue across religious divisions and avert the radicalisation of young people. I was inspired by how, despite the pandemic, we came together via technology with a vision to develop, test, and strengthen ideas and to produce workable solutions that clubs across the world can support to advance peace. I am excited to work with Rotary's peace community to transform these visions into reality. — Matthew Johnsen

Here is further proof that in Rotary, we prefer action to words. This is Rotary at its best. I encourage you to visit rppi.ch to explore the projects and support them.

We have lasted 116 years because of our strong ethics, our passion for Service Above Self, and our unique approach to problem-solving. One of our greatest strengths is how we reach across our communities and across national, ethnic, religious and political divisions to unite people of all backgrounds and to help others. This month let's celebrate our history and the many ways that Rotary Opens Opportunities to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace, our ultimate mission.

Holger Knaack



Foundation Trustee Chair

KR (Ravi) Ravindran

Giving is more than an activity. It is a way of life and a beacon in the search for hope in troubled times. There is great turmoil today, but these are not unusual times, not in the span of human history. The wisdom of the ages is especially important to help us set our path and purpose.

Such wisdom comes from the 12th-century philosopher known as Maimonides. Born in Córdoba, Spain, he and his family went into exile in Morocco to escape religious persecution. As a young man, he mastered Aristotle, astronomy and later medicine. After moving to Cairo, Maimonides became known as the city's greatest rabbi, producing tomes of commentary on the Torah, and he lived out his final days as a renowned doctor.

But his greatest gift to humanity captured his thoughts about giving itself. His Eight Levels of Charity is a masterpiece that teaches us about what giving means and what motivates us to do it.

The bottom rung of Maimonides' ladder is giving out of pity or grudgingly. The next step up is giving less than one should but doing so cheerfully. Climb up to the fifth rung and you are giving before being asked. Further up the ladder is giving in a way that the receiver does not know who the giver is. The eighth and highest level of charity is to anticipate

distress and giving to avoid or prevent it.

When we immunise children against polio, we are anticipating potential illness. We do so with other efforts, such as Rotary projects that reduce the incidence of malaria or cervical cancer.

When we teach someone a profession that enables them to earn a living, we apply the eighth step. From microfinance to education, The Rotary Foundation helps us give the gift of self-reliance.

All of this good work awaits us, as does the work of supporting newborns, cleaning water sources, recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and countless other efforts we lead.

I am proud to say that many Rotary members climb to the top of Maimonides' ladder. Many of them do so anonymously. Whoever they are and for whatever reason they share their gifts with the Foundation, I thank them.

As an organisation, Rotary climbs that ladder as well. Every one of your donations helps us reach higher levels. As we climb this ladder as one, we gain a wider perspective. We see all those who need to be uplifted as well as the countless opportunities we have to help them in Rotary. And as we do so, we find our own meaning and purpose.

Rotary at a glance

Rotary clubs: 36 426

Members: 1 178 107

Rotaract clubs: 11 253

Members: 215 205

Interact clubs: 15 482

Members: 356 086

RCCs: 11 541

As at 18 January 2020 Increase

Decrease



2021 CONVENTION UPDATE

Dear Rotarians, Rotaractors and friends,

By now we have sadly grown accustomed to hearing of the need to shift major public events to being held virtually rather than face to face. Unfortunately, the Rotary Board of Directors was compelled to again make the difficult decision to celebrate this year's International Convention as a virtual event. While this may not be an unexpected decision, it is still a deeply disappointing one — for us and for our friends in Taiwan who have been planning an exceptional event. I want to thank the Host Committee for the admirable job they did building support for what surely would have been one of Rotary's finest events.

We had hoped that a combination of vaccine uptake and public health measures would have brought the COVID-19 pandemic under control. We all know that in many parts of the world the pandemic is still raging and we must maintain our vigilance and patience before resuming major public gatherings. Taiwan has done an admirable job managing the pandemic — and local Rotarians were still eager to host and celebrate with us. Under the guidance of the World Health Organisation and the local public health organisation in Taiwan, it became clear that an event of this scale would be impossible to host safely.

While we are disappointed that we could not have a traditional convention, we are excited about the virtual event being planned for all Rotarians worldwide. Last year's convention attracted significant viewership during its weeklong program. This year, we will channel all we have learned about staging the very best in virtual events into a program that promises to open new opportunities for you to be entertained, enlightened and energised. We will share more details about the 2021 Virtual Convention soon.

CONVENTION, PRE-CONVENTION, AND TICKET REFUNDS

We will automatically cancel and refund all existing registrations. This includes purchases made for the Rotaract and Youth Exchange and the Intercountry Committees pre-convention events, and ticketed meal events. We kindly ask that you do not contact RI Registration to inquire about your registration, ticket, or housing cancellations as we work diligently to inform all attendees and process cancellations and refunds. For those who had already cancelled prior to today, you will also receive a refund of the \$50 processing fee.

HOST ORGANISATION COMMITTEE (HOC) TICKETED EVENT REGISTRATIONS

The HOC event ticket fees will be refunded by the Taipei HOC. For more information, please visit rotarytaipei2021.org.

HOTEL ROOMS

If you have secured accommodations within Rotary's official housing block, no action will be required on your end. Maritz, Rotary's official housing partner, will contact you with the details of your cancellation.

If you have secured a group room block and made a full or partial payment, you will receive a follow-up communication and instructions on receiving a refund.

I want to thank all Rotarians and Rotaractors around the world for your understanding and your continued willingness to learn and adapt. We are becoming a stronger, more resourceful organisation because of this and our Virtual Convention will be a reflection of this new Rotary.

Please be safe and take care of each other.

Kindest regards,

Holger Knaack

President, Rotary International, 2020-21



Public Image

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

Many of us started 2021 with renewed hope and optimism, but the surge of covid-19 infections has burst that hope-filled bubble. We have grieved over the loss of some outstanding Rotarians who succumbed to this virus and I am sure that we all know someone who has tested positive. As ever, I am in awe of the incredible advocacy and action taken by Rotarians around the world. They stepped up to become voices of reason in an ocean of fake news and gossip that pervades our planet these days and their remarkable projects have brought relief and support to frontline workers and those in need. The pandemic may have stopped business as we know it, but it has not stopped Rotarians from finding sustainable solutions.

It is with hope and encouragement for the future that I ask you to continue to:

Bravely continue to add value. No matter the size of your contribution, you make a difference. "Without courage, we cannot practise any other virtue with consistency. We can't be kind, true, merciful, generous or honest." - Maya Angelou

Educate those who are ill-informed or help those who cannot afford an education. Teach people financial literacy and life skills to show them how valuable every person is. Never stop learning and when you have knowledge pass it on.

Truth matters. Seek it relentlessly amid the rumour mongering and false statements. Be the light of truth in a dark world where untruths and lies seem to be the order of the day.

Hear what the voiceless are trying to say and help them to find their voices. Listen to your communities and what they need so we can uplift them one neighbourhood at a time.

Ethical behaviour, whether in public or not, must be our guiding force. Be THAT person

who always stands up for what is right no matter the consequences.

Goals still need to be set and achieved despite the current situation. Boldly plan for a better future and take steps to make it happen.

Opportunities abound out there; we just need to be ever vigilant to recognise them and take action.

Open your hearts and minds to different ways of thinking and doing in this drastically changed world we currently live in. Be creative. Embrace diversity of thought, culture, religious beliefs and differences of opinion.

Discernment and dedication should be words we live by. Social media, while offering many benefits, can also be used for less than honourable purposes.

I guess what I am trying to say is Be The Good and Believe There is Good in the World.

Rotarians are the light that shines in a dull and dispirited society, so let's continue being the beacon of hope to those that need it the most.



Opportunity

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

Silly Love Songs

Paul McCartney wrote: *You'd think that people would have had enough of silly love songs; But I look around me and I see it isn't so; Some people wanna fill the world with silly love songs; And what's wrong with that? I'd like to know 'cause here I go again; I love you...*

I grew up listening to classical music. My father believed that only composers who died over two hundred years ago had any talent. Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Handel and their contemporaries had a permanent home on my father's stereo.

I remember the Beatles first appearance on American television on 9 February 1964. Their music was something new. The lyrics were not "poignant." They were just fun and targeted to "my" generation.

My father HATED Rock and Roll music. The "satanic" beat of the music would cause him to place all four of his sons on restriction – even the one too young to reach the record player. When I borrowed the family car there were two rules: 1) return it with a full tank of fuel and 2) make sure that the car radio was switched from the rock station to the classical music channel. Failure to do either was met with penalties.

He also disdained "country and western" music. He saw no point in singing about losing a mate, a pick-up truck or a dog... It was not quite as evil as Rock and Roll, but it was close.

He was thrilled when our school choir sang the "Hallelujah Chorus" and tolerated my solo of

"Bridge Over Troubled Water." (At least it was slow!)

Nevertheless, like most teenagers, when Dads forbade things, kids looked for ways to circumvent the rules. We went to the beach to surf or play volleyball and the portable radios were turned up full blast flooding the air with the Beach Boys, Credence Clearwater Revival, The Rolling Stones and, of course, the Beatles!

Over the years music and musicians became more political. The Vietnam War, civil rights and Watergate influenced the arts. My generation acted and reacted to conflicts with sit-ins, marches and music. As young people, we held our seniors accountable for their actions. Music led the way.

American "folk music" was deeply ingrained in the lives of young people. The song "We Shall Overcome" is perhaps the best-known example of political folk music, in this case a rallying-cry for the US Civil Rights Movement. Many parts of the world reacted. The Beatles were actually censored by the countries in the "Eastern Bloc" – the group of communist states of Central and Eastern Europe, East Asia, and Southeast Asia under the influence and control of the Soviet Union.

Music in the 1960s and 70s was tied to causes: opposing certain ideas, influenced by the sexual revolution, feminism, Black Power and environmentalism. It helped to awaken listeners to a world that our parents didn't want to see, didn't want to change and didn't want to recognise.

It was still fun, but it had a deeper message. It both brought us together and divided us. Sometimes those divisions were difficult to reconcile.

“Silly Love Songs” was written as a rebuttal to music critics – especially John Lennon – who had criticised McCartney for writing lightweight love songs. Author Tim Riley suggests that in the song McCartney is inviting “his audience to have a laugh on him,” as Elvis Presley had sometimes done.

Nevertheless, “Silly Love Songs” was released in the US on 1 April 1976 and spent five non-consecutive weeks at number one on the Billboard Hot 100 so there was obviously an audience looking for that “Silly Love Song.” The song was the number one pop song in Billboard’s Year-End Charts of 1976.

I would wish that when I am laid out in that pine box (in about 30 to 40 years) that people will

not remark on the property I owned, the cash in my bank account or the number of vehicles in my garage. I want to be known as someone who shared “silly little love” songs in the hearts and lives of people around me.

Let’s take advantage of the opportunity to fill the world with silly love songs. We do that by living what we say we believe...

If it isn’t true... Don’t say it.

If it isn’t fair... Don’t do it.

If it doesn’t bring people together... Don’t associate yourself with it.

If it doesn’t build people up... Don’t be a part of what will tear someone down.

So, to paraphrase Sir Paul:

I wanna fill the world with silly love songs

What’s wrong with that?

I’d like to know ‘cause here I go again

I love you...

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Celebrating a Polio-Free Africa

Rotary's annual Online Global Update programme for World Polio Day on 24 October hailed a milestone reached in 2020: The World Health Organisation's certification of its African region as free of the wild poliovirus.

Paralympic medallist and TV presenter Ade Adepitan, who co-hosted the programme with Rotary Foundation Trustee Geeta Manek, remarked that the eradication of wild poliovirus from Africa was personal for him. "Since I was born in Nigeria, this achievement is close to my heart," said Adepitan, a polio survivor who contracted the disease as a child. "I've been waiting for this day since I was young."

As recently as 2004, three-quarters of all polio cases caused by the wild virus were contracted in the African region. Now, Adepitan said, more than a billion Africans are safe from the disease. "But we're not done," he cautioned. "We're in pursuit of an even greater triumph: a world without polio. And I can't wait."

Manek, a member of the Rotary Club of Muthaiga (D9212, Kenya) said that World Polio Day is an opportunity for Rotary members to be "motivated to continue this fight." She added, "Rotarians around the world are working tirelessly to support the global effort to end polio."

Tunji Funsho, chair of Rotary's Nigeria PolioPlus Committee and a member of the Rotary Club of Lekki Phase 1 (D9110), told online viewers that the milestone couldn't have been reached without the efforts of Rotary members and leaders in Africa and around the world. Funsho, who was named one of Time's 100 most influential people of 2020, said that individual Rotarians had helped by holding events to raise awareness and funds and by working with governments to secure funding and other support for polio eradication. "Polio eradication is truly a collective effort," he said. "This accomplishment belongs to all of us."

The 2020 World Polio Day Online Global Update was sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and was streamed on Facebook in multiple languages and time zones around the world. The programme also featured a panel of global health experts from Rotary's partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), who discussed how the infrastructure that Rotary and the GPEI have built to eradicate polio has



The programme featured (clockwise from top left) TV presenter Ade Adepitan; Rotary Foundation Trustee Geeta Manek; Time editor Jeffrey Kluger interviewing a "Polio Pioneer"; volunteer community mobilisers in Nigeria; and former Côte d'Ivoire PolioPlus Committee Chair Marie-Irène Richmond-Ahoua.

also helped communities tackle challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The discussion, moderated by Mark Wright, a TV news anchor and a member of the Rotary Club of Seattle (D5030), had been recorded during the 2020 Rotary Virtual Convention. In addition, Jeffrey Kluger, editor at large for Time magazine, spoke with Rotary members and others about their childhood experiences as "Polio Pioneers" - the 1.8 million children who took part in a mass trial of Jonas Salk's polio vaccine in the 1950s. Other videos highlighted the brave work of volunteer community mobilisers in Nigeria and Afghanistan. The programme concluded with a video by Grammy Award-winning singer Angélique Kidjo of her song "M'Baamba."

In conjunction with the Online Global Update, Rotary members and clubs held more than 7 600 virtual activities and socially distanced events across 146 countries. Online contributions to End Polio Now topped \$900 000, the most ever raised for World Polio Day; through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's 2-to-1 match, a total of \$2.7 million was committed to eradicating polio. - RYAN HYLAND

Watch and download the 2020 Online Global Update at endpolio.org/world-polio-day

Centennial Update

Let's join forces to tell our collective story of community development and building the infrastructure of African philanthropic networks through substantial investments in our continent. Join us as we celebrate 100 years of Rotary in Africa.

This year, Rotary celebrates a century since it was first established in Africa. The centennial celebrations that were planned to take place in Johannesburg have changed into a digital event that will be attended by Rotarians and non-Rotarians from around the world.

The event aims to inspire corporates, NPOs and local thought-leaders to drive genuine and impactful socio-economic transformation in both the public and private sectors throughout the continent. Delegates will have the opportunity to connect, engage and explore the latest trends, challenges and innovations in the local and international socio-economic, impact investing and volunteering space.

The event also aims to unite voices from across a broad spectrum, including philanthropists, investment bankers, lawyers and CSI specialists, to catalyse impactful and sometimes unexpected connections and partnerships for social good.

Among those attending the event are Rotarians and non-Rotarians from across the globe, world leaders, influential change makers, global corporate executives, foundations and funders, NGO and civil society organisations.

Key experts in their fields will speak about topics relevant to the seven Areas of Focus. The discussions will also cover business strategy, finance, project management, innovation and collaboration, all of which contributes to the delivery of sustainable and impactful projects.

More than a thousand participants will have the opportunity to explore new collaborations, initiatives and business opportunities through a combination of interactive plenary sessions, panel discussions and smaller, more intimate breakaway

sessions.

The conference will tackle the pressing problems facing Africa today and how sustainable investing and philanthropy can positively make a difference, while giving delegates better insight, knowledge and more confidence to make the decisions best-suited to investing for the continent's good.

It will also feature a world-class line up of inspirational entrepreneurs, local and international visionaries and experts in the social development space.

The platform for the celebration will allow for:

- Networking - Interaction via live chat, the audience can post public comments or branch off into private chats with particular attendees they share an interest with.
- Live Q&A - Key in audience experience, a moderator will queue audience questions for a presenter to answer at the end of their talk. Other audience members can 'upvote' one another's questions so that presenters can give attention to the 'burning issues'.
- Audience streaming - Audience members can also be "called onto stage" via the streaming capability for them to ask their questions in "person"
- Live polls, give aways and calls-to-action
- Social media sharing
- Breakaway sessions
- Exhibition - A virtual expo will be supported, allowing delegates to visit stalls and spark conversations with the exhibitors.



HEADLINE SPONSOR

African Brand Architects, a South African based turnkey Marketing Agency that designs, plans and develops integrated Marketing strategies, with tangible tactics to grow brands across Africa, is the Headline Sponsor of the Rotary Africa Centennial 2021 event.

Director, Shereen Hunter, who is also a Rotary Alumni of District 9400, said, “We aligned with Rotary International for this significant event because our vision for the short, medium and long-term align with Rotary’s vision. We at African Brand Architects share a passion for all things African - we want to see African potential materialised and African networks and businesses prosper into the future.”



INVITATIONS

Electronic invitations will be sent out two months in advance. They will contain the event background and objectives.

Thirty days before the event, invitees who have not responded will be contacted and 14 days before the event, telephonic contact will be made with those who have not responded, urging them to RSVP.

The invitation will be linked to a payment gateway allowing delegates to purchase their tickets as they RSVP.

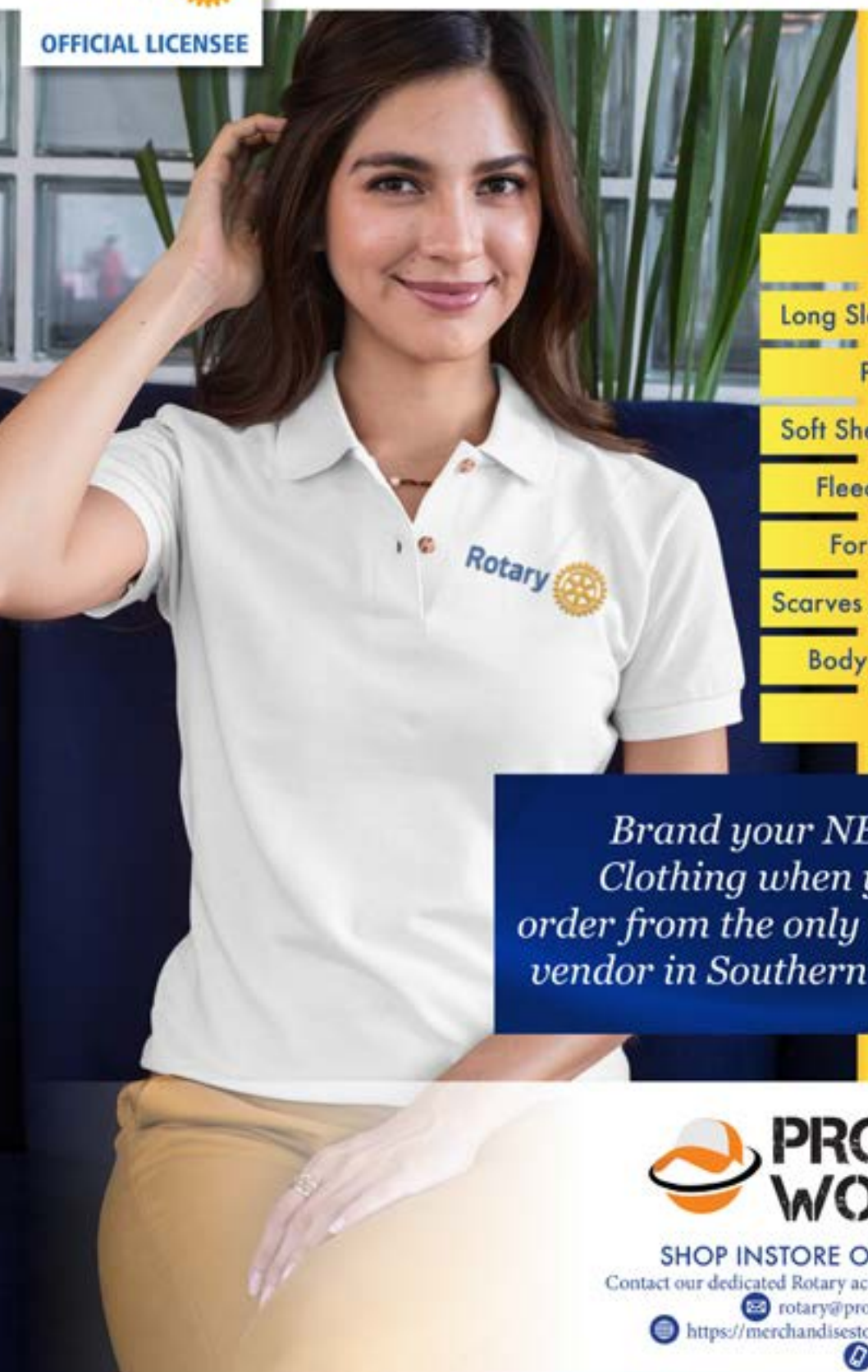
The tickets for the two-day conference will cost \$20 a person (Rotarian and non-Rotarian) and \$10 a person (Rotaractors).



The Zone 22 Rotary Africa Centennial International Conference

24 - 25 April 2021





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ONLINE EVENTS ARE HERE TO STAY

Make yours a success in 6 easy steps

Beginning in early 2020, Rotary club and district meetings, training sessions, events and even the Rotary International Convention went virtual to accommodate stay-at-home orders related to COVID-19.

When networking and fellowship moved online, Rotary members mastered new skills and discovered different ways to connect. They also realised how adept they are at adapting. “COVID-19 pushed Rotary to evolve more quickly than it might have otherwise,” says Louis Turpin, 2016/17 governor of District 7210 (New York).

“It was a bit of tough love.” Anyone can set up an online event. But it takes planning to organise one that achieves your goals and engages your audience. Here are six steps to ensure that your event is successful.

— MAUREEN VAUGHT

Step 1 WHAT ARE WE HERE FOR?

Do you want to train club leaders? Are you celebrating the beginning of a new Rotary year? Or do you simply need to communicate with your fellow members on a regular basis? Defining your goals will help you choose the best resources for the job. When Turpin, a 2019/20 district trainer, began organising a virtual presidents-elect training seminar, he combined webinar sessions on Zoom with courses offered in Rotary’s Learning Centre. “Begin by understanding what resources already exist,” says Turpin.

Step 2 LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

The platform you choose might depend on your budget, the number of participants and your goals. Zoom can accommodate as many as 1 000 participants and allows you to record your meetings so you can post the event on YouTube, your club’s website or a team portal for people to view later. There are other web conferencing platforms, so investigate your options — and learn about their features, such as audience polling, screen sharing and breakout rooms. *TIP: If your participants speak a variety of languages and you need interpretation in more than one direction, Rotary recommends using KUDO (kudoway.com).*

Step 3 IT’S NOT AN ENDURANCE TEST

Screen fatigue is real. Offering shorter sessions spread out over a longer period can keep participants engaged and help them retain the information you’re presenting. The multidistrict PETS that Turpin helped coordinate ran over the course of four weeks. Most weeks featured two hour training sessions: one for assistant governors and another for presidents-elect. *TIP: Start your meeting 30 minutes before the scheduled event - or extend it 30 minutes after - so participants have a chance to socialise online.*





Step 4 IF YOU PROMOTE IT, THEY WILL COME

Don't rely on habit to make sure members attend your event: You have to do some boosting. To help promote her district training assembly, Kirenjit Kaur, past governor of District 3300 (Malaysia), recruited some of her district's younger members, who publicised it on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. Kaur also tapped into members' competitive nature with challenges designed to encourage participation.

Step 5 SHORT ATTENTION SPAN THEATRE

Polls and quizzes, question-and-answer sessions and virtual breakout rooms can all help hold participants' attention. Encourage participants to submit questions in advance so you can respond to them throughout your live event. And make sure your event is accessible to individuals with a variety of abilities. Caption videos and transcribe audio content. If you use a "whiteboard" feature, narrate what's being captured to help participants with visual impairments or those who are joining by phone, to understand what's being shared. TIP: If you want participants to interact with presenters and each other, keep groups small and limit the amount of content you present.

Step 6 CALLING TECH SUPPORT

To help its clubs stay connected and engaged, District 6440 (Illinois) created a new club leadership position: virtual meeting coordinator. "We needed to have someone at the club level who could coordinate the meeting and provide one-on-one support to members," says Past District Governor Bruce Baumberger. As of this writing, about 85 percent of the clubs in the district have appointed someone to this position.

CHECKLIST

1. Test your equipment — is your internet strong, your audio clear and your video working?
2. Mute your audience during your presentation.
3. Sit up straight and use hand gestures sparingly.
4. Use visuals, but keep them simple and varied.
5. Engage your audience with questions and polls.
6. Practise, practise, practise.

A RELIABLE RESOURCE

Rotary has resources to make it all easy. At brandcenter.rotary.org, you'll find:

- Rotary branded Zoom backgrounds
- Rotary branded PowerPoint templates

At rotary.org/learn, you'll find:

- A Meeting Online learning topic at the Learning Centre
- Learning Centre courses

At my.rotary.org/rotary-global-rewards, you'll find:

- Rotary Global Rewards discount for Zoom

**THIS IS
OUR ACTION
PLAN.**

OUR PRIORITY

**WE'RE
INCREASING
OUR ABILITY
TO ADAPT**

Rotary



Reimagining how we connect and serve.

Our Action Plan calls for us to become more nimble, responsive, and open to new ideas. As the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us, the world can change fast—and in ways we can’t always prepare for.

But we’ve also learned our members are resilient and willing to use every achievement and setback as an opportunity to learn and innovate. We can balance the old with the new—and create the kinds of experiences, relationships, and structures that will carry us forward.

What we will do.

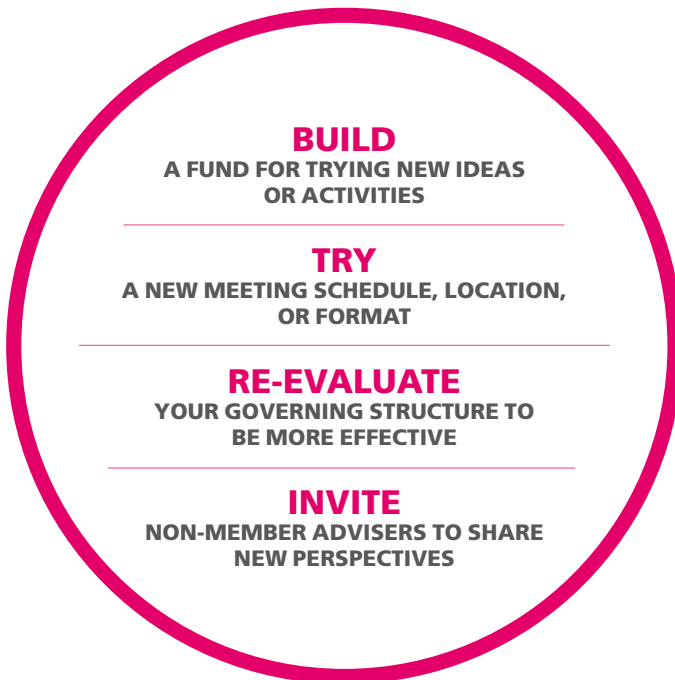
Use technology to make more connections and create new opportunities for participation

Listen to diverse voices when making decisions about Rotary’s future

Create space and resources to support and test novel ideas

Improve governance models, structures, and business practices

What your club can do.



Want to know more?

Read the full Action Plan at rotary.org/actionplan

How to succeed at community assessments

Make sure your project accomplishes the community's goals (and not just your club's)

You wouldn't start a business without first researching the market. Yet clubs often start projects without taking the step of making sure it's something the community actually needs and can support.

"Imagine we visit a community, apply our values, and conclude they need a new well," says Ron Denham, a past governor of District 7070 and chair emeritus of the WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) Rotary Action Group. "But months later, we discover the well isn't being used. Had we listened to the community, we would have learned that what they really needed was a new toilet so women wouldn't risk abduction or rape by going into the bushes at night."

So before your club spends a single minute, dollar, or brain cell on your next project, make sure it will help the community thrive.

A well-planned community assessment ensures a successful project for everyone involved.

— MAUREEN VAUGHT

DO

DO be aware of the dynamics of the room during community meetings. Are local leaders the only people speaking? You may want to organise smaller focus groups to give everyone a chance to be heard.

DO include more than just the physical assets in your assessment. Find out who has influence and expertise in the community. Who has the power to make decisions?

DO connect with local and regional government officials to see what initiatives are already underway. You'll avoid duplicating efforts and can work to complement what's already going on.

DO use a variety of methods. No one method works for every situation. A town hall is a good starting point, but you may want to include a survey or focus group to gather more information.

DO build a relationship with the community before starting your assessment. People will be more open about their needs, strengths and weaknesses when they trust you and share a bond with you.

DO gather data from agencies and governments working in the region, says Martin Strutton, monitoring and evaluation coordinator for ShelterBox, a Rotary project partner. "Whatever information you receive, investigate to make sure it's accurate," he adds.



ASSESSMENT MUST-HAVES

The following elements are required for any Global Grant community assessment:

- Include at least two involved stakeholder groups that fairly represent the community.
- Use a formal methodology.
- Assess more than infrastructure.
- Describe the current situation, including assets and needs.
- Explain the connection between the project and community assessment.

“A true community assessment is a partnership between the club and community. If the community feels ownership and has a stake in the project, the success rate for the project is higher and more sustainable.”

– Ellina Kushnir, service and engagement manager, Programmes & Grants



DON'T

DON'T talk to just one or two people, or only meet with the local club. You can find a list of stakeholders for each area of focus in the Community Assessment. Tools at Rotary.org.

DON'T use a “check the box” wish list to find out what people need. If there is a menu of options, respondents are less likely to identify a need that isn't on the list.

DON'T treat the surface issues and ignore the root cause.

DON'T cherry-pick data to validate your assumptions.

DON'T use the assessment to justify the project you want to do.

DON'T focus only on materials and infrastructure; include training and maintenance to ensure your project is sustainable.

RESOURCES

Your membership in Rotary gives you access to experts and resources around the world that can help you design your assessment — and your eventual project.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE

- Rotary Action Groups
- Regional grants officers
- The Rotary Foundation
- Cadre of Technical Advisers
- Areas of focus staff
- District leaders

ONLINE TOOLS AT ROTARY.ORG

- Community Assessment Tools
- A Guide to Global Grants
- Global Grants Community
- Assessment Results form
- Learning Centre courses
- Areas of focus policy statements
- Six Steps to Sustainability

Action Groups

Rotary Action Groups help clubs and districts plan and carry out community development and humanitarian service projects in their areas of expertise. The groups are organised by Rotarians, Rotaractors and Rotary Peace Fellows with skills and interest in a particular field. Membership is open to anyone who wants to share their expertise to make a positive impact. Action group members have the opportunity to engage in meaningful service activities outside their clubs, districts or countries. Clubs can draw on these groups to enhance projects, engage members and attract new ones. Find out more by emailing or visiting the website of the group you're interested in or by email: actiongroups@rotary.org.

Addiction prevention

rag-ap.org

Alzheimer's and dementia

adrag.org

Blindness prevention

rag4bp.org

Blood donation

ourblooddrive.org

Clubfoot

rag4clubfoot.org

Community economic development

ragced.org

Diabetes

rag-diabetes.org

Disaster assistance

dna-rag.com

Domestic violence prevention

ragfamsafe.org

Endangered species

rag4es.org

Environmental sustainability

esrag.org

Family health and AIDS prevention

rfha.org

Food plant solutions

foodplantsolutions.org

Health education and wellness

hewrag.org

Hearing

ifrahl.org

Hepatitis

ragforhepatitiseradication.org

Literacy

litrag.org

Malaria

ram-global.org

Mental health

ragonmentalhealth.org

Multiple sclerosis

rotary-ragmsa.org

Peace

rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org

Polio survivors

rotarypoliosurvivors.org

Reproductive, maternal, and child health

rotaryrmch.org

Slavery prevention

ragas.online

Water, sanitation, and hygiene

wasrag.org

RAISE

In September, The Rotary Foundation launched Raise for Rotary, an online platform that allows Rotary members and supporters to create easily shareable, custom fundraisers in support of the Foundation. It is Rotary's own platform for peer-to-peer fundraising - a model that empowers organisers, attracts new donors and increases awareness of causes.

With Raise for Rotary, individuals or teams can set up fundraising campaign pages to facilitate donations. Campaigns can be customised to celebrate a special occasion, to commemorate a person or event, or to encourage a challenge or pursuit. In its first three months, Raise for Rotary hosted more than 400 fundraisers, ranging from supporting peace building in honour of the United Nations International Day of Peace to a stationary bike team marathon that collected more than \$18,000 for polio eradication.

Visit rotary.org/raise to create and promote a fundraising page by following these steps:

- Choose an individual or a team fundraiser and the occasion or reason for the fundraiser.
- Select a Rotary Foundation cause - the World Fund, the PolioPlus Fund, the Disaster Response Fund or one of Rotary's Areas of Focus - and set a donation goal.
- Personalise the fundraising page with a title and description, and add images, photos, or videos.
- Click to post the page on social media or email to family members, friends, neighbours and colleagues.
- Share fundraising updates along the way.

Raise for Rotary is available in English and accepts donations in US dollars. (Additional languages and currency options will be available later this year.)

Rotary members who donate using their My Rotary account email will be eligible to receive donor credit. For questions, email raise@rotary.org.

Why We Care

It's time to take Rotary Branding seriously

By Liz Thiam, Rotary brand specialist

As a Rotary brand specialist, I see Rotary signs everywhere. I guess you could say it's an occupational hazard. Even my children spot Rotary signs wherever we go. So, when I attended a local Rotary event in my hometown last year, I couldn't help but notice how Rotary's logo was being used.

At first, I was thrilled to see the club's logo featured on a banner welcoming attendee. But then, I spotted another banner featuring the Rotary wheel as a pancake. Inside the tent, the club hung up a huge banner displaying the old, retired Rotary wheel. Club members who greeted us were all wearing polo shirts with the old wheel on them, but they were handing out brochures that included their newer club logo. Here were five different opportunities to promote the club, and each used different Rotary logos. It was bewildering.

SO WHAT?

When a club logo isn't used properly, it can create confusion and mistrust. In 2012, Coca-Cola temporarily replaced the iconic red can with white cans that featured polar bears on it for the holidays. But they had to pull them from shelves when retailers and customers reported being confused. The cans looked too much like Diet Coke cans, and that's not what consumers wanted.

This is one example of what happens when a logo is altered. By just changing the can colour, the public was frustrated. They didn't trust the product anymore. And that impacts the brand.

Now imagine that each Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact club had its own logo. How would the public know which Rotary club to trust, to join, or to donate money to?

When a club alters the Rotary logo – like turning the Rotary wheel into a pancake, changing the fonts, or adding additional colours – it weakens our global brand. That can impact our ability to attract future members, earn the trust of donors, encourage volunteers to help on our service projects, and even secure partnership opportunities. Old branding tells the public that this club is outdated. Inconsistent branding sends mixed messages of who we are.

Studies show that consistent logo use builds organisational trust and awareness. Isn't that something we all want for Rotary — to be a trusted organisation in our communities?

Over the next year, we are going to talk a lot more about branding and how to use Rotary's logos properly. We are working with you to build a strong Rotary because a strong Rotary – one that is recognisable, trusted, and united – has a much greater chance of attracting members, donors, volunteers, and partners. Our regional and district leaders will join us in sharing that message.

You can help by taking a look at your club logo. Do you see your club name along with the Rotary or Rotaract logo? Are you using the correct Rotary colour palette? Is the Rotary wheel clearly visible, free from other graphics or designed elements? If not, then it might time to update it. It's really easy—just visit the Brand Centre to get started.

The correct use of the Rotary logo.



2020 COUNCIL ON RESOLUTIONS

The Rotary Council on Resolutions met last November. During the annual online meeting, representatives voted on proposed resolutions and urgent enactments.

Resolutions are requests to the Board or the Trustees to take an action that is outside the purview of the constitutional documents. Ideally, a resolution should affect the Rotary world, rather than address local or administrative issues. An urgent enactment is a change to the constitutional documents, proposed by the RI Board, that the Board has determined cannot wait until the next Council on Legislation, which is held every three years.

Representatives from all Rotary districts vote on items proposed by clubs, districts, the RI Board, and the general council or conference of RIBI. Adopted resolutions are then considered by the RI Board or The Rotary Foundation Trustees. Urgent enactments that have been adopted will amend the constitutional documents, and will take effect one month after the Council on Resolutions report has been sent.

For some years now the Council of Southern African Governors (COSA) has been trying to get a Resolution passed to create a more transparent and consultative process when appointing zone and regional leaders.

The districts tried and failed on two previous occasions to have a resolution addressing this passed. However, last year, it was a case of third time lucky.

The resolution that was passed was to request the RI Board to consider forming committees to nominate regional leader candidates. This was approved by a vote of 295 against 155.

OTHER RESOLUTIONS CONSIDERED WERE:

- Request the RI Board to consider adding a fifth part to The Four-Way Test (**failed:** 393 against 58)
- Request the RI Board to consider reducing the number of members needed to charter a new Rotary club (**failed:** 276 against 172)
- Request the RI Board to consider recognising clubs for children age 6 to 12 (**failed:** 266 against 185)
- Request the RI Board to consider reviewing Rotaract's status within Rotary (**failed:** 393 against 61)
- Request the RI Board to consider reintroducing professional development as a value of Rotary (**adopted:** 315 against 136)
- To request the RI Board to consider making Rotary's website and email technologies more accessible for those with visual impairments or other disabilities and extending that technology to its clubs (**adopted:** 330 against 120)
- To request the Trustees to consider including measures for the prevention and elimination of plastic waste and residues (**adopted:** 255 against 200)



PEOPLE, PEACE and Planet

Despite challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, an extremely successful Zone 22 Institute was held in Kampala, Uganda in December. Past Rotary Vice-President Yinka Babalola (convener), PDG Emmanuel Katongole and PDG Kenneth Mugisha (co-chairs) constituted a committee of senior Rotary leaders and delivered a memorable institute, with both physical and virtual attendance, writes *District Governor Rosetti Nabumba Nayenga (D9211)* who hosted the event.

GETS

Prior to the three-day Rotary Institute was GETS, a two-day training programme for the zone's district governor-elects and nominees. GETS is held each year to help prepare the incoming district leaders for their year in office. Not only do they enjoy the opportunity to exchange information and ideas, case studies, group exercises, best practices and updates on Rotary programmes, but it also nurtures friendships. Spouses received a special one-day training. Training was also provided for the Rotary Foundation District chairs, Membership Chairs, District Trainers and International Service Chairs.

WHO WAS THERE

Current, past and future Rotary leaders and invited guests from more than 17 Rotary districts enjoyed the opportunity to build friendships and learn more on how to play a greater role at all levels of Rotary.

The Institute theme was People, Peace and Planet and featured memorable speakers such as The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Trustee Chair Ravi Ravindran, Rotary Internal President-Elect Shekhar Mehta, TRF Trustee Geeta Manek, Rotary Director Katrina Kotsali-Papadimitriou and Director Nominee Patrick Chisanga.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Deputy Speaker of Parliament of Uganda Jacob Oulanyah spoke at the opening ceremony and urged Rotarians to continue to serve communities and address the pressing humanitarian challenges. Oulanyah is a Major Donor and Honorary member of the Rotary Club of Kampala Central (D9211).

Best performing districts in the areas of Membership and Annual Fund giving were recognised for their outstanding service to humanity.

More than US\$255 000 was pledged to the Rotary Africa Peace and Sam Owori Peace Funds which support the Makerere University Peace Centre. PDG Emmanuel Katongole pledged US\$25 000 to kickstart the Sam Owori Peace Fund.

It was great catching up with old friends and connecting with new friends after several months of lockdown. We had exciting theme nights at which several of Uganda's famous entertaining groups performed.

RESOLUTIONS

Among the resolutions were:

1. The establishment of an All Africa Business Network and to include a business session in the Rotary Zone Institute programme. This was first done at the 2019 All Africa Zone Institute and will be included in future zone institutes.

2. For five years, as of 1 July 2021, all Rotary Districts in Africa to donate 10 percent of their District Designated Funds (DDF) to the Rotary Africa Peace Fund and Sam Owori Peace Fund in support of the Peace Centre at Makerere University.

3. As of 1 July 2021, all districts in Africa will commit a portion of their unused DDF to projects within Zone 22 (Africa).

4. A programme for Rotaractors, as started at the first All Africa Zone Institute and continued at the second, will remain part of the institute programme.

The 3rd All Africa Zone 22 Institute will take place in Younde-Cameroon. See you there!

CHANGING THE Narrative

How ordinary people are embarking on ambitious projects to help support and improve access to education in Southern Africa.



Lessons are hosted on the Thuma Mina Teaching website and its social media channels. “We have removed the barriers. You don’t have to search, you don’t need an email address; it’s one click,” says Leopold van Velden. People who can’t afford cellphone data or who have run out, can access the lessons via the Western Cape Department of Education’s (WCDE) zero-data rated e-portal.

Yes, something is very wrong with education in South Africa and many other countries across the globe. The problem is complex and multifaceted, but thankfully, there are dynamic people and organisations who are creating ripples of change in education.

Two such people are Leopold and Silke van Velden. In March 2020, when schools were forced to close as South Africa entered a hard lockdown, the couple registered a non-profit company called Thuma Mina Teaching, which they financed with their life savings and “Our house,” laughs Leopold. “We have friends and family, community members who have used this resource and supported us,” adds Silke.

Thuma Mina Teaching is the vision of a South African team that strives to provide more equal access to quality education. It produces peer-

reviewed online lessons that are professionally filmed, produced and edited. These captivating video-lessons along with complementing presentation slides and assessments are accessible free of charge to all learners and educators, especially those at no-fee schools in rural and poor urban areas, who have least access to quality education.

So, after a little more than 10 months in operation and having produced 40 videos, why is this small NPC generating a lot of buzz in the Western Cape and beyond?

Silke holds a Master’s in Economics, “with a focal point in economics of education. We do a lot of education statistics, so while we are not pure education analysts, we look at the data and assess it. In Thuma Mina it helps that I have the more data background whereas Leopold is the educator



Currently, Thuma Mina provides lessons for Grade 8 and 9 maths, natural sciences, history and geography. Leopold and Silke van Velden (above) plan to have material for all grades.

who knows the ins and outs of the teaching environment.”

South Africa has roughly 900 000 learners in Grade 8 and 9 respectively. If only one percent of learners was reached over five years, 45 000 learners would benefit. Since the entire year’s curriculum for four subjects amounts to 126 video-lessons, the cost per learner served would be R47. This cost drops to below R8 per learner if a less conservative estimate of three percent over 10 years is used. The NPC is collaborating with the WCDE and relevant curriculum practitioners to formally pilot its video-lessons in a school setting at approximately 50 schools in April 2021.

Together they have a unique view of the education landscape and for Leopold, the need to take action has been simmering for a while, “Five years ago, he told me, ‘Silke, the system can’t stay the way it is. We are systematically excluding the poor from education.’ That’s when it started growing in his heart.” The 2020 pandemic lockdown just provided the perfect opportunity.

“To understand it best, you need to hear the backstory,” he explains. The first school he was posted at was in the heart of the Cape Flats. Gang violence, knife fights and urban poverty were everyday occurrences. “Whew... and the stress!” chuckles Leopold. “I just want to sum it up with STRESS! From learners, from educators; it was just really tough. And I couldn’t last for more than two months; it was just really hard for me. I had to give it up.”



Practical lessons, such as the science experiments, are filmed in a classroom lab, so that the viewer can see the experiment and not just look at diagrams. The aim is not to replace the educator in the classroom, but to rather provide the educator and the learners with the tools they may not normally be able to access.

His next posting was in the semi-rural Overberg. There he was faced with a lot of problems, but they were different. There were many children suffering from alcohol abuse syndrome. “I think the best way to put it is that where there was stress at the first school, this was laissez faire – ‘We don’t really care, just get the kids in and out.’ It was really a passive schooling system.” There was no incredible ambition to change the direction of these learners’ lives.

Finally, he was sent to a better resourced school. “It was really functional. It works. The school was really open to change and put a lot of effort into training the teachers. With all the training and all these new fresh ideas on how to teach in exciting ways, I always thought about those two schools. The kids in those first two schools represent the vast majority of learners in South Africa. It feels as if you have these amazing

teaching resources, but they are still excluded, reserved for the very functional, wealthier schools.”

“With the internet, we can bridge the gap towards dysfunctional schools but even with the internet, learners are met with subscription fees, payments for content and data cost. So even when there should be accessibility to quality education, there are still barriers,” he explains.

South Africa has come a long way since 1994. In terms of accessibility many more people have entered the education system and the country has almost universal access. People from really poor backgrounds who had been systematically excluded from education have been included, but we also need to remember that a legacy from the previous education system continues to linger. “If you grow up and you have got parents who are functionally illiterate and innumerate, who do not have access to books, you will have an uphill battle to educate a nation,” says Silke.

“Our performance may look really bad, and is really bad, but one must keep in mind when comparing data that here and there, some countries’ numbers are slightly inflated because the poorest are simply not in the system at all and if they were, they would have pushed those numbers down,” explains Silke. “It’s difficult because you really need a quality access measure because if you compare it, you need to think about what their access looks like.”

Programmes such as Thuma Mina Teaching work to complement the existing system and support both learners and educators, improve access and add quality. It is a big job and one which can’t just be left to a single organisation says Silke, “I am never really negative about our education system because we do have an uphill battle on our hands. I do believe that civil society needs to play its part.

“I think we all need to ask ourselves what we have in our hands and what we can contribute to change the narrative of education in South Africa.”

See more at: www.tmteaching.co.za



How does South Africa measure up?

The state of education in South Africa, and large parts of Africa, has always been cause for concern. Statistically, of every 100 children who start school, approximately 50 to 60 will reach Grade 12, only 40 to 50 of them will pass Grade 12, 14 will go to university and six will get an undergraduate degree within six years.

When talking about education, the key words we need to remember are accessibility and quality. Accessibility means more than being enrolled in a school, it includes accessing resources, learning methods and dynamic educators. Quality education builds the much-needed foundation for equity in society. It is one of the most basic public services and not only enlightens but also empowers citizens. It enables them to positively contribute socially and economically to the development of their communities.

In 2017, the World Economic Forum rated Kenya’s education system as the strongest on the African continent. In 2018, the World Bank ranked Kenya the top African country for education outcomes.

According to the Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality scores (SACMEQ at a glance by Nic Spaull, 2012), Kenya spent \$258 per child on primary education and South Africa spent \$1 225 in 2011. A South African school averaged 1 204 library books and 13 computers while a Kenyan school averaged 961 library books and one computer. What is shocking is that 27 percent of South African learners were functionally illiterate and 40 percent were functionally innumerate while Kenya scored eight and 11 percent respectively.



Changing the Narrative

Tutudesks: Together, We Create Access

A multi-district project is underway that will strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education and increase adult literacy. This collaboration has its genesis as part of the Centennial Celebration of Rotary in Africa, but we see it as more than that. We see a long-term collaboration where Rotarians and the Tutudesk Campaign can partner to drive Rotary's Area of Focus of Supporting Education, writes *Past District 9400 Governor Francis Callard*.

In Southern Africa, access to education is limited by poor resources and poverty. Schools in rural and poor urban areas limp along with extremely large classes and not enough resources to provide, in many cases, even a desk for each child.

The Tutudesk Campaign is on a mission to ensure that 20 million children at under-resourced schools have a writing desk of their own and Rotary Districts in Southern Africa have signed up to help.

By participating in the Tutudesk Campaign, the Rotary districts of Southern Africa hope to contribute 10 000 desks to schools in the region. The Rotary Club of Northcliff (D9400) agreed to

be the lead club for this project and PDG Francis Callard will act as the project coordinator.

Districts 9210, 9350, 9370 and 9400 are participating in the project and other districts in Africa are welcome to join! This is being undertaken as a Rotary Project with the Tutudesk Foundation as a cooperating partner.

The project hopes to supply a minimum of 1 000 (hopefully 2 000) Tutudesks from each of the Southern Africa districts. To do this, each participating club is invited to celebrate the Rotary in Africa Centennial by contributing or raising \$100 towards the project – one dollar for every year Rotary has been present in Africa. When

orders of 1 000 or more are received, the Tutudesk artwork can be customised to include club/district branding.

The steering committee will also look for private sector sponsorship. For \$10 000 they can have their own branding on 1 000 desks. The project has a Facebook page which includes a link to the Rotary Club of Northcliff website where there is donate

button for donations to the Tutudesk Campaign project. For smaller donations from outside South Africa that don't require a tax certificate, a US dollar bank account has been opened and is operational to accept donations in dollars. This is targeting smaller donations where the recipient does not require a tax-deductible receipt.

See: www.tutudesk.org



An example of what the finished Rotary district/club-sponsored product will look like.

WHAT IS THE TUTUDESK CAMPAIGN

Classroom desk shortages mean that an estimated 95 million school children in Sub-Saharan Africa don't have their own desk at school. This has a negative impact on the child's literacy and academic performance. Personally led by Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, this campaign plans to distribute 20 million mobile, steady and stable Tutudesks by 2025.

WHO

Nobel Peace Prize Awardee Archbishop Desmond Tutu has been Patron of the Tutudesk Campaign since August 2005. His eldest daughter, Thandeka Tutu-Gxashe is the Chief Executive Officer. The governors of Rotary Districts of D9210, 9350, 9370 and 9400 agreed to support the project with the help of participating Rotary clubs.

HOW

The collaboration has three distinct initiatives. The first is to approach Rotarians in the Rotary Districts of southern Africa and worldwide, using the Rotary network to reach as many Rotarians as possible. The second is a targeted approach to corporate sponsors for 1 000 Tutudesks and the third is a crowdfunding initiative.

WHERE

The Rotary Districts' Tutudesk Campaign

initiative will focus on under-resourced schools in Southern Africa. As more African districts join the programme, it will be extended.

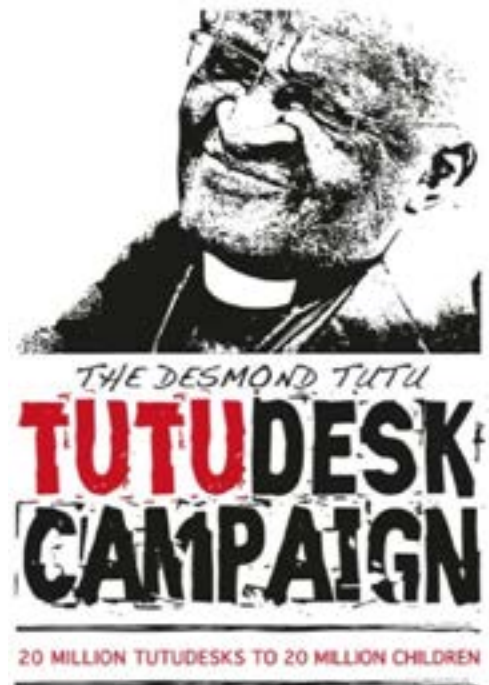
ABOUT THE TUTUDESKS

Tutudesks are made from a high-grade, child-safe, proprietary polymer that won't shatter if dropped. It weighs under a kilogram and rests comfortably and stably on children's laps, providing them with an even, steady surface to write on. They are issued to the learner and, with a cut-out handle, they can easily be carried. Tutudesks are made in South Africa.

DISTRIBUTION

The distribution network is already in place through the Desmond Tutu Tutudesk Campaign country structure. Distribution to other countries in Africa is being explored through available channels.

CONTACT: PDG Francis Callard on +27 83 283 1593 or email: franciscallard@tutudesk.org





With the new Ultrasound machine are Rotarians Craig Northwood and Tom Roux, Dr Jean Malan, Sister-in-Charge Glenda Micheals, Sister Glenecia Bosman and Dr Anina Ellis.

Equipping a community

Christmas came early to the Sea Vista Clinic last year when the Rotary Club of St Francis Bay (D9370) officially presented a Philips Ultrasound Clear View machine, worth R350 000, to the St Francis Clinic.

Dr Jean Malan and his colleague, Dr Anina Ellis, who consult at the clinic every day accepted the machine on behalf of the clinic. He explained that the machine would be of enormous benefit to Sea Vista, as the old ultrasound was not fully functional.

The machine will allow doctors to do superficial scans for breast masses and to investigate the ovarian pathology. “It is very difficult for antenatal caregivers to manage pregnancy when the foetal age, health status or number of foetuses is not known,” Malan continued. The machine will help with this and provide estimated due dates for pregnant patients.

“Ultrasound can also diagnose many of the most common causes of maternal and neonatal mortality

including multiple gestations, sequelae of abortion, causes of obstructed labour, and specific causes of maternal haemorrhage such as placenta previa. Early identification of high-risk pregnancies will ensure that clinic staff can recommend timely referral to the relevant provincial hospital for a higher level of obstetric care.”

Paying this good deed forward, the clinic donated the old ultrasound machine to Dr Nerine Botha at Aloe Veterinary Clinic in St Francis Bay.

Although the old machine no longer has full functionality, it is suitable for use in veterinary medicine and Dr Botha will be able to make excellent use of the machine.

“We were thrilled to be able to facilitate the donation of the Ultrasound machine to the St Francis Clinic. It will be so beneficial for expectant mothers and for the improvement of women’s health in this disadvantaged community,” said Santa Zeiss, club president.



CALL TO ACTION

By turning to a partnership with an established social enterprise, the Rotary Club of Newlands in Cape Town has launched a project to fund raise for and raise awareness of 10 established environmental causes and projects.

The Rotary Club of Newlands (D9350) teamed up with Relate bracelets, a not-for-profit social enterprise, to launch the new *Rotary in the Environment* bracelet stack. This collection of beaded bracelets is being sold with the aim of raising R1 million in support of the environment.

The project allows people to be a part of supporting the natural environment in a practical and impactful way. By supporting this initiative, Rotarians connect people around the world and are part of a solution that ensures that lots of small donations make a big difference.

“We launched this campaign for two reasons. Firstly, to celebrate the fact that Supporting the Environment has become the newest Area of Focus in Rotary. The second reason is to emphasise the reasons why we need to take on environmental projects and to add a dimension of sustainability to projects in other Areas of Focus,” says Tony Davidson, Environmental Sustainability Champion of the Newlands club.

To reach the goal of raising R1m for environmental causes, the club is now reaching out to Rotary clubs, Rotary members, and non-Rotarians to support this initiative, both locally and everywhere on planet earth. Each box of bracelets purchased will earn funds for 10 well-established environmental initiatives, two of which, I am a

Water Warrior and Rotary Youth Camp Glencairn, are Rotary projects.

THE RELATE STORY

Relate bracelets are handmade and sold to make a difference and change lives. Relate is run as a 100 percent not-for-profit social enterprise. Social enterprises are businesses that trade to:

- Tackle social problems and improve communities;
- Provide people access to employment and training;
- Help the environment.

The Relate business model touches on all three of those points. It raises awareness of projects and NGOs, creates employment and skills development opportunities and raises funds in support of various causes. More than 60 percent of its income is donated to credible charities and invested in social upliftment initiatives. Approximately a third of its proceeds are donated to charities, a third is invested in creating earning opportunities, skills training and enterprise development initiatives and the remainder is used for Relate materials and running costs.

The Relate bracelet makers, who range from the elderly to refugees and township youth, earn an income and are upskilled wherever possible to allow them to move beyond Relate.



WHO ARE THE BENEFICIARIES?

The 10 projects the Rotary Club of Newlands chose to include in the Relate bracelet stack are:

1. SANCCOB (Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds) - This registered NPO is internationally recognised as a leader in oiled wildlife response, rehabilitation and chick-rearing. www.sanccob.co.za
2. Endangered Wildlife Trust - A South African environmental organisation for the conservation of threatened species and ecosystems in southern Africa. www.ewt.org.za
3. Endangered Wildlife Trust - Ocean Project
4. Endangered Wildlife Trust - Birds of Prey
5. Endangered Wildlife Trust - Wild Dog Project
6. Endangered Wildlife Trust - Guard Dogs for Conservation
7. Honorary Rangers of SA National Parks - There are more than 1 900 voluntary SANParks Honorary Rangers working at all 21 national parks. Over the past 10 years, SANParks Honorary Rangers have provided SANParks with over R248,6 million in public and business donations and volunteer support. www.sanparksvolunteers.org
8. Elephants Alive - This registered NPO works to ensure the survival of elephants and their habitats and to promote harmonious co-existence between elephants and people. www.elephantsalive.org
9. Rotary Youth Camp, Glencairn - This camp has been instrumental in educating thousands of children and young people about the importance of the environment. For a virtual introduction to the Rotary Youth Camps Glencairn see: <https://youtu.be/WBXbY03tEbg>
10. I am a Water Warrior (Rotary) - This initiative has championed a number of projects to create access to safe, drinkable water for people across South Africa. The fund was also instrumental in District 9350's 2019 Cyclone Idai emergency intervention which provided survivors in Zimbabwe and Malawi with life-saving water filters. <https://www.facebook.com/Rotary-SafeWater-9350>

For more about this project, please call PP Tony Davidson (Rotary Club of Newlands) on +27 83 378 0313



The stack of bracelets is currently available on the Relate online store for R350 (inclusive of delivery and VAT in South Africa) and \$30 including delivery to other countries. See: <https://www.relate.org.za/shop/rotary-in-the-environment-stack>

SAVING THE Desert Elephants

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in many casualties. Be it through illness or financial loss, it has changed the world forever. Conservation is one of many industries that has been severely impacted and although the work conducted is so critical to the survival of many species, it's an industry largely dependent on tourism and grants paid out by larger organisations.

Namibia's national borders have been closed since the middle of March 2020 and many NGOs had to rethink how they could continue serving communities to fulfil their mission. One of these, Elephant-Human Relations Aid (EHRA), is run by Rachel Harris who is also a member of the Rotary Club of Swakopmund (D9350).

Since 2003, EHRA has helped to foster peaceful relationships between elephants and the people in nearby rural communities through regular educational seminars, a waterpoint protection programme and regular elephant tracking and monitoring. Over the years, EHRA has proved that living with elephants is possible.

Lockdown created obstacles and extreme financial strain, but the organisation has continued to support and reach out to communities.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

While mainly operating in the Southern Kunene and Northern Erongo Regions, EHRA's team has continued with its human-wildlife conflict mitigation work since the start of lockdown. Part of its work over the years was a waterpoint protection programme where international volunteers helped build sturdy walls around fragile water infrastructure situated in rural villages, to prevent damage caused by free-roaming, desert-adapted elephants.

To date, EHRA has built more than 250 protection walls to help communities and elephants live together in peace. Rachel Harris, Managing Director at EHRA, said "Thanks to financial

support from various donors, we have been able to continue supporting local communities during the pandemic in new ways. The majority of households in the surrounding areas rely on income from tourism and have therefore not earned any money since mid-March."

EHRA was able to purchase and distribute food parcels worth over N\$40 000 to people in Okaserawe, Otjihorongo, Otjikakaneno, Onverwag, Irene, Otjiiperongo, Okongwe and Otjimboyo Conservancy. The Rotary Club of Swakopmund contributed \$5 000 towards these food parcels. Rachel added, "Now is a time to work together, look after each other and be kind to one another."

DESERT ELEPHANT CONSERVATION AND CONFLICT MITIGATION

In addition, EHRA received funding for four solar-powered water pumps which were installed at Okaserawe and Otjiiperongo. Markus Shiweda, Field and Conservation Manager at EHRA, coordinated the project and explained, "These new solar-powered water pumps replace the original diesel pumps that require fuel to function. By installing the solar-powered water pumps, communities can access water without having to purchase diesel, which is a big relief as this water is also accessed by livestock and other free-roaming wildlife, such as desert-adapted elephants."

He added, "Previously when using the diesel-powered pumps, communities would only pump sufficient water for their personal use, which meant there was seldom sufficient water for wildlife,

including desert-dwelling elephants. These elephants would then go to the homesteads and possibly damage the tanks and pipes in an attempt to access water for themselves and their herds. By replacing these pumps, the risk of human-wildlife conflict is much lower in these villages.”

Namibian Geohydrologist Frank Bockmuhl assisted with the project to ensure that the pumps could work effectively throughout the day so that there is always plentiful water for everyone. He noted that with the replacement of the diesel pumps there was no longer large oil and fuel spillage around a water borehole. The Rotary Clubs of Swakopmund, Grand Cayman (D7020, Cayman Islands) and Wyk auf Föhr (D1890, Germany) contributed towards the purchase of the pumps and EHRA supported with the transportation and installation.

EHRA’s field team also continued its essential elephant conservation work by regularly tracking and monitoring the desert-adapted elephants roaming throughout the Ugab and the Huab River catchments. This ensured both the elephants’ and communities’ safety and allowed for notifications to be sent to villages when elephants were nearby.

EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT

As part of EHRA’s PEACE Project (People and Elephants Amicably Co-Existing), the

team continues to provide conflict mitigation information to community members by speaking on local radio stations. The information shared gives people critical information on how to stay safe around elephants should a herd pass by a village.

EHRA’s PEACE Project Manager, Shannon Diener, also provided conservation-focused educational classes to groups of children. “We spent the day teaching people about the importance of looking after the environment and how to stay safe around elephants,” she explained.

Rachel Harris, Managing Director of EHRA, said, “Although the Coronavirus pandemic has had a profound impact on EHRA’s revenue, we were thankfully able to innovate and find new ways to generate an income. We are pleased that we can continue our essential work to protect and conserve Namibia’s free-roaming desert-adapted elephants as well as support for local communities. We realise now more than ever how important it is for us to be present and continue our conservation work.”

For further information see:

www.ehramamibia.org.



Sustainable growth solution

It was while members of the Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark (D9400) were helping the Golden Vaal Chamber of Commerce with the packaging and distribution of food parcels last year that it became apparent that a sustainable food supply chain was needed – especially for fresh vegetables.

The search for a location began. The VESCO Thusong Soup Kitchen was found to have suitable land and while the infrastructure was in place, it needed a serious upgrade. The soup kitchen has been feeding people in need for many years and

the club has helped with distributing soup.

After many brainstorming sessions and meetings, the Golden Vaal Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark and the VESCO Thusong Project entered into a partnership.

Spin offs from the project include job creation, agricultural training and skills development and business management. To ensure the project’s sustainability, some of the harvest will be sold to fruit and vegetable stores and restaurants.



Zikhona Ngxata: “beauty pageants - not occupied solely by airheads.”

Brains, Beautiful Brains

By Ted Keenan

Entrepreneur Zikhona Ngxata lost her mother when she was 15 but “what was a dreadful experience birthed a mother in me and gave me a purpose. I realised that helping other young people was my destiny. I was determined to be part of the solution.”

Ngxata’s company, Miss EC Beauty with a Purpose (ECBP), an NPO which she started seven years ago, was spurred by her direct involvement in the beauty pageant industry. She said the ongoing misconception that beauty pageants are platforms occupied solely by airheads is false.

Following the success of ECBP, where several young women were able to transform their lives, she broadened her influence and started Beauty with a Purpose SA, an NPO that focuses on youth development and community building from a broader and measurably impactful perspective.

Ngxata is a sales executive at Ronnies Motors in East London and in 2018, the company sent her on the Find Your Voice (FYV) programme, an initiative of the Rotary Club of Gately (D9370).

Carey-Lyn Kurten is a founder and project leader of the year-long young adult leadership development course. FYV cultivates leaders with integrity, who can build positive relationships and are active citizens and are willing to put service above self. “We focus on practical leadership skills and the art of using your leader voice appropriately and effectively.”

Ngxata said that on graduating from FYV she “realised my passion was people development. I found my own voice but was also able to use the experience to make a difference in peoples’ lives.” As a graduate, she said the biggest challenge encountered by first year university students is being ill-prepared for the rigours of post-school discipline and responsibility, and with it the critical link between leadership, change and being an active citizen.

While her NPO does not create careers, it gives young people the confidence and expertise to maximise the rare opportunities that do come their way, especially in pandemic times, when over half of SA’s youth are unemployed. “If we can assist in changing the mindset of first year students and reducing the massive dropout rate, then we would consider our work successful.

“We are already in the advanced stages of setting up our academy, with our partners, Ronnies Motors and MSC College, which we hope to launch in February next year. The aim is to take the achievements from work done in East London and the Eastern Cape and to spread them throughout the country.”



Nomakulu Fondini prepares a huge pot of vegetable soup for the Makhanda Circle of Unity Community Kitchen project at the Eluxolweni Community Hall in Grahamstown.

Miles for Meals

The Rotary Club of Grahamstown Sunset (D9370) donated R14 000 that was raised at its annual Mountain Drive Half Marathon to a community kitchen project.

Due to social distancing, the club faced the prospect of cancelling the event, but it was decided to take a leap of faith and hold the marathon virtually. Entrants were able to run the five, ten or 21.1 kilometre races in their own time and environment and the Miles for Meals event was also launched. Prizes included cash prizes donated by GBS Mutual Bank, a game drive donated by Kwandwe Private Game Reserve and a two-night stay donated by Umngazi River Hotel and Spa Resort. Many people also donated items to the project. These will be used in an upcoming virtual charity auction.

New Rotarian, Robyn Cooper, was roped in to develop a web platform that allowed runners to register and pay a fee of R50. It also needed to have a report process where runners could log their run, photos, stories and sync their fitness app data.

Runners from all over the world, including the US, UK, New Zealand and Japan, as well as from all provinces in South Africa took part in the event. The money raised was donated to the Makhanda Circle of Unity COVID-19 Community Kitchen project, which funded about 3 500 meals. The feeding scheme provides meals to about 7 000 people a week.

Safe Transport for Safe Haven

Getting the children to school every morning used to take two trips. However, with the Rotary Club of Benoni Aurora's (D9400) donation of a 12-seater bus to iKhaya da Luz, this has changed.

iKhaya da Luz is a children's safe haven and foster home that provides care, love, nourishment and guidance to children who are neglected, abused, abandoned or orphaned. It currently has 10 children in its care and the vehicle will be used to transport the children to and from school, to doctors' appointments and so forth.

Owner of iKhaya da Luz, Ana Pinto le Roux said

they were grateful for the vehicle, "The vehicle will save me about four hours of my day which I can use to spend more quality time with the children."

The Rotary Clubs of Schwäbischer Barockwinkel Thannhausen (D1841, Germany), Mindelheim (D1841, Germany), Burg-Genthin (D1800, Germany) and Leibnitz (D1910, Austria) contributed to the project.

The club also partnered with local service providers in this project. Avery Dennison donated the vinyl, Artico Designs created the artwork and Wrap My Ride did the vehicle wrapping.



Members of the Rotaract Club of Bukoto (above) took on the Rotary Club of Rosebank in the Mother of All Quizzes!

Quizzing Across Africa

It started with the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400) casually issuing a Wednesday quiz challenge to the neighbouring Rotary Clubs such as the Rotary Clubs of Kyalami, Morningside and Fourways (D9400).

The search for worthy opponents was soon extended to include the Rotary Clubs of Newlands (D9350) and Gabarone (D9400). Gareth Hood took on the task of quiz master and the virtual Corona Trophy was awarded to the weekly winning team.

The news of the successful quiz evenings spilled across the borders and between David Bradshaw and Joanitah, the International Service Director of the Rotaract Club of Bukoto (D9211, Uganda) the Mother of all Quiz Evenings was planned for the last day of September.

The club had already said its sad farewells to Gareth Hood, who was returning to his teaching post in China, but Bradshaw convinced him to make one final grand appearance.

Flyers were sent to Rotary clubs in Uganda and at 8pm nearly 60 people logged into the Zoom event. It began quite formally, and most of the participants stuck to Zoom etiquette, but the chatline was abuzz and Gareth had a hard time convincing our Ugandan opponents not to disclose their answers in the message box.

It was glaringly evident that this event was a highlight on the Bukoto social calendar and the virtual party continued long after the quiz ended. The Rosebank club may have won the quiz, but the Rotaractors' enthusiasm was unbeatable!

Through Lockdown, then Floods

In March 2020, the President of Uganda announced a partial lockdown of many places including schools, clubs, lodges, motorbikes, taxis and all public transport.

Many Ugandans, including market vendors, porters and drivers, were left jobless and unable to put food on their tables. The members of the Rotary Club of Kasese (D9211) pooled their resources and delivered maize meal to the Resident District

Commissioner's office for distribution to the needy. The club chose to donate maize meal as it is a multi-purpose product that can be cooked and eaten as staple or as porridge.

While Ugandans struggled to adjust to the lockdown, Kasese was hit by floods. Three major rivers burst their banks and several schools, bridges, roads and homes in the district were washed away or partially destroyed. More than 10 000

people were displaced and relocated to camps, mostly at schools.

The Rotary Club of Kasese gave boxes of soap, ladies underwear and reusable sanitary pads to the women at the camp during DG Rosette Nabbumba's visit to the club. The Rotary Club of Kabarole also joined the effort and supplied mattresses for breastfeeding mothers, blankets, secondhand clothes and reading materials for the children.

AFRICA IN BRIEF



The Rotary Club of Benoni Aurora's (D9400) latest project to protect the environment is a sponsored dustbin at the Korsman Bird Sanctuary. President Sonja Shear (left) with Korsman Conservancy chairperson Jane Trembath and fellow Rotarians president elect Yegalan Chetty and community service chair Gail Wilson.

The Rotary Club of Flamingo-Welkom (D9370) held a lunch to recognise and thank those who gave up their time to cook and deliver thousands of meals. At the lunch are Marti Will, Christo and Elaine van Eeden, Jannie Breytenbach, President Jill Lombard, Pastor Jacki Botes, Jackes Joost, Alet Viljoen and Corne Bekker.



The Rotary Club of Swellendam (D9350) held two ceremonies to recognise the contribution of healthcare workers in its community. This was done as part of the Rotary Family Health Day celebrations last year. The ceremonies were held at the Suurbraak and Railton Clinics. At the Suurbraak event are Region Medical Superintendent Dr Jacques du Toit, President Johan Kriek and Sisters Fia de Wet and Jackie September.



The Rotary Club of Mtunzini (D9370) refurbished a disused prefab classroom at Emoyeni Primary School and turned it into a beautiful library. Tables, chairs and bookshelves were made with the help of Rotarian Errol Sclanders. The shelves were stocked with books the club received from the Second Wind Foundation. After Janice Sommerfeld of the Rotary Club of Cranbrook Sunrise (D5080, Canada) reported back on her visit to Mtunzini, the Cranbrook club raised funds to buy a TV, a DVD and fans for the library. Receiving the new equipment from Past President Penny Bunting is Principal Khuli Mondli.



During a luncheon last year, the Rotary Club of Plettenberg Bay (D9350) was visited by two district governors, Heribert Trunk (D1950, Germany) and Carl Heinz Duisberg (D9350). At the luncheon are Barbara Trunk, Ruby Chetty, President Ate Bos, DG Heribert Trunk, Leigh Dunn and DG Carl Heinz Duisberg.



The Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400) visited the Siloe School for the Blind and Partially Sighted to hand out Christmas treats to the children. Each child received a cold drink and a box with packets of crisps, cookies, peanuts and assorted sweets. These were handed out at the last lunchtime meal before the school closed for the holidays. At the presentation are Phuti Ragophala, Seja Rapholo, the school nursing sister, President Pierre Mouton, PP Chymie Naidoo and PP Marius Liebenberg. The club has given the children a 'Christmas Treat' for the past 52 years.



A sustainable water supply system was donated to the Isibindi Child and Youth Care Centre in Ncerha Village, East London, by the Rotary Club of Bonza Bay (D9370). This Global Grant project saw the installation of a new 2 500 litre water tank which was joined with the three existing tanks. A strong concrete stand was also built to accommodate all three tanks and included provision for a fourth. The main objective of this project was to provide a watering system for a community vegetable garden.



The Rotary Club of Empangeni (D9370) held a meeting at Thuthukani Special School. The club has been helping the school with its garden and the members wanted to see what had been done. A set of garden tools was given to the volunteer gardener, Thokozani Zulu, and the club donated R25 000 to support the exceptional work done at the school. At the meeting are Philip Walsh, Denise Brook, President Wally Brook, Marie de Matteis, Marthie Combrinck (Principal of Thuthukani), Dee Bevan and Thokozani Zulu.



The Rotaract Club of Blouberg (D9350) is passionate about Kicking Polio out of Africa and helped at national immunisation days in Nigeria. At home, it has also actively promoted awareness of Polio eradication and had a billboard installed.





Secretary Butch Wilson and President Sonja Shear of the Rotary Club of Benoni Aurora (D9400) visited St Francis College in Benoni to deliver 100 donated masks. These three-ply masks were given to the Grade 7 to 12 learners.



The Rotary Anns of Helderberg (D9350) received a donation of R18 256 for its Project Dignity initiative from the Innerwheel Club of Tilburg Triborch (D1610, Holland). This project keeps girls in school by supplying them with SUBZ reusable panties and pads packs. This is the second time that the Innerwheel Club has donated towards this project. At the Zoom meeting between the two clubs are Pauline Brinkworth, Ingrid Edelson, Corrie Hommel and Maria Manders.



President Penny Orton of the Rotary Club of Amanzimtoti (D9370) and PP Neil McDonald planting a marula tree in the gardens at Khanya Hospice. With them are Sr Sue van Rijsbergen and Sara Stott.



Every year, during the colder months, the Rotary Club of Gaborone (D9400) donates blankets to people in villages and institutions throughout Botswana. This year, 520 blankets were donated to three villages and four institutions. Rotarians transported the blankets to each venue on weekends and personally handed one to each deserving recipient.



WALL OF HONOUR



Alan and Toni Beaumont each received a second Sapphire from the Rotary Club of Arcadia (D9370).



Tony Dickinson and Phyllis Nicolls were recognised as Paul Harris Fellows by the Rotary Club of Meyerton/Henley-on-Klip (D9400).



Rasigan Naidoo is a new member of the Rotary Club of Westville (D9370).

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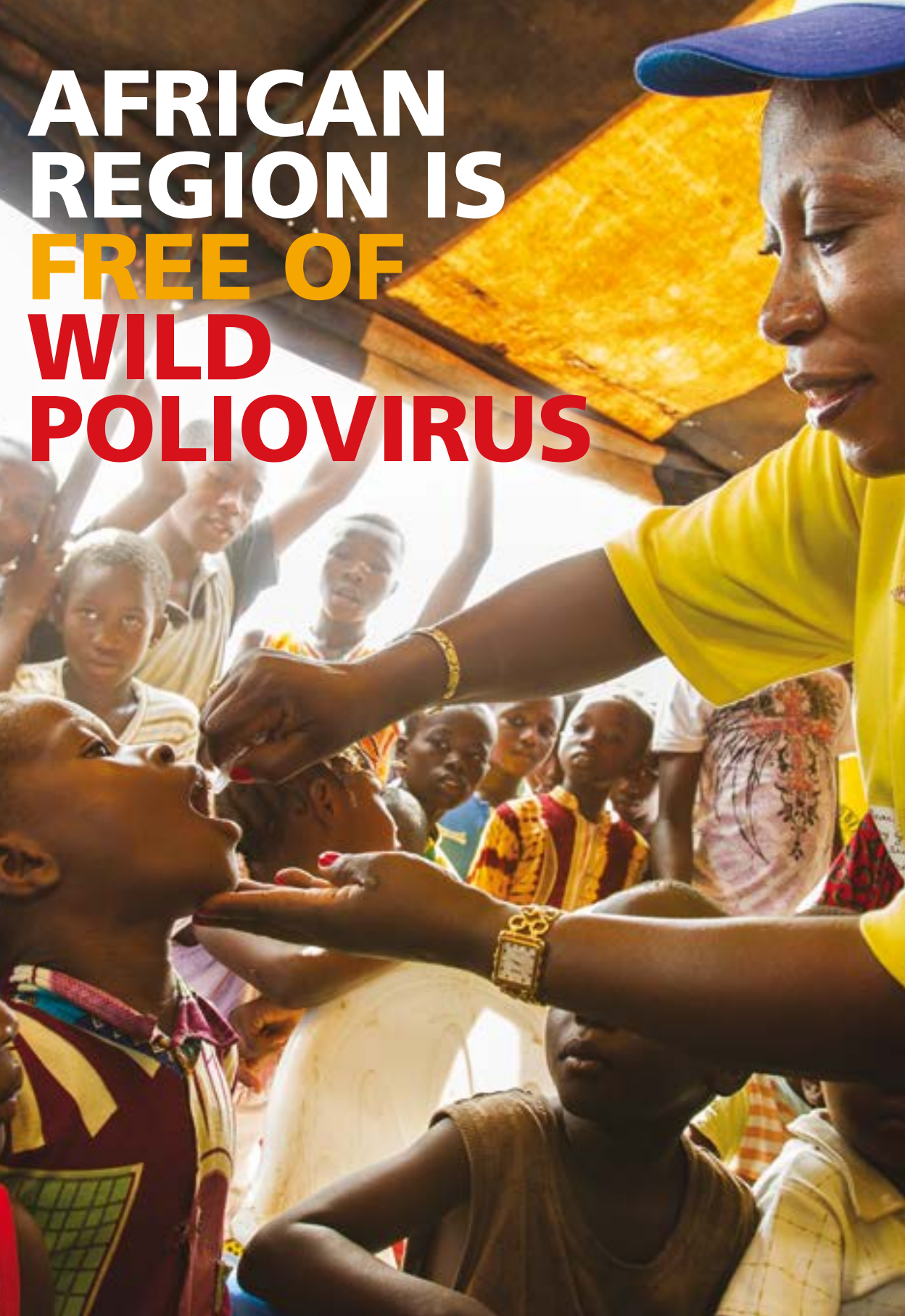
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